



РИСТОС РОДИВСЯ! CHRIST IS BORN!

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Counsel to international inquiry hails its precedent-setting work on the Famine-Genocide

by Marta Baziuk

TORONTO – The full significance of an event or act is not always appreciated until later. Such may be the case with the International Commission of Jurists Inquiry into the Famine in Ukraine, according to Ian Hunter, a renowned lawyer, professor and author, who delivered the annual famine lecture in Toronto.

The event was organized as part of a seminar series of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies and co-sponsored by the Toronto Branch of the Ukrainian Congress and the Center for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Toronto.

Mr. Hunter served as general counsel to the international commission, formed at the initiative of the World Congress of Free Ukrainians. He described the precedent-setting work of the commission as “an audacious and ambitious attempt to set the historical record straight by use of the modern trial process” and mused about why its report, released in May 1990, was not more widely circulated.

In outlining the workings and findings of the seven-member commission, Mr. Hunter said its mandate was to scrutinize the evidence objectively and dispassionately to arrive at the truth. In the process of fact-finding, it examined the testimony of historians, demographers and actual survivors, as well as books, monographs, documents from embassies, newspaper accounts and eyewitness accounts of witnesses. Most harrowing, he said, were accounts of the brutal requisitioning of all foodstuffs and what would happen when hidden stores were found.

Mr. Hunter distinguished the following areas in

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INSIDE: “2000: The Year in Review,” a 32-page supplement examining the significant events and developments of the past year.

Ukrainian sailor and historical re-enactor performs for Connecticut students

by Alex Kuzma

HAMDEN, Conn. – Students here at the Highville Mustard Seed Charter School, had an opportunity on recently to meet a seafaring adventurer from Ukraine who endured a harrowing voyage to take part in last summer’s OpSail 2000 festival of tall ships in New London.

Petro Vashchuk was one of the sailors who crossed the Black Sea, the Mediterranean and the Atlantic Ocean aboard the Ukrainian gaff schooner, *Batkivshchyna* that became one of the star attractions of the tall ships spectacle.

Smaller than the *Mayflower* that carried the pilgrims from England to the American colonies, *Batkivshchyna* has become a sentimental favorite of Connecticut residents and sailing enthusiasts who have marveled at the crew’s daring – and its ability to defy the odds by completing such a journey without

Ukraine’s troops play key role in peacekeeping operations

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – On December 20-21 two flights left Kyiv headed for Freetown, Sierra Leone, each carrying 30 members of Ukraine’s Armed Forces, eight technical support personnel and tons of equipment.

While the world prepared to celebrate Christmas and the New Year, these young soldiers, members of the Fourth Repair Battalion, were preparing to do their part in bringing peace to another war-torn foreign country. Their mission: to train government officers and soldiers of strife-torn Sierra Leone, which recently has been racked by violence of armed rebels and their diamond-hungry warlords, and assist in general peacekeeping operations while rebuilding the country’s infrastructure as part of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

By the New Year, while their families and friends rested and recovered from holiday celebrations, the Ukrainian soldiers had cleared several acres of tropical terrain outside the capital city and turned the area into a base camp for the 528 members of their peacekeeping contingent – a place they will call home for at least the next year. They will live in U.N.-provided, state-of-the-art, air conditioned tents, but that is about the only amenity they will have in this remote, backward country.

Once the Sierra Leone force is in place, Ukraine will have committed 800 soldiers to that country, including a maintenance battalion and a helicopter detachment, along with 220 armored troop carriers and 220 light and heavy trucks. In addition to repair and reconstruction work, the Ukrainian contingent will be responsible for dispensing medical and humanitarian aid, for escorting government and U.N. convoys, and for general patrols. The troops and equipment, commanded by Col. Serhii Serdiuk, will be part of the larger U.N. force, which consists of peacekeepers from Great Britain, Bangladesh, the United States and Russia.

Since 1992 Ukraine has increasingly taken part in United Nations peacekeeping efforts to the extent that today it can claim that it ranks first among all European countries in the number of its soldiers who wear the light blue beret of the U.N. forces.

Approximately some 12,000 Ukrainian soldiers have served in U.N. peacekeeping contingents since the first troops took part in operations in Bosnia beginning in July 1992. The 1,500 Ukrainian troops currently wearing U.N. blue are among 38,000 soldiers from the international com-

modern navigational equipment.

In addition to his sailing prowess, Mr. Vaschuk is a historical re-enactor who dresses in the full regalia of the Zaporozhian Kozaks, the legendary warriors and horsemen who defended Ukraine against various invading armies during the 17th and 18th centuries.

Mr. Vashchuk came to the Highville Mustard Seed Charter School on November 17, 2000, at the invitation of Irene Kytasty Kuzma, a Hamden teacher who is teaching a sixth grade class on the history and culture of Ukraine as part of the school’s global education curriculum. Under its state charter, each of the classes at Highville represents a member-state of the United Nations, giving the students an opportunity to gain in-depth understanding of a different country during each year of their elementary education.

Mr. Vashchuk met with students from the “nations”

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A group of Ukrainian soldiers who are part of a U.N. peacekeeping contingent in Lebanon.

munity who today are part of U.N. peacekeeping operations in 15 hotspots around the world.

In addition to the 528 peacekeepers newly arrived in Sierra Leone, there are 337 Ukrainian troops in Kosovo and 650 in Lebanon. Another 28 Ukrainians participate in the U.N. observer forces in countries where armed conflict recently ceased, such as Georgia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan and the Transdniestrian region of Moldova.

Ukraine’s role within U.N. peacekeeping structures has increased most substantially since its election to the international organizations Security Council as a temporary, two-year member at the beginning of the year. Six months prior to the beginning of the Sierra Leone operation, Ukraine became involved in the Middle East, when it volunteered its largest U.N. detachment ever – a 650-person engineering battalion – to go to Lebanon as part of a U.N. peacekeeping operation in the southern part of the country, from which Israeli troops withdrew on May 26.

The Ukrainian engineering battalion, the only one of its kind in Lebanon, moved in at the request of the United Nations to neutralize mine fields in a 30-kilometer safety zone that the Israelis had established during their 22 years occupying the southern half of the country. Since its arrival on July 23 the specialized Ukrainian battalion has deactivated more than 1,000 mines, working at 55 positions throughout the country in a U.N. zone manned by Polish, Swedish and Fijian troops. Before their arrival, only 56 mines had been removed in the 22 years of the United Nations presence in the area.

Ukraine’s role in Lebanon is to prepare the identified areas for the other peacekeeping troops. After clearing them of anti-personnel mines, artillery shells, mortar and various other explosive devices, Ukrainian troops will build checkpoints, bases and storage facilities for the U.N. contingent. According to Lt. Col. Kostiantyn Khivrenko, a press spokesman for Ukraine’s Ministry of Defense, the United Nations asked Ukraine to take on this particular responsibility.

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ANALYSIS

International conference underscores significance of global climate change

by **Breffni O'Rourke**
RFE/RL Newsline

An international conference in the Netherlands devoted to climate change could hardly have asked for more dramatic scenes to underscore the impact on mankind of unstable weather.

In the run-up to the November 2000 summit in the Hague, gales raced in from the Atlantic, bringing mountainous seas and tearing at Europe's western fringes. Flood waters engulfed wide areas of central and southern England, driving people from their homes. Meanwhile, other areas of the continent enjoyed unseasonable weather.

Not that this sequence of events is unique: November has always brought gales and rains, and sometimes sunshine. Rather, it is the changing combination of these phenomena in record or near-record doses that suggests the degree of climatic instability the world faces. Although there is no direct proof that any single weather disaster is the result of man-made global warming, the scientific community is increasingly convinced by indirect evidence of a linkage.

A new report, issued by British-led scientists and funded by the European Union, suggests that global warming will affect Central and Eastern Europe in a number of ways starting around 2020. It says experimental models predict that temperatures in Europe will warm at a rate between 0.1 degree Celsius per decade and 0.4 degree Fahrenheit per decade. This trend will be most marked in the northeast, including western Russia and Finland, and in the Mediterranean region.

This means the north and center of the continent, including the Baltic states and

Breffni O'Rourke is an RFE/RL correspondent based in Prague.

Ukraine, will experience milder winters and warmer though possibly wetter summers. This means northern plant and animal communities will come under increasing pressure as habitat conditions change. And agriculture will have to make adjustments.

One of the scientists contributing to the report, Helsinki-based Tim Carter, told RFE/RL that "it's quite possible that different types of crops could be grown in northern regions than are grown at present ... and there may also be over the longer term a shift in tree distribution, broadleaf trees replacing the current evergreens that are grown in northern parts towards the Arctic Circle. On the other hand, one might also expect new pests and diseases of these species also to move northwards, so it is not all positive."

Such rapid change would bring with it a need for the re-education of farmers and foresters, as well as much experimentation, some of it likely to be painful. And there might be other drawbacks. "Some of the crops that are grown in the northern and central regions of Eastern Europe, as the temperatures rise..., might actually experience a drop in crop yield," Mr. Carter said. "This is because crops such as wheat and barley will mature more rapidly, under a climate warming, which is detrimental to yield."

In the far south and southeast of Europe, the developments because of climate change are projected to be almost entirely negative. The report estimates that hotter summers will be more frequent, resulting in increased air pollution in cities. Water will be scarcer as rainfall decreases, while forest fires will be worse. And because of the excessive heat, seashores may lose much of their recreational appeal. Diseases could

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Ukrainians apply for Romanian citizenship

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

KYIV – Kievskie Viedomosti recently reported that a growing number of Ukrainians are applying for Romanian citizenship in addition to their Ukrainian status. Romanian legislation allows dual citizenship, while Ukraine prohibits its citizens from holding citizenship from another country.

According to the November 7, 2000, issue of the Kyiv-based newspaper, there are rumors in Ukraine that Romania, by providing citizenship to Ukrainians, is conducting a policy of "creeping expansion" with the final aim of "reacquiring northern Bukovyna [Chernivtsi Oblast] and southern Besarabia [part of Odesa Oblast]," which belonged to the Romanian state before World War II.

Some Romanian parties, according to those rumors, are dreaming about restoring a "Great Romania" that would include Moldova and the above-mentioned parts of Ukraine. Some Ukrainian observers draw attention to the fact that 300,000 Moldovans (including 50 percent of Moldovan lawmakers) have already acquired Romanian citizenship.

The Romanian Embassy in Kyiv explained to Kievskie Viedomosti that, according to Romania's law on citizenship, Romanian citizenship may be granted to "former Romanian citizens who were deprived of it before December 22, 1989,

for various reasons ... even in the event that they have a different citizenship and do not intend to move for permanent residence in Romania." The same rule applies to descendants of those "former Romanian citizens."

According to the newspaper, Ukrainians apply for Romanian passports primarily for economic reasons. "It is possible to obtain preferences for small businesses [by holding such passports]. Besides, Romania has a chance of entering the European Union sooner than Ukraine, and then the Romanian passport will become priceless, since it will open for its holder the way to all Europe," Kievskie Viedomosti wrote.

"But for what purpose does Romania need Ukrainian citizens?" the newspaper asked, without answering that rhetorical question.

Some Ukrainian officials shrug off fears about Romania's "creeping expansion" in Ukraine, arguing that the problem of the redivision of state frontiers in Europe no longer exists. But others suggest that the Helsinki Final Act does not rule out separate regions within countries holding referendums on joining one or another state.

Kievski Viedomosti wrote: "If Chernivtsi Oblast acquires a critical mass of Ukrainian-Romanian citizens, might they not decide on one beautiful day – let's say, on the day of Romania's accession to the EU – to become full-fledged participants of that holiday?"

NEWSBRIEFS

Inflation in Ukraine tops 25 percent

KYIV – The inflation rate in Ukraine for 2000 was 25.8 percent – far above initial forecasts and above 1999's 19.2 percent, the Associated Press reported on December 30, 2000. Price hikes for food and fuel are the single most important reason for the rise. In an effort to stabilize fuel prices, Kyiv in the past few days signed accords with Russia and Turkmenistan for delivery of oil and gas. (RFE/RL Newsline)

President predicts better 2001.

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma said on December 29, 2000, that inflation will fall in 2001 and the country's GDP will increase by 5 percent over the next 12 months, ITAR-TASS reported. He pointed to the National Bank's record gold and foreign currency reserves as evidence that the country will be able to repay all its foreign debts. Buoying Mr. Kuchma were the disbursement of the first installment of an IMF loan of \$247 million on December 22 and of a \$100 million loan from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Euroatom. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma seeks help on Gongadze case

KYIV – Arguing that "as president, I need the truth more than anyone else does," President Leonid Kuchma said on December 30, 2000, that he would welcome the arrival of foreign experts to probe the case of missing journalist Heorhii Gongadze, Interfax-Ukraine said. Meanwhile, Reporters without Borders told Interfax on December 29 that its experts will arrive in Kyiv on January 8 to investigate Mr. Gongadze's disappearance. DPA reported the same day that National Deputy Serhii Holovaty (Reforms and Order Party) said that German forensic specialists have confirmed that a body believed to be Mr. Gongadze's is in fact that of the missing journalist. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Udoenko doubts Rukh merger

KYIV – The leader of one of the Rukh parties, Hennadii Udoenko, has said he does not expect unification of the two Rukh parties. He added that the unification process was complicated by the appearance of a third Rukh party registered last week with the aim of securing unity of the two. Besides, he added, the bloc of parties consisting of Rukh-Udoenko, Reforms and Order and the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists is in talks with Rukh-Kostenko to create a new bloc comprising these four parties. Mr. Udoenko said he is sure that the new pre-

election bloc will be created, although the issue of the unification of the two parties has not been raised. (Eastern Economist)

Ukraine to reduce army by 25,000

KYIV – According to a decree issued on December 29, 2000, by President Leonid Kuchma on the basis of legislation approved on December 7, Kyiv will reduce the number of uniformed service personnel by 15,000 over the next five years and the number of civilians employed by the military by 10,000, ITAR-TASS reported. Meanwhile, the Associated Press reported that Ukrainian officials acknowledged on the same day that Kyiv had, as the United Nations suggested, unwittingly sold weapons to Burkina Faso that had fallen into the hands of rebels. Such sales have been stopped, the Ukrainians said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

More problems reported at border

MOSCOW – Border guard officials from Russia and Ukraine on December 29, 2000, told ITAR-TASS that the number of criminal groups smuggling migrants and illegal goods over the border increased during 2000. Specifically, the number of arrests of border violators by both sides grew by 33.4 percent in 2000 over the year before, while the value of confiscated contraband rose by 46.5 percent, of guns by 82.6 percent and of narcotics by 63 percent. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma, Putin push expanded ties

MOSCOW – At their meeting in Moscow, Ukrainian President Kuchma and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, sharply criticized the work of the existing intergovernmental economic cooperation commission and called for expanded ties, ITAR-TASS reported on December 22, 2000. Both presidents suggested that businessmen should be involved in the commission's work. They also agreed to defer payment of Ukraine's gas debt to Russia for 10 years. Negotiators for the two countries agreed on new guarantees for Russian gas transit across Ukraine and reserve supplies for and payments by Ukraine during the next year. The two leaders also participated in the opening of a new electric power station outside St. Petersburg, and the next day participated in the unveiling of a Taras Shevchenko statue in St. Petersburg. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma wants constitutional change

KYIV – On December 30, 2000, President Leonid Kuchma repeated his argument that his country will remain in a political stalemate unless the Constitution

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FOR THE RECORD: Albright's statement to NATO-Ukraine Council

Following is the text of a statement by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright delivered on December 14, 2000, at the NATO-Ukraine Council meeting.

Mr. Secretary General, distinguished colleagues, this sixth ministerial meeting of the commission is our first with Foreign [Affairs] Minister [Anatolij] Zlenko. The United States looks forward to working with him closely to further strengthen the NATO-Ukraine relationship.

Today's commission meeting will be my last. So, for me, it is an apt time to take stock of the progress we have made and the challenges we still face. From the beginning, we have shared a common vision of an independent and prosperous Ukraine, fully integrated into a Europe whole and free. And we have agreed that Ukraine's partnership with NATO can be a key element in ensuring Ukraine's security and even its sovereignty.

But we also know that the success of Europe's new democracies must rest on a foundation of reforms at home. And the NATO-Ukraine relationship cannot keep advancing unless Ukraine itself is making headway. The Ukrainian people have made it clear at the ballot box they want to press forward with essential reforms, not slide backward toward a Communist past. And President [Leonid] Kuchma's new government has taken some encouraging steps to fulfill that mandate.

Recent breakthroughs on the budget, banking and energy are paving the way for renewed lending by international financial institutions. And tomorrow's long-awaited shutdown of Chernobyl will close a dark chapter in history on a brighter note of reform.

But much more remains to be done to improve the investment climate through sound privatization and fighting corruption. And firm measures must be taken to protect judicial independence and press freedom – including a prompt and credible investigation into the disappearance of Heorhii Gongadze. We all know that stubborn problems demand innovative solutions. But we

also have seen ample evidence that Ukraine's partnership with NATO is capable of taking such innovative approaches.

The new Ukrainian-Polish Peacekeeping Battalion has already made important contributions to stability in the Balkans. The Liaison Office in Kyiv continues to yield dividends. And next year's work plan sets out an ambitious agenda for cooperation in untraditional areas from civil emergency planning to air traffic control.

These are significant steps, but many more are required if our partnership is to reach its full potential. Defense reform efforts in Ukraine have lagged. Budget shortfalls have limited new reform initiatives. And our cooperation is still constrained by regulations that inhibit the sharing of information.

NATO wants to help Ukraine move forward. We are ready to help Ukraine improve its budget planning. We are urging stronger parliamentary oversight and civilian control of the military. And we know it is in our interest to help Ukraine achieve interoperability and develop a rapid deployment force.

Ukraine's decision to bring its defense planning closer to NATO's is encouraging. Now the emphasis must shift from planning to execution. We must be practical and follow through.

NATO is committed to this distinctive partnership for the long run. We are here because we all have a stake in Ukraine's success. We have no illusions about the difficulties with which Ukraine must contend. But we also know that the people of Ukraine are determined to see their country join the growing circle of prosperous, free-market democracies. And that NATO's relationship with Ukraine has a major role to play in that process.

There is no getting around it. If a new Europe is to meet the challenges of a new century, Ukraine must succeed.

Toward that end, I view the work of this body as more essential than ever. And I bid a respectful farewell to this commission – confident that its future is in good hands.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Small enterprises produce 10 percent of GDP

KYIV – Goods and services produced by small enterprises account for around 10 percent of the GDP, said State Committee on Entrepreneurship Vice-Chair Hennadiy Bilous. He added that this shows the growth of small business production, since in recent years this figure was 5-6 percent of the GDP. Mr. Bilous claimed that action on the part of his committee helped spur this growth saying that now the SCE was paying more attention to passenger transportation, land relations, construction, pharmaceutical and hotel industries. (Eastern Economist)

"Buy Ukrainian" policy proposed to government

KYIV – The Party to Support National Producers in Ukraine has sent a memo to the Verkhovna Rada, the Cabinet and the president proposing to prohibit the purchase of imported goods for budget needs. "It's a crime to pay millions of dollars to foreigners while the country is in deep economic crisis," said party head Yaroslav Fedoryn. He added that the government should purchase only nationally produced goods for its purposes, unless production of equivalent products in Ukraine will be more expensive than importing them from abroad. Mr. Fedoryn said that the possibility of passing such a law would be about 50 percent, although he insists that his party's members will work hard to convince deputies of the need for such a law. (Eastern Economist)

Europay credit card fraud reduced 60 percent

KYIV – Commercial banks have reduced the number of frauds with Visa and Europay international payment cards in Ukraine by more than 60 percent. According to a report by the Europay bank association, this became possible after the implementation of certain measures, including random checks by trading companies of the identification of clients making large single purchases. Trade companies will now be responsible for seeing that transaction documents are in order, while banks will have the right to suspend payment for the duration of an investigation and check on shop assistants for compliance with the client service procedure. A wave of credit card frauds, which amounted to 5 percent of the total volume of concluded transactions, was attributed to the invasion of international con artists specializing in credit card swindling. In the first three quarters of this year the number of issued cards has grown by 84.3 percent, from 395,000 to 728,000. (Eastern Economist)

Russian, Ukrainian exchanges cooperate

KYIV – The Ukrainian Interbank Currency Exchange and the Moscow Stock Exchange have signed a cooperation agreement. Pursuant to this agreement, the countries will jointly develop Ukrainian and Russian securities market infrastructure, exchange related information and implement mutually beneficial projects on organizing securities trading. (Eastern Economist)

Dutch treat Mykolaiv to 600 new jobs

MYKOLAIV – The Okean Shipbuilding plant, in which Dutch Damen Shipyards Group purchased a 78 percent stake, will be renamed Damen-Ocean and, according to company insiders, plant management expects production to reach 1991 capacities by

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Ukrainian sailor...

(Continued from page 1)

(classes) of Chile, Turkey, Great Britain, Sierra Leone, Jamaica, China, Italy, Egypt, Israel, as well as Mrs. Kuzma's sixth graders, whose class work focuses on Ukraine.

Mrs. Kuzma decided to invite Mr. Vashchuk to her class when her students expressed an interest in meeting a "real-life Kozak" after watching the 1960s epic film "Taras Bulba" starring Yul Brynner and Tony Curtis, directed by David Zannick.

Mr. Vashchuk answered a variety of questions about the history of Ukraine, and current conditions in his homeland. He also performed on several Ukrainian folk instruments, including the "sopilka" and accordion as part of his repertoire.

Mr. Vashchuk was originally scheduled to perform only briefly for the Hamden School, but the students were so fascinated by his stories and showered him with so many questions that the administration turned his visit into full-scale assemblies for hundreds of students.

One sixth-grader asked him whether he had witnessed the Great Famine. Mr. Vashchuk answered that he was too young to have survived the famine, and in any case his region of Rivne was spared the ravages of Soviet occupation until World War II, but he spoke about the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, which heavily contaminated much of his home province.

Many students wanted to know whether he had ever used his saber in battle. Mr. Vashchuk replied that, unlike the real Kozaks, he had never been to war, but now he used his sopilka to conquer the hearts of many foreigners. He emphasized that Ukraine had never waged a war of aggression against its neighbors, but the kozaks had fought fiercely in defense of their homeland. Now that Ukraine had gained its independence, he said, the kozak re-enactors have formed historical societies that have committed themselves to rebuild their nation by peaceful means, and to revive public awareness of the nobility of the kozak heritage.

At the end of each session, the students crowded around Kozak Petro and sat in his lap for group photographs.

Last summer Mr. Vashchuk appeared on a popular morning talk show on WDRG Radio together with Connecticut Gov. John Rowland and First Lady Patty Rowland. He also performed for thousands of tourists during the four-day OpSail festival.

More recently, Gov. Rowland proclaimed October 14, 2000, "Connecticut Batkivschyna Day" in honor of the tall ship that has captured the hearts of so many Connecticut residents. The schooner will spend this winter in the city of Norwich, where it is undergoing repairs and drydock services donated by local Connecticut businesses.

The Batkivschyna's goodwill mission to the United States continues to draw exten-

sive news coverage. After a flurry of major news stories that appeared last summer, the Batkivschyna was featured in another full-page article in the Connecticut section of The New York Times on November 5, 2000, and front page stories in the Hartford Courant, the New London Day and other New England dailies.

The performance at the charter school was described at length in an article in

the Hamden Journal. Mr. Vashchuk is staying in Connecticut until next summer, when the Batkivschyna will take part in a tall ships festival touring the Great Lakes Region.

Mr. Vashchuk, who speaks relatively good English, is available for other school presentations in the New York/New England area and may be reached directly at (860) 367-0594.



Grade 3 students gather around Petro Vashchuk at the conclusion of his performance.



FOCUS ON PHILATELY

by Inger Kuzych

The world's first international, and regular, airmail service

CONCLUSION

Special stamps and postmarks

The mailing fees set out in the Austrian "Order No. 15" that established the first airmail service were in three parts:

1. The normal rate of 10 heller (h) for a postcard or 15 h for a letter. This charge was paid by regular definitive stamps.

2. A conveyance (handling) charge of 1 Krone (k) per item.

3. An airmail rate of 1.5 K for each 20 grams of weight and for each increment of the route, e.g., a typical letter Vienna-Krakow would require 1.5 K; Vienna-Lemberg would add 3 K.

These last two charges were paid for by special airmail stamps, which the post office

created using old stamp plates to print a new set of three stamps but with new colors. These stamps were then overprinted with the word "Flugpost" (airmail) and some of them surcharged with new values: the 2 K violet stamps were revalued to 1.5 K and the 3 K yellow to 2.5 K; the 4 K gray's value was left unchanged. These stamps, made on light gray paper, became available on March 30 (Figure 4).

Official and military correspondence was sent free of charge. All such letters posted in Krakow or Lemberg received the following handstamp: "K. u. K. Fliegerkurierlinie WienKyiv Flugstation Krakau (or Lemberg)" (K. u. K.= Imperial and Royal; Air Courier Route Vienna-Kyiv Flight Station Krakow (or Lemberg)). These post-

marks also served as receiving markings at these two cities and were in use from March 20 to the end of October 1918. Letters with these official markings are quite scarce and valuable (Figure 5).

"Post and Telegraph Order No. 15" designated Vienna, Krakow and Lemberg as arrival delivery sites; only the main post offices – Wien 1, Krakau 1, and Lemberg 1 – were authorized to accept mail for air delivery. The stamps were cancelled with ordinary round handstamps of the post office of origin. Additionally, a special round "Flugpost" postmark had to appear on the front of the cover, usually next to the cancelled postage stamps, to indicate that air delivery was required. These postmarks were also used to backstamp incoming airmail (Figure 6).

During the first two months of operation, most of the mails being sent between Vienna, Krakow and Lemberg were of a philatelic nature, that is they were frequently overfranked to show all three stamps of the set. On June 1, after the flood of philatelic mail had dropped off, the airmail service was extended to other major towns in the empire, 12 in Austria and 20 in Hungary. All such mail was delivered by train on a priority basis from these outlying post offices to the central post offices in

Vienna, Krakow, or Lemberg. From there it was forwarded to its destination through the normal way reserved for airmail. Such letters, to or from outlying locales, are not easy to come by and command a premium (Figure 7).

All airmail delivered to Vienna was taken directly from the airfield to "Wien Telegraphenzentralstation P," which served as the main distribution point for Vienna's postal system. This central post office distributed the mail by means of pneumatic tubes to various terminals within the city. Attending postal clerks numbered all airmail letters consecutively, usually in the lower left corner, at the time of mailing.

Mail to Kyiv

The carrying of private airmail to Kyiv was allowed by the end of June 1918. However, the leg between Lemberg and Kyiv was not extensively used for private correspondence. In Kyiv, all of the mail was handled by Field Post No. 258, which used exclusively Austrian field post stamps for prepayment of fees on private airmail going out of the city, and the cancellation "K. u. K. Etappen P.O. No. 258" (Imperial and Royal Communications Base No. 258) instead of an ordinary handstamp. Letters originating

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FIGURE 4: Austria's first airmail stamps, created especially for the Vienna-Krakow-Lemberg-Kyiv route.

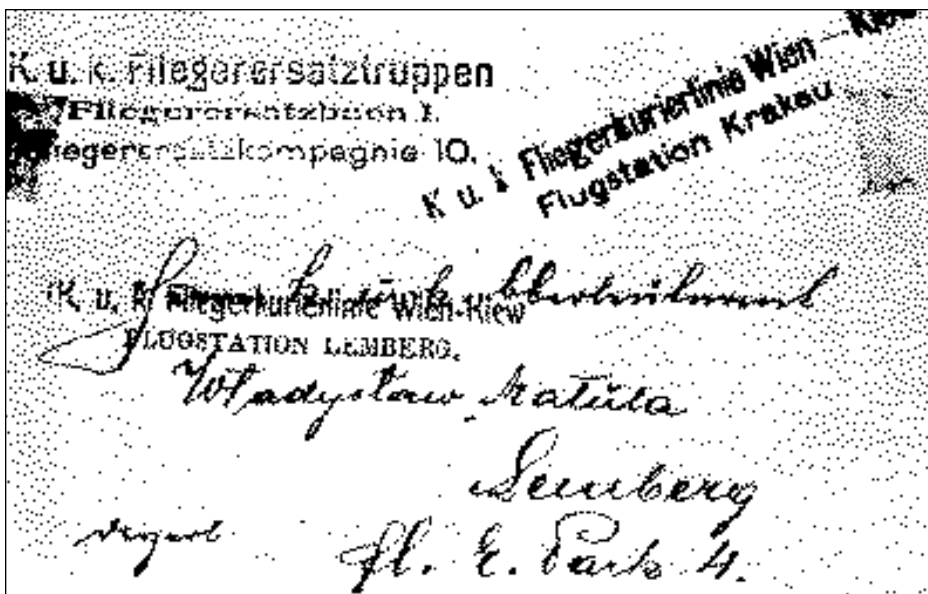


FIGURE 5: Official military letter from Krakow to Lemberg dated March 23, 1918.

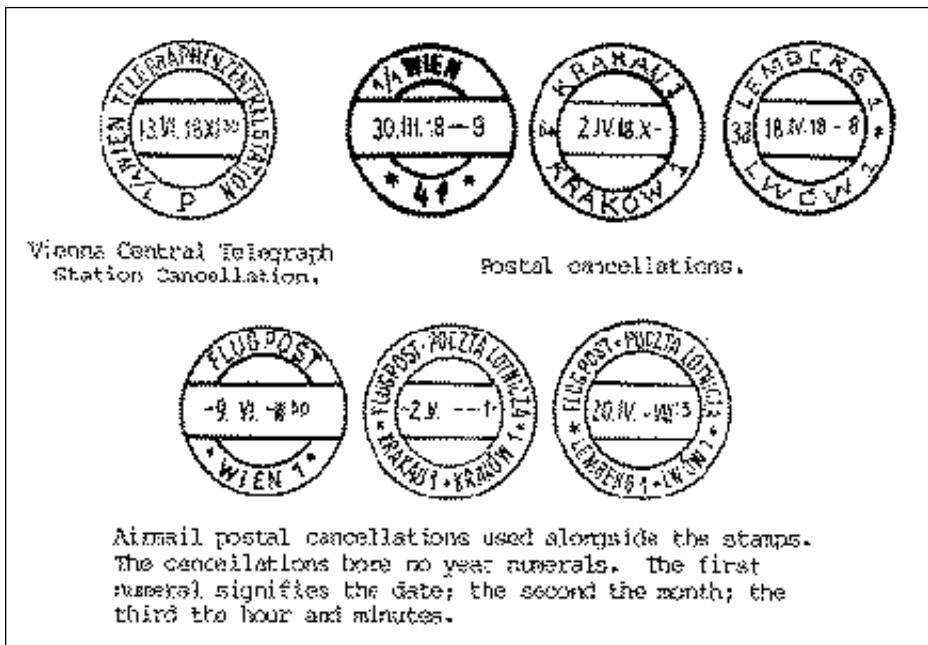


FIGURE 6: Examples of the various types of cancellations that appeared on letters to and from Vienna, Krakow or Lemberg.

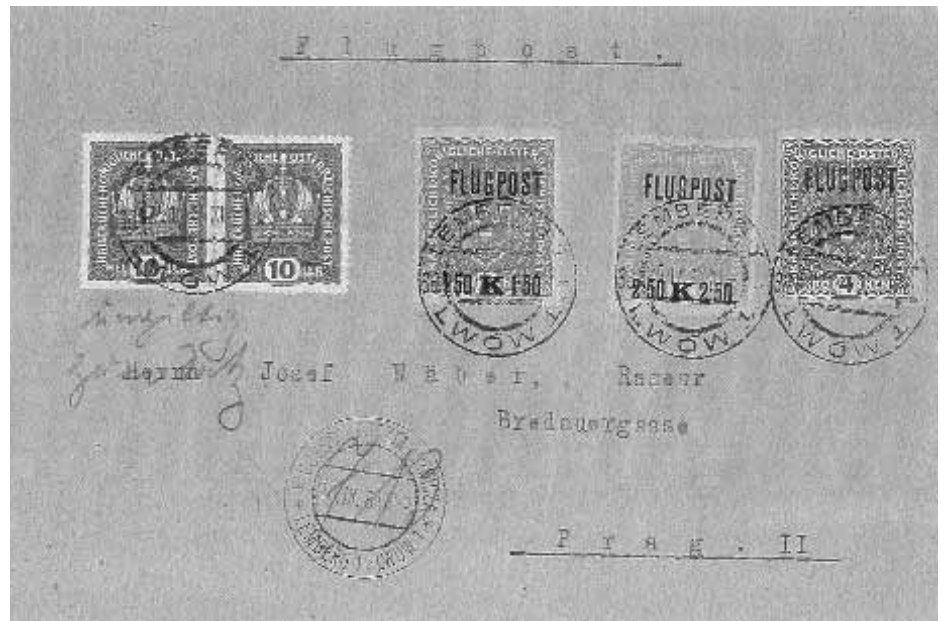


FIGURE 7: A rare letter mailed from Lemberg to Prague on September 26, 1918. Airmailed to Vienna, the cover was then forwarded via train.



FIGURE 8: First flight cover from the establishment of the regular civilian Vienna-to-Lemberg service, March 31, 1918.



FIGURE 9: Detail from the only flown card from Kyiv to Vienna on April 3, 1918, the first return flight of the civilian service. The March 21 date on the Kyiv cancel is of the old style calendar, which differed from Western Europe by 13 days.

LETTER TO READERS

You can help shape Soyuzivka's future

Dear Readers:

For more than four decades, Soyuzivka has held a special place in our hearts. Whether you live nearby, or hundreds of miles away, a visit to the "Q" is never ordinary. But in recent years, our jewel in the Catskills has lost a bit of its luster.

Thankfully, however, the Ukrainian National Association has recommitted itself to rejuvenating Soyuzivka. Under the direction of the UNA General Assembly's Standing Committee on Soyuzivka, preparations are now under way for an extensive renovation and capital campaign that will enable Soyuzivka once again to become the

star resort that it once was.

This transformation cannot occur by itself, or simply by the will of the UNA. It will take the effort of the entire community. As we begin to undertake this effort, we'd like input from you. Specifically, we'd like answers to the following simple questions.

If it were in your power to change anything about Soyuzivka, what would you change? What could we do to make you and your family more likely to use the resort on a regular basis?

We want to know. This is your chance to shape the future. Thanks!

Send your thoughts and comments to:
Wasył Szeremeta, MD
1510 Hilltop Terrace
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
e-mail: wasylsz@yahoo.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stop advancing one party's agenda

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter in reference to Dr. Myron Kuropas' column (December 24, 2000), "Stay on message, Mr. Bush!" I find such partisan rhetoric completely inappropriate for a community publication such as The Weekly. I was under the impression that The Weekly concerned itself with matters relating to the Ukrainian community in the United States and Canada. It is troubling to see that Dr. Kuropas is allowed to vent his political frustrations by using a respected community institution. If he feels an uncontrollable need to attack the politics of Jesse Jackson he should call Rush Limbaugh and leave us alone.

I suppose Dr. Kuropas and his ardent supporters will argue that the politics of the

American far right are of direct relevance and importance to the Ukrainian community. I strongly disagree with that and do not think The Weekly should be the venue for airing one's partisan grievances, be they Republican or Democrat. Furthermore, Dr. Kuropas directed his comments to George W. Bush, who I am sure is a regular reader of The Weekly and an integral member of the Ukrainian American community.

We must not forget that our community comprises Republicans, Democrats and independents. No matter how strongly we feel about our political views we should use restraint and common sense in choosing proper venues to express them. For the integrity of The Weekly and its continued importance for our entire community, I respectfully urge the editorial staff to stop anyone from using The Weekly to advance the agenda of one political party.

Andrew Roman Mac
Bethlehem, Pa.

Wrong message, Dr. Kuropas

Dear Editor:

Even though I have, at various times, fallen in and out of agreement with the opinions expressed in Dr. Myron Kuropas' column, I found his last piece, "Stay on message, Mr. Bush" (December 24, 2000), inordinately difficult to swallow. Not only did he misrepresent the truth, invent some sort of liberal conspiracy apparently bent on nothing short of world domination and ignore the last eight years of American politics, he also managed to slander and vilify just about anyone who does not agree with him.

He makes a variety of strikingly ill-considered claims. Take, for example, his discussion of "liberal leadership in the U.S. Congress." Leaving aside the fact that there is no such thing as a "liberal leadership" in Washington, and that he creates a straw man by branding Democrats as liberals, how can he argue that the Democrats are "not interested in compromise because in their eyes [George W. Bush's] presidency is

illegitimate – a fluke blessed by a partisan Supreme Court?"

Correct me if I'm wrong, but was it not Rep. Newt Gingrich along with fellow GOP henchmen Tom Delay and Dick Armey who were unwilling to compromise over the budget in 1998, and who then proceeded to shut down Congress? Moreover, Mr. Bush did become president as a result of what's been interpreted by many law professors and specialists as an extraordinarily badly reasoned Supreme Court decision (see The New York Times op-ed article by Anthony Lewis, December 16, 2000).

None of the above, however, was as astonishing to me as his accusation that "hypocrisy among liberal Democrats is ingrained, a part of their very nature." Though, now that he has mentioned it, lets, for a moment, reflect upon just a few of the GOP's run-ins with hypocrisy. Mr. Gingrich, whom Dr. Kuropas portrays as a "victim" of the liberals, and who also led the GOP's moral crusade against President Bill Clinton, was at least twice involved in affairs while still married. Let's not forget Rep. Robert Livingston, who was exposed by Larry Flynt, and Rep. Henry Hyde, whose four-year affair ended his lover's marriage. How easy it has become for the pot to call the kettle black, eh?

Although these are not the only examples of inaccuracy and defamation in Dr. Kuropas' message to President-elect Bush, they are the most blatant. What next Dr. Kuropas? Will you propose that the underhanded liberals forced President George Bush to renege on his campaign promise of "no new taxes"? Oh, my mistake, you've already done so.

Stepan Rurik Vitvitsky
Madison, Wis.

Correction

Two typographical errors occurred in the statement issued by the Ukrainian World Congress regarding the closing of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (December 31, 2000). The number of people affected by the closure is 20,000 (not 200,000), and the amount of money donated by the international community for the technical aspects of the closure is \$715 million (not \$71 million).

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Predictions, dreams, fears

Time to reflect, gentle reader, on what the next year will bring. In keeping with the spirit of the moment, I offer the following predictions, dreams and fears for your reflection, response and expansion.

Predictions

1. During his visit to Ukraine in June, Pope John Paul II will announce a date for the beatification of Servant of God Andrey Sheptytsky. No other 20th century prelate did more to openly condemn the godless, tyrannical oppressors of mankind. In the words of my colleague, The Ukrainian Weekly columnist Andrew Fedynsky: "Like Raoul Wallenberg and Oskar Schindler, he confronted evil head on – in his case, in both its Communist and Nationalist Socialist forms."

2. The installation of Bishop Stephen Soroka as America's new Ukrainian Catholic metropolitan will herald the beginning of the long process of renewal for the Church in the United States. His youth, vigor and spiritual enthusiasm will win over many converts and energize the faithful.

3. Bishop Lubomyr Husar will become the Ukrainian Catholic metropolitan of Lviv. A religious leader who spent his formative years in the United States (he even worked at Soyuzivka for a time), this brilliant and energetic churchman will surround himself with the best and the brightest in our Church and steer Ukraine towards an unprecedented spiritual renaissance.

4. Bishop Michael Wiwchar will leave his post in Chicago to breathe new life into the eparchy of Saskatoon where the bishop's chair has remained empty for some time. Born in Canada, Bishop Wiwchar brought a unique blend of spiritually refreshing styles to the Chicago diocese. His successor would be wise to continue the annual conferences aimed at greater lay involvement in Church affairs. He will not leave until his replacement is named. Given the fact that the new metropolitan is a Canadian, Chicago's new bishop will be an American. This on good authority.

5. In his inauguration speech, President George W. Bush will reiterate his campaign theme of "no one left behind," emphasizing "new inclusiveness," "greater understanding" and "more individual responsibility."

6. The ill-advised meeting between George W. Bush and Jesse Jackson will not go well for the new president. It will, however, further legitimize the Jackson-promulgated delusion that black failure is due solely to institutional racism.

7. In keeping with his pledge to include Democrats in his administration, President Bush will appoint Julian Kulas as the new ambassador to Ukraine.

8. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton will announce the formation of an "exploratory committee" to determine the feasibility of a run for the White House in 2004. The liberal media and other "anointed spokesperson," will spend weeks pondering her decision and conclude that it's time a woman was elected president in America, and, given the political divisiveness" of the last election, her candidacy would begin the healing process.

9. Congress will quickly pass the Born-Alive Infant Protection Act, banning partial-birth abortion, and President Bush will sign it into law.

10. Congress will also pass bills eliminating the marriage tax penalty and death taxes. Mr. Bush will sign them into law.

11. The new secretary of education will support the concept of limited school

vouchers for all students forced to attend inferior schools.

12. Sen. Joseph Lieberman will rue the day he was goaded into recalibrating his moral compass and attempt to return to positions once dictated by his religious grounding. Much time will pass before he is viewed once again as the "mensch" of the U.S. Senate.

13. Viktor Yuschenko, Ukraine's prime minister, will survive a potentially deadly "accident." The police investigation will be inconclusive.

14. Askold Lozynskyj will open a law office in Ukraine and try to convince Bohdan Futey to join his firm.

Dreams

1. After openly admitting his less than honorable behavior during Soviet times, Patriarch Filaret will offer to meet with Ukrainian Orthodox bishops in North America in an effort to heal the rift that exists within the Church. Both sides will bend and a compromise will be reached.

2. Fearing impeachment, or worse, President Leonid Kuchma will ask for asylum in Belarus.

3. Viktor Yuschenko will become Ukraine's new president.

4. Black Americans will finally eschew the "plantation politics" peddled by Messrs. Jackson, Al Sharpton and Kweisi Nfume, and come to appreciate the wisdom offered by such blacks as Walter William, Thomas Sowell, Larry Elder, Ward Connerly, Shelby Steele and Alan Keyes.

5. Jewish leaders in North America will cease harassing the Ukrainian Canadian community with canards related to the Galicia Division.

7. Responding to public pressure, Hollywood will come to understand that its violent, lewd, garbage-mouthed, adolescent films are polluting the climate of the nation and return to offering more morally mature cinema.

8. Ukraine will experience a gradual spiritual awakening under the leadership of younger, morally grounded local leaders.

9. Mr. Lazarenko will be returned to Ukraine to face trial.

10. A new brand of OUN nationalism, one based on civic integration rather than integral exclusiveness, will emerge in Ukraine.

11. The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda will become financially self-sufficient and subscriptions will double.

12. The UNA will move its headquarters from Parsippany to Soyuzivka; monies gained from the sale of the Parsippany building will be used to build a new, state-of-the-art structure on the grounds of the UNA resort. Included will be an additional 50 resort units with air conditioning and other amenities

Fears

1. See predictions No. 8 and No. 13 above.

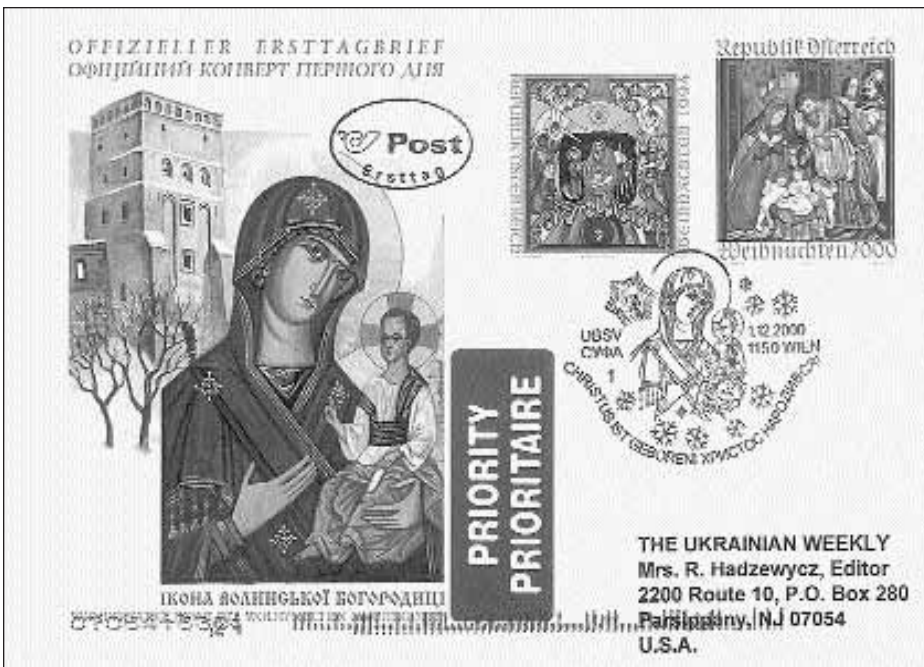
2. Seeking media approval, moderate Republicans will join Democrats in opposing conservative initiatives proposed by President Bush.

3. Russian president Vladimir Putin will continue to put Russia's Humpty Dumpty empire back together again.

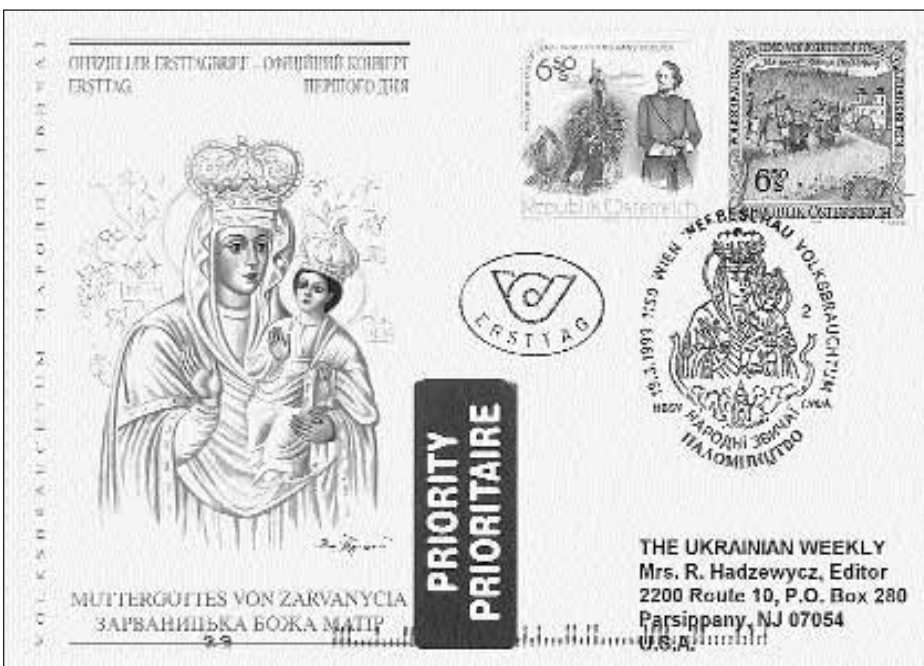
There you have it, my list for 2001. Comments, and additional predictions, dreams and fears are appreciated.

Myron Kuropas' e-mail address is mbkuropas@compuserve.com

PHILATELIC FEATURES

Miraculous icon of Volyn depicted on first day cover

The miraculous icon of the Mother of God of Volyn (late 13th/early 14th century) – one of the most famous in Ukraine – is depicted on the first day cover issued on December 12, 2000, in Vienna by the Ukrainian Stamp Collectors Club of Austria. Originally, the icon was brought to the Lutsk Castle by Prince Danylo of Halych (whose tower can be seen on the cover in the background). Today the icon is on view in the State Museum of Ukrainian Art in Kyiv. The special Christmas cancellation is bilingual (German-Ukrainian) and reads: "Christus ist geboren!/Khrystos Narodysia!" The design of the first day cover is by Ivan Turetskyi of Lviv.

Postal release depicts Mother of God of Zarvanytsia

On the occasion of the first day of issue of the first stamp in the ninth set of the Austrian stamp series "National Customs and Folkloristic Treasures," on March 19, 1999, the Ukrainian Stamp Collectors Club of Austria presented an official first day cover and a special cancellation. The information on the cover notes: "Today once again thousands of pilgrims are coming to the miraculous icon of the Holy Virgin of Zarvanytsia in western Ukraine to pray for consolation and mercy. The first written mention of the icon dates to the year 1458. The picture of the Holy Virgin was kept in a chapel near a bubbling spring. During the Communist regime of the Bolsheviks the chapel was blown up in 1960. In 1991, however, the chapel in Zarvanytsia was restored, in which the icon has found its place and the spring was reopened." The first day cover features art work by Ivan Turetskyi of Lviv; layout is by Erhard Steinhagen of Vienna.

MAY WE HELP YOU?

To reach The Ukrainian Weekly call (973) 292-9800, and dial the appropriate extension (as listed below).

Editorial – 3049, 3069

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Production – 3052

CHRISTMAS PASTORAL

Reflecting God's presence among us

Epistle at the Nativity of our Lord issued by the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine.

"God is with us – understand all ye nations ... and submit yourselves, for God is with us!" (Nativity Compline)

Dearly beloved brothers and sisters in our Lord, faithful members of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Canada, the United States of America, South America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, as well as Ukraine!

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

We read in Holy Scripture that "when the fullness of Time had come" not as an ambassador, not as an angel, but God Himself was made flesh. He entered human history, which was dramatically changed by this encounter. The fullness of time had come into a world long shackled to darkness in which myths and mirage covered the intelligent purpose for living and the true way of life. The distortions, perversions, abnormalities of the "time" had fashionably been accepted as the "normal" way of life and, as such, man had forfeited his true reason for living.

It was a time when the human soul, having divorced itself from the presence of God and from the life of God, had gone into the world of darkness to live by its own power. God created the world, and He said "let us make man," and He made man "in his image." This original "image" was utilized as a verb – "let us make man to image us."

Man, as the icon of God, as the life created by the love of God, in love, for love, to love, had surrendered this loving personality and life for the abnormal mirage of the night, separated from his Creator. Man wandered in his world of darkness for a long time, indeed a very long time, trampling underfoot what the "life" was and substituting for it an inauthentic form of existence. All of this had come to an end. The fullness of time had come and God descended the staircase of heaven carrying a baby in His arms.

For us the direct entrance of God into human history is yet one more manifestation of His care and love for us and for the world, which He created. We sing at the Great Nativity Compline "God is with us; understand all ye nations and submit yourselves, for God is with us!" Almighty God came to us for our salvation – the fulfillment of the deep human intuition that the world is not an end in itself. This deep intuitive comprehension of God's gift of salvation was proud among the cadres of saints of our Ukrainian nation. Throughout 1,012 years of Christian life in Ukraine and beyond her borders, our people were able to preserve the treasure of the Faith even though they were forcefully divided from their brothers and sisters. The comprehension of this gift of salvation enabled our people to embrace the world, time, history, our very lives an epiphany of God, as means of His revelation, presence and power. He made Himself known to us directly and personally. St. Athanasius sums up the incarnation of Jesus Christ with the words "God became human so that we might come divine."

What has all of this to do with us who live in the year 2000-2001? God's action – His gift to us – requires a response on our part. If we do not respond, we are diminished as human beings. St. Peter talks about us: "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a people Christ has

claimed as His own ... to proclaim His glorious works." As our Lord selected the Apostles, so likewise, He selects us for mission. Actually, "apostle" and "mission" have the same root meaning – "to be sent."

We are a people who are being sent to that portion of the world entrusted to our lives. We are held responsible for that world, the world of our homes, the world of our parishes, the world of our communities, the world of our schools and the world of our workplaces. We are called upon to proclaim that "God is with us," "Christ is Born" and that there is life beyond this world, life eternal with God!

To make such a proclamation is a form of ministry to a world that is not really much different from the world when the "fullness of time" had come. There are still distortions, perversions, abnormalities accepted as the "norm." It is a world filled with people who are searching like Pontius Pilate for the "truth!"

What is our life all about? It is about acceptance of our mission. We are sent to the world – not to a vast "fantasy land" – to minister to all. That ministry is nothing less than each of us becoming agents of life for others. Ministry is caring. Ministry is loving. Ministry is forgiving. Ministry is giving, expecting nothing in return. Ministry is living in the example of our Lord's total and unquestionable love for us. Ministry is to image God – to reflect God's presence to all.

May we each be willing to answer the call to such ministry and Truth. When God the Father called out in the Garden for His beloved creation – there was no answer. The created one was ashamed because of his actions. Let us be prepared to answer when God calls out to us. Let us work miracles in this world.

Throughout the first year of the new millennium, which is upon us, may the love, peace and joy of the Christ-Child fill each of your homes and lives – and those of our brother hierarchs and faithful in Ukraine. You are in our prayers daily.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

† **Wasyly, Metropolitan**
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

† **Constantine, Metropolitan**
Ukrainian Orthodox Church
of the U.S.A. and Diaspora

† **John, Archbishop**
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

† **Antony, Archbishop**
Ukrainian Orthodox Church
of the U.S.A.

† **Vsevolod, Archbishop**
Ukrainian Orthodox Church
of the U.S.A.

† **Ioan, Archbishop**
Ukrainian Orthodox Church
in Diaspora and the Australia/
New Zealand Eparchy

† **Yurij, Bishop**
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

† **Jeremiah, Bishop**
Ukrainian Orthodox Church
in South America

Given on the Great Feast of the Nativity of our Lord – January 7, 2001.

2000: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Ukraine's domestic affairs: the good, the bad, the ugly

On the domestic front in 2000 it was a roller coaster ride for Ukraine, the economy being one of the few surprisingly steady elements in an otherwise unstable year.

The new millennium began at a high point for Ukraine. At the end of 1999 the nation had re-elected a president who, in turn, had appointed the first truly reform-minded prime minister in the country's short history.

Then the Constitutional Court of Ukraine gave Ukraine a further push toward Europe when it ruled on the next to last day of the year that capital punishment is not in line with the country's fundamental law and ordered it stricken from the Criminal Code of Ukraine. The Verkhovna Rada made the required legislative changes on February 22 when it voted to abolish the death penalty. The decision fulfilled a pledge made to the Council of Europe in 1995, based upon which Ukraine gained admission to the European human rights parliament.

The Verkhovna Rada also ratified Protocol No. 6 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (the European Convention), which provides for the abolition of the death penalty except during war or the imminent threat of war.

But it was the appointment of Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko by President Leonid Kuchma, which many political experts speculated was a result of pressure from the West, that gave reason for well-founded optimism as the country entered the new year. The Ukrainian president gave Mr. Yushchenko a free hand in appointing his Cabinet of Ministers and overall responsibility for the economic reform process. The prime minister, in turn, appointed a Cabinet composed of an eclectic mix of veteran bureaucrats, dedicated reformers and unexpected newcomers, which surprised experts.

President Kuchma confirmed all of the appointments, which included Yurii Yekhanurov as first vice prime minister; Yulia Tymoshenko as vice prime minister of energy affairs; Mykola Zhulynskyi as vice prime minister of humanitarian affairs; Serhii Tyhytko as minister of the economy; Serhii Tulub as minister of fuel and energy; and Bohdan Stupka as minister of culture.

While Mr. Stupka's appointment was considered unusual because until that moment he had been merely an actor of some note with absolutely no government or administrative experience, it was the addition of Ms. Tymoshenko to the prime minister's team that caused the most resonance. Ms. Tymoshenko is the controversial president of United Energy Systems, an oil and gas trading company with a checkered past and close ties to former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, who has been charged with illegal money laundering in several countries. Many, including eventually the president, expressed concern that the appointment of Ms. Tymoshenko would produce a dangerous conflict of interest.

Nonetheless, more good news appeared in early March when Mr. Yushchenko announced the first gains in Ukraine's economy in nearly nine years of independence. He told journalists on March 7 that the country's gross domestic product (GDP) had risen by 3.5 percent in January and that industrial output had risen by nearly 5 percent over the same period of the previous year, with a January to February increase of 10 percent.

The healthy economic indicators, which some economists and many politicians initially downplayed as aberrations caused by a currency devaluation that occurred at the end of 1999, remained upbeat for the entire year. In December the government announced that the GDP would finish at 5.6 percent for the year and industrial output at better than 11 percent. The only indicators that remained flat or deteriorated were unemployment, which continued to stagnate at unofficial levels of between 30 to 40 percent, and inflation, which came in at 25 percent for the year. Government experts said they were not too concerned about the inflation rate because the cumulative figure was a result of increases in gas, water and electricity rates in the spring that the economy had already absorbed. They predicted that in 2001 the rate of inflation would be just over 13 percent.

In the first concrete step towards initiating the comprehensive reforms that President Kuchma and his new government had pledged, the Cabinet of Ministers announced a reform program on March 3, called "Reforms for Prosperity." The 105-page, five-part plan, which was developed from the state of the nation address presented by President Kuchma to the Verkhovna Rada

on February 22, aimed to "increase the economic independence of the citizenry and to promote entrepreneurial activity," said Minister of the Economy Tyhytko.

Mr. Tyhytko, who left the government a few weeks later over disagreements with Ms. Tymoshenko and was elected to a vacant Parliament seat in June, indicated that the program would assure deficit-free budgets, and even budget surpluses for Ukraine, which could lead to repayment of wage and debt arrears, a radical reduction in the country's debt load and a stable currency. A stated longer-term goal was the privatization of land and resurgence of the agricultural sector.

The government set as a goal an annual GDP increase of 6 to 7 percent within five years, with an initial rise in GDP in 2000 of 1 percent (a goal easily surpassed), followed by 6.5 percent in 2001. The plan envisaged a 1.3 to 1.4 percent increase in real incomes for Ukrainians at its completion.

A more immediate target set by Prime Minister Yushchenko was to restructure Ukraine's \$2.6 billion foreign commercial debt, much of which was to come due by April 15. He and Finance Minister Mitiukov undertook a tour of Europe's financial capitals at the end of March to convince holders of Ukrainian Eurobonds to trade them for better yielding, long-term Ukrainian-held debt paper. By the deadline date some 98 percent of the creditors, among them many private individuals, had agreed to the debt swap.

The Verkhovna Rada gave the Cabinet even more good news on April 6 when it approved the "Reforms for Prosperity" economic program. During floor debate on the draft bill, Mr. Yushchenko called the economic revival plan his government developed "unique."

"This is not the first reform program," explained the prime minister, "but it is the first program that has a realistic chance of being given more than just formal political support."

In the first months of the new year, economic reform began to take hold in the agricultural sector as well – the result of a presidential decree from December 1999 that disbanded collective farms. On March 28 Vice Minister of Agriculture Roman Schmidt announced that, "the Soviet-era system of collective farms has ceased to exist in Ukraine." He said 10,551 collective farms had been reshaped into 11,100 new agricultural enterprises, mostly joint stock companies and cooperatives.

However, he added that some time would be needed to reshape the Soviet-era mentality of many farmers. "I am not sure if this Soviet collective farm system has ceased to exist in the minds [of agricultural workers]," explained Mr. Schmidt.

A survey released by the International Finance Corporation in mid-August on the changes in the agricultural sector since the reorganization showed that nearly half of farmers in Ukraine who took up free enterprise on their own were already making money.

In 1999, 47 percent of those who took the plunge into private farming prior to the presidential edict showed a profit, with an average level of 16 percent. The average area owned by a family farm enterprise was 4.4 hectares (10.8 acres). Those farmers who also leased neighbor's lands held between 16.5 and 20.9 hectares. About 13 per-

cent of farmers leased land, according to the study, while another 51 percent were planning to do so.

The survey produced by the IFC came at the conclusion of a \$40 million, five-year agricultural and land reform project.

Trouble in the energy sector

Reform of Ukraine's most troubled economic sector, fuel and energy, proceeded much more turbulently and claimed at least two victims. Ms. Tymoshenko, the controversial energy vice prime minister, was not, however, among them, although rumors of her impending political demise floated through the corridors of government throughout the year.

Ms. Tymoshenko's extensive energy sector reforms included decrees that made fuel and energy operations more transparent and banned barter operations in favor of a cash-only transaction policy. She also called for government regulations and oversight of the commodity market.

One of the first issues that confronted Ms. Tymoshenko was the large debt owed to Russia by Ukraine's quasi-private holding company Naftohaz Ukrainy. Ms. Tymoshenko, after meeting with the chairman of Russia's natural gas monopoly, Gazprom, in January returned to Ukraine with the shocking news that not only did the Ukrainian natural gas distributor owe Russia some \$1 billion but that the company was stealing Russian gas from the Ukrainian pipeline that takes it to Western Europe.

At first Naftohaz Ukrainy denied the charges, but within days its president, Ihor Bakai, became the first casualty of the energy sector power struggle. Soon after his resignation the company began negotiations with Gazprom on debt repayment. At the time, Mr. Bakai said he was forced to resign under government pressure induced by Ms. Tymoshenko, who he said was looking to restructure the sector in her favor and to remove political and business competitors.

Ms. Tymoshenko was increasingly criticized by President Kuchma also, as the year went on, especially in mid-summer after she returned from Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on July 27 and said that she had signed a deal for Turkmen natural gas at \$42 per thousand cubic meters. The president said the vice prime minister did not have authority to conclude such a deal and that the agreement would be far too expensive after transportation costs were factored in, which would drive the price up to \$90 per thousand cubic meters.

In the fall, the president signed a slightly more beneficial deal, which gave Ukraine 30 billion cubic meters of Turkmen natural gas at a price of \$37 per thousand cubic meters, while receiving guarantees from Russia that the energy source would be transported through the country to Ukraine at minimal cost.

A second casualty of the energy war was Minister of Fuel and Energy Tulub, one of Ms. Tymoshenko's subordinates, who resigned on June 15 over the reforms his boss was implementing. Mr. Tulub blamed Ms. Tymoshenko for being long on rhetoric and short on action.

"More than once we discussed the biggest problems of the energy sector, but our proposals were either ignored for months, and if accepted only too late," said Mr. Tulub, according to Interfax-Ukraine. Mr. Tulub also said he



At a meeting in February, President Leonid Kuchma (right) speaks with the newly elected chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, Ivan Pliusch, who is flanked by his two deputies, Viktor Medvedchuk (left) and Stepan Havrysh.

2000: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Members of Ukraine's radical Progressive Socialist Party with white bands around their heads shout slogans during their hunger strike in the Parliament chamber on February 8. The banner reads: "We are protecting Ukraine from the stooges of the IMF."

could not agree with Ms. Tymoshenko's effort to regulate the gas commodities market.

The market had long been the domain of the new "business oligarchs," such as National Deputy Hryhorii Surkis and his partner, First Vice-Chairman of the Parliament Viktor Medvedchuk, as well as National Deputy Oleksander Volkov, a close associate of President Kuchma. Mr. Surkis is reputed to have taken over the market formerly controlled by Mr. Lazarenko after he fled Ukraine, while under political attack for allegedly running an extensive criminal empire.

In July President Kuchma appointed Serhii Yermilov as the new fuel and energy minister and Vadym Kopylov as the new director of Naftohaz Ukrainy.

Language policy an issue

More controversy awaited the government's effort to put in place a comprehensive Ukrainian language policy. The program, which was presented to the government for final review on January 27, consisted of 26 measures to help raise the prestige of the Ukrainian language and promote its further development.

The project was influenced in part by a ruling of the Constitutional Court on December 14, 1999, which stipulated that the Ukrainian language is "the mandatory means of communication for state bodies and local administrations, as well as in the spheres of public life on the territory of Ukraine."

Basically, the court ruled that government officials must utilize the language in all work-related matters, as must schools in the teaching process, beginning with elementary grades through the university level.

The decisions to promulgate the Ukrainian language were met with sharp criticism from Moscow, which called the actions discrimination against the Russian-speaking minority in the country. Kyiv, for its part, responded by citing statistics that showed that the Ukrainian language and not the Russian language is the threatened language in the country. It also presented evidence to support its assertions that Moscow should review its own minority policies in Russia before criticizing those of its neighbor.

The death of Ihor Bilozir, a noted Ukrainian composer, on May 28 – some five weeks after being beaten by two youths after an argument in a Lviv café over his singing of Ukrainian songs – fanned the embers and renewed the debate. In response to his death and subsequent demonstrations, Lviv city and oblast administrations passed resolutions on June 19-20 that limited the use of the Russian language in the region, specifically in commercial transactions and placed a moratorium on the playing of Russian-language songs.

When Moscow again vented its disapproval of what it called more discrimination against Russian minorities, President Kuchma entered the fray and went on the attack when he criticized an absolute lack of Russian government support for the development of the Ukrainian culture in Russia. On July 27 in Sevastopol, he said: "Please give me an example from Russia – where more than 10 million Ukrainians reside – of at least one school, one newspaper,

one radio or TV program in the Ukrainian language."

A presentation by National Deputy Les Taniuk in the Verkhovna Rada building in mid-June highlighted other ways in which the Ukrainian language continued to move to the periphery in Ukraine. Mr. Taniuk stated that Ukraine's publishing industry was in dire straits and soon could disappear altogether if government did not extend life support in the form of tax incentives.

The former theater director noted that in the last two years Russian products had glutted the book market in Ukraine, a direct result of a liberal tax policy adopted by the Russian government in 1995 to encourage the export of Russian-language publications, specifically to Ukraine. Mr. Taniuk called for legislation to give Ukrainian publishers tax incentives to keep them in business, especially relief from the burdensome 20 percent value-added tax (VAT).

Of the various reforms begun in 2000, the most radical and extensive was an effort, wholeheartedly supported if not officially organized by President Kuchma, to implement changes to the Constitution that would increase presidential power while restructuring the country's Parliament.

After organizers, led by National Deputy Oleksander Volkov's Democratic Union Party, gathered nearly 4 million votes – a million more than needed – President Kuchma issued a decree on January 15 setting April 16 as the date for the nationwide referendum.

The initiative for the plebiscite, which the president's advisors insisted was not being driven by their efforts but was the result of a spontaneous grass-roots movement, came from a speech by President Kuchma to a gathering of regional and local leaders during which he proposed to reorganize Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada into a bicameral parliament.

Ultimately, the proposed referendum came to include six questions: Were Ukrainians ready to express a vote of no confidence in their current Parliament; if so, would they give the president the power to dismiss the Parliament after such a vote? Should the president have the power to dismiss the Parliament if it failed to organize a sustainable majority within 30 days or if it failed to pass a budget within 90 days? Should the immunity of national deputies from criminal prosecution be removed? Should the composition of the Parliament be reduced from 450 to 300 lawmakers? Should the Constitution of Ukraine also be ratified by an all-Ukrainian referendum? Should the country move to a bicameral parliamentary system?

Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko, under fire for his increasingly leftist views and also for an inability to get a paralyzed Verkhovna Rada moving, protested the presidential decree, calling it a power grab.

"The declaration of the president for a national referendum is no more than the ambition of the president to obtain unlimited powers, destroy the Parliament and restrict the rights and freedoms of all the citizens of Ukraine," said Mr. Tkachenko on January 17.

The constitutionality of the six questions immediately became an issue, with various national deputies, led by Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz and maverick

lawmaker Serhii Holovaty, filing complaints with both Ukraine's Constitutional Court and the Council of Europe. While the country's highest court heard arguments from both sides on the issue, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) stridently voiced its opposition to the referendum in the format presented.

President Kuchma faced down PACE – which sent a monitoring committee to Ukraine and asked its advisory council on constitutional questions to establish whether the referendum met European standards – and responded to their assertions that the plebiscite was unconstitutional with a stinging response in which he accused the organization of intruding into the internal affairs of a sovereign country.

Mr. Kuchma received little satisfaction from the Constitutional Court's decision on the national referendum. On March 29 Ukraine's highest court threw out two of the six questions, specifically the first, which gave the president the authority to dismiss the Verkhovna Rada, and the sixth, which gave the people the power to ratify the Constitution. It also ruled that the referendum held an imperative character, which meant that it was not to be merely an advisory ballot and the results would have to be implemented.

While presidential critics such as Mr. Holovaty applauded the court's decision, the president quietly signed a decree the same day bringing the referendum into line with the court's decision.

The last and deciding round of the political joust, however, went to President Kuchma, when on April 16 more than 80 percent of voters answered in the affirmative to each of the four proposals placed before them – with better than 90 percent supporting three of them. The results exceeded even the most optimistic expectations and political surveys.

But again charges surfaced that the referendum, like the December presidential elections, had been manipulated to Mr. Kuchma's advantage. Many also criticized the decision to allow 10 days of absentee balloting to ensure the 50 percent turnout needed to sustain the results. There were accusations that workers and students were forced to vote during work and class hours, which was specifically forbidden.

Rada Vice-Chairman Medvedchuk said on April 3 that the Parliament would put forward legislation to implement the people's will, but warned that he could not be sure the 300 votes required to make changes to the Constitution would be found. He explained that the recently organized parliamentary majority could guarantee only 276 votes.

Crisis in the Verkhovna Rada

The parliamentary majority, the first voting bloc in the Verkhovna Rada organized to cooperate with the president and the government in passing legislation, caused a major political crisis within the country early in the year, which at some point looked as if it might become an unhealable political wound on the parliamentary body.

The groundwork for the crisis was laid on January 13 when former President Leonid Kravchuk announced the formation of a majority coalition of 11 political factions representing centrist and center-right democratic forces in the Verkhovna Rada as a voting bloc and stated that its first assignment would be to remove the Rada's increasingly leftist and politically belligerent chairman, Mr. Tkachenko.

Mr. Kravchuk, who was elected the head of the coalition's Coordinating Council, explained that the voting bloc was formed to break the paralysis that had become the hallmark of the legislative branch of government and would take personal responsibility to begin moving economic and administrative reform legislation forward, which had been held up by the leftist forces.

A week later, in a move that split Ukraine's Parliament along ideological lines, the majority coalition voted unanimously to oust Mr. Tkachenko and his Communist first vice-chairman, Adam Martyniuk, for egregious violations of parliamentary procedure during a special session held outside the Verkhovna Rada session hall. They also voted with no dissenting voices to have the hammer and sickle, symbols of the Soviet era, removed at last from the façade and interior walls of the Verkhovna Rada building.

The majority coalition met at the Ukrainian Home on the last day of the winter session after Mr. Tkachenko refused for two days to allow a floor vote on a motion to suspend the speaker and his first assistant. The moves by the majority began when the chairman refused to accept a successful majority initiative of January 18 that would have required all floor votes outside of those mandated by the Constitution to take place in open, by-name polling.

After walking out of the session hall of the Verkhovna

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Rada Building on two consecutive days, the majority abandoned the venue altogether and called a special session at the Ukrainian Home of Exhibitions.

At a hastily called press conference after the decision became public, Mr. Tkachenko said he would not surrender his office. He explained that he would only obey decisions made in the Verkhovna Rada's normal session hall, in strict conformity with parliamentary rules and procedures. He also blamed Mr. Kuchma for the split, which he said would allow the president to organize a legislative branch that would better serve him and his ambitions. He filed a petition with Ukraine's Constitutional Court the next day to render a decision on the ouster.

Mr. Kuchma remained relatively quiet as the two-week crisis developed. He did, however, express support for the actions of the majority coalition, stating that the parliamentary paralysis had to end sooner or later.

The political rupture continued through February 1, when the center-right majority elected Ivan Pliusch, a member of the National Democratic faction, as the new chairman of the Verkhovna Rada at another special session at the Ukrainian Home. Mr. Pliusch had served as the Parliament chairman once before, in 1991-1994. Viktor Medvedchuk, head of the Socialist-Democratic (United) faction was elected first vice-chairman, and Stepan Havrysh of the Regional Rebirth faction, second vice-chairman.

As more than 2,000 supporters cheered the proceedings of the majority coalition, which continued after a week of parliamentary recess, the leftist factions and their ousted parliamentary leadership remained barricaded in the Verkhovna Rada building, which they had not left since January 21.

The same day the new parliamentary leadership was announced, Progressive Socialist leader Natalia Vitrenko and members of her party holed up in the Verkhovna Rada announced a hunger strike that was to last "until the people take back their Parliament."

Mr. Tkachenko, who continued to insist he was illegally ousted, asked that the full Parliament meet in normal session at the Verkhovna Rada Building and agree on a three-week moratorium on the issue of his leadership until it had passed a 2000 budget. The majority members rejected the offer stating that Mr. Tkachenko was no longer the chairman and did not have a voice in leadership matters.

On February 8 the members of the parliamentary coalition decided the time was right to return to the Verkhovna Rada building they had abandoned, which was still occupied by the leftist forces. The first regular session in more than two weeks was held that day – but not before a morning confrontation between the two sides, which included a battle between the lawmakers over physical control of the chairman's rostrum.

As the new leadership entered the hall, it was greeted with a standing ovation from the members of the majority coalition, while the leftist forces strenuously booed and chanted "Shame" and "Criminals!"

The next day several members of the majority announced that Mr. Tkachenko and his allies would face a criminal investigation into their actions and policies during the ousted chairman's reign.

A month later, another political crisis, albeit on a smaller and more innocuous scale, occurred when the national headquarters of the Communist Party of Ukraine was taken over by 10 members of a heretofore unknown organization called Independent Ukraine, which linked itself to the ideas promulgated by the early 20th century radical nationalist, Mykola Mikhnovsky. The group, consisting mostly of students, released a statement after they had occupied the Kyiv building, demanding the abolition of the Communist Party; the barring of CPU members, past and present, from positions in government; the withdrawal of Ukraine from the CIS; and recognition of former members of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army and the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists as World War II veterans.

While holding the building, the nine men and one woman defaced interior walls, overturned desks and bookshelves, and destroyed Communist mementos.

The group surrendered to state militia after nearly 12 hours of siege and extensive negotiations with National Deputies Hennadii Udovenko and Mykhailo Ratushnyi of the Rukh Party, who acted as intermediaries for the government.

Individuals of the group, who were charged with illegal seizure of a public building and infliction of bodily injuries, were released on August 1 after nearly five months of incarceration, and hunger strikes by several of the group's members. The releases came after parents of the detained threatened individual hunger strikes.

Procurator General Mykhailo Potebenko said he did not see any benefit in keeping the young adults incarcerated.

Coincidentally or not, six days later the group's missing founder and leader, Oleksander Bashuk, 27, who masterminded the assault on CPU headquarters although he did not take part in the action itself, was arrested at a safe house in the Podil section of Kyiv. He was charged with two counts of conspiracy.

The Gongadze case

A third, much more serious political crisis, involving the president of Ukraine, was slower to develop, but its impact – if the charges leveled could be sustained – would be much larger.

It began with the disappearance on September 16 of Heorhii Gongadze, an outspoken and dogged journalist, who had increasingly criticized the presidential administration and the Ukrainian business oligarchs in stories that appeared in his Internet newspaper, *Ukrainska Pravda*, which he had started in April.

During December 1999, Mr. Gongadze joined a group of journalists who had traveled to the United States to publicize what many in Ukraine believed was a deteriorating situation for press freedom. The group met with Clinton administration officials, congressional staffers and representatives of various non-governmental organizations in both Washington and New York. They also presented a petition signed by 60 journalists, which appealed to the world community to focus on the problems of a free press in Ukraine.

Mr. Gongadze, 31, disappeared without a trace on a Saturday evening after leaving a close colleague's apartment to meet his wife and their twin daughters. After Kyiv journalists organized demonstrations and met with national deputies, the Verkhovna Rada organized an ad hoc committee to investigate the journalist's disappearance.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs said on September 20 that it was handling the matter as a murder investigation. At first investigators said they were considering three possibilities that might have caused Mr. Gongadze's disappearance: his professional work, business relations or a private relationship with a woman gone sour.

As the state militia maintained that its investigation had revealed no leads or witnesses in the first days, Mr. Gongadze's wife, Myroslava, herself a journalist, and

Olena Prytula, the editor of *Ukrainska Pravda* who had last seen the missing journalist, called a press conference on September 19 to announce that the Georgian Embassy had received an anonymous phone call on September 18 from a man having the accent of a person from the Caucasus region, who said that the journalist was still alive and being held somewhere in Kyiv. The caller, who refused to give his name or the source of his information, added that National Deputy Volkov, a prominent Ukrainian mafia chieftain nicknamed "Kissel" and Minister of Internal Affairs Yurii Kravchenko were involved in the disappearance.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs irked national deputies and the press alike due to its unwillingness to reveal any aspects of its investigation. Mr. Kravchenko refused a request by the Verkhovna Rada that he should appear to answer questions on how the investigation was proceeding – a request that came after his assistant, Mykola Dzyha told journalists that the state militia was not looking at a political motive in the investigation because Mr. Gongadze "is not an influential political or public figure."

Mr. Kravchenko quickly corrected the public record. Several days later Security Service of Ukraine Chairman Leonid Derkach told journalists that his organization had information that Mr. Gongadze was seen in Kyiv at a popular local club on September 21.

While law enforcement officials continued what they claimed was one of the largest criminal investigations ever organized in Ukraine – a search that revealed not a smidgeon of evidence on Mr. Gongadze's whereabouts – local demonstrations and a concerted effort by the Kyiv mass media kept the matter alive. President Kuchma and Prime Minister Yushenko ordered daily updates.

Then on November 15 *Ukrainska Pravda* announced that a headless body found in a partially uncovered, shallow grave in wooded area near the city of Bila Tserkva two weeks earlier belonged to Mr. Gongadze. Ms. Prytula and a colleague had traveled to the local morgue in the town of Tarascha after hearing that a corpse had turned up that could be that of the missing journalist. They said the body they saw, although badly decomposed after being treated with a special agent, had markings that were similar to ones Mr. Gongadze carried. The local medical examiner also showed them jewelry found nearby and an x-ray of the hand, with a grenade fragment still located in the bone, which led them to confirm that it was Mr. Gongadze's remains, and the doctor to execute a death certificate.

State militia quickly and quietly transferred the corpse to Kyiv after the information became public and within two days arrested the coroner for prematurely divulging government information and issuing a death certificate.

Neither the missing journalist's wife nor his mother was allowed to see the body or the accouterments found near it while officials went through a process of identifying the remains. That would take at least a month, they announced, because of the need for DNA testing.

When Procurator General Potebenko, answering charges that his agency was moving much too slowly in the investigation, said that DNA testing had been delayed because Mr. Gongadze's mother had failed to submit a sample due to illness, she answered in an exclusive television interview that, on the contrary, she was in daily contact with law enforcement officials, pushing to get the testing completed. The next day the sample finally was taken.

The murder investigation blew up into a scandal and then a political crisis when National Deputy Moroz announced in the Verkhovna Rada on November 28 that he had an audiocassette tape implicating President Kuchma, his chief of staff, Volodymyr Lytvyn, and Internal Affairs Minister Kravchenko in the disappearance of the journalist.

"With sufficient evidence in hand, I am obliged to announce that President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma ordered the disappearance of journalist Heorhii Gongadze," Mr. Moroz told the stunned legislative body.

Mr. Moroz, chairman of Parliament in 1994-1998 and an unsuccessful presidential candidate in 1999, allowed journalists and lawmakers to hear the tape recording in question during a press conference that followed his shocking announcement from the Parliament floor. The poor quality of the recording made it difficult to follow the dialogue or identify the speakers. Mr. Moroz said, however, that experts had confirmed that the voices belonged to the three state leaders and that work would continue to improve the sound.

Mr. Moroz explained that he had received the audiotape in late October from an official in the Security Service of Ukraine who worked in communications surveillance, but had withheld making the recording public until the safety of the official and his family was assured.



Efrem Lukatsky

Prime Minister Viktor Yushenko (left) leans towards a coffin as he pays his last respects to one of the miners killed in a methane explosion at the Barakova mine near Krasnodon.

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AP Photo/UNIAN

Journalist Heorhii Gongadze in a photo taken in Kyiv in the spring of 2000. Mr. Gongadze, known for his tough opposition to the current regime, has been missing since September.



Roman Woronowycz

A demonstrator on Kyiv's central square carries a placard reading "For Ukraine without Kuchma."

The leftist lawmaker said the Security Service official was ready to testify in a court of law if a trial should proceed on the matter.

The next day the Socialist Party of Ukraine posted a transcript of the tape recordings on its Internet news site, as did Mr. Gongadze's *Ukrainska Pravda*.

Messrs. Kravchenko and Lytvyn immediately filed criminal lawsuits against Mr. Moroz for libel and slander. A few days later it became known that an expert analysis of the tape had been done by the Dutch Institute of Applied Scientific Research, which concluded that the tape was not computer-generated voice data, as some in Kyiv had speculated. However, the firm could not confirm that the voices were those of Mr. Kuchma and his two subordinates.

Mr. Kuchma, for his part, would not comment on the tape's authenticity at first, although on December 16 he stated that his is not the voice on the tape and that he neither had nor would have anything to do with criminal actions.

Theories abounded that either Moscow or Washington were behind the development and release of the audiotape as political leverage against the Kuchma administration – theories the president suggested were plausible. On December 1, while in Minsk for the CIS Heads of State Summit, Mr. Kuchma said, without being specific: "This is a provocation, foreign special services may have had a hand in this."

The controversy escalated again on December 12 after Ukrainian lawmakers watched a videotape in which 34-year-old Security Service of Ukraine Maj. Mykola Melnychenko, the person who claims to have recorded the conversations and was now in hiding, explained how and why he had bugged the office of President Kuchma.

On December 13, the day after the videotape was played in the Verkhovna Rada, the president's spokesman, Oleksander Martynenko, continued to insist that the audiocassette was a falsification, part of a concerted political campaign to destabilize the presidency and the nation. "The president never gave orders to any law enforcement officials on Gongadze or on any other journalist," said Mr. Martynenko.

Tensions between the legislature and the executive heightened further when the three national deputies who had traveled to Europe to tape Melnychenko's testimony, were harassed at Boryspil Airport in Kyiv by Ukrainian Customs officials upon their return. The events led the Verkhovna Rada to demand the appearances of the heads of several of Ukraine's law enforcement agencies.

By the end of that week, Verkhovna Rada deputies had cross-examined and vilified the country's top spy, top cop, head of customs and its head prosecutor, and called for the resignation of all four.

As the year ended, demonstrators who had set up tents on Independence Square were calling for the resignation of the president, much as others had done exactly 10 years ago when student hunger strikes forced the resignation of the prime minister of the Ukrainian SSR, Vitalii Masol.

While political upheaval seemed to be the norm in Ukraine in 2000, it affected the work, and perhaps the future, only of high government officials. Other incidents, accidents of one sort or another, transformed the daily lives of many more citizens and led to suffering and even death.

In the first incident, 80 miners died when a methane explosion ripped through the Barakova mine, located in the city of Krasnodon, Luhansk Oblast, on March 11. The blast was a result of careless welding operations taking place in the mine, investigators later concluded. The accident, the largest calamity to hit Ukraine in its nine years of independence, caused worldwide reaction. Dozens of governments and international organizations sent food, clothing and money for the survivors.

The Ukrainian American diaspora got involved as well. On September 29, three organizations – the Ukrainian National Association, the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America – sent a total of \$27,205 in cash to the families of the dead miners, money gathered from individual donations by Ukrainian Americans. The UCCA also sent a cargo container of clothing, while the UUAR made an earlier contribution of \$16,700.

Then an affliction of unknown origin ravaged four villages in Odesa Oblast in June and July. Officials announced on August 4 that 400 residents of the villages of Boleslavchyk, Chausove, Michuryne and Pidhiria were suffering from toxic chemical poisoning, but hadn't yet identified the source of the contamination. While the press speculated that the widespread poisoning, marked by lethargy, nausea and headaches, was caused by rocket fuel errantly dumped in the area when nuclear missiles, which once were located nearby, were disassembled. Others said it was just

general toxic waste that had accumulated in local dumpsites that had caused the sicknesses. After President Kuchma visited the area on August 29, the government invited foreign experts, who decided that the poisonings came from both sources and called for a major clean-up of the area.

Finally, on April 20, an errant missile fired from a Ukrainian military training ground hit an apartment complex in the city of Brovary, just outside Kyiv, killing three residents, injuring five others and leaving 91 people homeless.

The surface-to-surface missile, of the 9M-79 class, was launched from the Honcharivskiy firing range during a routine training session of the Rocket Brigade of the Northern Operations Command and was supposed to travel 60 kilometers (40 miles) to its target at the Desnianskyi firing range. Because of a mechanical failure, it failed to descend and traveled another 30 kilometers (20 miles) before dropping on the apartment building. The powerful missile has a range of 120 kilometers. Army officials gave several possible causes for the accident, including a failure of the control system and hydro-drive operations; de-pressurization of high-pressure pipelines; and computer failure.

Even celebrations during 2000 were overshadowed by crisis or upheaval. While Ukrainians commemorated nine years of independence on August 24, demonstrators gathered outside of the Pecherska Lavra (Monastery of the Caves) complex to protest a decision to turn over the recently rebuilt Uspenskyi Sobor (Dormition Cathedral) located on the grounds of the monastery to the Moscow Patriarchate. Some 2,000 demonstrators shouted and chanted as President Kuchma led a delegation of government officials who took part in the re-dedication service.

But other celebrations proved more upbeat, including the first ever marking of Unity Day, in commemoration of modern Ukraine's initial, brief fling with independence and the events of 1918-1919. The country also celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Declaration of Sovereignty, issued on July 16, 1990, by a Supreme Soviet of Soviet Ukraine dominated by national democratic forces.

Mr. Kuchma succinctly summed up the importance of that event during a flower-laying ceremony at the Taras Shevchenko Monument in Kyiv: "If there had been no declaration, there would not have been the other steps taken toward independence and the consolidation of Ukrainian statehood."

Chornobyl nuclear plant: closed down at last

While Ukraine never said explicitly that it would not fulfill its promise to close the Chornobyl nuclear facility if it did not receive the financing needed to mitigate the aftereffects of the nuclear accident, it had played the Chornobyl card well in the last few years. However, in 2000 it came time to finish the deal and complete its end of the bargain.

Once a proud product of Soviet engineering, Chornobyl had come to symbolize the dangers of nuclear power and the fragile nature of technology since the fourth reactor at the nuclear complex exploded at about 1 a.m. on April 26, 1986, hurling tons of nuclear materials and radioactive smoke and dust, first into the atmosphere and then over a wide range of Ukraine, Belarus and northern Europe. While only 31 died in the initial hours that followed the explosion caused by an experiment gone awry, it has affected the health and lives of hundreds of thousands more since then.

The agreement to permanently close the Chornobyl plant came in 1995, when Ukraine and the Group of Seven most industrialized nations signed a memorandum in Ottawa in which Kyiv stated that the complex would go offline forever by the end of 2000.

In return, Kyiv had demanded and received from the G-7 and the international community financial guarantees to cover the costs of permanently decommissioning the three nuclear reactors that were still working, funds to reconstruct the shelter over the destroyed fourth reactor block, and financing to help offset the social costs involved in the aftereffects of the tragedy as well as the actual closing.

In 1998 the United Nations held a fund-raiser, co-chaired by U.S. Vice-President Albert Gore and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, which raised some \$300 million of the \$758 million projected cost of reconstructing the disintegrating concrete sarcophagus that was hastily constructed in the immediate weeks

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after the technological catastrophe.

G-7 countries also agreed to build a thermal energy generating plant to run the Chernobyl complex after it was shut down as well as a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant. They said they would cover a portion of the costs of retraining Chernobyl workers and the residents of Slavutych, the city that houses them and their families.

But what Ukraine hadn't received as the millennium year approached was financial support to complete two nuclear reactors in Khmelnytskyi and Rivne to offset the electricity generation that would be lost once the last running reactor at Chernobyl went offline.

There was some concern in the West about whether Ukraine would fulfill its promise in 2000, even as Kyiv continued to clamor for the money. The West already had promised Ukraine that the loan would be forthcoming in the form of a line of credit from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), but Ukraine remained unconvinced.

It turned out that the concerns on both sides were unfounded. Even as Kyiv continued to apply pressure on the EBRD to approve the loan, which the financial organization kept withholding as it waited for Ukraine to reform its energy sector and show that the two nuclear reactors would be economically sustainable, it realized that it had to keep its promise in order to maintain relations with the West.

Sensing the timing was right – U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright was scheduled in Kyiv in a matter of weeks – the Cabinet of Ministers announced on March 29 that it would close Chernobyl by the end of the year in line with Ukraine's promise to the G-7.

The Ukrainian government announced the formation of an ad hoc committee on closing the facility, which in conjunction with the Ministry of Fuel and Energy was ordered to prepare a plan for the de-commissioning within three months. Another plan for the relocation of employees and their families and on the future of the city of Slavutych needed to be ready within six months.

But the key point of the resolution was the statement that everything hinged on talks with leaders of the G-7 and the European Union to assure Ukraine that it would receive adequate financing to help offset the costs of the project.

"One of the main provisions of the resolution says that the Ukrainian delegation should begin work on reaching clear agreements on the volumes and terms of such funding," said Vice Prime Minister of Energy Yulia Tymoshenko. The specifics, as Ms. Tymoshenko delineated them, included agreement on the construction of alternate facilities and the settlement of social problems that would follow the closing.

During a visit to Kyiv on March 23, however, Charles Frank, first vice-president of the EBRD, told the Ukrainian government not to put too much hope on a decision to support the Khmelnytskyi and Rivne reactors, because the EBRD did not consider them of primary importance to the closure of Chernobyl.

He said a bigger problem for the financing that Ukraine was requesting was to get Ukraine's energy sector working on a cash-payment basis so that the energy facilities, whether hydroelectric or nuclear, could show they were not loss-makers.

Mr. Frank also explained that the two uncompleted nuclear reactors "are far below present safety standards and would not be allowed to run in any European country."

On April 12 British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook announced during a one-day stay in Kyiv that Great Britain would grant Ukraine an additional \$16.8 million for the completion of the sarcophagus over reactor No. 4 and to give additional support to complete the Khmelnytskyi and Rivne reactors.

Two days later, it was Secretary of State Albright's turn to travel to Kyiv to discuss the Chernobyl closing, among other matters, and to insist that Kyiv needed to set a date. While President Kuchma insisted that the government committee first needed to lay the groundwork and that Ukraine still needed financing from the West, Ms. Albright said that by setting a specific date Ukraine would psychologically set up a situation that would force the West to act.

She explained that plans for an international donors' conference scheduled for Berlin in the summer and other efforts to support the construction of a sarcophagus over the crippled fourth reactor, as well as aid to Ukraine in developing compensatory energy sources, would be made simpler and more pressing.

On June 5, while U.S. President Clinton was in Kyiv on a short visit, President Kuchma made the announcement at a joint press conference in the Mariinsky



Efrem Lukatsky

A "cemetery" of vehicles contaminated by radioactivity is seen at the entrance to the closed Chernobyl zone. Huge Soviet military helicopters, buses, bulldozers, tankers, transporters, fire engines and ambulances were used in the aftermath of the April 26, 1986, accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Palace. Mr. Clinton responded: "I am very proud and moved to be here today – this is World Environment Day – for this historic announcement by President Kuchma that the final reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant will be shut down and the entire plant closed forever on December 15."

The U.S. president promised \$78 million towards construction of the new sarcophagus and an additional \$52 million in new programs to aid Ukraine, much of it in energy-related initiatives.

As the various international leaders visiting Ukraine continued to pledge additional money, Ukraine's list of financial requirements was becoming clearer. Ukraine had determined that it would need some \$500 million for decommissioning the Chernobyl facility; \$400 million for safety-related ecological programs, as well as funds for the retraining and relocation of Chernobyl workers. Also, it would require \$758 million to reconstruct the sarcophagus. Finally, it would require \$100 million for fossil fuel energy supplies until compensatory nuclear energy sources could be developed, as well as the long-delayed loan to complete the Khmelnytskyi and Rivne nuclear reactors. The EBRD estimated that all told, expenses would run in excess of \$2 billion.

The donors' conference in Berlin, held on July 5, proved to be a solid success. Ukraine received 355 million euros (about \$300 million) towards financing for reconstruction of the sarcophagus, which along with the money promised during the U.N. pledge conference, gave Ukraine about \$715 million – 90 percent of the money required.

Delegates from 37 countries took part, including the United States, which had already pledged \$78 million during Mr. Clinton's visit to Kyiv, the European Commission, which promised 100 million euros (some \$80 million); Germany, \$25.6 million; Japan, \$22.5 million; the United Kingdom, \$18.4 million (promised during Foreign Secretary Cook's visit); and Canada \$13 million.

"It looks like the problem with the shelter is finally resolved," Prime Minister Yushenko said in Berlin.

While financing for the sarcophagus was secured, other questions remained as the closing date fast-approached, including securing the EBRD loan to complete the Khmelnytskyi and Rivne reactors and financing to purchase carbon fuels to tie Ukraine over until the two power plants were completed.

Verkhovna Rada Chairman Ivan Pliusch decided to publicly push for more funds on November 3, when he told recently appointed U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual that he would work to block the closure of Chernobyl if the West did not begin to fulfill promises on compensatory energy sources.

Mr. Pascual pointed out to Mr. Pliusch that just two weeks prior the EBRD had promised Ukraine a \$100 million loan for supplemental carbon fuel purchases, which the U.S. ambassador reminded the Ukrainian lawmaker still needed the Ukrainian Parliament's

approval before a money transfer could take place.

On November 16 European Commission President Romano Prodi met in Kyiv with President Kuchma and said that Ukraine could count on another \$21.6 million from the EC.

Two days before Mr. Prodi's visit some 1,500 Chernobyl victims gathered before the Verkhovna Rada to demand that the government increase their social benefits. They were reacting to the proposed 2001 national budget, which foresaw substantial cuts for subsidies across the board, including compensation for the estimated 2.2 million people classified as Chernobyl victims eligible for government payments of one sort or another.

The Chernobyl plant workers and their families, who would lose their jobs and be forced to relocate after December 15 became the undeclared Chernobyl victims in 2000, and their plight became public as the closing date neared.

Chernobyl officials estimated that \$634 million would be needed between now and 2008 for social costs associated with relocating and retraining the remaining workers and for bringing economic diversity to the city of Slavutych, a town that was built after the disaster for the sole purpose of housing the workers.

The majority of the workers, some of who have known each other since before April 1986, would suffer dislocation of family and friends as they were retrained and then moved to other parts of Ukraine. The current level of unemployment in Slavutych would rise from its current 8.1 percent to 24 percent in 2002 before falling off to 13 percent by 2008. While more than 1,100 non-essential workers would leave almost immediately, another 6,000 experts would go by the end of 2001.

Plant managers and labor leaders agreed at a press conference on November 16 at the Chernobyl complex that the work force of 9,199, considered among the most skilled in Ukraine, would feel the full fury of a political decision that was made without their practical input. Angry workers, some of whom didn't see a need to go and others who simply didn't want to go, vented their anger and frustration during the meeting with journalists, which was called originally to explain the logistics behind the closure but nearly turned into a town meeting.

Most vocal was Oleksii Bondar, an electrician who complained that he saw no tangible evidence of the foreign aid promised the workers, except for the presence of foreign psychologists who were working with the employees to help them deal with stress associated with the changes. In their presence he saw only irony. "They take away my last bit of soup and then advise me from which tree to hang myself," said a distressed Mr. Bondar.

Oleksii Lych, head of the Chernobyl trade union, said no good social or economic reason exists for taking the Chernobyl nuclear energy plant offline. In his

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Duty engineer Andrei Savin (left) shows the command console of the Chornobyl nuclear power plant's third reactor to President Leonid Kuchma during a tour on December 14, 2000, the day before the plant was closed down.

opinion the decision was strictly political and neither the West nor the Ukrainian government had considered the implications – especially for the workers. He said that even as Ukraine continued extensive negotiations with the West over receiving additional financing and proceeds with technical preparations for the shutdown, the workers' needs were yet to be properly addressed.

"All the officials are saying the work is proceeding and that everything will be ready, but come December 15 they will not be ready to assure the well-being of the personnel of Chornobyl," said Mr. Lych.

Oleksander Bohomaz, retired former plant engineer, asked: "Everybody says the world will sleep easier after December 15, but how will we sleep with our \$18 monthly pensions?"

Plant managers, too, said they believed there was no reason to close the Chornobyl nuclear complex at the moment. Many were convinced the Chornobyl nuclear complex remained one of the best energy-generating plants in the world, regardless of its tragic history, and that with improvements made over the last years it also had become one of the safest. They saw no reason, they said, why the plant could not operate effectively until its originally scheduled retirement in 2010.

Oleh Holoskokov, assistant director of the Chornobyl complex, said the No. 3 reactor block, the only one of the four Chornobyl reactors still functioning, was running as efficiently as ever. In 2000 the plant had been running at 82.4 percent of capacity. Only in 1995, when it ran at 83.4 percent, was it higher.

"It is an effectively running nuclear station, which works in the same way as all other Ukrainian reactors and receives no special privileges," said Mr. Holoskokov. "We are closing a perfectly good nuclear reactor."

With the date of the closing only 10 days away, the EBRD still had not made a decision on the one issue that Ukraine had tried to hammer home throughout the year: it still needed financing to finish the reactors at Khmelnytskyi and Rivne.

With lawmakers from dozens of European parliamentary bodies arrived in Kyiv on December 5 for Verkhovna Rada hearings on the Chornobyl closure, President Kuchma invited them for a brief meeting to remind them that the EBRD had not yet approved the loan for the two plants.

"At times it is difficult for us to understand the logic by which the pace of fulfillment of the obligations is purposely and obviously slowed down," Mr. Kuchma told more than 40 European diplomats. He called the closing of Chornobyl "the business of all mankind."

EBRD Vice-President Joachim Jahncke, one of the first speakers during the hearing, allowed Ukraine and

the world a sigh of relief when he announced that he had recommended the EBRD board of directors approve the loan request, which was all but a guarantee that Ukraine would finally get the loan in the amount of \$215 million.

Mr. Jahncke also addressed a concern that had surfaced within the country that Europe would forget about Ukraine once Chornobyl was finally mothballed. "Once Chornobyl is closed, Ukraine will not be left alone. We will be with Ukraine for many years to come," he said.

With the official approval of the EBRD loan on December 7 by its board of directors, the last formal barrier to the closing of the ill-fated reactor complex was removed.

On December 14 President Kuchma traveled to Chornobyl one last time, leading a delegation of international diplomats, including the prime ministers of Russia and Belarus. At the site he visited the control room of the third reactor, which would go offline the following day, spoke with plant workers and visited the city of Slavutych. He also met with plant managers and city administrators.

The president promised to take personal charge and assume full responsibility for the fate of the Chornobyl workers and their families after the plant was closed.

"Nobody will be left jobless or uncared for," Mr. Kuchma emphasized.

Then on December 15, while hundreds of representatives of the international diplomatic community watched at the Ukraina Palace concert hall, President Kuchma gave the command to shut down the third reactor once and for all.

"In accordance with a decision made by Ukraine and from agreements made with the world community, I direct that the No. 3 reactor at Chornobyl be shut down," Mr. Kuchma said at 1:16 Kyiv time, in ordering Vitalii Tolstonohov, the general director of the Chornobyl nuclear plant, to begin the shut down operation.

Mr. Kuchma and his guests then viewed the control room of reactor No. 3 via a live feed on a large monitor at the concert hall, while an engineer at Chornobyl threw the switch that halted the huge, atomically fueled, electricity-generating turbine.

In remarks afterward, the Ukrainian president cited statistics that tell the story of what the Chornobyl catastrophe has done to Ukraine and its development: nearly 3.5 billion affected either directly by the disaster or its consequences; nearly 10 percent of the territory of Ukraine irradiated; 160,000 people moved from 170 abandoned localities; total economic losses, directly or indirectly related to the disaster, approaching \$130 billion; in some years 12 percent of the national budget was dedicated to Chornobyl-related expenses.

Ukraine's foreign policy: a multi-vectored approach

Ukraine continued to develop its multi-vectored policy in foreign relations during the year 2000. With days to the dawn of the new millennium, Ukraine's acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Borys Tarasyuk reaffirmed Ukraine's foreign policy strategy, which is defined by strategic partnerships and close cooperation with Moscow and Washington, and movement towards gradual integration into European political and economic structures.

On December 28, appearing before the press for the first time since he was nominated by new Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko to continue in his role in the new Cabinet, Mr. Tarasyuk said he saw no reason for major changes in Ukraine's relations with foreign countries.

He called integration into the European Union a "Ukrainian strategic target," while emphasizing that Ukraine's foreign policy must pay more attention to the needs of its economy. He predicted that by the end of the year Ukraine would achieve associate status within the European Union, a forecast that would prove untrue.

Concurrently, he reaffirmed the need to maintain strategic partnerships with Russia and the United States.

The fickleness and continued lack of stability in the higher echelons of the Ukrainian government was demonstrated just over nine months later: Mr. Tarasyuk was out, replaced by Ukraine's first foreign affairs minister, Anatolii Zlenko.

Although President Leonid Kuchma officially explained the move as a change "in connection with his transfer to another position," Mr. Tarasyuk expressed no plans to go anywhere before or after the decision. Mr. Kuchma also alluded to the need to put a more diplomatic type in the post. That comment gave credence to speculation by political analysts that the unexpected announcement – made by the president and not Prime Minister Yushchenko – was a gesture to Moscow and President Vladimir Putin. While Mr. Tarasyuk had cozy relations with Europe and the West, he considered dalliances with Moscow most risky and least important.

His replacement, Mr. Zlenko, who has a reputation as an obedient bureaucrat, quickly flew off to Russia to strengthen tattered ties between the two countries' foreign ministries.

Mr. Tarasyuk's policy of keeping Moscow at arms length over the objections of President Kuchma was not the only reason that relations with Russia remained turbulent in 2000. Among the several outstanding issues that caused tensions – not least of which was a border that continued to be undelineated – the most controversial remained the dispute over Russian gas: how much Ukrainians took and how much Kyiv owed Moscow.

Russia's acting Prime Minister Mikhail Kasianov, appointed to the post after President Boris Yeltsin resigned on New Year's Eve in favor of Mr. Putin, arrived in Kyiv on February 22 to discuss a growing Ukrainian debt for natural gas and allegations by Rem Viakhirev, the head of Gazprom, Russia's natural gas monopoly, that Ukraine was stealing Russian gas from a pipeline that circumvented Ukraine on its way to Western Europe.

In mid-January the Russian government and the Gazprom chief had chastised Kyiv for allowing billions of cubic meters of natural gas to be diverted from the Ukrainian natural gas pipeline and had implied that in addition to private commercial interests the government also was involved. Officially it charged the quasi-public Naftohaz Ukrainy with taking the majority of the gas. On January 17 Naftohaz Ukrainy Chairman Ihor Bakai rejected the allegations and explained that the only natural gas it had been diverting was what was allowed under the transit fee agreement between Ukraine and Russia. He said Ukraine owed Russia no more than \$763 million for the natural gas supplied by agreement.

Days before the two prime ministers met in Kyiv to attempt to resolve Ukraine's energy problems, an ad hoc inter-governmental committee had tabulated Ukraine's energy debt to Russia at \$1.4 billion, much less than the \$2.2 billion that Vice Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko had declared after returning from Moscow several weeks earlier. Ms. Tymoshenko incorrectly had accepted Russian assertions that the debts of both the government and the private sector should be lumped together. Moscow has always looked to Kyiv to take responsibility for the loose credit arrangements that many Ukrainian firms have with Gazprom.

Ukraine's Vice Minister of Finance Serhii Makatsaria announced the ad hoc committee had made an even more surprising finding, which gave Ukraine some leverage in

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discussions with Russia. He disclosed that while Ukraine's overall commercial and governmental debt to Russia stood at \$3 billion, Russia owed Ukraine some \$3.9 billion. The numbers, which were verified in a protocol signed by the two governments on February 17, included the difference in the value of the diplomatic properties and international holdings divvied up after the Soviet Union collapsed, as well as property given to Russia for its Black Sea Fleet by Ukraine.

For cash-strapped Ukraine, which until recently was almost entirely dependent on Russia for its natural gas, repayment of the gas debt had been an ongoing problem, most often resolved in barter arrangements. This continued to be the case until the fourth quarter of the year, when Vice Prime Minister Tymoshenko banned all barter transactions in the fuel and energy sector. Until then much of the debt repayment was made in the form of Ukrainian agricultural goods and defense technology, including aircraft and missiles. The last transaction of the sort occurred in late February when Kyiv handed over to Moscow the last two of 11 Soviet-era aircraft – eight TU-160 and three TU-95 MS strategic bombers, along with 600 X-22 cruise missiles – valued at about \$800 million, which had been agreed upon in autumn 1999.

Continued Ukrainian debt and Russian discussions on the construction of a new pipeline that would circumvent Ukraine led Messrs. Putin and Kuchma to meet in Sochi, Russia, on October 16 to further discuss the natural gas problem. There the Ukrainian president announced that he was ready to allow Russian commercial enterprises to take part in the privatization of the Ukrainian gas pipeline. The two sides agreed that, in return, Russia would invest in upgrading Ukraine's aging transit line. "This is a good offer, and we accept it," said President Putin at the end of the Sochi meeting.

Several days later, however, the Petroleum Information Agency announced that plans for an alternative pipeline were continuing and that a five-nation consortium of natural gas producers had signed an agreement. On October 18 the consortium, consisting of Gazprom of Russia, the Italian SNAM, French Gaz de France, and Germany's Wintershall and Ruhrgas, signed a memorandum of cooperation in Moscow to develop a natural gas pipeline through Poland and Slovakia that would connect to an existing one running through Belarus.

Commenting on the announcement, President Kuchma said Ukraine would not take countermeasures in connection with the creation of the consortium, adding that much lies in the way of bringing the project from the drawing board to fruition.

One of those obstacles turned out to be Poland, which said it would not seriously consider such a project on its territory without some sort of participation by Ukraine. Polish President Alexander Kwasniewski said he did not want to be part of a project that would hinder another country, but said that he would give it the go-ahead if Ukraine "also receives the opportunity to obtain economic benefits from the project."

A week later, Prime Minister Yushenko flew to Warsaw for an annual review of Polish-Ukraine relations, which heavily accented the proposed gas pipeline project. Mr. Yushenko continued to receive support from the Polish government for Ukraine to be included in the new project. He also attempted to convince Russia that Ukraine's pipeline offered the most economical means to handle the additional demand from Western Europe, which is expected to need 180 billion cubic meters of Russian gas in the future. He said the Ukrainian transit system, which currently handles 110 million cubic meters annually, was underutilized by 60 million cubic meters and could take as much as 170 million cubic meters annually. After completion of the joint Ukrainian-Russian project to modernize the pipeline, capacity would approach 230 million cubic meters, according to Mr. Yushenko.

Before Moscow would agree to continued use of the Ukrainian pipeline, Kyiv had to overcome allegations and a widespread belief that it was continuing to steal Russian gas, which Moscow maintained amounted to 10 million cubic meters annually. Problems were multiplied by a Western Europe that really didn't care how it received its energy supplies.

On December 7, a few days after the presidents and prime ministers of the two countries conferred on the natural gas problem during the Commonwealth of Independent States summit in Minsk, Belarus, Russia agreed to restructure Ukraine's debt of \$1.5 billion. The deal reassigned debt responsibilities to those Ukrainian private commercial entities that took Russian gas and gave Ukraine a 10-year deferment on repayment of what it owed. The two sides also agreed that Russia would give Ukraine 30 billion cubic meters of gas in 2001 and would also allow another 30 bil-

lion to flow through its territory from Turkmenistan. Ukraine would pay with cash for half of the natural gas it would receive in the future, while half would be deferred for eight to nine years.

Russia also officially acknowledged for the first time that since May Ukraine had not illegally diverted Russian natural gas running through the Ukrainian pipeline.

Another point of friction between Moscow and Kyiv in 2000 was the issue of language, more specifically the continued prevalence of the Russian language on Ukrainian lands.

On February 9 Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs accused Ukraine of violating the language rights of the Russian minority on its territory. The outcry from Moscow came as a result of a ruling by Ukraine's Constitutional Court that said the Ukrainian language is "the mandatory means of communication for state bodies and local administrations, as well as in the sphere of public life in Ukraine."

In the decision, which had been handed down on December 19, 1999, the court supported a view held by 10 national deputies of Ukraine who had petitioned for a clarification on the language statute of the Constitution that the Ukrainian language is "disregarded" and "deliberately ignored" within government institutions and public schools.

In criticizing the decision, Moscow said "certain forces in Ukraine seem determined to create a phenomenon previously unseen in Europe: to make the native language of the overwhelming majority of the population unacceptable."

Moscow urged European organizations such as the Council of Europe to increase their monitoring of the situation.

The Russian allegations were also in response to a move by the Yushenko government to finally develop a comprehensive language policy. On January 27 First Vice Prime Minister Mykola Zhulynskyi presented a final draft of such a plan for Cabinet approval.

The language issue again caused friction between the two countries after Ihor Bilozir, a renowned Ukrainian composer died in Lviv on May 28, five weeks after a beating that was the result of an altercation in a café over the singing of Ukrainian songs.

On June 19-20 the Lviv city and oblast governments banned the use of Russian in commercial establishments and on Lviv radio. Russia denounced the move and said that members of the Russian minority in Ukraine were suffering persecution. Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry responded by citing statistics that showed to what extent the Russian language officially is supported by the Ukrainian government. It also presented another set of figures that criticized the low level of support for the development of

the Ukrainian language in Russia.

As the cross-border debates raged over language policies and natural gas supplies, Russian President-elect Putin traveled to Kyiv on April 18 to attempt to strengthen fragile relations between the two countries.

The trip, which was the final leg of the Russian president's first tour of foreign capitals, led to no groundbreaking agreements, but allowed the Ukrainian and Russian presidents to discuss common issues, chief among them natural gas trade. The two also journeyed to Sevastopol to review the facilities of Ukraine's naval forces and Russia's Black Sea Fleet.

Presidents Kuchma and Putin met several times in the next several months; by the end of the year, when they concluded a joint agreement on a natural gas policy in Minsk, they had established normal working relations.

The second meeting between the two occurred less than a month after Mr. Putin's initial stay in Kyiv. In a display of Slavic unity, Messrs. Kuchma and Putin joined Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka in Belgorod, Russia, to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany.

While Mr. Lukashenka blatantly touted the need for a single Slavic state composed of the three countries, Mr. Putin was more restrained, merely implying that the three nations share a common heritage, culture, religion and fate. For his part, Mr. Kuchma distanced himself furthest from endorsing a confederacy of some sort. He would go only as far as to suggest that the three countries must continue to seek mutual support and cooperation.

CIS summits

The Ukrainian and Russian presidents met again in Yalta, if only briefly, during the CIS summit that President Kuchma organized on August 18-19. The summit, which was intended to be a forum on regional economic cooperation and development, was overshadowed by the tragedy of the sinking of a Russian submarine, the Kursk, in the Barents Sea. Citing the need to be in Moscow to oversee developments, Mr. Putin's stay in Yalta lasted a few hours. Moscow's limited participation may also have been because it does not see a benefit for itself in a free-trade agreement among the CIS states.

Nonetheless, President Kuchma called the summit a success, even though only nine of the 12 leaders of the member-states participated.

For Ukraine, the Yalta CIS summit was one of several that Ukrainian leaders utilized to push foreign policy initiatives forward. Ironically, it took part in three within the CIS structure, which has been generally acknowledged as an



Russia's acting President Vladimir Putin (right) shakes hands with President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine, prior to their January 24, 2000, meeting in Moscow, during the summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

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The visiting U.S. president is mobbed by Ukrainians in front of Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry in Kyiv.

ineffective and insignificant organization.

For Ukraine, which has often said that it sees the CIS primarily as an economic instrument and not a political one, the key objective of the summits was to push for a free-trade zone among CIS member-states.

On June 20 Kyiv achieved a measure of success when the CIS summit in Moscow agreed on a compromise that would plan the implementation of a free-trade zone across the region by the end of 2001. Belarusian Prime Minister Vladimir Yermoshyn, the new chairman of the CIS Heads of Government Council, who replaced Prime Minister Yushenko in the post, promised at the summit that such a zone would be set up by January 2002.

Mr. Yushenko, who will serve as vice-chairman in the next year, said the CIS government leaders had agreed to reduce the list of goods to be excluded from free-trade provisions by 25 percent. He also explained that Russia, which has shown the most resistance to the establishment of a free-trade zone, had expressed a "strict readiness" to cut the list of commodity groupings of exports to Ukraine that would be subject to taxation. However, the sides did not specify how the zone would be launched.

Kyiv spent a good amount of energy in developing relations with the European Union in 2000. Its ultimate goal: to obtain associate status and realize the third leg of President Kuchma's multi-vectored policy as a member of the European Union.



Reproduction of a leaflet handed out in Kyiv to invite the public to hear President Bill Clinton's speech at Mykhailivskiy Square in the Ukrainian capital on June 5, 2000.

On May 22-23, Prime Minister Yushenko returned from the annual Council on Ukraine-European Union Cooperation encouraged that Ukraine had every chance of obtaining more liberalized trade relations, which might even lead to associate membership in the EU by the end of the year.

While the prime minister said upon his return from Brussels that discussions with EU leaders had laid the groundwork for broader cooperation, his press secretary, Natalia Zarudna, said the talks "managed to change the way the EU looks at Ukraine."

A lack of tangible results tempered the optimism, however. The presidential advisor to the Cabinet of Ministers, Anatolii Lytvytskyi, explained that it was too much to expect that all trade problems would be resolved in a single meeting and that a country that merely had a partnership agreement with Europe would be given associate or full membership.

Mr. Yushenko's primary objective in Brussels was, first, to show that Ukraine was moving on economic reforms and, second, to open a dialogue on free-trade status for Ukraine and recognition for the country as a free-market economy. The latter would allow Ukraine more optimal trade benefits and allow it to maneuver around various European anti-dumping laws.

Two months later, on September 15, President Kuchma traveled to Paris to continue the effort at the annual EU-Ukraine Summit, where he met with various European leaders, including French President Jacques Chirac. President Kuchma underscored that Ukraine's ultimate goal is full membership in the EU. His EU advisor, Roman Shepek, said that concrete headway was made on a free-trade status in the form of an agreement on quota-free trade in textiles in 2001, which soon would be signed.

Meanwhile, President Chirac gave Ukraine a passing grade on its recent economic reform efforts and announced that the EU would support Ukraine's entry into the World Trade Organization.

Mr. Kuchma's biggest achievement in Paris, however, was obtaining agreement from France to support Ukraine's request for funding from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to complete two nuclear reactors to replace the Chornobyl nuclear energy complex. Mr. Kuchma said he had also convinced EU officials to support a \$100 million loan to Ukraine to cover the cost of additional fossil fuel purchases to compensate Ukraine for the energy lost when Chornobyl would be shut down at the end of the year.

A free-market economy

Ukraine's efforts led to some success in the final quarter of the year when on October 4 the EU designated Ukraine a free-market economy. The EU Council of Ministers in Brussels agreed to adopt a proposal to extend to Ukraine its special ad hoc market regime in anti-dumping procedures, which gave Kyiv new leverage in resolving anti-dumping disputes between European commercial entities and its own. EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said the decision was recognition of the improvements that have taken

place in Ukraine's economy.

Then, in mid-November, the EU announced that it had agreed to extend \$100 million for the purchase of fuel to run thermal and hydroelectric power plants, which would offset the losses at Chornobyl. That decision was followed some weeks later by an EBRD agreement, announced on December 7, that it had agreed to extend to Ukraine some \$215 million to complete nuclear reactors near the cities of Rivne and Khmelnytskyi, which would permanently replace Chornobyl-generated electricity.

Ukraine hosted European leaders in its capital in 2000, most prominently NATO. In an effort to better acquaint Ukrainians with the defense alliance, which was considered the enemy for more than 45 years, the 19 permanent ambassadors who comprise NATO's ruling body met in Kyiv on March 1-2 to further expand NATO-Ukraine relations.

It was the 16th meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission, formed after Ukraine signed a charter on distinctive partnership with the North Atlantic Alliance in July 1997, but the first time that the North Atlantic Council, the organization's highest body, met in a country with which NATO maintained a special partnership.

While Ukraine-NATO bilateral relations stood at the top of the agenda, the ambassadors also sought to change perceptions still held by a majority of Ukrainians that NATO is a military threat. Surveys show that some 60 percent of Ukrainians either do not fully understand what NATO is or do not trust its intentions.

"Our joint meeting here in Kyiv was not just to demonstrate NATO's friendship and solidarity with our distinctive Ukrainian partner, but also to serve a very simple purpose: allowing you, the people of this country, to understand what NATO is and how we can interact for the benefit of all the people of this region," explained NATO Secretary General George Robertson after the commission meeting ended.

Ukraine on the Security Council

Seven of the ambassadors spent a day in various regions of Ukraine continuing the public relations blitz. Ukraine increased its activity within the largest international organization when in January it took its seat as one of 10 non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council elected to two-year terms. The increased role for Ukraine within the U.N. came as a result of a successful campaign it ran in 1999 to become the representative of Central and Eastern Europe in the international organization's Security Council.

In an effort to ensure that its work in the U.N. Security Council would be effective, Ukraine's Permanent Mission to the United Nations issued an appeal to the international Ukrainian community on March 31, to ask for financial support, noting that the additional responsibilities posed by its membership in the Security Council require additional financing, which Ukraine's budget, due to a continued weak economy, could not cover.

Ukraine, which took part in key debates within the body on the issue of Serbia and Kosovo during the year, emphasized in its diplomatic work that consistency is the key to the Security Council process.

In an interview with The Weekly on September 3, Ambassador Valerii Kuchinsky, first deputy permanent representative, whose key responsibility is Security Council affairs, said Ukraine had promulgated a position within the body that commanded respect from the other members. He said the delegation had overcome uncertainties held by the other member-states as to what ideology the Ukrainian delegation would maintain and with whom it would align. "Ukraine, however, has consistently maintained positions that, above all else, reflect our national priorities and our national interest," said Mr. Kuchinsky.

The highlight of the U.N. year for Ukraine and the rest of its members occurred on September 6-8, when the U.N. Millennium Summit brought together the largest gathering of world leaders in history. The event, attended by 150 heads of state and government, was intended to begin the process of renewing the focus and the purpose of the 55-year-old international organization.

President Kuchma headed the Ukrainian delegation, and spoke before the Security Council and the General Assembly during his stay in New York. He also met with Secretary-General Kofi Annan and held bilateral meetings with nine state leaders from countries ranging from Bangladesh and Mongolia to Argentina and Jamaica. In addition, he attended a meeting of representatives of the regional group GUUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Moldova).

Foreign Affairs Minister Tarasyuk, who was also part of the Ukrainian delegation, said perhaps Ukraine's biggest accomplishment at the world summit was to have initiated and developed a summit on the Security Council within the

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larger summit. Some 75 percent of the statement adopted at the Security Council summit was prepared by Ukraine, noted Mr. Tarasyuk.

Two weeks earlier, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Ivan Pliusch also traveled to New York in millennium-related U.N. celebrations. He attended the international Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments. The summit, the first of its kind, was organized by the Geneva-based Inter-parliamentary Union and attended by more than 150 Parliamentary leaders from 140 countries.

Mr. Pliusch, who addressed the summit on August 31, underscored the importance of parliamentary bodies in the development of democracy and enumerated the lengthy ties Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada has with the international community.

Ukraine also took part in a U.N.-sponsored conference on gender equality held on June 5-9. The conference, a special session of the 23rd U.N. General Assembly called "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century," was a follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995.

Ukraine's Minister of Justice Suzanna Stanik lead a delegation of 10 women from both the governmental and non-governmental sectors.

"It is the woman who personifies the civil, moral and human approach to addressing the most complex problems of the modern world," Ms. Stanik told the delegates during her address to the U.N. General Assembly on June 5.

A couple of weeks later a similar conference sponsored by the United States and Ukraine addressed a specific concern of women, especially in Central and Eastern Europe. The conference's topic was trafficking in humans, and its aim was to promote more effective cooperation and information-sharing among law enforcement officials in the region.

Trafficking in women and children is the world's fastest growing criminal enterprise and has reached epidemic proportions in Central and Eastern Europe, with Ukraine especially heavily affected.

Attendees from 12 countries and various European organizations – including Melanne Vermeer, the chief of staff for U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton – heard speaker after speaker talk of the need for more public awareness on the techniques and lures utilized by those who profit from the international smuggling of women and children for prostitution and forced labor. They discussed what needs to be done to protect the victims, to re-integrate them back into their own societies and to more effectively prosecute the criminals.

"In a world where the rule of law must prevail too many, too many victims must question why so many criminals go unpunished," said Ms. Vermeer, who has Ukrainian roots and greeted the delegates in the Ukrainian language.

President Bill Clinton had endorsed the conference during his visit to Kyiv on June 5. The U.S. president arrived in the Ukrainian capital on his way back from Moscow, where he had his first face-to-face meetings with Russia's new president. Mr. Clinton's stay in the Ukrainian capital, which was to have been a two-day affair, was cut short after it was decided that he should fly to Japan to attend memorial services for the recently deceased Japanese prime minister.

The theme of Mr. Clinton's visit to Ukraine became "Boritiesia-Poboryte" (fight and you shall overcome), after he repeated the words no less than four times during a rousing 15-minute presentation in which he exhorted Ukraine to believe in democratic reforms and free markets and to remain patient a while longer. The speech, delivered before 50,000 Ukrainians on a hot and sunny day on Mykhailivskyi Square in the shadow of the newly reconstructed St. Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral, undoubtedly was the highlight of Mr. Clinton's trip.

Mr. Clinton addressed the throng after laying a wreath before the Great Famine memorial and paying his respect to the victims with a lengthy moment of silence.

Earlier in the day he met with President Kuchma to talk over various aspects of the strategic partnership the two countries claim, during which the Ukrainian president announced that Ukraine had set December 15 as the closing date for the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Mr. Clinton promised several financial aid packages, including \$78 million towards the construction of a new covering over the destroyed No. 4 reactor at Chernobyl, which was disintegrating and beginning to leak radioactivity. He also promised \$52 million in new programs to aid Ukraine, much of it in nuclear energy related programs.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright had announced the U.S. president's trip to Kyiv during a stop in Kyiv on April 14. After meeting with President Kuchma, she praised the Ukrainian leadership for moving forcefully on economic reforms. She also visited the Famine Memorial, where she laid a wreath.



Ukraine's Minister of Justice Suzanna Stanik speaks at the opening session of the United Nations General Assembly's special session, "Beijing+5," on June 5, 2000, in New York.

Her escort in Kyiv was U.S. Ambassador Steven Pifer, who would be replaced in early October by Carlos Pascual. But the routine rotation of diplomats did not occur before Sen. Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, decided to block the release of the nominations of Mr. Pascual and 13 other ambassadorial candidates already approved by the committee to the full Senate for a confirmation vote. His action was in protest against a White House decision to allow Russia to postpone a \$485 million debt repayment owed to the U.S. government. Mr. Pascual finally was confirmed on September 8, after the senators returned from summer recess.

Mr. Pifer also had a rocky moment before his term ended in Kyiv. A week before his departure, the ambassador, who had arrived in Kyiv in January 1998 as the replacement for William Green Miller, was called on the carpet by the Ukrainian government along with his Canadian counterpart and representatives of two major European organizations for allegedly interfering in the internal affairs of Ukraine. Mr. Pifer, however, did not appear, explaining that he had taken ill.

The Ukrainian government chastised the diplomats for presenting a letter of protest to President Kuchma based on inaccurate information that the budget reform process in Ukraine was about to be killed. Prime Minister Yushchenko told reporters the same day that the diplomats "were a bit misinformed."

IMF criticizes Ukraine

Ukraine, in turn, was dressed down by the International Monetary Fund several times during 2000 for not fulfilling specific requirements for financial crediting, which forced the financial organization to refuse to renew an extensive crediting program called the Extended Fund Facility (EFF). The program had been suspended in September 1999.

In February the IMF began investigating allegations that the National Bank of Ukraine had improperly reported its currency reserves for 1997 and 1998, and had inappropriately invested some IMF money. The investigation was begun after the London newspaper, *The Financial Times*, published the story on January 28, while President Kuchma was in Davos, Switzerland, for the annual World Economic Forum.

On February 15 Prime Minister Yushchenko, the chairman of the NBU at the time the infractions allegedly occurred, responded by stating that the central bank never had misused resources provided by the international lender. He also denied that some individuals within President Kuchma's inner circle had made as much as \$200 million from illegal investments made with the money.

The allegations surfaced at a critical and unfortunate moment for Ukraine: just as it was successfully completing a debt restructuring project in which the government had convinced leading European banking and commercial interests to reschedule some \$2.7 billion that Ukraine owed. About 88 percent of holders of Ukrainian Eurobonds agreed to take new seven-year depreciable bonds with an average maturity of 4.4 years and quarterly interest rate

coupons of 10 to 11 percent.

The agreement came in London after an extensive lobbying campaign by Mr. Yushchenko and Finance Minister Ihor Mitiukov, who had traveled to several European capitals to promote the effort.

On March 15 the IMF confirmed that Kyiv indeed had been supplying misleading information on the state of its financial reserves – to the tune of \$1 billion.

The IMF released a statement on its Internet website that reported: "on the basis of the information currently available to the IMF staff, it appears that a number of transactions in 1996-1998 gave the impression that Ukraine's reserves were larger than was actually the case."

The IMF noted that had it had the real numbers it most likely would not have approved the loans. Nonetheless, Prime Minister Yushchenko was not ready to admit guilt on the part of the NBU.

"We held six audits two years ago and made all the operations public," said the prime minister in response to IMF assertions. He blamed the misunderstandings on the NBU's old accounting procedures, which were based on outdated Soviet practices that had subsequently been changed.

The IMF also sent its own auditors to look into NBU practices and forced the bank to have an independent "Big 5" auditing firm conduct an additional review as well. In the end, the IMF decided that while Ukraine's reporting practices had been deceptive and inaccurate, no funds had been misused or stolen.

That did not, however, clear the way for the resumption of the EFF loan program. The IMF still demanded that Ukraine fulfill certain requirements, including reform of its energy sector, new laws on banking and parliamentary approval of a balanced budget for 2001.

While Vice Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov could not say that the IMF was ready to renew credits after his trip to Washington to meet with bank officials on August 1-4, matters were a bit more upbeat by mid-September, with the IMF's investigation of the NBU complete.

After Ukraine's Parliament approved both a balanced budget and a new law on banks on December 7, government officials expected an approval for renewal of the EFF on December 19. Mr. Yekhanurov said that Ukraine would expect to have the program extended to 2002. The IMF had yet to disburse about half the value of the three-year program, worth \$2.6 billion.

The IMF-NBU controversy reinforced the poor reputation Ukraine continued to suffer within the international community in 2000. Its poor standing was confirmed in a survey conducted by Transparency International, a non-governmental organization that tracks corruption as perceived by international investors. The poll put Ukraine 88th among 90 countries that are tracked – the third most corrupt country in its listing.

Meanwhile, foreign investors who have taken a chance on Ukraine were a bit more optimistic in their outlook on investing here. During the annual meeting of the Foreign Investment Advisory Council, a group representing foreign investors that meets regularly with President Kuchma to

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Our Churches: a year marked by sadness and joy

The beginning and the end of this year were marked by sadness for many Ukrainian faithful, bracketed by the deaths of two prominent Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic Church leaders. On February 25 the head of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church Patriarch Dymytrii passed away at age 84 in Lviv, where he had been spending the winter months with his son. Funeral services for the patriarch were held on February 29 in Lviv at the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Ss. Peter and Paul.

Near the end of the year, on December 14, the primate of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, Cardinal Myroslav Ivan Lubachivsky passed away at age 86; more than 100,000 came to pay their final respects to the cardinal the week after his death, and tens of thousands of mourners attended the funeral on December 20 in Lviv at St. George Cathedral.

Also among the other Church leaders to pass away this year was Bishop Platon Kornyljak, onetime apostolic exarch for Ukrainian Catholics in Germany and

Scandinavia, who died on November 1 at age 80.

Declared by Pope John Paul II as the year of the Great Jubilee, Ukrainian Catholics organized many events to celebrate the millennial holy year, including numerous pilgrimages. Among the official pilgrimage sites for faithful in America who were unable to travel to the Holy Land or Rome was the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family in Washington. More than 4,000 faithful attended the Dormition Pilgrimage on August 12-13 at St. Mary's Villa in Sloatsburg, N.Y. But by far the largest pilgrimage of faithful took place July 21-23 when more than 750,000 Ukrainian Catholics – 250,000 more than originally expected – traveled to the pilgrimage site of Zarvanytsia in western Ukraine, a site long associated with miracles of healing and salvation.

Besides pilgrimages, another major Jubilee Year event was organized by the Diocese of Stamford: an International Jubilee Day for Women on March 25 – a celebration of the role of women in the life of the Ukrainian Catholic Church – was attended by more than 700 women from the New York and New England area.

And for Ukrainian Catholics worldwide, long-hoped-for news arrived near the end of the Jubilee year when the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Ukraine officially confirmed on November 7 that Pope John Paul II would visit Ukraine in June 2001. The ministry announced that the visit by the

pontiff is being organized as a state visit to Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. (UOC-U.S.A.) held its millennial event, "The Celebration of the 2,000th Anniversary of the Birth of Christ," on August 12-13 in Pittsburgh. The event included a program of liturgies, spiritual workshops and a concert of choral music.

Both in the United States and in Ukraine, several prominent openings and dedications of religious structures took place throughout the year.

On March 22 in Kyiv, the Jewish community rededicated and reopened the Great Synagogue (also known as the Brodsky synagogue) after a three-year reconstruction effort. The synagogue, located near the center of the city, was founded in 1898 by a wealthy sugar baron, Lazar Brodsky. During the Soviet era it had been converted into a puppet theater. It was returned to Kyiv's Jewish community in 1992.

In the United States a few days earlier, on March 12, the Sisters of St. Basil the Great consecrated the new Chapel of the Holy Trinity and the adjacent Basilian Spirituality Center on the grounds of the order's Motherhouse in Fox Chase, Pa. The completion of the chapel and spirituality center complex was the fulfillment of a dream that began 89 years ago with the order's founding in the United States. The center will focus on the development and understanding of Basilian and Eastern Christian Spirituality.

After four years of reconstruction, grand Golden-Domed Cathedral of St. Michael (Mykhailivsky Sobor) in Kyiv officially reopened on May 28 with a ceremony of blessing led by Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP). The church, which was originally built at the beginning of the 12th century, was once the religious center of the Orthodox world. In 1934, Stalin ordered the building destroyed and allowed Communist Party cadres to loot the structure; all that had remained from the religious complex was a small outbuilding.

In Zarvanytsia, located in western Ukraine, Ukrainian Catholic pilgrims gathered for the blessing of the new Sobor of Our Lady of Zarvanytsia on July 22. According to legend, in the 13th century a monk who was fleeing the Mongol invasion in Kyiv prayed for protection on the banks of the Stryi River at Zarvanytsia. In his sleep, he had a vision of the Mother of God; upon awakening the monk saw a brilliant light that led him to the icon of the Mother of God holding the baby Jesus. The monk decided to stay and build a chapel in the area to house the icon; he later built a monastery. Over the centuries the resident monks recorded many cases of miraculous healing of those who have prayed to the Mother of God at Zarvanytsia.

A more controversial dedication took place on August 24, the ninth anniversary of Ukraine's independence, as the Uspenskyi Sobor (Dormition Cathedral) was reconsecrated after a recently completed reconstruction. The sobor is the centerpiece of the Pecherska Lavra complex in Kyiv, and is controlled by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP), which is subordinate to the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC). Demonstrators from the UOC-KP, as well as from community and political groups opposed to Moscow's control of the complex protested the reconsecration ceremony, which was held under tight security.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada (UOCC) held its 20th Sobor on July 12-16 in Winnipeg. The concern by a number of delegates prior to the Sobor that tensions surrounding the relationship between the UOCC and the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople could be divisive was not borne out, though the Sobor did support a resolution to create a special commission to conduct a comprehensive review of the UOCC's policies towards and relationship with Constantinople.

The Ukrainian Catholic Church held its jubilee synod at the Basilian Monastery of the Holy Cross in Buchach, Ukraine, on July 22. Among the numerous topics discussed were the splitting up of large eparchies such as those of Ternopil and Lviv, and the creation of new eparchies as well as the appointment of new bishops. On October 12 Pope John Paul II agreed to the creation of three new eparchies in Ukraine: Buchach, Sokal-Zhovkva and Stryi.

In Kyiv on September 14-16, the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UOAC) held its first Sobor since the death of its leader, Patriarch Dymytrii, earlier in the year. Since, in his final will, the patriarch asked that the UOC-USA offer spiritual guidance and direction to the UOAC, the bishops of the UOAC asked Metropolitan Constantine of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States of America to head the Sobor. No new patriarch was chosen to head the UOAC since active discussions are under way to unite the UOAC and the UOC-KP. In conjunction with the Sobor, 33 hierarchs from both Churches signed a joint letter addressed to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew asking for his assistance in unifying



Clergy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate participate in a procession around the reconstructed Golden-Domed Cathedral of St. Michael in Kyiv.

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Roman Woronowycz

Children hold an icon of Our Lady of Zarvanytsia during the blessing of a new church at the Zarvanytsia shrine.

the Orthodox Church in Ukraine.

The year did not pass without controversy. At the beginning of the year, on January 25, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople was quoted by news sources as stating that Eastern Catholic Churches were an "artificial phenomenon" during his address before the Polish Sejm on January 25, remarks to which Archbishop Ivan Martyniak, leader of Ukrainian Catholics in Poland, as well as Bishop Basil Losten, head of the ecumenical commission of the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, quickly responded. A little later, the Rev. Waclaw Hryniewicz, a professor at the Catholic University in Lublin and a member of the Joint International Commission for the Theological Dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church, was also quoted in public as disparaging the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

The Joint Commission met on July 9-19 in Emmitsburg, Md., and on the agenda was the issue of "Uniatism." In July Bishop Losten again wrote a letter, this one to Cardinal Edward Cassidy, head of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity in Rome, protesting that the topic of Eastern Catholic Churches was being undertaken by the Joint Commission without proper representatives from those Churches on the commission. The Joint Commission made no real decision or comment regarding the Eastern Churches, though representatives of several Orthodox Churches once again offered disparaging comments in the press about Eastern Catholic Churches.

Twenty-nine priests from the Peremyshl-Warsaw Metropolia of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church on June 5 wrote an open letter to Cardinal Roger Echeagaray, president of the Vatican Committee for the Great Jubilee of AD 2000, asking that as part of the millennial year commemorations, the Vatican acknowledge the sacrifices made by Ukrainian Catholic faithful in withstanding the repression of Soviet communism and remaining true in their dedication to their religion. The priests were particularly disturbed by the fact that there was no mention of any Ukrainian Catholics during the Vatican's official Commemoration of the Witnesses of Faith on May 7 in Rome.

The July 23-25 pastoral visit to Crimea of Patriarch Filaret of the UOC-KP was disrupted by demonstrations organized by supporters of the UOC-MP. From the onset protesters met the patriarch at the airport in Symferopol and throughout his visit lined his travel route, holding posters with slogans such as "Filaret out of Crimea" and "Anathema to Denysenko."

In Moscow on August 13-16, during the meeting of the Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church, the bishops rejected the request by the UOC-MP for full autonomy from Moscow, while remaining in communion with the ROC. The bishops also rejected the possibility of uniting the three Orthodox Churches in Ukraine into one independent Church, claiming that the UOC-KP and UOAC are "schismatic" Churches. The ROC bishops also attacked Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, harshly criticizing the patriarch for his interference in Orthodox Church affairs in Ukraine, which the ROC considers to be the exclusive canonical territory of their Church.

The ecumenical patriarch has stated his support for the unification of all Orthodox Churches in Ukraine, though its not clear whether that Church would be independent or under the omophorion of Constantinople. President Leonid Kuchma, who supports the unification of all Orthodox confessions in Ukraine into an independent Church, discussed this topic during his meeting with the ecumenical patriarch in November in Turkey. The ROC rejects any such positions by either the ecumenical patriarch or the government or Churches of Ukraine.

Two major reports were released this year that included information about the status of religious rights in Ukraine. On February 25 the U.S. Department of State released its annual report of human rights throughout the world. Ukraine received a mixed review overall; however, in the area of religious rights, the report was positive, noting that the government continued to return religious properties, treated confessions equally and that, though anti-Semitism continued on a "individual and societal basis, ... the central government generally discouraged it."

On May 9 Prime Minister Viktor Yushenko met in Washington with leaders of Jewish American organizations who in general praised Ukraine's efforts to combat anti-Semitism and provide an environment in which Judaism can thrive.

On July 19, at a briefing on Capitol Hill, the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe released an in-depth report on "Religious Liberty: The Legal Framework in Select OSCE Countries" that noted that Ukraine "has met all its international obligations" regarding guarantees of religious freedom, but added that the implementation of guarantees is inconsistent. The report also noted progress since the previous study done in 1992-1994, stating that, in contrast to the earlier period, the government of Ukraine now tries to show an equal attitude to all religious denominations.

Though the government is tolerant of all confessions, a study released this fall by the Ukrainian Center for Economic and Political Studies indicates the conflict among the Orthodox Churches has disillusioned many faithful in Ukraine and that an ever-increasing number of people are rejecting Ukraine's traditional faith and are joining Protestant denominations and other confessions.

During the Sobor of the UOCC in Winnipeg on July 12-16, the Very Rev. William Makarenko was chosen to head the UOCC Consistory for the next five years.

On September 14 the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak was appointed rector of the Lviv Theological Academy, the only Catholic institution of higher learning in Ukraine. The academy was founded by Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky in 1928 and was later headed by Patriarch Josyf Slipyj.

On October 12 Pope John Paul II confirmed Auxiliary Bishop Irynei Bilyk to head the Eparchy of Buchach; Bishop Michael Koltun as the bishop of Sokal-Zhovkva; and Auxiliary Bishop Julian Gbur as bishop of Stryi.

On November 29 the apostolic nuncio to the United States announced the confirmation of Auxiliary Bishop Stephen Soroka as the new metropolitan-archbishop for the United States, and the confirmation of Bishop Michael Wiwchar to the Eparchy of Saskatoon.

U.S.-Ukraine relations: continuing to move ahead

The beginning of 2000 in U.S.-Ukrainian relations saw the conclusion of a diplomatic drama that had begun in the last days of 1999: the abrupt replacement of Ukraine's ambassador in Washington. The year also was marked by a few important visits, Ukraine's continuing quest for credits from international lending institutions and U.S. assistance and support.

Ukraine's Ambassador Anton Buteiko, whose assignment in Washington was cut surprisingly short in December of 1999, left for home on January 2. Also recalled then was New York Consul General Yuriy Bohaievsky, as well as ambassadors and consular officers serving in several countries, among them Italy, Canada, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

No specific reason was given for the abrupt curtailment of Ambassador Buteiko's U.S. assignment which lasted exactly one year. His predecessor, Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, had served for four years.

On the eve of his departure, during a farewell dinner in his honor organized by Ukrainian American activists, Ambassador Buteiko highlighted some of the accomplishments in U.S.-Ukrainian relations during his tenure and said that those efforts would not have been as successful were it not for the "spirit of unity" and active support of the Ukrainian American community.

One month later, on February 1, Ambassador Buteiko's successor, Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, arrived and was placed on the fast track for recognition. The following day, he presented his credentials at the State Department, and a day later at the White House to President Bill Clinton.

The new ambassador did not wait long to meet with leaders of Ukrainian American organizations. He found time on February 2, between the State Department and White House presentations. Some of the leaders participating in the introductory meeting said it was characterized by "candor" and "openness," and the new envoy was described as a "highly qualified diplomat" and a "no-nonsense guy."

Ambassador Gryshchenko came to Washington from Brussels, where he was Ukraine's ambassador to the Benelux countries (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg) and headed Ukraine's mission to NATO. Earlier in his career he was vice minister of foreign affairs, served at the United Nations and had specialized in security, denuclearization and arms control issues.

The United States, too, would replace its ambassador in Kyiv in 2000, but the process was much slower.

President Clinton announced his intention to nominate Carlos Pascual to be U.S. ambassador to Ukraine on March 1, but the nominee would not leave for Kyiv for more than seven months.

The delay was due to a tug of war between some members of the Senate and the White House over certain nominations and issues that had nothing to do with Mr. Pascual, who was then special assistant to the president and senior director for Russian, Ukrainian and Eurasian affairs at the National Security Council.

He had his confirmation hearing before the European Affairs Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee almost four months later, on June 21, was confirmed by the Senate two and a half months after that, on September 8, was sworn in on October 6, and presented his credentials to President Leonid Kuchma in Kyiv on October 20.

Following his credentials presentation ceremony, Ambassador Pascual, whose parents fled Cuba in 1961, told journalists that he comes to Ukraine with three mandates: to support Ukraine's efforts to define itself as a European state; to support concrete actions to make the effort a reality; and to support efforts to create a stronger civil society so that people can take greater control of their lives.

Ambassador Pascual's predecessor, Steven Pifer, left Kyiv in early October, but his departure was clouded by a diplomatic row with the Ukrainian government over a letter that he and the ambassador from Canada and representatives from two international financial organizations had sent to the Ukrainian president, in which they expressed their doubts about the government's intention to bring about budget reform.

On September 29, the Ukrainian government called

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U.S. Reps. Curt Weldon and Marcy Kaptur of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus present Prime Minister Viktor Yuschenko of Ukraine with photo memento of the Capitol Building as his interpreter looks on.

in the letter-writers to point out the inaccuracy of the information on which they based their assertion and to chastise them for interfering in Ukraine's internal affairs.

The controversy reflected the Ukrainian government's frustration in its attempt to fulfill the International Monetary Fund's requirements for the resumption of a credit program suspended in 1999. Ukraine had struggled to make its budget ends meet as it awaited IMF credit approval, without which international public and private lenders would not extend Ukraine any lines of credit.

Getting the IMF to renew its \$2.6 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) credit program for Ukraine was the object of numerous high- and working-level visits and negotiations both in Washington and Kyiv during the year, including the first working visit here by Ukraine's new reformist prime minister, Victor Yuschenko, in early May.

The visit was originally scheduled for mid-March, but was postponed – officially because of a major mine disaster in Ukraine, which required Mr. Yuschenko's attention; unofficially, the press also pointed to the release of an embarrassing IMF report on the eve of the planned visit. The report accused the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU), which Mr. Yuschenko had headed, of exaggerating by more than \$700 million its currency reserve reports to the IMF, which allowed it to obtain \$200 million in IMF credits it otherwise would not have received.

Following his meetings May 8-9 in Washington with President Clinton and other senior members of his administration and the heads of the IMF and World Bank, the Ukrainian prime minister was optimistic about getting the credits flowing again, even though not in the very near future.

Indeed, it took two independent audits of NBU transactions and several more working sessions and reviews before the IMF Executive Board announced on December 19 that Ukraine will be able to draw up to \$246 million. The monies however, will not be handed over to the NBU, but held in Ukraine's IMF account.

Commenting on the decision, IMF First Deputy Managing Director Stanley Fischer commended Ukraine for the "recent improvements in economic policy implementation and progress on their reform agenda."

Economic and other reforms, corruption, press freedom and human rights were among the issues discussed in U.S.-Ukrainian bilateral talks during the year 2000 as in previous years.

The State Department's annual Human Rights Report on Ukraine, released on February 25, saw "limited progress" in some areas and "serious problems" in others. The most notable of the problem areas dealt with the last presidential election, in which the report cited government interference in the election process and

increased pressure on the media – especially the national broadcast media – through tax inspections and other measures. While there were "some irregularities" during the election campaign and balloting, the report noted that "almost all observers agreed that the election results reflected the will of the electorate," as did the previous national elections in 1998 and 1994.

The curtailment of press freedoms also was the subject of several hearings and statements of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (the Helsinki Commission).

Ukraine's former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, who was arrested at New York's Kennedy Airport in February of 1999, today remains where he was at the beginning of the year – in a federal detention facility in California. His status was changed on June 1, however, when government prosecutors indicted him on one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering, seven counts of money laundering and 23 counts of transportation of stolen property.

According to the charges, between 1994 and 1999 Mr. Lazarenko transferred approximately \$114 million that he had corruptly and fraudulently received into bank and brokerage accounts in the United States and laundered more than \$20 million through U.S. banks.

A U.S. trial date has yet to be set for Mr. Lazarenko.

In the meantime, Switzerland on July 20 withdrew its extradition request after Mr. Lazarenko pleaded guilty in absentia to laundering \$9 million in Swiss banks. The Swiss court sentenced the former official to an 18-month suspended prison term and confiscated \$6.6 million in his Swiss bank accounts.

Ukraine has indicated that it would like to have Mr. Lazarenko returned to Ukraine to stand trial on various charges. Unlike Switzerland, however, Ukraine does not have an extradition treaty with the United States.

On the very day Mr. Lazarenko's indictment was announced, Ambassador Gryshchenko accepted a check for \$1 million from the U.S. government for restitution and damages caused by the U.S.-based McCormick Distilling Company Inc., which pleaded guilty in Newark, N.J., to falsifying liquor export documents.

The McCormick Distilling Co. had unknowingly done business with organized crime members who smuggled alcohol for sale on the black market after improperly labeling it as industrial cleaning products. McCormick, which, according to prosecutors, fully cooperated with U.S. law enforcement officials, said it never knowingly did business with organized crime. The company was charged with a misdemeanor record-keeping violation and was requested to compensate the government of Ukraine for \$1 million.

On October 28 President Clinton signed into law H.R. 3244, the "Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act of 2000," which, among other things,

strengthens U.S. efforts to combat the international trafficking of women.

President Clinton called this bipartisan bill's anti-trafficking provisions "a major step forward" in the effort to eradicate "modern-day slavery."

"Over the past several years, we have taken every opportunity to shine a bright light on this dark corner of the criminal underworld, in part by continually raising with leaders around the world the need to work together to combat this intolerable and reprehensible practice," he said.

This international crime is of concern to Ukraine since unknown thousands of Ukrainian women each year become its victims, as they accept offers of work abroad only to find themselves entrapped in the sex trade.

Oksana Horbunova, vice-president of La Strada in Ukraine, an organization that is in the forefront of the battle against trafficking, told *The Ukrainian Weekly* that at the root of the problem is the catastrophic state of Ukraine's economy, in which women comprise more than 70 percent of those unemployed. "And that's why our women eagerly accept these offers of work abroad," she said. "Not knowing what's involved, they jump at the chance and end up being sold for large sums of money."

Statistics about how many Ukrainian women have fallen victim to this crime are hard to come by, she said, because the victims, even when freed, are both ashamed to admit what they experienced and afraid of reprisals from the mafia if they talk.

In the face of growing criticism of the draconian requirements for those seeking a U.S. visa, the consular section of the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv instituted major changes in 1999, and further improved the system this year.

In July 1999, the Embassy instituted a "drop box" procedure, whereby those who previously had been granted a three-year multiple-entry visa or two single-entry visas, or those who were renewing student, exchange, visitor or temporary work visas, could simply drop off their applications and fees at the consular offices and in most cases pick up their visas the next day.

This year, that privilege was extended to all applicants 60 years of age or older and to those who have been granted even a single U.S. visa during the previous year.

These improvements notwithstanding, the Embassy found itself in a highly embarrassing situation when on October 11 it rejected a visa application from a Ukrainian Catholic priest who wanted to visit the United States for a few weeks. The reason: he had failed to document that he was not intending to immigrate. This priest, however, happened to be the Rev. Myroslav Medvid, who as a young seaman 15 years ago twice jumped from a Soviet ship in New Orleans in a vain attempt to get political asylum in the United States; both times U.S. authorities returned him to the ship.

Bureaucratic problems in the consular section took another several weeks to resolve the problem, and on November 15 the Rev. Medvid finally got his visa. Two days later he boarded a plane for New York, arriving in time to address the Great Famine commemoration at St. Patrick's Cathedral on November 18 and then setting out on a six-week tour of Ukrainian American communities.

President Clinton on November 6 signed the U.S. foreign aid bill for Fiscal Year 2001 that includes \$170 million in assistance for Ukraine.

The bill, which passed by an overwhelming majority in the Congress on October 25, budgets \$14.9 billion for assistance programs worldwide – an increase of \$1.4 billion over the previous year's budget – and \$810 million for the former Soviet states – a decrease of \$29-million over the previous year.

During a visit to Kyiv on November 3, William Taylor, U.S. coordinator of assistance to the new independent states, indicated that the aid budget for Ukraine will fund an expanded cultural exchange program, which will allow an additional 2,400 Ukrainian government and non-government officials as well as students to visit the United States, as well as provide for the creation of 14 new Internet sites in libraries in Ukraine that the public can use for free.

In addition to the \$170 million in developmental aid, Ambassador Taylor noted that Ukraine will receive \$40 million to modernize its defense forces and strengthen its military technology export regime.

While in Ukraine he signed a bilateral agreement that gives Kharkiv \$535,000 for a feasibility study to over-

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haul that city's heating system. The agreement is part of cooperative U.S. program called the "Kharkiv Initiative" launched in 1998 after, under pressure from Washington, Ukraine agreed to cancel its participation in a \$850 million Russian nuclear power plant construction project in Iran. Kharkiv's Turboatom, which was contracted to build the turbines for the plant, lost the contract, reportedly worth \$45 million, and potential future contracts with Russia.

In late September, an official delegation from the Kharkiv Oblast, led by its chairman, Oleh Dyomin, began a two-week visit to Washington and seven other U.S. cities in search of investors to help develop the oblast.

U.S. assistance to Ukraine was the subject of other official visits during 2000. In early February, Ambassador Stephen Sestanovich, special advisor to the U.S. secretary of state for the new independent states, discussed Ukraine's plans for economic reform "and how the United States can best support them" in meetings with President Kuchma and other Ukrainian officials. He also met with representatives of the IMF, the World Bank and the American business community in Kyiv.

A few days later, on February 6, U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson while on a visit to Kyiv announced that the United States will give Ukraine \$22.5 million for the development of a thermal power plant that will help replace some of the energy provided by the Chornobyl nuclear power plant, which was scheduled to be closed, and ultimately was closed, by the end of the year.

Another area in which U.S.-Ukrainian cooperation developed during the year was labor. While on a visit in Washington on July 26, Ukrainian Minister of Labor and Social Policy Ivan Sakhan joined U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexis M. Herman in signing a memorandum of understanding that allows Ukraine to participate in the Labor Department's technical assistance initiatives.

Budgeting \$3.75 million for the first year of the two-year cooperative plan, the Labor Department will implement five projects in Ukraine, dealing with mine safety and health, dislocated worker services, child labor, industrial relations and gender equality.

In the field of culture, the Fulbright Office in Kyiv, which administers the Fulbright scholarship exchange program between Ukraine and the United States, announced the launch of an annual Fulbright-Margolin writing award for Ukrainian authors.

The \$20,000 prize, which will alternate annually between the categories of fiction and non-fiction, is named after Sen. J. William Fulbright (1905-1995), in honor of his commitment to international mutual understanding, and Arnold D. Margolin (1877-1956), the Ukrainian lawyer and diplomat who represented the Ukrainian Central Rada government of 1917-1918 at the Paris Peace Conference. He later taught at the University of Pennsylvania, New York University and other U.S. institutions.

The U.S.-Ukraine Joint Cultural Heritage Commission held its third plenary meeting in Kyiv on May 17, discussing such issues as the need for legislation to protect cemeteries from development, progress in the restitution of religious communal properties, and efforts to document the condition of cemeteries, massacre sites and synagogues in Ukraine.

Commission members also discussed new laws dealing with preserving cultural heritage, including the repatriation of cultural assets taken from Ukraine, and the preservation of Ukrainian culture in cooperation with museums and universities in the United States.

The staff ship of the Ukrainian navy, the Slavutych, which came to New York harbor on July 4 to participate in the International Naval Review 2000, a prelude to Operation Sail 2000, returned home with close to two tons of humanitarian aid destined for the ship's home port of Sevastopol, Ukraine.

The cargo, valued at more than \$85,000, was organized by the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund. It included antibiotics, intravenous fluids and starter kits, surgical needles and syringes, gowns, analgesics and sterile gloves provided by the Catholic Medical Mission Board. Shipped to the naval hospital in Sevastopol, the medical supplies were to be used for emergency services and to meet the health care needs of the people of Sevastopol.

The Slavutych's U.S. voyage was part of ongoing cooperation programs between Ukraine's Ministry of Defense and the U.S. Department of Defense.

Canada-Ukraine relations: more assistance programs

Canada welcomed a new Ukrainian ambassador and Ukraine welcomed further Canadian assistance during the year many people view as the start of the new millennium.

On March 9 President Leonid Kuchma issued a decree naming Dr. Yuri Shcherbak as Ukraine's ambassador to Canada and another naming the 65-year-old physician/epidemiologist and writer as Ukraine's representative to the Montreal-based International Civil Aviation Organization.

Dr. Shcherbak previously served as Ukraine's ambassador to the United States from 1994 to 1998 and to Israel from 1992 to 1994. More recently, he served as President Kuchma's foreign affairs advisor.

Later in the year, Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk visited Canada on June 11-13, meeting with government officials and business leaders.

He arrived in Manitoba's capital city, Winnipeg, on June 11, and spent the next two days in the province - meeting with Premier Gary Doer and laying wreaths at both the Taras Shevchenko Monument on the grounds of the Manitoba legislature and the Famine Monument at Winnipeg City Hall.

Mr. Tarasyuk also attended a private dinner hosted by the Winnipeg-based Ukrainian Canadian Congress's executive and a breakfast meeting organized by the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and the Canada Ukraine Business Initiative.

The foreign affairs minister then headed east to Ottawa, where he met Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and received significant Canadian government assistance for Ukraine, including an additional \$18 million to help Ukraine close the fourth reactor of the Chornobyl

nuclear power station.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) also threw in more than \$10.4 million for several projects in Ukraine to support scientists, increase exports and control corruption.

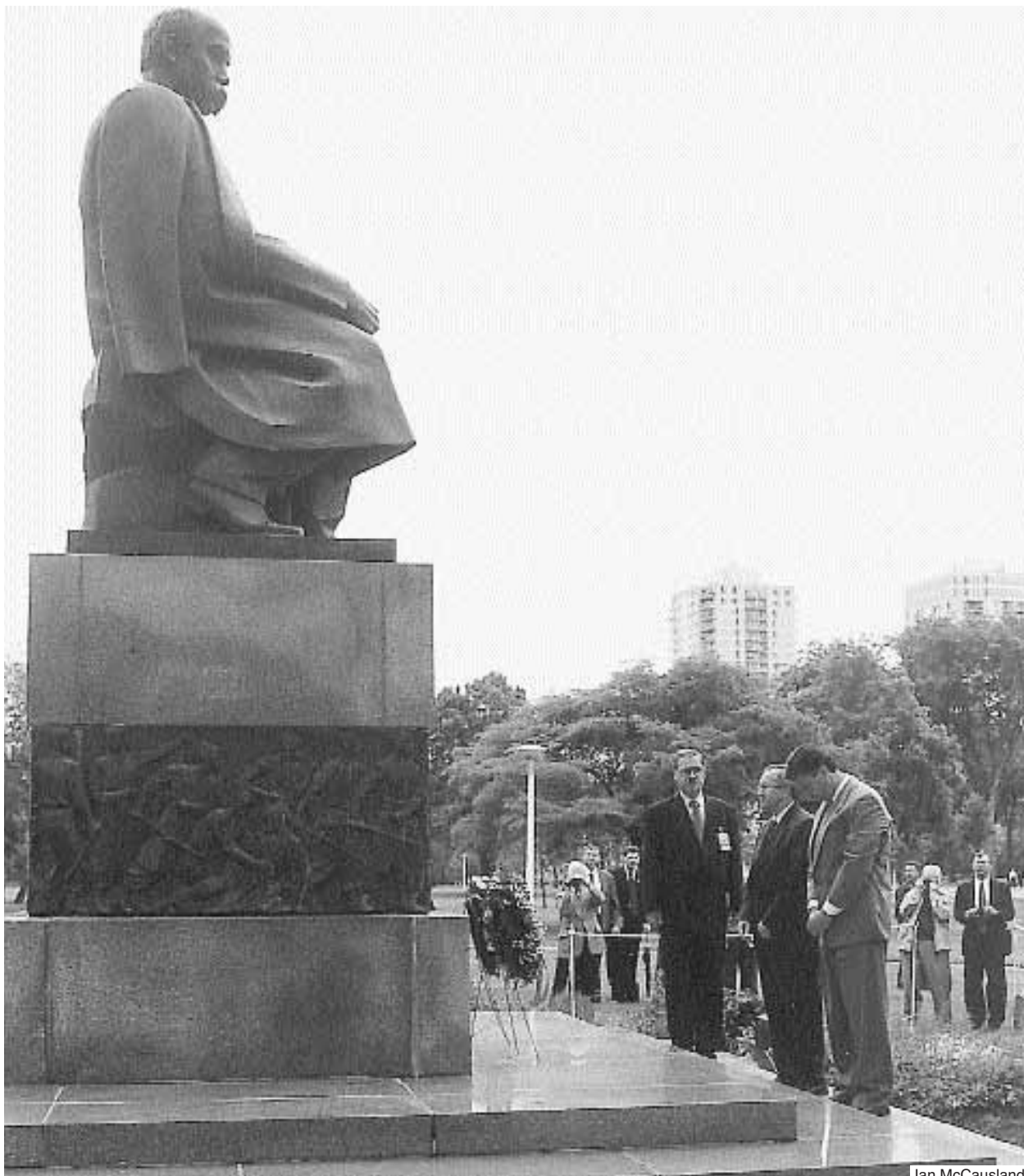
In late September, Maria Minna, the federal minister responsible for CIDA, announced a further \$4.2 million contribution to Ukraine during a visit to Ukraine. At a September 27 news conference in Kyiv, the minister for international cooperation said the University of Alberta-based Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) would receive \$2.7 million of the new money to plan and implement the Canada-Ukraine Legislative and Intergovernmental Project.

During the project's three-and-a-half-year term, the Edmonton-headquartered CIUS will organize study tours, consultations with experts and seminars for Ukrainian legislators, government officials and experts in six policy- or legislative-related areas or themes, which will be determined by a Canadian-Ukrainian panel assessing Ukraine's priorities and Canada's capacities and expertise.

The Canadian partners in the project include the provincial governments of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario, as well as the Office of the Speaker of the House of Commons.

The CIUS's partner in managing the project will be the Community Capacity Foundation, an independent body established to advance democratization in Ukraine and headed by former Ukrainian Parliament Vice-Chairman Viktor Musiyaka.

In the meantime, on November 16, the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Resource Center opened its doors at the National Parliamentary Library of Ukraine. The Kyiv-based center's resources include a specialized collection of Canadian government publications and federal and provincial laws. Funded by CIDA and the Canadian Friends of Ukraine, the new center also received Canadian assistance in the form of new computers, printers, scanners, barcode readers and a photocopier.



Ian McCausland

Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk participates in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Shevchenko Monument on the grounds of the Manitoba Legislature in Winnipeg.

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The Ukrainian diaspora: expanding worldwide ties

Several major developments in diaspora communities and in Ukraine filled the millennium year. The main theme was strengthening ties between organizations in Ukraine and their diaspora counterparts.

In an effort to re-establish the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council's (UWCC) reputation, Mykhailo Horyn spoke with *The Weekly's* Roman Woronowycz shortly after beginning his term as president of the UWCC on May 20. Mr. Horyn, a former political prisoner, a founder of the Rukh Movement, national deputy and leader of the Ukrainian Republican Party, has added president of the UWCC to his resumé, taking over the reigns from Ivan Drach, president for eight years.

According to Mr. Horyn, the efforts of the UWCC were unsatisfactory in the past, resulting from indifference of community and political activists in trying to maintain a dialogue with the diaspora. Another factor that led to inactivity was the economic situation in Ukraine and lack of funds needed to achieve UWCC objectives. Limited financial assistance was received from the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) and the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, but additional funds are needed to establish and maintain lasting relationships with the diaspora.

In commenting on the relations between the UWCC and UWC, Mr. Horyn underlined the importance of defining the responsibilities of each organization and pledged to work on a specific plan for the development of the future of the UWCC. "The UWC is part of the UWCC, an integral part of it," he explained. "Today there are various interpretations of this position."

Mr. Horyn recognized the importance of the UWC's activities, but questioned whether or not they would be able to do what is necessary to "ensure the continued existence of the diaspora." He noted that the friction between the UWCC and UWC organizations witnessed at a convention on May 19-20 of this year, was associated with growth and would work itself out in the future.

In addition to a development plan, Mr. Horyn is working on an outline of how relations between the UWCC and the Ukrainian government should proceed. In the meantime, the UWCC will proceed with its goals of helping find teachers for Ukrainian schools abroad, developing contacts with Ukrainian youth organizations in foreign countries and strengthening contacts between the Ukrainian communities abroad and Ukraine.

Contact with diaspora communities was also on the agenda of Ukraine's vice prime minister for humanitarian affairs, Dr. Mykola Zhulynskyi. From June 30 to July 7 he met with representatives from Ukrainian communities in Washington, Philadelphia, New York and Toronto. His tour began with a meeting of U.S. legislators and Ukrainian Embassy officials in Washington on June 30, followed by an address on July 1 at a Ukrainian Diaspora Olympiad banquet in Philadelphia, and meeting on July 5 with the officers and crew of the *Slavutych*, a Ukrainian naval vessel in port in New York for the International Naval Review 2000. Dr. Zhulynskyi's other New York activities consisted of a trip to the Consulate General of Ukraine and the Ukrainian National Home, where he spoke before members of the community.

Speaking before the community in New York, Dr. Zhulynskyi said that, despite enormous difficulties, Ukraine has accomplished a great deal. "I also feel an enormous sense of responsibility before the diaspora, that has worked so long and hard for a successful, independent Ukraine and greeted independence with joy and high expectations," he added.

He also spoke about a proposed law that would enforce the use of Ukrainian as the official language and shared plans for Ukraine's 10th anniversary of independence celebrations. In conclusion, Dr. Zhulynskyi presented awards issued by the Cabinet of Ministers to several members of the community for their work in the diaspora and Ukraine.

Dr. Zhulynskyi's efforts in 2000 pertained not only to the diaspora but also to internal matters. In early June, he traveled with a delegation of Ukrainian national deputies and government officials to Constantinople for a meeting with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Discussions at this meeting centered on the granting of recognition to an autocephalous Ukrainian Church. The patriarch indicated that he supports an autocephalous Ukrainian Church with its own patriarch and is willing to mediate discussions among the three Orthodox Churches.

In early July, Dr. Zhulynskyi visited in Ottawa with Canadian government officials, Ukraine's Ambassador to

Canada Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, and members of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC). The president of the UCC, Eugene Czolij, spoke with Dr. Zhulynskyi about the organization's priorities and discussed how to further strengthen Canada-Ukraine relations. A dinner reception was held at the Embassy of Ukraine in Dr. Zhulynskyi's honor.

Ukraine was represented at the International Council of Women – for the first time since 1925 – at the 29th General Assembly on July 2-8 in Helsinki. Some 250 delegates represented 35 national councils of women from around the world. Ten delegates from Ukraine, headed by the Ukrainian National Council of Women President Iryna Holubieva, were welcomed back into the International Council of Women, after a 75-year absence. Since Ukraine was not an independent nation during the 1928 ICW General Assembly held in Washington, it could not be a member in accordance with the organization's charter. With independence, the National Council of Women of Ukraine (which comprises eight women's organizations) applied for and received ICW membership.

The 29th General Assembly voted on new constitution requirements, heard reports on international women's issues and decided on future goals and challenges. The Ukrainian delegates' representation was not limited to Ukraine's women's organizations.

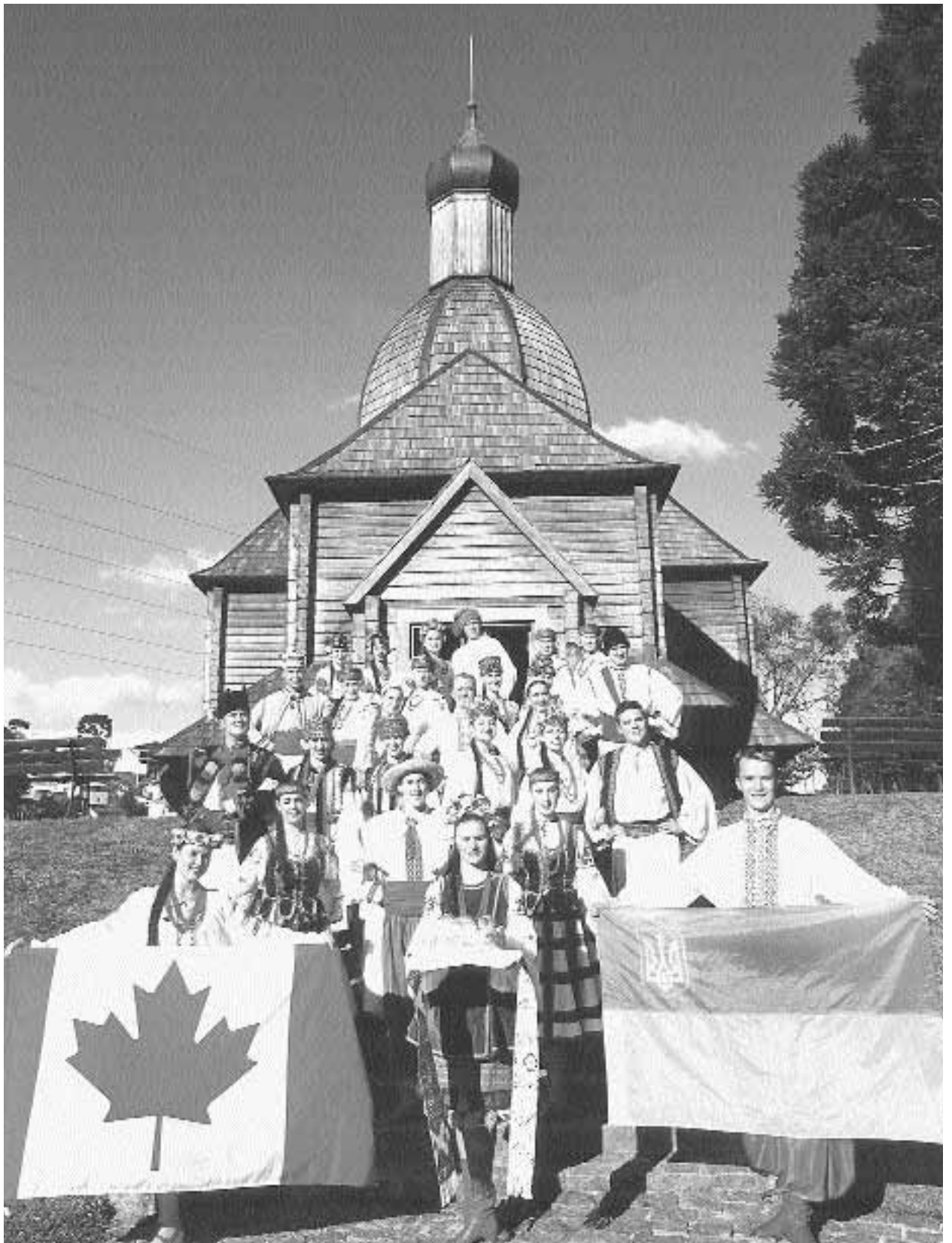
Present at the 29th General Assembly were members of the Ukrainian diaspora women's organizations: Oksana Sokolyk, World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (WFUWO) president; Volodymyra Luchkiv, WFUWO vice-president; and Maria Komarnycka, former president of the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of America. Ukrainian National Women's League of America President Iryna Kurowyckyj was also present, along with

Vice-President Maria Tomorug. The next ICW General Assembly will be held in Australia in 2003.

Among Ukrainian youth organizations re-establishing ground in Ukraine is Plast. With membership in Ukraine now at 9,000 and 130 branches (stanytsi) in every oblast in Ukraine, the Plast – National Scout Organization of Ukraine is continually seeking out experienced administrators with a goal of attracting, encouraging and maintaining adult participation in the further development of the scouting organization. Further, in tide with the growth of the organization, the Plast National Executive restructured the organization into 11 regions and established formal branches in nine oblasts where there are multiple Plast centers.

The head of the Plast National Executive in Ukraine, Andriy Harmatii, said that in the last year the Executive has devoted much energy to structural changes within the organization. Ten salaried positions were created within the National Executive, which Mr. Harmatii says allow the individuals to devote themselves full-time to their Plast responsibilities. Although this is a different system from the way Plast operates in the diaspora, Mr. Harmatii says it is in line with national scouting organizations in other countries like Canada or the United States. Currently, the National Executive's salaries are courtesy of the fund-raising efforts of Chief Plast Scout Dr. Lubomyr Romankiw, whose Chief Scout Fund was set up for his purpose.

Plast in Ukraine became a part of the Civil Society Community Roots Project (funded by the Canadian International Development Agency), which enabled seven members of the National Executive to take management and administration courses at Lviv University. Plast in Ukraine was also asked by the Cabinet of Ministers to nominate a member for the prestigious Hrushevsky Award for



The Pavlychenko Folklorique Ensemble of Saskatoon at the Ukrainian Memorial Museum in Curitiba, Brazil.

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contribution to the development of the Ukrainian state. Anhelina Klisch, National Executive member and an active youth leader, was presented with the award.

In November 1999, speculation on whether or not Plast in Ukraine would become part of the World Organization of the Scouting Movement (WOSM) came to an end. In a letter from the WOSM committee, Plast in Ukraine was accused of exclusive emphasis on patriotism. "We keep stressing that Plast never limited itself exclusively to patriotism to one's state," Mr. Harmatii said. He continued, "On the contrary, Plast was always open to all Ukrainian youth, even in those days when there was no Ukrainian state. In its programs and activities, Plast always included an international outlook and took part in many international scouting events."

The international Plast body, the Conference of Ukrainian Plast Organizations (KUPO), held a worldwide conference with over 100 delegates present representing Plast around the world on November 9-12 in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv. Although Plast in Ukraine has been a member of the KUPO since 1991, this was the first time the general meeting was held in Ukraine. Greetings were conveyed from President Leonid Kuchma; Mykhailo Horyn, president of the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council, delivered a personal welcome. Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko also spoke to the delegates and was granted honorary Plast membership. The four-day meeting produced a revised constitution and resolutions for enactment by the newly elected leaders of the organization.

Defending freedom of the press in Ukraine and the rights of Ukrainian journalists are the main goals of the Association of Ukrainian Journalists of Canada and the U.S. Establishment of the new group, whose founding members are some 40 editors, journalists and publicists who work in Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian media, was finalized in a November 18 meeting in Toronto.

The association will solicit members from all media, Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian, and will serve as a forum for communication and networking for journalists and media professionals. Other agenda items include the creation of a Ukrainian journalism website and chat room, and following through with a series of media action items such as interceding on behalf of arrested journalists in Ukraine. Jurij Klufas, president of Toronto Ukrainian Television Entertainment, was elected president of the association.

Ukraine's rich tradition of folk dance was showcased in the "Brazil 2000, A Millennium of Sharing" project, carried out with performances from Saskatoon's Pavlychenko Folklorique Ensemble. From August 16 to September 1, the 30-member dance troupe wowed thousands of onlookers in Parana, Brazil, where they spent two weeks traveling and performing and simultaneously "do-gooding." In lieu of admission for their August 19 Prudentopolis show, the crowd brought donated non-perishable foods, which were given to a senior citizen's home and to St. Josaphat Ukrainian Parish.

In addition to taking part in two multicultural festivals, the troupe visited residents at a nursing home at Sao Jose dos Pinhais and the Ukrainian Museum in Curitiba, founded by Canadian and American Ukrainians. Further sold-out shows and media attention made the experience even more exciting, and the food donations to Ukrainian communities in need rewarding.

The eighth scientific congress of the World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations (WFUMA) was held this year on August 13-17 in Lviv. The unveiling of a monument to Mariian Panchyshyn (1882-1943), a prominent civil and political activist, head of the underground Ukrainian University in Lviv during the interwar years (1922-1925) and the founding director of Lviv's public health department (1939), preceded the formal opening ceremonies of the congress.

The official opening of the WFUMA congress took place in the Ivan Franko Theater of Opera and Ballet. The scientific program of the congress was conducted both in Lviv, at the Palace of Railway Workers, and in Truskavets, Ukraine's leading resort in the Carpathian Mountains.

The plenary sessions of the congress covered current issues in Ukrainian medicine. Special workshops were held on providing medical health care, medical ethics, consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe, including medical ecological problems, medical education and the role of civic organizations in the development of medicine. Over 900 abstracts were published in the congress program.

More than 480 physicians took part in the congress, of which 401 were from Ukraine, mostly between the ages of 30 and 50. There were physicians from 11 foreign countries, including the United States, Canada, Argentina, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Poland, Bulgaria, Russia and Moldova. More than 60 U.S. physicians, along with their families, participated in the congress.

Compensation approved for slave/forced laborers

World War II era slave and forced laborers got some measure of relief this year as settlement agreements were signed with Germany and Austria.

After 18 months of negotiations, the representatives of five Central and East European countries – Belarus, the Czech Republic, Poland, Russia and Ukraine, Israel, Germany and the United States and German industry, as well as legal representatives of former victims of Nazi persecution signed a settlement agreement to compensate victims for their suffering during World War II. The signing took place on July 17 at the German Foreign Ministry in Berlin.

These negotiations marked the closing chapter regarding reparations for war crimes that occurred over half a century ago. The settlement also served as a symbol of the recognition of millions of victims from Central and Eastern Europe who were forcibly deported from their homelands and compelled to work against their will for the German war machine.

Unanimity concerning the settlement was achieved in stages because of the multiplicity of parties and various objectives and goals. The first accord was reached on December 17, 1999, when the overall compensation package of 10 billion DM was agreed upon. The second stage was reached on March 23, when agreement on the allocation of the 10 billion DM among all the categories of victims was achieved. It is estimated that over 2 million Ukrainians were forced laborers in Germany, and about 610,000 are still alive.

Slave laborers who were interned in concentration camps will receive up to 15,000 DM; forced laborers in industry up to 5,000 DM and it is anticipated that agri-

cultural workers will receive about 1,000 DM. Payments to residents of Central and Eastern Europe will be processed through existing reconciliation foundations, while Jewish claimants will be processed through the Jewish Claims Conference. Non-Jewish victims who live outside Central and Eastern Europe will be processed by the International Office for Migration.

The negotiating parties also addressed the third stage, dealing with the issues of required legal structure needed to implement the settlement. This accord was finally reached via international teleconferences and discussions in Washington and Berlin. The concluding document was a joint statement outlining the terms of the settlement signed by each government involved in the negotiations, by German industry and by the class action lawyers and victims representatives. Ukraine's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Oleksander Maidannyk signed the joint statement on behalf of Ukraine, and Myroslav Smorodsky signed on behalf of Ukrainian class action victims.

Unlike the protracted German negotiations, Austrian negotiations didn't require that all claims be settled immediately as part of one settlement package. Instead the signed agreements contemplated the immediate completion of the slave/forced labor component. In addition, women who gave birth while in forced labor will also be compensated as will children up to age 12 who accompanied their parents to Austria.

It is estimated that 220,000 forced laborers deported to Austria are still alive and 43,000 reside in Ukraine. The Austrian settlements provided for compensation in amounts similar to that of the German settlements. These funds will be distributed in Central and East European countries by existing reconciliation foundations in those countries. The Austrians themselves will distribute the payments to victims who live in other parts of the world.

Ukrainians in the U.S.: milestones, anniversaries

Perhaps the biggest news for Ukrainians in America this year was the recent generous donation to The Ukrainian Museum building project.

When The Ukrainian Museum held its annual meeting on June 11 this year, the main topic of discussion was whether to proceed in constructing the new museum building. Nobody even dreamed that exactly six months after the meeting a \$3.5 million donation by Eugene and Daymel Shklar would fund not only the much-needed new building, but also provide state-of-the-art accommodations and equipment for its growing collection of art.

Work on the new building will begin early next year, with completion expected in the spring of 2002. It will be erected at 222 E. Sixth St. on property purchased by the museum in 1985. The gift has been added to the \$3 million previously raised by the museum. While \$2.5 million has been allocated for the building project, \$1 million is designated as a challenge grant that will match, dollar for dollar, any additional gifts or grants received by the museum before January 31, 2002.

In a brief address, Mr. Shklar said the gift is in honor of his parents and that he hopes the gift, also intended to honor the founders, benefactors, trustees and staff of the museum, will also encourage others to step forward with their own contributions of time or capital.

Evidently, The Ukrainian Museum Building Fund is a popular cause to support, as seen in the Stride and Ride to Build – a walk-a-thon, bike-a-thon and family picnic – in which over 100 people took part and raised over \$30,000 on September 24.

The event was organized by a group of young women who combined their love of sports and the outdoors with their appreciation of Ukrainian culture. Their and Mr. Shklar's recent efforts on behalf of the museum yielded not only superb financial aid for the building project, but also raised public awareness of the institution as a viable and essential element of the Ukrainian American community.

While The Ukrainian Museum is rejoicing over its good fortune, other Ukrainian American institutions, like the Verkhovyna resort of the Ukrainian Fraternal Association, are fighting for survival. On February 27, 1999, the Ukrainian American Cultural Foundation and the UFA wrote a letter to appeal to the Ukrainian commu-

nity for financial support for the Verkhovyna resort in Glen Spey, N.Y. They wanted to organize all Ukrainians, especially UFA members, to purchase the resort in order to ensure its continued services for the Ukrainian community.

The UACF, founded by people who were interested in keeping Verkhovyna in Ukrainian hands, started collecting funds for the purchase of the resort. In June, the UFA Supreme Assembly – responding to Pennsylvania insurance authorities' order that the UFA divest itself of Verkhovyna – decided to sell the property to the UACF. News of the action was published in the June 29 issue of Narodna Volya, the official publication of the UFA. However, the deal fell through and there were reports that a new contract was about to be signed with a non-Ukrainian group. As of yet, however, the sale is not final, as the UFA is still in negotiations.

Despite the uncertainty of Verkhovyna's future, this summer marked the 25th anniversary of the Ukrainian Youth Festival at the 142-acre resort. Thousands of people arrived at the beautiful UFA grounds to enjoy live entertainment by enthusiastic vocal and dance groups, buy souvenirs and sample Ukrainian foods at what might have been the last such festival at Verkhovyna.

The year 2000 was also the year of the U.S. Census in which Ukrainian Americans were strongly encouraged to participate since its data provided the government (and our community) with perhaps the only information for estimating the number of Ukrainians in the United States.

The same questions about ancestry were asked in 2000 as were in 1980 and 1990, providing an opportunity to analyze trends for the last 20 years in marriage and linguistic assimilation, geographical dispersion, socio-economic status, etc. The 2000 Census also offered a unique opportunity for estimating the numbers and characteristics of new immigrants from Ukraine in the last decade.

Although the concept of Ukrainian ancestry did not indicate a person's involvement (or lack thereof) in Ukrainian activities, it did show a potential maximum of members for different organizations and churches.

In addition to participating in the census, the Ukrainian American community was also urged to vote in this year's elections. Unfortunately, the candidates of both parties made very few efforts to contact Ukrainian Americans.

The few outreach efforts included the September 20 meeting of the Democratic candidate for vice-president, Sen. Joseph Lieberman, with Ukrainian Americans and other Ohio ethnic leaders in order to discuss ethnic issues. In chatting with the group of 20 representatives,

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Participants of SUM's first world conference on the Internet, held in Ellenville, N.Y.

the senator spoke of the pride he feels as a Jewish American and commended the participants for working so hard to preserve their own respective cultures and for maintaining links with the countries of their origin. Sen. Lieberman also stressed his own European heritage, indicating that he traces his ancestry to Chernivtsi in Ukraine. The Ukrainian representatives encouraged the senator to continue to support a positive U.S. policy toward Ukraine.

On the Republican side, at a tele-conference on October 31, George Shultz, an advisor to Gov. George W. Bush, spoke of the presidential candidate's commitment to NATO expansion.

Mr. Shultz explained that NATO enlargement would allow the United States to be in a position to help economic development in Central and Eastern Europe. He pointed out that "aid, loans and grants are helpful, but that they need to focus on developing strong economic conditions so that the countries can help themselves."

Despite the few contacts and brief meetings, the candidates did not seem to feel the need to pursue the Ukrainian American vote. When the Ukrainian National Information Service prepared a questionnaire for the candidates in order to raise the consciousness of the two presidential campaigns about issues that concern the Ukrainian American community, and to inform the community about the candidates' positions on those issues, both sides did not respond.

That and the rather small amount of political advertisements placed in Ukrainian newspapers could have caused the Ukrainian American community to believe that their votes did not matter. However, with the so-called "battle-ground states" being Pennsylvania, Michigan, Florida, Ohio, etc., Ukrainian communities could have had a large impact on the 2000 elections. May it be a lesson for future candidates.

The new elections were also a setback for the Ukrainian American Veterans, who – ever since Minority Whip Rep. David E. Bonior (D-Mich.) introduced the bill (HR 3463) last year – hoped that the government would grant them a federal charter that would enable them to broaden their charitable and military activities across America and abroad.

However, in this November's elections, the UAV lost five of its co-sponsors due either to election losses or to a change in the Senate. If passed by the House of Representatives, the bill granting a national charter to the UAV would also have to be passed by the Senate within a two-year period.

During this year's 53rd National UAV Convention, in Warren, Mich., Mr. Bonior not only pledged full support to the veterans, but also impressed them with his knowledge of current events in Ukraine. The convention also included a gala military banquet in which UAV members honored all of the Ukrainians who served – many of them paying the supreme sacrifice – in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf.

Even though, in general, Ukrainian Americans were not active in the election campaigns, groups such as the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America continued to work with candidates and politicians in order to build a

strong relationship between Ukraine and the United States.

On April 25, in an effort to encourage open dialogue with the various communities, the director of ethnic outreach for the Democratic National Committee organized an informal meeting between Vice-President Al Gore and 12 U.S. ethnic groups, among them the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

There the UCCA presented to the vice-president a memorandum outlining a series of issues that concern the Ukrainian American community, including an increase in foreign assistance to Ukraine, granting it permanent normal trade relations status, further expansion of NATO and U.S. support for the Shelter Implementation Plan for the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Among other encounters of candidates with the community in January we reported on a telephone conference call during which several leaders of the Ukrainian American community spoke with Vice-President Al Gore's national security advisor, Leon Fuerth. The purpose of the call was to brief the members of the community about the December 1999 Gore-Kuchma Binational Committee meeting in Washington.

Mr. Fuerth pointed to President Kuchma's statement that Ukraine's course of action will be to further integrate Ukraine into Euro-Atlantic structures and to maintain ties with Europe and the United States, as well as Russia. He also spoke of the need for more rapid privatization and the elimination of governmental and non-governmental corruption.

Then on May 17, as a preview of the issues and events surrounding President Bill Clinton's trip to Ukraine, the White House Office of Public Liaison held a conference call with 25 representatives from various Ukrainian American organizations and institutions.

Among the issues discussed were: progress towards accession to the World Trade Organization, U.S. support for commercial law reform in Ukraine, permanent normal trade relations status for Ukraine, equal rights for women in Ukraine, health-care concerns, education of a new generation of business leaders and the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

The UCCA was also in the news after its quadrennial convention on October 13-15 in Chicago, where the delegates from UCCA branches throughout the United States unanimously elected Michael Sawkiw Jr., 32 (yes, 32!), as their president for the next four years.

Various congressional committees were appointed to examine critical aspects of Ukrainian community life: aid to Ukraine, student and youth groups, veterans' affairs, public relations, educational concerns, financial considerations and organizational status of the community.

Another project of the UCCA discussed this year has been the building of a Ukrainian school in Karaganda, Kazakstan, a project that costs an estimated \$14,000 and will be funded by the estate of Yaroslava and Ivan Parachoniak.

Then a month later, on November 18 the newly elected UCCA president called to order a UCCA executive board meeting in which a major topic of discussion was unity

within the Ukrainian American community.

The UCCA pledged to rededicate its efforts to bring the community together after 20 years of disunity and established a Committee for Reunification, which will be headed by Prof. Taras Hunczak, who will conduct talks with various organizations, as well as with Ukrainian American Coordinating Council (UACC).

With a similar goal in mind, other organizations have also joined forces to discuss issues of mutual concern, as at the September 13 meeting of the executives of four Ukrainian American fraternal organizations.

Present were representatives of the Ukrainian National Association, Ukrainian Fraternal Organization, Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America and the Ukrainian National Aid Association of America. Together they discussed the continually growing requirements and oversight of state insurance commissions; difficulties associated with new insurance regulations in Canada; enrollment of new members from among the "Fourth Wave" of immigrants from Ukraine; the possibility of providing insurance services in Ukraine; and cooperation among all fraternal.

In the realm of education, the Educational Council, which functions under the aegis of the UCCA, held its elections meeting on June 24-25 in East Hanover, N.J. The teachers who attended this meeting represented 2,600 students from 35 Ukrainian studies schools.

Dr. Eugene Fedorenko, president of the Educational Council, reported that schools are being revived due to the influx of highly qualified teachers from the Fourth Wave of immigrants, many of whom have a new approach to the teaching of different subjects. The newly arrived teachers make up 50 percent of the total number of Ukrainian studies staff. Enrollment has also risen due to new students from Ukraine.

The Educational Council also discussed how the educational process is being redefined in Ukraine. In Kyiv there are 90 Ukrainian-language schools and only three Russian language schools, therefore, the Ukrainian nation is on the right path.

This year has also seen new conferences and discussions about Ukraine's position in the world and how Americans can help it achieve its goals.

The first of these was on May 23, when Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, met with the Ukrainian American community at the Ukrainian Institute of America, where he expressed his gratitude for their essential support in Ukraine's good relations with the United States.

In his discussion he noted that the slow but steady approach to the increasing use of the Ukrainian language is the most successful method "to put Ukrainian in to its proper place."

Also, with regard to U.S. foreign aid for Ukraine, the ambassador explained that the funding from the United States goes to projects that the U.S. Congress believes Ukraine needs, and not necessarily to the programs that the government would choose.

In an effort to continue discussion about Ukraine's future, on September 19-20 more than 200 representatives gathered in Washington for a conference titled "Ukraine's Quest for Mature Nation Statehood: A Roundtable" where they exchanged views on Ukraine's progress in its nation-building efforts and external relationships.

The roundtable brought together representatives from academia and the governments of Ukraine and the United States to evaluate the recent realignment of political forces in Ukraine and examine its geo-political/geo-economic implications.

Zbigniew Brzezinski delivered the keynote address, whose central theme was "Ukraine is not Russia." In his presentation, Dr. Brzezinski underscored the various areas in which Ukraine outshines Russia, among them in protecting human rights, building a democracy, economic reforms, effective use of foreign assistance and its attitude toward the United States.

Dr. Brzezinski stressed that the United States should deal with Ukraine as a strategically important independent nation and not tie it to Russia in every level of its relationship, including the "symbolic level."

A month later, on October 6-8, The Washington Group, led by its new president, Ihor Kotlarchuk, held its annual Leadership Conference which focused this year on the issue of Ukraine's integration into the global community.

After two days of discussions, the consensus appeared to be that Ukraine should strive to integrate itself within European and global economic and political structures, even though it is not yet fully ready to take some of the necessary steps.

Then on October 18, the International Renaissance Foundation's Executive Director, Yevhen Bystrytsky met

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at the corporate headquarters of the Ukrainian National Association, with representatives from U.S. organizations that also are working for change in Ukraine.

Organizations represented at this meeting were: Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine, Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons Association of New York and New Jersey, Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine, Rukh Fund for the Democratization of Ukraine, Sabre-Svitlo, 20th Century Human Rights Fund, the Sabre Foundation and the UNA.

Mr. Bystrytsky organized the meeting because he had noticed that the paths of all of these organizations have crossed and he wanted to assess what has been done in the last 10 years, and set goals for the next decade. He also introduced the IRF's plan of developing and financing a website that will include information about activities that have been undertaken by other foundations.

Another one of Mr. Bystrytsky's goals for the future was to change Ukraine's law on non-profit organizations because it offers no incentive for charitable contributions; in fact it penalizes the donor and the recipient organization.

Speaking of charitable organizations, the Ukrainian American community actively supported humanitarian efforts to aid the families of the 81 miners from Krasnodon, Ukraine, who were killed in the explosion at the Barakova coal mine on March 11.

The United Ukrainian American Relief Committee was the first group to give support to the families of the deceased miners when it sent \$16,700 worth of humanitarian aid just days after the tragedy. On September 29, the UUARC along with the Ukrainian National Association and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America donated an additional \$27,205 to the families of survivors. The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation also raised over \$12,000 for this cause. Of that the Ukrainian Assumption School of Perth Amboy, N.J., was one of the largest contributors. The schoolchildren raised nearly \$1,250 for the Krasnodon mining families. Also, the CCRF delivered three tons of medication valued at \$108,000 to the Krasnodon Regional Central Hospital to aid the victims.

The UUARC has also had an active year, providing all forms of humanitarian aid to Ukrainians throughout the world. This year alone the organization has sent 12 containers valued at \$820,000 to various regions in Ukraine. These efforts prove that Ukrainian Americans can unite in order to help the many unfortunate people in Ukraine.

Also in the news was the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund that continued its tradition of offering medical aid and other assistance to the Ukrainian population affected by the Chernobyl disaster.

One of its projects this year was providing the Poltava maternity hospital with new and modern intensive-care equipment for infants. Unlike the well-endowed medical institutions in Kyiv, hospitals in other Ukrainian cities often lack medical instruments and even basic medical supplies. For this reason, the CCRF has been working to provide those hospitals with modern rehabilitation technologies.

Scientific conferences of neonatologists organized by the CCRF raised the qualifications of Ukrainian doctors to the level of their American colleagues. Due to their efforts, for the first time women who were once discouraged from becoming pregnant due to their exposure to radiation, now have a chance to become mothers.

Also on July 7, taking advantage of a visit to New York by the staff ship of the Ukrainian navy, the Slavutych, the CCRF delivered five skids of over \$85,000 worth of humanitarian aid destined for the ship's home port of Sevastopol, Ukraine.

And recently on December 12, the CCRF delivered nearly \$1.3 million worth of high-priority medical supplies to the region affected by the Chernobyl disaster. The airlift – the CCRF's 27th – coincided with the closure of the last operating reactor at the Chernobyl Atomic Energy Station. CCRF staff traveled to the city of Slavutych to express their solidarity with nuclear clean-up workers who are currently employed at the Chernobyl nuclear plant and whose jobs are threatened by the closure of the last operating reactor.

To date, the CCRF has delivered 1,300 tons of humanitarian aid to Ukraine, with a total value of \$46 million. The fund continues to be in the forefront of intensive efforts to improve infant survival rates and to combat children's cancer.

In other news, this year has marked many significant jubilees for Ukrainian American organizations. For example, the Ukrainian National Women's League of America marked the 75th anniversary of its founding this year with

celebrations across the country by the organization's regional councils. Their goal was to recall what the UNWLA has done and continues to do for the entire Ukrainian community.

In most districts anniversary events encompassed divine liturgies, a traveling exhibit of photographs, documents and publications of the UNWLA as well as a display of children's publications.

On December 2, there was a nationwide anniversary celebration at a gala banquet in Arlington, Va. The formal event saw a symbolic candle-lighting ceremony, a photo montage slide presentation, an invocation by the Rev. Myroslav Medvid, and special congratulatory readings.

On December 3 the UNWLA continued its celebrations by hosting a special conference at which the participants discussed Ukrainian history, identity and future.

This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the death of Gen. Roman Shukhevych (nom de guerre: Taras Chuprynka), supreme commander of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), who died on March 5, 1950, in the town of Bilohorscha, outside of Lviv, during combat with special forces of the Soviet Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD).

In its statement commemorating the 50th anniversary of the death of Shukhevych, the Ukrainian World Congress noted that "Shukhevych was a rare genius in modern insurgent warfare ... one who opposed both the Hitlerite-German and Bolshevik-Russian occupations. The measure of the quality of the military activity of Roman Shukhevych transformed him into one of legendary status, as the commander of the 'Armiya Bezsmertnykh' (Army of the Immortals)."

Gen. Shukhevych was also member of the Plast fraternity "Chornomortsi." Consequently, on Memorial Day weekend, when over 300 Plast members met at the Plast campground in Middlefield, Ohio for their annual "Sviato Vesny," they dedicated the event to Shukhevych's memory.

However, Shukhevych's was not the only important jubilee in the Plast community, as the organization has spent this last year celebrating its 50th anniversary in the United States.

The 22 U.S. branches of Plast contributed to the national celebration as well as held banquets and ceremonies in their own communities. In addition, Plast produced and distributed commemorative audio cassettes and CDs featuring popular Plast songs and a 50-minute video titled "The Never-Changing Face of Plast." A book covering the history of Plast in the United States is due to be published at the end of this year.

On November 19 the Plast community gathered for a special celebration – a theatrical presentation titled "Yuvileina Vatra" (Jubilee Bonfire). The program was a montage of music, dance, humor, drama and video technology intertwined through a seven-act story line that involved a young scout reliving past Plast adventures.

Another Ukrainian youth group – the Ukrainian

American Youth Association (SUM) – also celebrated its 50th jubilee in the United States.

The ceremony of the SUM branch in Hartford honored active members for their participation and achievements and commemorated SUM members who had significantly contributed to the organization but have passed away. Other SUM branches including Yonkers, N.Y., also marked the jubilee.

SUM also made the headlines for its World SUMnet conference that took place in Ellenville, N.Y., on April 1-2 this year. Over 100 delegates gathered from Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Ukraine and the United States in order to discover the magic of the Internet. The participants learned how to create web pages, design and create computer graphic images, send e-mail in Ukrainian and create online books and publications. Since SUM is first and foremost an organization dedicated to its youth, there was much emphasis on how technology can play an useful role in SUM's youth programs.

Another group that has made efforts to keep up with ever-changing technology is the Ukrainian National Credit Union Association, which unites 22 Ukrainian American credit unions. CEOs and managers met at a conference on February 17-20 in Venice, Fla., to discuss proposed UNCUA-sponsored credit union affinity/courtesy cards, potential credit/debit ATM card services for smaller credit unions, as well as marketing the benefits of credit union services to a new generation of members. The conference also had the opportunity to present the benefits of credit union membership to the ever-growing Ukrainian community of retirees in Florida.

Then on June 29-July 1, 19 Ukrainian American credit unions sent representatives to the annual meeting and spring conference of the Ukrainian National Credit Union Association in Philadelphia. Guests from Ukraine and representatives of the Credit Union National Association's Mutual Group were also present.

Topics discussed were the institution of credit cards for smaller credit unions, an analysis of the financial status of Ukrainian American credit unions for the previous year and comparative reviews of individual credit unions.

The conference showed that Ukrainian American credit unions compare favorably with peer American credit unions and remain a strong basis of financial support for Ukrainian communities and their various organizations and institutions.

The Ukrainian American community has also been active in honoring Ukrainian history this year. On September 20 the annual Congressional reception commemorating the anniversary of Ukraine's independence was held in the Senate's Hart Office Building.

Sponsored by the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the reception brought nearly 150 people to observe the annual tradition on Capitol Hill.

On November 18 the Ukrainian community of the New



Eugene Shklar and his wife, Daymel, at The Ukrainian Museum press conference at which their \$3.5 million donation to the New York City institution was announced to the public.

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York metropolitan area gathered at St. Patrick's Cathedral to solemnly recall the victims of the Great Famine in Ukraine with the third annual ecumenical memorial service and addresses.

The event was organized by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America in remembrance of the 7 million to 10 million Ukrainians who died in 1932-1933 as a result of the famine engineered by the Soviet government.

After the service, several notable speakers addressed the more than 1,500 people present. Among them were Ukraine's ambassador to the United Nations, Volodymyr Yelchenko; UCCA's newly elected president, Michael Sawkiw; and the Rev. Myroslav Medvid.

The ambassador commended the Ukrainian American community for organizing the memorial event, "proving," he said, "that this is not simply a tribute to the past but also a reminder to the future." He also discussed the Ukrainian government's efforts at greater worldwide awareness of the Great Famine through the United Nations and other channels.

Speaking of the famine, the Rev. Medvid noted that the Soviet authorities were unable to accomplish their goals, just as the tsars had been unable to break the Ukrainian spirit in earlier centuries. He attributed this to courageous political leaders throughout Ukrainian history, noting that even after the deaths of these leaders, "their ideas did not die."

The Rev. Medvid, the event's keynote speaker received the most attention, as this was his first visit to the United States since he made international headlines 15 years ago when, as a young Soviet sailor, he jumped ship and unsuccessfully sought political asylum in the United States.

Similarly this year, Walter Polovchak, was in the spotlight once again. Mr. Polovchak was once known as the "little defector" because he defied his parents at the age of 12 by choosing to stay in the United States while they returned to Ukraine, then a part of the Soviet Union.

Now in his 30s, Mr. Polovchak met with Cuban refugee Elian Gonzalez and said that he understands how the 6-year-old feels. "I think Elian knows the difference between freedom and not having freedom," Mr. Polovchak said sympathetically. "You don't have to be hit by a car to know that it is painful."

Mr. Polovchak's refusal to return to Ukraine had set off a five-and-a-half year custody battle that didn't end until he turned 18 and was granted U.S. citizenship. Now a father to a 6-year-old boy, Mr. Polovchak said he believed that the best solution for Elian would be for his father to come with his wife and young son to live with him in the United States, rather than fighting to take him back to Cuba.

Also in the news again was John Demjanjuk, who on March 3 filed a lawsuit claiming that the U.S. government's investigation of him dating back to 1977 amounts to torture.

The lawsuit sought at least \$5 million in damages from the U.S. government and asked that the new case filed against Mr. Demjanjuk last year by the Justice Department be dismissed.

Mr. Demjanjuk's suit was a response to the U.S. Justice Department complaint filed in 1999, which sought to revoke Mr. Demjanjuk's citizenship on the grounds that he illegally gained U.S. citizenship because he concealed his service as a Nazi camp guard.

The Justice Department complaint alleged that, after being trained at the Nazis' Trawniki training Camp, Mr. Demjanjuk served as a guard in Lublin, the Landed Estate Okzow, the Majdanek and Flossenberg concentration camps, and the Sobibor death camp.

The new legal documents filed by the defense denied all the charges against Mr. Demjanjuk, stating that he was forced to work as a laborer after being taken prisoner by the Nazis in May 1942.

Finally, also notable among community developments in the year 2000 was a new book titled "Generations: A Documentary of Ukrainians in Chicago." The book preserves Ukrainian cultural life in Chicago and was the work of Irene Antonovych (oral histories) and Lialia Kuchma (photo-portraits). This landmark chronicle was born of the ideas of the late Adam Antonovych, a longtime publisher of Ekran Magazine.

The subjects of the many photos and anecdotes represent four full generations of immigrants and American-born Ukrainians, whose stories transform the abstract history of Ukrainians immigration into personal and effective realities. The book offers an opportunity for nostalgia and background information relevant to Ukrainians not only in Chicago, but throughout the diaspora.

Ukrainians in Canada: making their voices heard

The Ukrainian Canadian community's year began with the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA) releasing "Roll Call: Lest We Forget," a booklet listing thousands of Ukrainian and other European internees imprisoned during Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920. The roster, compiled by UCCLA Research Director Lubomyr Luciuk, includes the names of over 5,000 men, women and children who were interned in 24 Canadian concentration camps during the period of World War I.

Meanwhile, the UCCLA revealed that Walter Halchuk, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) Ontario Provincial Council, received hate mail at his home on February 1 – an apparent response to a letter he wrote to The Toronto Star denouncing the vandals who had defaced the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Toronto last year. Mr. Halchuk filed an official complaint with police in Sudbury, where he lives, as well as with the Hate Crimes Unit of the Metropolitan Toronto Police. Mr. Halchuk said the "poison pen letter" included the line, "you sniveling coward: typically Ukrainian."

On a more positive note, the Royal Canadian Mint announced on February 4 that John Jaciw, a Ukrainian Canadian artist, won its "Create a 'CentSation!'" 25-cent-coin-design contest. Mr. Jaciw's entry was one of 12 chosen by the mint for each month of the year. Based in Windsor, Ontario, Mr. Jaciw called his coin "Ingenuity" and portrayed an ideal environment of the future incorporating the themes of modern cities, public transportation, farmlands and space exploration.

Later in the month, the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) held its 48th annual congress in Hamilton on February 24-27. Attracting 21 delegates from Canada and the United States, the three-day event held at McMaster University featured UCC President Eugene Czolij as keynote speaker. Attendees agreed that Edmonton would be the site of next year's event.

In late April, The Weekly reported that the UCC had written to Canadian Justice Minister Anne McLellan and Citizenship and Immigration Minister Elinor Caplan seeking clarification of the government's policy on alleged war criminals. The UCC letter was prompted by the introduction of Bill C-19 in the House of Commons.

Also known as the Crimes Against Humanity Act, the bill, according to the UCC, would deal with alleged war criminals through Canada's justice system rather than by taking the denaturalization and deportation route. If so, the UCC was pleased, but it sought clarity on a provision contained in the legislation that "would treat crimes

alleged to have been committed in Canada differently from those alleged to have been committed outside Canada," according to UCC President Czolij.

Meanwhile, in Kyiv, Canada's Ambassador to Ukraine Derek Fraser paid an April 14 visit to the warehouse where humanitarian goods are distributed to Ukrainian orphanages. One of the initiative's organizers, the Children of Chernobyl Canadian Fund's Help Us Help the Children project, later sent volunteers to deliver medicine, toys, boots and shoes to some of the 150 orphanages throughout Ukraine.

Back in Canada, the UCC's Ottawa Branch welcomed the country's new Ukrainian ambassador, Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, at an April 16 reception.

Also in April, the Saskatoon-based Ukrainian Museum of Canada launched a series of events to mark its 65th anniversary in August 2001. In addition, the museum plans to create a gallery showcasing specialized collections housed there as well as at its five branches in Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver. Canadian comic Luba Goy participated in an April 8 event to help raise money for the initiative.

Over the summer, the UCCLA asked Ukrainian Canadians to nominate Ukrainian survivors of the Holocaust for a September 27 ceremony on Parliament Hill in Ottawa sponsored by the Canadian Society of Yad Vashem. Eventually 15 names were presented, including noted Ukrainian Canadian historian Michael Marunchak of Winnipeg.

And while the UCCLA has had no luck convincing Canada Post Corp. to issue a stamp commemorating the late Ukrainian Canadian war hero Filip Konowal, the association used a new Canada Post program to release its own personalized stamp honoring Cpl. Konowal on July 14.

A month later, a trilingual plaque and sculpture were unveiled in Cpl. Konowal's home village of Kutkiv, Ukraine, on August 21 – 83 years to the day on which the soldier's battlefield heroism as a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force's 47th Battalion earned him the Victoria Cross in 1917.

Over 1,000 people, including Cpl. Konowal's granddaughter, Hanna, turned out for the ceremony. A delegation from the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv planted a Canadian maple tree at the site, which is now home to the plaque and sculpture made by Lviv sculptor Petro Kulyk.

A commemorative postal envelope was also released in Ukraine, while plans were in the works to issue an official Ukrainian postage stamp honoring Cpl. Konowal. A parallel ceremony commemorating the war hero, who immigrated to Canada in 1913 and died in Ottawa in 1959, was held the same day in Ottawa.

August also found the UCC releasing highlights from



Canadian Ambassador Derek Fraser (left) in Kyiv with (from left) Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine, Maryna Krysa of Pryiateli Ditei and Ruslana Wrzesnewskij of Help Us Help the Children.

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its activities during the spring session of the Canadian Parliament. In addition to making recommendations on Bill C-19, the UCC also appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration on March 30.

In its presentation on the bill, also known as the Citizenship of Canada Act, the Winnipeg-based UCC suggested modifications to "ensure naturalized Canadians due process of law in cases of revocation and annulment of citizenship" and to introduce a five-year limit when initiating revocation of citizenship proceedings. The UCC made a similar appeal before the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs on September 26.

On June 8 the UCC appeared before another Commons standing committee, this one on Canadian heritage, concerning a bill that would create an exhibit recognizing crimes against humanity at the Canadian Museum of Civilization across the river from Ottawa in Hull, Quebec.

In its brief, the UCC called for an "all-inclusive" museum that would remember all such crimes and genocidal activities throughout history.

The same day, UCCLA member Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch, author of children's books on Canada's first-world-war-era internment operations and on the Ukrainian famine, appeared before the committee echoing the UCC's position.

Known for her award winning children's book, "Silver Threads" (Penguin, 1996) which recalled the unjust internment of Ukrainians as "enemy aliens" in Canada, Ms. Skrypuch has more recently published a novel for young adults, "The Hunger," (Dundurn, 1999) recalling the Armenian massacres. Forthcoming is another children's book, "Enough" (Fitzhenry & Whiteside), which revolves around the genocidal Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Soviet Ukraine.

Ms. Skrypuch presented an alternative proposal: the creation of a foundation mandated to encourage research and publication of credible and inclusive information about war crimes and crimes against humanity, whose major purpose would be the development of a "Canadian Book of the Dead."

In Manitoba, Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson addressed a gathering at Dauphin's Selo-Ukraina during the annual Ukrainian National Festival. In her August 4 speech, Madame Clarkson, who is of Chinese descent, referred to the internment operations as "one of the saddest stories in our country's history."

While in Dauphin, the governor general and her husband, philosopher John Ralston Saul, viewed a trilingual plaque unveiled later that day. Though there never was an internment camp in the area, the plaque is meant to recall all Ukrainians and other Europeans interned during the six-year-long operation.

In Quebec, meanwhile, over 300 Canadian Plast members concluded their Zustrich-Jamboree on August 13. Over a two-week period campers participated in obstacle courses, rappelled down walls and attended liturgies celebrated by the Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox eparchs of Toronto.

The Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation (UCPBF) was getting down to serious business as it prepared for a September 16-17 roundtable in Ottawa on Canadian issues. In advance of a session on Canada's policy toward Ukraine, the UCPBF lobbied the federal government to press for an extension of an International Monetary Fund loan to Ukraine.

During the two-day roundtable, federation President Oksana Bashuk Hepburn presented a grocery list of ideas for action, including the assignment of a tax credit to families that support family members in Ukraine and the establishment of a "world-class policy and study center" on Ukraine in Canada.

She also called on the Canadian International Development Agency to increase its technical-assistance budget to Ukraine "to more favorably reflect the tax base of some 1 million Canadians of Ukrainian descent," or about 1/30th of the national population. And, in light of Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy's retirement from politics, it wouldn't be a bad idea to have his successor hold Ukrainian ancestry, Ms. Bashuk Hepburn added.

Also this fall, the UCC reactivated its Ottawa Office and named longtime community organizer Modest Cmoc as director.

On October 3, the UCC joined the country in mourning the passing of former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, who addressed the congress's triennial meeting in 1971 where he highlighted his government's recently introduced multiculturalism policy. "Prime Minister

Trudeau was a man with a vision," said the UCC's chief, Mr. Czolij. "His commitment to Canada and to developing a tolerant and just society will remain with Canadians," he noted.

Later in the month, the UCPBF put a call out to the community to have a documentary produced to chronicle the contributions of Ukrainians in Canada.

Meanwhile, the UCCLA busily pursued items on its agenda through the autumn.

On September 9, the association unveiled an interpretive panel memorial in British Columbia's Mount Revelstoke National Park at a site where an internment camp operated in 1915-1916.

A month later, the UCCLA unveiled another memorial – its third this year – a trilingual (Ukrainian, English and French) plaque at the Petawawa Militia Camp in Ontario on October 14. The site functioned as an internment camp for so-called "enemy aliens" from 1914 to 1916.

Following Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's late-October call for a November 27 election, the UCCLA turned its attention to him and decided it was time to hold him to a commitment he made in 1993 as leader of the official opposition to help the Ukrainian Canadian community seek redress over the internment issue.

In reply, the Liberal Party of Canada, not the prime minister's office, sent the UCCLA a letter the association considered "non-committal" and which prompted UCCLA Chairman John Gregorovich to call for Canadians "to vote for politicians who keep their promises."

But Mr. Chrétien wasn't the only Liberal politician targeted by the UCCLA. His justice minister, Ms. McLellan, came under fire for her "two-tiered" justice policy. At their annual retreat in Canmore, Alberta, over Canada's November 11 Remembrance Day weekend, UCCLA members accused Minister McLellan of unfairly treating the more than 5 million naturalized Canadian citizens who, when accused of committing a crime, could be deported to their country of birth without the benefit of a trial.

As a result, the UCCLA hoped voters in the attorney general's Edmonton riding would elect another candidate. Though she was narrowly re-elected, the UCCLA vowed to pursue the Liberals on the redress and Canadian citizenship issues.

The association had better luck with other parties and other governments.

Inky Mark, who was re-elected as a Manitoba member of Parliament who holds the chief citizenship and immigration critic's job with the official opposition Canadian Alliance, said he would continue to press the government over the redress issue.

Mr. Mark, who is of Chinese descent, planned to re-introduce a private member's bill seeking "restitution for the confiscation of property and assets" of internees when the Parliament resumes sitting in January 2001.

In the meantime, Alberta's Conservative government said it would include UCCLA internment-related materials in the province's Grade 10 social studies curriculum.

In November, Provincial Premier Ralph Klein also announced that Alberta would mark an annual Holocaust Memorial Day remembering victims of "systemic violence, genocide, persecution, racism and hatred that happened in the past or continue today."

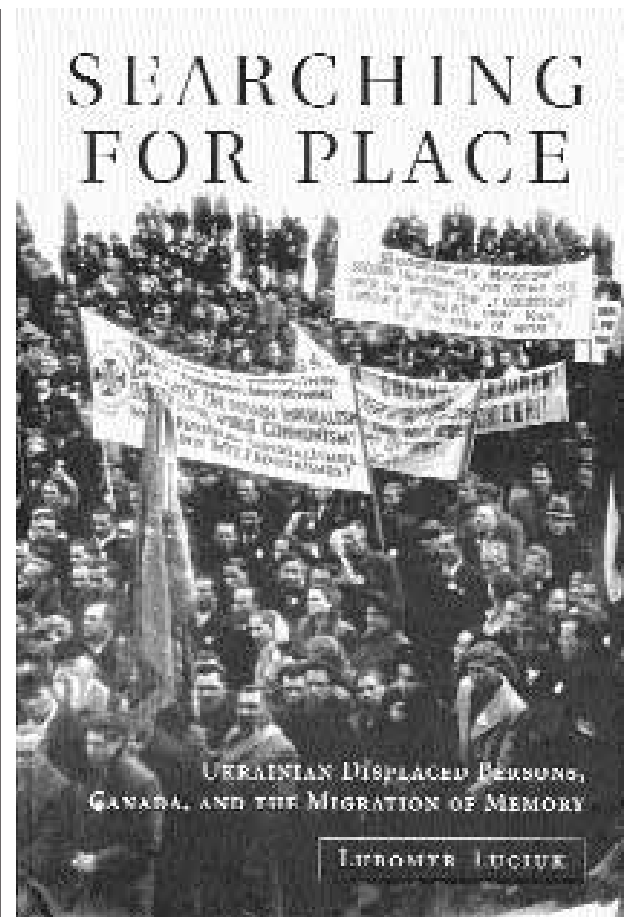
UCCLA First Vice-President Marco Levytsky cautioned in a letter to the premier that the day, which would be marked on Yom ha'Shoah when Jews throughout the world recall the horrors of the Holocaust, should not be "historically specific to one particular ethnic group."

Instead, Mr. Levytsky, who also serves as vice-president of the UCC's Alberta Provincial Council, suggested a "World Genocide Memorial Day," which could be held around ethnic-community-neutral Remembrance Day.

The bill was passed on November 16, though Mr. Klein added the words "genocide remembrance" to the observance, which will be marked annually based on a day on the Jewish calendar.

As the year wound down, in late November observances commemorating the 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide were held across Canada – including services, ceremonies and lectures in Edmonton, Calgary and Toronto that drew survivors of Stalin's genocidal campaign.

The UCCLA's Dr. Luciuk, a political geographer by profession, did his own bit for remembering Ukrainian history when his latest book, "Searching for Place: Ukrainian Displaced Persons, Canada, and the Migration of Memory," was released and made available in both Canada and the United States.



Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk's new book, "Searching for Place: Ukrainian Displaced Persons, Canada, and the Migration of Memory."

The world of academia: activity on many fronts

Early in the year 2000, the press reported that the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) hosted a symposium in New York on December 10, 1999, at which Dr. Vasyl V. Nimchuk, director of the Institute of Ukrainian Language at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Kyiv, presented the most recent proposal based on work performed by the State Orthography Commission for the revision of Ukrainian orthography. It is the first major attempt to reverse the process begun by the Soviet government in the 1930s of systematically altering the Ukrainian alphabet, grammar, vocabulary and orthography in order to forcibly bring the Ukrainian language as close to the Russian language as possible.

A variety of other conferences, lectures and symposia took place during the year.

The seventh annual Windows to the East lecture series was held February 3-4 at St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon. The series is organized annually by the Prairie Center for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage. Prof. A. Ugolnik of Franklin Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa., an expert in Orthodox religious thought, and Marianna Savaryn, an iconographer, were the speakers for the two evenings, addressing this year's topic, "Eastern Christianity and Post-Modern Society."

Chrystia Freeland, deputy editor of the Toronto Globe and Mail, and Roma Hadzewycz, editor-in-chief of The Ukrainian Weekly, addressed the topic of "Ukrainians in the Western Media: A Maligned Minority?" at the annual Shevchenko Lecture in Edmonton March 6 sponsored by Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies, the Grant MacEwan Community College and the Edmonton chapter of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association. Ms. Freeland spoke of her experience as a freelance journalist during the early 1990s in Ukraine and Ms. Hadzewycz spoke about the "The Ugly Face of Freedom" segment of the CBS program "60 Minutes" and the Ukrainian American community's reaction to the episode.

On March 9, at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Maj. Gen. Nicholas Krawciw (U.S. Army-ret.) addressed the state of U.S.-Ukraine military relations as this year's speaker sponsored by the Palij Memorial Fund. Since 1983 the fund has invited speakers on Ukrainian topics to the University of Kansas. Maj. Gen. Krawciw is the U.S. defense secretary's senior military representative for Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) held its 50th anniversary Scientific Convention on March 25-April 1 in Puerto Rico. A dozen lectures were presented on a variety of medical

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Speakers at the "Towards a New Ukraine III" conference held at the University of Ottawa.

topics by UMANA members.

The Yale-Ukraine Initiative's sixth conference, "Ukrainian Politics in the 20th Century," was held April 8-9 in New Haven, Conn. Five panels were held during the two-day conference and the keynote address – "It's Later Than You Think: Will the Real Ukraine Please Stand Up?" – was given by Prof. Roman Szporluk. Prof. George Grabowicz gave the dinner address on the topic "Reading and Misreading Ukraine."

For the fifth year in a row, the Harriman Institute at Columbia University hosted the annual convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN). More than 600 participants registered for the convention, held April 13-15. The focus of the ASN is the study of ethnicity and nationalism in post-Communist states, and the topic of the convention was "Identity and the State: Nationalism and Sovereignty in a Changing World." Fourteen panels were organized on the Balkans, 13 on the Russian Federation, 12 each on Ukraine, Central Asia and Central Europe, six on the Southern Caucasus, five on the Baltics, and almost two dozen on thematic and cross-regional themes.

Hiroaki Kuromiya, professor of history at Indiana University, delivered the seventh annual Vasyl and Maria Petryshyn Memorial Lecture in Ukrainian Studies on April 27 at Harvard University. During his presentation, "Rethinking Ukrainian History," Prof. Kuromiya emphasized the need to be cautious about assuming what we know about the history of Soviet Ukraine since much of the history of individuals as well as political history has been fabricated.

The Canadian Association of Slavists, the Canadian Association for Eastern Christian Studies, the Folklore Studies Association and Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences of Canada were among the more than 70 Canadian academic societies that met for a 10-day Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities on May 23-June 1 in Edmonton. Through these four societies several dozen topics relating to Ukraine were included in the panels and more than 40 Ukraine scholars attended the event. On May 29 Dr. David Marples, acting head of the CIUS, gave a lecture on the topic "Towards Democracy or Oriental Despotism? Report Card on the Decade of Independence in the Former Soviet Republics."

Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski addressed a standing-room-only audience at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars in Washington on July 19. Dr. Brzezinski spoke on the topic "Post-Divided Europe and American Policy," clarifying some of the misconceptions about the current relations between Europe, the United States and Russia.

This summer the sixth World Congress for Central and East European Studies and the 19th International Congress of Historical Sciences met in geographic and chronological proximity – the former meeting in Tampere, Finland, on July 28-August 3 and the latter in Oslo, Norway – affording scholars the opportunity to attend both. At the Tampere conference, more than 1,660 scholars were registered, 35 from Ukraine; 19 sessions were held on Ukrainian topics. In Norway, more than 3,000 scholars attended, but the presentations in general were fewer, including those on Eastern Europe and Ukraine.

The Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa held the third in its successful and highly regarded international conference series on October 27-28. The conference, "Towards a New Ukraine III – Geopolitical Imperatives of Ukraine: Regional Contexts," considered the critical regional issues facing Ukraine today, including its bilateral relations with Russia and Poland, its strategic objective of rejoining Europe, as well as its foreign and security policy challenges. Eleven scholars from Canada, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany and Poland presented papers on these topics. The keynote address was delivered on Friday evening of the conference by Prof. Stephen Shulman, Southern Illinois University. In his address titled, "Nation-Building and Ukrainian Foreign Policy," Prof. Shulman argued that Ukraine's foreign policy orientation towards both East and West is a critical and influential element affecting the country's nation-building process, in particular its autonomy, unity and identity.

A number of significant awards in the world of academia were presented in the year 2000.

Dr. Albert Kipa, Saeger Professor of Comparative Literature and head of the department of languages, literatures and culture at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pa., accepted his membership this summer in the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine, at the academy's annual meeting in Kyiv. He was elected as a fellow to the academy last year. Dr. Kipa spoke of the topic "Democratic Reform and Higher Education" at the annual meeting. Earlier this year at the 152nd commencement ceremonies of Muhlenberg College Dr. Kipa was awarded the college's first designation of professor laureate of Muhlenberg College, in acknowledgment of his "exceptional service, scholarship and teaching."

Zbigniew Brzezinski, one of America's leading political scientists and strategists, was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from the Ukrainian Free University (UFU) for championing Ukraine's cause for more than 40 years, as well as for his scholarly endeavors and efforts in behalf of human rights, world peace and prosperity. The presentation by the Munich-based institution took place April 13, during a special ceremony at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington. On March 1, the UFU granted an honorary doctorate degree to Prof. Hans Gerhart Stockinger, member of the Bavarian Parliament.

On April 7, Dr. George Gamota, a physicist, was elected as a foreign member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. He was recognized for his pioneering scientific work at the University of Michigan and Bell Laboratories. Dr. Gamota has been very active in finding support for young scientists in Ukraine through exchange programs, grant projects and business incubator programs.

On May 8 Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko presented the Ukrainian government's Shevchenko Prize to George Shevelov, linguist, writer, literary critic and professor-emeritus of Columbia University, at a special ceremony held at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington. Prof. Shevelov received the Shevchenko Prize for his works "Tretia Storozha" and "Poza Knyzhkamy i z Knyzhok." An eminent Slavic linguist and philologist, Dr. Shevelov is most widely known for his most important work, "A Historical Phonology of the Ukrainian Language," published in 1979,

in which he demonstrated the historical continuity of the Ukrainian language. In April 1999 Prof. Shevelov was presented with the Ukrainian Presidential Award for Merit (third degree).

Prof. Roman Szporluk, Mykhailo S. Hrushevskyi Professor of Ukrainian History at the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University, was honored at a reception on May 13 at the Harvard University Faculty Club where the publication of the festschrift "Cultures and Nations of Central and Eastern Europe: Essays in Honor of Roman Szporluk" was celebrated. Students and colleagues of Prof. Szporluk wrote for this collection, which features 35 contributions on a wide range of topics dealing with Central and Eastern Europe.

December 31, 1999, brought shocking news about the untimely death of Solomea Pavlychko, 41, as a result of an accident in her home. Scholar, translator, editor, and educator, she made enormous contributions to Ukrainian culture, academia and the public sphere. In her honor the department of Slavic languages and literature at the University of Toronto established the Solomea Pavlychko Stipend in Spring 2000. The stipend will be awarded to a scholar or writer from Ukraine to come to the University of Toronto for creative work or research.

In November the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University announced the establishment of the Eugene and Daymel Shklar Fellowship designed to bring distinguished scholars from around the world to Harvard to work on topics in Ukrainian studies. The fellowships will be awarded annually and the first Shklar Fellows will begin their residency in the 2001-2002 academic year. Eugene Shklar, a Ukrainian Canadian, is a 1972 alumnus of Harvard University.

Volume 7 of the English-language translation of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's "History of Ukraine-Rus'" had been introduced to the scholarly community on November 19, 1999, at the convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in St. Louis. Volume 7, which covers the early Kozak period from the late 15th century to 1625, is part of a planned 10-volume (11 books) translation of Hrushevsky's monumental work. It is the second volume to be completed. Volume 1 was released in 1997. In Canada, Volume 7 was launched on December 1, 1999, in the Great Hall of Hart House, University of Toronto during the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research. This year the Embassy of Ukraine in the United States on April 12 hosted a book launch for Volume 7. On hand to help launch the book in the United States were Librarian of Congress James Billington and Kennan Institute Director Blair A. Ruble.

On April 7, at a meeting of the Ukrainian Art and Literary Club of New York, Dr. Lubomyr Wynar, president of the Ukrainian Historical Association (UHA) and editor-in-chief of the journal *Ukrainiskyi Istoryk* delivered a lecture titled: "In the Service of Clío: Past, Present, Future" in celebration of the UHA's 35th anniversary.

On behalf of Ukraine, Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko accepted a collection of paintings by Volodymyr Vynnychenko, writer, artist and a leading political figure during Ukraine's brief period of independence after World War I, on May 8 at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington. Dr. Oleksa Bilaniuk, president of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S. (UVAN), formally transferred a collection of Vynnychenko paintings, which the academy in New York has held for safekeeping for almost half a century.

Dr. Bilaniuk said that the paintings are being turned over to Ukraine in accordance with the wishes of Mr. Vynnychenko's widow, who stipulated in her will that his archives be transferred to Ukraine after it becomes a truly independent country. The academy, through the work of its Vynnychenko Committee and its chairman, Hryhoriy Kostiuk, has published a number of books from the Vynnychenko archives, which Dr. Bilaniuk presented to Prime Minister Yushchenko along with the statement of transfer of the art collection.

A new slate of officers was elected at the annual meeting of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) May 20 in New York. Dr. Larissa M.L. Onyshkevych was elected president; Prof. Roman Andrushkiw, first vice-president; Dr. Sviatoslav Trofimenko, second vice-president; Dr. Anna Procyk, third vice-president; Dr. Vasyl Markus, fourth vice-president.

The Ukrainian American Association of University Professors (UAAUP) in October elected a new executive board, which includes: President Assya Humesky (University of Michigan Ann Arbor); Vice-Presidents Lubomyr Wynar (Kent State University), Vsevolod Isajiw (University of Toronto) and Yaroslav Bilinsky (University of Delaware); and Secretary-Treasurer Myron Melnyk (Kent State University).

2000: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

A look at the cultural scene: from art to the theater

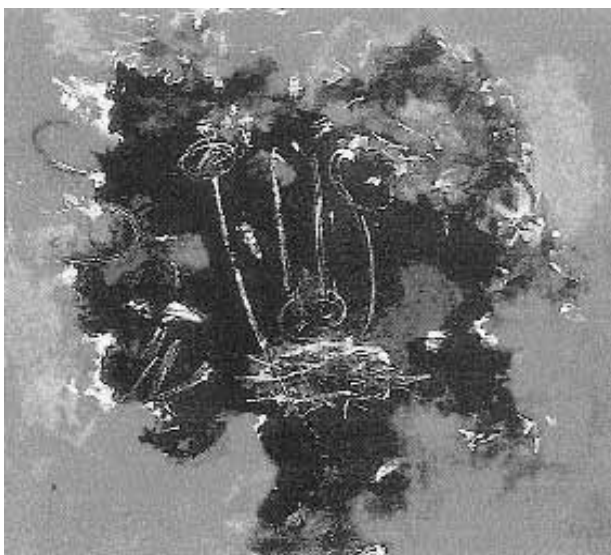
The arts scene, as it was covered in The Weekly, has been rich and varied in this first year of the new millennium. Among the highlights of the year were the following, listed by category.

Art

- Paintings and drawings by Vasyl Hryhorovych Krychevsky (1873-1952), originator of a native modern expression in architecture, as well as key instigator of a native arts and crafts movement in Ukraine, were exhibited at The Ukrainian Museum in New York from December 5, 1999 to March 26, 2000.

- Five luminous paintings by the 19th century Ukrainian artist Maria Bashkirtseva (1860-1884), a member of the Ukrainian aristocracy who studied at the Academie Julian in Paris, were included in a major exhibition "Overcoming All Obstacles: The Women of the Academie Julian" at New York's Dahesh Museum from mid-January to May 13.

- Bold geometric oils by artist Arcadia Olenska-Petryshyn (1934-1996) and her major works – oversized renditions of trees, plants and cacti foliage – were shown with a group of oils and life-size painted papier-mache figures created by her younger sister, artist/journalist/publicist Chrystya Olenska (1941-1979), at the Ukrainian Institute of America on February 12-27.



A work from Jurij Solovij's "Thousand Heads" series, part of a solo exhibit at the Ukrainian Institute of America.

- Large abstract paintings with the texture of ancient mosaics by artist Christina Saj of Bloomfield, N.J., showing contemporary interpretations of Biblical themes, were exhibited at Columbia University's Union Theological Seminary on February 1-25. Ms. Saj also took part in the New Jersey segment of the off-beat summerlong CowParade public art exhibition with the entry "Moon-net at Giverny."

- An exhibit of paintings by Volodymyr Kovalchuk, stage designer originally from Ukraine and currently from Canada, opened at the Ukrainian Institute of America on March 28, concurrent with a reading by Ukrainian American poet and writer Yuriy Tarnawsky, from his book of poems "Yikh Nemaye" (They Don't Exist).

- The work of Jurij Solovij, regarded as the most forceful and singular promoter of modern art among Ukrainian émigré artists after World War II, opened in New York on April 15 at the Ukrainian Institute of America. On view were some 100 paintings, including works from the artist's "Thousand Heads" series.

- Kyiv's Center for Contemporary Art, under the direction of Yuri Onuch, held a series of international exhibitions, among the most successful of which was the Warhol exhibit held May 5 through June 4, with works on loan from the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, marking the first time that the pop art artist's work, who came from a Ruthenian (Ukrainian) immigrant family, were shown in Ukraine.

- Works by Alexandra Exter, the Polish-born artist who founded the Circle group of avant-garde artists in Kyiv in 1914 and organized a studio dedicated to the study of Ukrainian folk embroidery, ornamentation and painting, were included in the Guggenheim Museum's exhibition "Amazons of the Avant-Garde" that opened September 8 and runs through January 7, 2001.

- The work of painter, graphic artist and ceramist Halyna Mazepa (1910-1995) – art pieces deeply imbued with her love for Ukrainian historical, folkloric and literary themes – was exhibited at The Ukrainian Museum in New York from September 17 to November 26.

- "Gold of the Nomads: Scythian Treasures from Ancient Ukraine," the first major exhibition of Scythian art in over 25 years and the first to come to the United States since Ukraine achieved independence, featured objects drawn from four museum holdings in Ukraine as well as excavated finds representing recent discoveries within the last decade. The exhibit was curated by Dr. Ellen D. Reeder, deputy art director of the Brooklyn Museum, with Dr. Gerry Scott III, curator of ancient art at the San Antonio Museum of Art. Contributing essays to the exhibition catalogue were Dr. Lada Onyshkevych of the Walters Art Gallery, with essays from Ukraine by Svitlana Korestka and Olena Pidvysotska. The exhibit was organized by Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore and the San Antonio Museum of Art in Texas. It was shown in San Antonio, at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, in Baltimore and at the Brooklyn Museum; it will be on view the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City and the Grand Palais in Paris next fall.

- In conjunction with the opening of two exhibits in New York featuring Scythian artifacts, Motrja P. Fedorko of the The Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art in San Antonio, Texas, wrote an article for The Ukrainian Weekly (December 17 issue) comparing the two overlapping exhibits: "The Golden Deer of Eurasia: Scythian and Sarmatian Treasures from the Russian Steppes," which opened at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on December 11, two days before the "Gold of the Nomads" exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum of Art. The Met exhibition included a number of gold objects of Ukrainian origin, loaned to the Met by the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg.

- This year's Easter egg exhibition at The Ukrainian Museum in New York, dedicated to contemporary artisans who have been instrumental in preserving, revitalizing and popularizing the Ukrainian pysanka, ran from April 2 through the end of June and featured the work of Yaroslava Surmach Mills, Luba Perchyshyn, Zenon Elyjiw, Tania Osadca, Sofia Zielyk, Ihor Slabitsky, and Yaroslava Bachynsky and her daughters Romana and Natalka. Demonstrations of batik-style decorating were given at the museum on April 22 by artisans Anna Gbur and Emily Robbins, as well as Sofia Zielyk, who also demonstrated her craft on ABC-TV.

- The John Elder Gallery of Manhattan ran a group show in May that included steel works by artist Christina Shmigel of St. Louis, Mo., showing traditional blacksmithing techniques in non-traditional applications.

- The Ukrainian-Canadian Art Foundation in Toronto, established in 1975 by Mykhajlo and Yaroslava Szafraniuk, celebrated its silver anniversary, marking 25 years of activity in the support and promotion of Ukrainian art in Canada and beyond. The celebration commenced on November 11 with the preview of the "Foundation for the Future" exhibit.

- Ukrainian Brazilian artist Oxana Narozniak participated in the international art exhibition "Progress of the World's Women," which opened at the United Nations on June 5 as part of the U.N. "Women 2000" conference.

- An exhibit covering all periods of New York caricaturist Orest "Gogo" Slupchynskyj's life's work, chronicling the politics, culture and day-to-day life of the post-war Ukrainian diaspora, was exhibited in Washington in November.

- Ukraine's participation in the 49th Venice Biennale, to be held from June 6 to November 4, 2001, was announced by the Ministry of Culture and Arts of Ukraine on September 8, with Evhen Karas, as official government representative, and Yuri Onuch, curator for the presentation. Although Ukrainians have previously exhibited at the Biennale, this will mark the first time that Ukraine will take part officially in the event as an independent country and artists will participate as Ukrainians.

Dance

- Modern dancer/choreographer Katja Pylyshenko Kolcio of New York premiered a new work "Bread With Honey: An Evening of Dance and Music," combining full-bodied dance movement with live bandura music by Julian Kytasty and electronic effects by Alexander Kytasty, at the Bridge for Dance Studio in New York on January 14, 22 and 29.

- Presenting the music, songs and dances of Central and Eastern Europe, including Ukraine, from August to May, the Duquesne University Tamburitzans were assist-

ed during the 2000-2001 season by seven performers of Ukrainian descent – Jessica Craig, Justin Greenwald, Matt Haritan, Dana Holmshek, John R. Sergeant, Elizabeth Skalyo and Michael Weigand.

- The ALLNATIONS Dance Company, with Sophia Janusz Pachecano, associate director, included four Ukrainians in its international make-up. Dancers Andrij Cybyk of New York, Anna Mikhaylenko of Kharkiv and Ganna Makarova of Odesa performed in a concert in New York on October 21.

- "Ancestral Voices," a bilingual (Ukrainian-English) dance-theater piece based on Ukrainian poetry and folk songs, directed by Michael Flohr, premiered at INSIDE art gallery in Cleveland on June 29.

- Maxim Belotserkovsky, Irina Dvorovenko and Vladimir Malakhov, American Ballet Theatre's trio of principal dancers from Ukraine, who were highly praised by critics during the ABT spring season at the Metropolitan Opera House, won glowing accolades during the fall engagement at City Center in November. Reviewers also pointed to the work of ABT corps de ballet member Vladislav Kalinin and composer Dmitry Polischuk, who wrote the score for Robert Hill's ballet "Baroque Game."

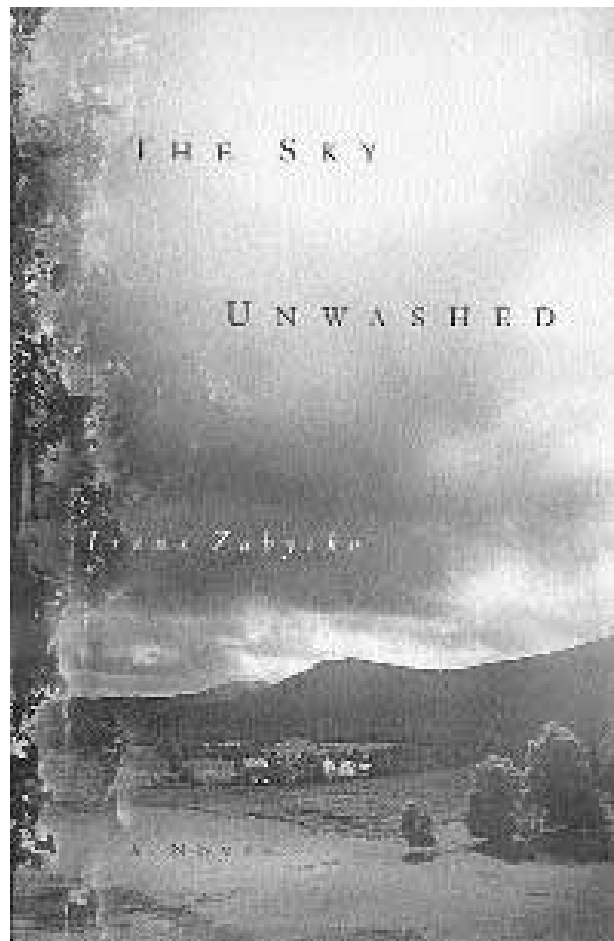
- The Dance Theater of Harlem gave several critically acclaimed performances in September of the highly popular "Firebird" Suite choreographed for the company in 1980 by John Taras, associate artistic director of American Ballet Theatre (now retired). Mr. Taras shared the position of balletmaster of the New York City Opera with George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins from 1960 and later rejoined ABT.

- JulieDance, a non-profit charitable organization, based in Midland Park, N.J., co-sponsored three special children's cancer benefit performances with the internationally acclaimed Donetsk Ballet from Ukraine in New Jersey in December.

Literature

- "The Selected Poems of Oleh Lysheha," a book translated into English by Mr. Lysheha and Dr. James Brasfield, and published by Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute Press, was this year's winner of the prestigious PEN Literary Award for Poetry in Translation. Presentation of the award was held May 15 at the Walter Reade Theater at Lincoln Center in New York.

- First-generation Ukrainian American author Irene Zabytko's critically acclaimed first novel, "The Sky Unwashed," a poignant story of villagers who defied the forced evacuation of their town after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, was nominated for the American Library Association's notable books of the year group and selected for Barnes & Noble's "Discover Great New Authors" series. The book, which was reviewed by The New York Times, The Chicago Tribune and the Denver Post,



Bookcover of Irene Zabytko's critically acclaimed novel depicting life in the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

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appeared as a publication of Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, N.C. and in Canada by Thomas Allen & Son Ltd.

- Larissa Szporluk's collection of short lyric poems "Isolato" was awarded the Iowa Poetry Prize for 1999 by the University of Iowa Press.

- Two of Ukraine's prominent contemporary writers – Yuri Vynnychuk and Yuri Andrukhovych, in the United States as writer-in-residence and Fulbright scholar, respectively, at Penn State University – did readings from their works in a bilingual program held in Toronto (October 14) and in Philadelphia (November 19) in an evening titled "Literaturnyi Mist: Ukraina-Ameryka," which also featured Prof. Michael Naydan of Penn State University, translator of the works of both authors into English, and actor Michael Bernosky, in scenes from recent English-language translations of both authors' prose works. The writers also appeared in engagements at Columbia University and the Shevchenko Scientific Society in New York.



New York City Opera diva Oksana Krovtytska.

- The Fulbright-Margolin writing prize for Ukrainian authors, the first of its kind, was established as part of the Fulbright scholarship program between Ukraine and the United States, beginning in the 2000 academic year. The award is meant to encourage and support the growth of a new generation of Ukrainian writers and intellectuals, improve relations between the literary and critical communities in Ukraine and the United States, and provide an impetus for the publication and discussion of outstanding works from Ukraine in both countries. The \$20,000 award will be made each year and will alternate between the categories of fiction and non-fiction; it is to be awarded by the Fulbright Office in Kyiv, with an essential component of the award to be undertaken in the United States.

Music: choirs

- Celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding, the Dumka Chorus of New York presented a concert of Ukrainian classics and folk music under the direction of Vasyl Hrechynsky in the Cooper Union's Great Hall on April 9. Volodymyr Grishko, a soloist at the Metropolitan Opera and Kyiv's National Opera of Ukraine, was guest artist.

- Toronto's award-winning Vesnivka choir, under the direction of founding conductor Halyna Kvitka Kondracki, took part in the Canadian Broadcast Corp. Choral Competition in February, traveled in July to Linz, Austria, where it won the silver medal in the first Choral Olympics, and performed a series of concerts in the Czech Republic.

- The famed Veriovka troupe of Kyiv, under the direction of Anatoly Avdyevsky, a folk-oriented collective that combines choral singing, dancing and instrumental music as part of its repertoire, went on its second cross-country tour of the United States with stops in Canada this fall, winning great favor with audiences and critics across the country. Unlike the earlier tour in 1996, which included compositions by Russian composers, this production was an all-Ukrainian creation.

Music: concerts

- The "Music at the Institute" series at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York, Mykola Suk, artistic director, opened with the concert "Ukrainian Themes in

Western Music," with Wendy Waller, Juliana Osinchuk, Serhiy Kryvonos, Natalia Khoma and the Laurentian String Quartet; followed by "Piano Works for One, Two, Three, Four, Five & Six Hands," with Jerome Lowenthal, Carmel Lowenthal, and Mr. Suk; "Anthologies – Johannes Brahms: Sonatas for Violin and Piano," with Yuri Mazurkevich, violin, and Volodymyr Vynnytsky, piano; "Concert of Chamber Music," with Norma Fisher and Mr. Suk, piano, and the Vanguard Chamber Players; "Iryna Arbatska and Oleksander Havrylyuk: First Prize Winners of the Third International Piano Competition in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz (Kyiv, 1999)," "The New York Vocal Arts Ensemble," concluding with "The Kipnis-Kushner Duo."

- The 18th summer season of the Music and Art Center of Greene County, with Dr. Ihor Sonevytsky, music director, and Volodymyr Vynnytsky, artist-in-residence, featured a stellar cast of musicians at this summer's concert series held at the Grazhda in Jewett Center, N.Y.: Natalia Khoma, cello; Volodymyr Vynnytsky, piano; Alexander Slobodyanik and Larysa Krupa, piano; Anna Bachynska, soprano, and Roman Tsybala, tenor; Solomia Soroka, violin; Myroslav Skoryk, composer; and Marianna Vynnytsky, singer/vocalist.

- Myroslav Skoryk's Concerto No. 3 for Piano and Symphony Orchestra, as performed by Volodymyr Vynnytsky and the Livonia Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Volodymyr Schesiuk, had its world premiere on May 13 in Michigan and was also performed with the Scottsdale Symphony Orchestra, with Messrs. Schesiuk and Vynnytsky, on October 30 - November 1 in Arizona.

- The German-based composer/cellist Dorian Rudnytsky's "Costa Blanca Suite," a composition for violoncello and orchestra in three movements, premiered in Spain on April 19 for the bicentennial celebration of the Spanish coastal towns of Altea and Calpe that it celebrated.

- Adrian Bryttan led the New Jersey Youth Symphony in a unique performance of Act I from Wagner's "Die Walküre" on May 13 at Rutgers University's Nicholas Auditorium, earning plaudits for the performance in Classical New Jersey and from the Wagner Society of New York.

- The Washington Group's Cultural Fund, in cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine, launched a series of benefit concerts, starting October 3, at the Rosslyn Spectrum Theater in Arlington, Va., with the aim of raising funds for the procurement of musical instruments for the Lviv Conservatory. Among performers this season were pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky and musicians from the Washington Opera Orchestra; violinist Solomiya Ivakhiv and pianist Christina Anum-Doroshenko; and cellist Natalia Khoma and Mr. Vynnytsky.

Music: performers

- Pianist Vitaliy Samoshko was on a world concert tour as laureate of the 1999 Queen Elizabeth International Music Competition of Belgium, making his New York debut at The Metropolitan Museum on March 6.

- Cellist Natalia Khoma and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky performed in New York's Steinway Hall on



Bass Stefan Szkafarowsky.



World-renowned Ukrainian pianist Lubka Kolessa, as portrayed on CD cover produced by DoReMi as part of the label's Legendary Treasures series.

June 22 as part of a televised concert series featuring 12 artists to be broadcast in Japan.

- Concert pianist Roman Rudnytsky, as part of his global tour, was on a concert tour of West Africa, where he gave nine recitals in six countries of the Francophone area under the sponsorship of the U.S. embassies in those countries.

Music: opera

- New York City Opera diva Oksana Krovtytska gave a concert at the Ukrainian Institute of America on May 21 to benefit the Institute's Crown Jewel Endowment Fund and the Daria Hoydysh Endowment for the Arts, offering music by Ukrainian composers as well as sonnets and arias that included Cio-Cio San's entrance aria from "Madama Butterfly," her starring City Opera vehicle for four seasons. This summer Ms. Krovtytska sang concerts at the Renata Scotto Festival in San Remo and Albissola on the Italian Riviera, followed by a fall engagement in Montreal where she sang the leading role in Janacek's "Katya Kabanova," for which she received glowing reviews. Among her other appearances were with the Colorado and Flagstaff symphonies, as well as performances with the Florentine Opera in Milwaukee and the Palm Beach Opera in Florida.

- Bass Stefan Szkafarowsky, who has emerged as one of America's important artists, performed this year at leading venues around the globe, including performances in Verdi's "Aida" with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center Opera Hall on March 17 and 19.

- Baritone Oleh Chmyr appeared in solo recital at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall in a program of European vocal miniatures, with Volodymyr Vynnytsky at the piano, on May 30.

- Michael Didyk, leading tenor of the National Opera of Ukraine, made his New York debut in November with four appearances as the Duke of Mantua in the New York City Opera production of Verdi's "Rigoletto" and was commended by The New York Times' Bernard Holland for "the most confident Verdian style."

Music: jazz

- The "Chicago Jazz and Blues" festival performance, presented as part of the Kyiv Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program's musical exchange for the annual Kyiv Days festival held May 24-29, featured renowned Chicago artists, the Orbert Davis Quintet and Lynne Jordan and the Shivers, who performed three concerts in Kyiv, including an outdoor concert for 500,000 fans that garnered nationwide television, radio and print coverage.

- Canadian-born jazz virtuoso John Stetch, whose style and compositions have been described as post-Bop with classical influences, debuted his sixth CD "Heaven of a Hundred Days" with a three-man band at the Greenwich House Music School in Manhattan on October 19 before leaving for concerts in Philadelphia and Washington and a cross-Canada solo tour. Mr. Stetch was recently named to the Steinway Artists roster.

Recordings, publications

- The performances of world-renowned Ukrainian pianist, Lubka Kolessa (1902-1997), were issued in a three-CD set titled "Lubka Kolessa Legacy" by the Doremi firm of Toronto as part of the label's Legendary Treasures series.

- Artem Vedel: Divine Liturgy and 12 Sacred Choral Concerti," the first published edition of the composer's (1767-1808) autographed manuscript, came out as a result of the efforts of the Ukrainian Music Society of

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Alberta and the Friends of the Vedel Project in Toronto. A book launch for the publication was held November 12 in Edmonton.

- A cassette commemorating the legacy of tenor Clemens Andrijenko (1885-1967) was reissued by the singer's daughter, pianist and educator Kalena C. Andrienko of Munich, Germany, from discs cut in the years 1927-1956.

- The 40th anniversary of the death of Roman Sawycky Sr. (1907-1960), prominent western Ukrainian pianist of his generation, teacher and co-founder of the Ukrainian Music Institute of America, was marked in western Ukraine on January 22 with a special broadcast dedicated to his life and work.

- A new recording by Winnipeg-based singer Alexis Kochan and her ensemble Paris to Kyiv, titled "Prairie Nights and Peacock Feathers," was released on October 5, with a concert at Winnipeg's Pantages Playhouse Theater.

- New York's Experimental Bandura Trio of Michael Andrec, Julian Kytasty and Jurij Fedynsky debuted the trio's first CD featuring bandura music from Shtokalko to Stockhausen with a March 29 concert in the loft apartment of Tom O'Horgan, producer of the ground-breaking Broadway shows "Hair" and "Jesus Christ Superstar."

Photography

- An exhibit of 150 rare photographs by Tania D'Avignon showing contemporary life in Ukraine – landscapes, portraits, patriotic scenes in Kyiv, Chernobyl devastation, Carpathian village festivities – was held at the Ukrainian Institute of America from June 10 to 18.

- A monthlong exhibit of the photographs by Wilton S. Tift on Ukraine and Ukrainians was on display at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station, Texas, as part of the "Ukraine: Its Traditions and Culture" event held at the library on November 4.

Theater

- Virlana Tkacz's Yara Arts Group staged two new theatrical works at the La Mama Experimental Theater in New York: "Circle," in April, a piece which in expressing the Buryat notion that the spirit is constantly with us, blends East-meets-West idealism, Buryat performance styles and Mongolian throat singing; and, premiering on December 21, Yara's 10th theater piece "Song Tree," based on ancient pre-Christian winter songs (koliadky and schedrivky), in which mythical spirits descend on a woman who has buried herself in work and science. The latter was a joint collaboration of Yara Arts Group and artists from Ukraine, with video by Andrea Odezynska and music by Maryana Sadovska, Yaryna Turianska and Eugene Hutz.

Broadway shows, musicals

- Jeremy Kushnier, star of the now-defunct Broadway show "Footloose," was one of the leads in a new musical "The Rhythm Club," playing in Washington and scheduled for Broadway in February 2001.

- Singer/dancer/actress Christina Pawl (Pawlyshyn), who appeared for two years in the Tony Award-winning production of "Cabaret," switched from Broadway to Greek tragedy to perform in Denver as a member of the chorus in Sir Peter Hall's production of the Greek myth "Tantalus," a monumental work presented in 10 new plays with drama, music and dance.

Film/video

- The French film "Est-Ouest," set in Kyiv and Odesa and featuring Ukrainian actor Bohdan Stupka in a supporting role, was nominated for an Oscar in the Best Foreign Film category.

- During the Academy Awards presentations on March 26, telecast by ABC, the Motion Picture Academy paid tribute to the late Hollywood director Edward Dmytryk.

- Actor Bohdan Stupka of Kyiv (currently Ukraine's Minister of Culture), portrayed Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky, leader of the Zaporozhian Host, in the Polish film production "With Fire and Sword," which was screened throughout the United States, including at the Ukrainian Institute of America in April. The film, based on the novel by Henryk Sienkiewicz, depicts the Kozak-Polish conflict that began in 1648 as a typical Kozak uprising but turned into a war of the Ukrainian populace against the Polish Commonwealth.

- The world premiere of "Undeclared," a film that depicts the life of Gen. Roman Shukhevych (Taras Chuprynka), the legendary commander of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) in guerrilla battles with both the Soviet and the Nazi forces in western Ukraine during the



Actress Vera Farmiga.

second world war and into the 1950s, was held in Kyiv on November 11. The film is directed by Oles Yanchuk, with the well-known Ukrainian-born Montreal-based actor and director Hryhoriy Hladiy in the role of Shukhevych.

- The documentary film "Between Hitler and Stalin – Ukraine in World War II," directed and produced by Washington-based international television broadcaster Slavko Nowytski and sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center, entered the work print phase this spring in Toronto.

- New Jersey-born Vera Farmiga, who started an acting career three years ago in Broadway and Off-Broadway productions and starred as a Celtic warrior in the television series "Roar," was featured this year in the movies "Autumn in New York" with Richard Gere and "The Opportunists" with Christopher Walken. She co-stars in four major productions scheduled for release in 2001 – "Fifteen Minutes" with Robert De Niro and Edward Burns, "Dummy" with Adrien Brody and Milla Jovovich and "Dust" with Joseph Fiennes and Adrian Lester, as well as ABC-TV's new interpretation of the classic tale "Snow White."

Television and entertainment industry

- Martha Stewart's popular CBS morning show featured a segment on Ukrainian paska making on April 17, with Ukrainian culinary expert Lubow Wolynetz of the Ukrainian Museum of the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Stamford, Conn., and The Ukrainian Museum of New York, and Cecilia Daciuk of the Stamford Seminary.

- The Canadian/Ukrainian co-production "Virsky – The Spirit of Ukraine," produced by Toronto KINOFILM studio, Myroslava Oleksiuk-Baker, producer/director, aired on September 7 and 8 in Toronto on public broadcast channel WNET, the premiere arts-oriented TV channel, to launch its annual fall membership drive.

- A television series on the Ukrainian diaspora, part of the extended video film festival "Our Blossom – Across the World" on the same subject, was broadcast on the Ukrainian government network UT-1. The program, "Foundations," hosted by Khrystyna Stebelska, was a presentation of submissions by the Ukrainian diaspora as well as archival material of the Soviet era. The series was developed by the Institute of Diaspora Studies, chaired by Ihor Vynnychenko.

Fashion/design

- Top Versace model Richard Gladys, 25, whose face and figure appear in top fashion magazines around the world, was selected No. 5 of the 25 Top Male Models by models.com, placing him among the male models who rule the current campaign, editorial and advertising market. Mr. Gladys is affiliated with ID Model Management of Manhattan.

- Backed by 18 years' experience as a designer and merchandiser for several distinguished firms, Stefan Hankewycz of Bayside, N.Y., opened his own company – Stefano Peruzzi Inc. – to create and sell top-quality Italian-made leather apparel and accessories.

- Ukrainian American designers Renata Bokalo and Roman Luba and their associate Stephanie Pesakoff chose Manhattan's trendy Meatpacking District for the site of their new Auto boutique, offering the work of several hand-picked designers. The new boutique received attention in more than a dozen New York publications, including The New York Times.

- Ukrainian Canadian artist John Jaciw's design of a new 25-cent coin, titled "Ingenuity," was selected, as one in a series of that denomination, by the Royal Canadian Mint in a ceremony held on February 4.

Ukrainian sports calendar: doings around the globe

Olympic competition was the highlight of the year 2000 in sports. To be more precise, it was the XXVII Summer Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia, held on September 15.

Four months prior to the beginning of those Games, Ukraine looked poised to match its 1996 overall performance in Atlanta, where the Ukrainian team took 23 medals, nine of them gold, and achieved a very respectable ninth place in the medal standings.

The Sydney contingent was the first Ukrainian squad whose talents had been nurtured since national independence in 1991. "These are athletes who for the most part grew up in an independent Ukraine and have received their training in the system that Ukraine has developed," said Volodymyr Kulyk, an advisor to President Leonid Kuchma and longtime member of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine. The Olympic team's 239 athletes competed in 26 sports.

Although it was a youthful squad, the Sydney team had some veteran athletes to provide guidance, insight and stability. Serhii Bubka, the 36-year-old superstar pole-vaulter, who has attended more Games than almost any of the athletes who gathered in Sydney, again captained the Ukrainian team as he did in Atlanta in 1996, when he carried the Ukrainian flag into the Olympic Stadium during the opening ceremonies.

Heading the Ukrainian delegation was Vasyl Zabroda, chief of mission of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine (NOCU). Mr. Zabroda is also Ukraine's vice minister for sports. The official attaché of the NOCU was Roman Dechnicz, a Sydney-based lawyer who chaired the Australian Friends of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine (AFNOCU), the local community's vehicle for supporting Ukraine's participation. The Ukrainian delegation was supported by some 30 accredited volunteers from the Ukrainian Australian community who underwent official training through the Sydney Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG).

From a Ukrainian Australian community perspective, Mr. Dechnicz noted that the level of enthusiasm among the small local community is strong. "Over the last three years our community has tried to play a positive role in terms of securing training venues, organizing pre-Olympic logistics, and providing financial and human resources. It's great to see it coming to fruition when you walk into the [Olympic] Village and see the flag flying," Mr. Dechnicz said.

On the weekend of September 8-10, the Ukrainian Australian community held a major Ukrainian Olympic Festival in Albury-Wodonga. Organized by the



Serhii Bubka, enjoying one of his past triumphs.

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Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations, the festival's program included an official dinner for athletes and officials, flag-raising ceremonies with municipal officials and the broader local community, cultural displays and concerts, and church services. On September 14 some 500 members of the local community greeted their Ukrainian visitors and athletes with the traditional bread and salt at the Ukrainian Youth Hall in the suburb of Lidcombe, the base of Sydney's Ukrainian Australian community, only two kilometers from Olympic Park.

Ukraine's Yana Klochkova ruled the pool on September 16 when she won Ukraine's first gold medal at the Sydney Olympic Games, smashing the old world record, which had stood since 1997, and the old Olympic record, which had stood since 1980, and turning in a time of 4:33.59 in the 400-meter individual medley. Three days later the 18-year-old swimmer from Kharkiv captured Ukraine's second gold by winning the 200-meter individual medley, setting a new Olympic record with a time of 2:10.68. On September 22 she took silver in the women's 800-meter freestyle. Among Ukraine's men swimmers, Denis Sylantiev of Zaporizhia Oblast led the way with a silver medal in the 200-meter butterfly, with a time of 1:55.76.

Ukraine's men's cycling team of Oleksander Symonenko, Serhii Matveyev, Oleksander Fedenko and Serhii Cherniavskiy captured the silver medal in the team pursuit competition on September 19 with a time of 4:04.520. World champion track cyclist Iryna Yanovych won the bronze medal in the women's sprint on September 20.

In gymnastics, one of the sports in which Ukraine was expected to field strong teams, the men's squad composed of Oleksander Beresh, Oleksander Svitlychnyi, Roman Zozulia, Valerii Honcharov, Valerii Pereshkura and Ruslan Mezentsev, on September 18 won the silver medal – a medal that was particularly gratifying as it represented a victory over the Russian team, which earned the bronze. Two days later, Ukraine's top male gymnast, Mr. Beresh of Kherson Oblast, won the bronze in the individual all-around competition. Ukraine's women did not fare as well, as the team finished in sixth place.

Ukraine's third bronze of the Games came on September 20 in judo, in the men's middleweight (90 kg) group, as Ruslan Mashurenko, who hails from Volyn Oblast, tied for third place in the event with Frenchman Frederic Demontfaucon. Ukraine earned its fourth silver medal on September 21 thanks to the fine work of the archery team of Olena Sadovnycha of Kyiv Oblast, Kateryna Serdiuk of Kharkiv Oblast and Natalia Burdeina of Odesa Oblast.

Mykola Milchev of Odesa shot perfect 25s in all five

rounds of the skeet shooting competition to win gold on September 23 by one shot over Petr Malek of the Czech Republic. The experienced Mr. Milchev's performance equaled the current world record for the event.

In trampoline – an event debuting at the Sydney Olympics – 27-year-old Oksana Tsyhuliova won a silver medal on September 22.

Triple jumper Olena Hovorova turned in a personal best on September 24 to win bronze in that event. Another jumper, Roman Schurenko, earned bronze in the long jump competition on September 28.

At the diving pool on September 23 longtime partners from Zaporizhia, Hanna Sorokina, 24, and Olena Zhupina, 27, took bronze in synchronized 3-meter springboard diving. The pair had previously held the title of European champions in the event.

Ukraine's Davyd Soldadze delivered silver in Greco-Roman wrestling (97 kg class) on September 26; Yevhen Buslovych took a silver medal in the 58-kilogram freestyle wrestling competition on October 1.

In sailing, where Ukraine's chances of medaling were promising, the duo of Ruslana Taran and Olena Pakholchuk won bronze in the 470 class.

Ukraine's young Olympic boxers joined the Klychko brothers, Volodymyr and Vitalii, on the world's boxing stage with a surprise haul of two silver and three bronze medals. With five medals, Ukraine's fighters surpassed all expectations and strongly improved on their previous international record, placing in nearly half of the boxing competition's weight categories. In so doing they became the main contributors to Ukraine's overall medal count at the Sydney Games.

In the 60-kilogram category, Andrii Kotelnik made it a contest for the heavily favored Cuban boxer, Mario Kindelan, but ultimately went down by a score of 14-4 in the gold medal bout. Mr. Kotelnik, 23, is the 1999 European champion. In the 67-kilogram category, Serhii Dotsenko fought a tenacious bout against Oleg Saitov of Russia in the gold medal decider. Ultimately, Mr. Dotsenko lost on points, 24-16, to the defending gold medalist and world champion. In the 51-kilogram category, Volodymyr Sydorenko shared the bronze with Frenchman Jerome Thomas. In the 54-kilogram category, Serhii Danylchenko took bronze in a tie with American Clarence Vinson. In the 81-kilogram category, Andrii Fedchuk took bronze jointly with Sergei Mihailov of Uzbekistan.

Team Ukraine completed the Olympics with three gold medals, 10 silver and 10 bronze, for a total of 23 medals. Boxers led the way with five medals (two silver and three bronze), followed by the swimmers with four (two gold and two silver). The performance by Ukraine's delegation met one of the targets set by the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine (NOCU): win-

ning a total of 20 to 25 medals. However, the NOCU's other target of a top-10 finish based on gold medals was not met (the official Olympic tally is based only on gold medals, not all medals). Ukraine finished 21st overall, and the mood in the Ukrainian camp as the Olympic Games came to a close was one of general disappointment. As one official put it: "We won a reasonable number of medals, but we lost many more opportunities."

In general, Ukraine's medals at the Sydney Games were taken by rising stars, while many established athletes did not meet the test. For example, most of Ukraine's previous and current world champions – including Mr. Bubka in men's pole vault, Inga Babakova in women's high jump, Zhanna Pintusevych in women's sprint, Denys Gotfrid in weightlifting, Elbrus Tadeyev in freestyle wrestling, Olena Vitrychenko in rhythmic gymnastics and Serhii Holubyskyi in men's fencing – failed to place.

Our man in Sydney, Peter Shmigel reported:

"Beyond Yana Klochkova in the pool, Ukraine's moments of sporting glory were generally limited. Ukraine won only three gold medals, finished 21st on the official overall tally list (based on the number of gold medals won), and choked in traditionally strong sports such as track and field. And, its key contenders for placings simply did not deliver. Now Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko is publicly questioning the performance and looking for some explanations. He might well do so.

"... anybody with their eyes open at such a close distance would have noticed some characteristics peculiar to Ukraine's Olympic experience in Sydney. ... There was simply no strategy or plan for Team Ukraine. On an overall basis, or day to day, and despite the pleading of the Australian Friends of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, the management of the delegation was ad hoc and disorganized. ... There was little effort to motivate or positively reinforce the athletes. Athletes seemed to have second-class citizen status in the context of the overall delegation. Those in first class were the senior members of the administrative committee and their various cronies – many of whom trace their generally bureaucratic careers well back into the Soviet era. Athletes' concerns were summarily dismissed and their victories perfunctorily marked with a certificate and a handshake.

"... The discipline and morale levels of some teams within the delegation were low. Aside from their training sessions, many athletes drifted around aimlessly with no information and no structure from their administrators and/or trainers. Track and field particularly stood out. The opposite was true for teams such as the boxers, and their unprecedented performance tells a story. The demeanor of other national delegations – upbeat, positive and committed – served as a stark contrast. ... The primary concern of the delegation's leadership was pecuniary. Countless hours were spent by some members of the administrative committee organizing cars to head for beaches, dinners and shopping excursions. ... The few genuinely committed members of the administrative committee – who tended to be younger, educated and female – were treated poorly."

Mr. Bubka, considered the greatest pole vaulter ever, had announced in June that he would retire after the Sydney Olympics. The 36-year-old phenom had resumed full training three months prior to that, after undergoing tendon surgery for the second time in three years. Mr. Bubka said he was working hard to be in his best form for the Olympics. He won his sixth consecutive world title in 1997 after missing 10 months of competition due to an Achilles' tendon injury that has plagued him for several years.

At the conclusion of the Sydney Games he was elected as an athlete representative to the International Olympic Committee. Polling took place during the Olympics with all participating athletes eligible to cast a ballot. As Mr. Bubka's election was announced at the closing ceremony of the Games, he and the other elected athletes were asked to march onto the main dais. The record-breaking pole vaulter's name was the first to be read during the ceremony, and the announcement was greeted with much enthusiasm.

Ukraine's soccer players also were in the news this year, but mostly for the wrong reasons. A sports "Notebook" column published on May 9 in The New York Times, headlined "From Ukraine, with skill," reported: "Practically the only exports these days from the nations of the former Soviet Union are world-class athletes. That is a situation that is not likely to change, particularly with the top club in Ukraine, Dynamo Kiev [sic]." The article went on to point out that Kyiv had



Olympic champion swimmer Yana Klochkova is presented the Princess Olha medal by President Leonid Kuchma. Verkhovna Rada Chairman Ivan Plushch is seen in the background during the official ceremony in Kyiv on October 6, 2000.

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already sold its international defender Oleh Luzhny to Arsenal of the English Premier League and striker Andriy Shevchenko to A.C. Milan in Italy for a \$25 million transfer fee, and noted that Dynamo's top scorer, striker Serhii Rebrov, might soon wind up with Tottenham, Milan or Arsenal. Ultimately, Rebrov went to Tottenham.

Dynamo President Hryhorii Surkis told *The Times*: "Right now it's natural for our players to want to leave. ... For us to ever be able to import players is not so simple. I compare Ukraine to a desert where a tree finds it hard to grow. We don't only want mediocre players. A star player is like a tree, and that tree will find our country to be a desert."

In other Dynamo news, under the direction of Coach Valerii Lobanovsky, the club played extremely well in the European Champions League before being eliminated in the second round of group play. Playing against FC Bayern Munich during the Group C Champions League soccer match at the Olympic stadium in Kyiv on March 22, Kyiv won the match 2-0, but failed to reach the Champions League quarterfinals. Dynamo failed to progress from group C after Real Madrid defeated Rosenborg Trondheim to reach the last eight on the strength of a better head-to-head record against Kyiv.

"We did what we could against Bayern, but unfortunately it wasn't enough," Dynamo Assistant Coach Oleksii Mykhailychenko told Reuters. "We have been playing real well lately, taking 10 points from four matches after the winter break, but those points we lost last autumn will haunt us now."

Earlier in the year Mr. Lobanovsky, 61, former "national" team coach of the USSR in the 1970s and 1980s, had agreed in principle to manage the Ukrainian national soccer team, replacing Josef Szabo who had resigned following a loss to Slovenia in qualifying for the European Championships. The Ukrainian national team began its World Cup 2002 qualifying group matches in autumn.

The president of the Ukrainian Football Federation (UFF) Valerii Pustovoitenko announced on August 11 that he would not seek re-election when his term expired the following week. Mr. Pustovoitenko, who had resigned as prime minister of Ukraine in December 1999, faced a severe criticism in the country's media after Ukraine's failure to reach the Euro 2000 soccer finals. Mr. Surkis, the powerful boss of Dynamo Kyiv, was elected to take over the UFF reigns. Mr. Surkis, Mr. Pustovoitenko's main adversary and his chief critic, then resigned from his other position as president of the Ukrainian Professional Football League.

Two Ukrainians continued to make their mark in boxing during 2000.

World Boxing Organization heavyweight champion Vitalii Klychko (or Klitschko, as his name often appears in the news media) lost his title on April 1 in a bout in Berlin against American Chris Byrd. Telecast by HBO, it was Mr. Klychko's third title defense; he entered the contest with a record of 27 knockouts in 27 fights. Byrd, the 1992 Olympic silver medalist, had a record of 31-1. Mr. Klychko stopped fighting in the 10th round of the 12-round contest after a shoulder injury became so aggravated that he could not continue.

According to the Associated Press, Mr. Klychko said: "It had pain since the third round. I hit with heavy pain." The judges, one German and two Americans, had scored Mr. Klychko as the winner of six of the nine rounds fought. But, when he dropped out, they declared Mr. Byrd the winner. Various news media reported that Mr. Klychko saw his loss as merely a temporary setback and vowed to return and regain his title once his injury had healed.

On July 15, Boxer Volodymyr Klychko – Vitalii's brother – retained his European heavyweight title by scoring a TKO over Monte Barrett in a bout in London. Mr. Klychko knocked Mr. Barrett down three times in the seventh round on the way to a technical knockout at 2:42 of that round.

Volodymyr Klychko won the WBO world heavyweight championship by beating Chrys Byrd of the United States in a bout in Cologne, Germany, on October 14. It was a victory made sweeter by the fact that Mr. Byrd had won the world champion's title over the other Klychko, Vitalii, in April.

There was news in the world of baseball, too. Thanks to Mr. Ukraine Baseball, Basil Tarasko, *The Ukrainian Weekly's* readers learned about the progress Ukraine's baseball teams have made this year.

The first Little League Baseball Country Championship of Ukraine was held in Kyiv on July 1-4. Teams with players age 11 and 12 were invited to com-



The team from Sumy celebrates its victory in the first Little League Championship in Ukraine.

pete at one of six regional sites, with the winners advancing to the finals in Kyiv. The regions were: Western Ukraine (Rivne), Northern (Sumy), Eastern (Donetsk), Crimea (Symferopol), Central (Kirovohrad) and Capital (Kyiv).

Each Little League team in Ukraine had to compete in a regional tournament; the winner of that tournament could form a regional all-star team, or the winning team could advance to the country tournament in Kyiv intact. The winning team in Kyiv would then qualify to represent Ukraine at the European Little League Championships in Poland in early August. The prize for winning the European title was an all-expense-paid trip to Williamsport, Pa., for the Little League World Series in late August.

To raise awareness of the Little League baseball program in Ukraine, the championship game was scheduled for July 4 to coincide with the American Chamber of Commerce festivities in Kyiv, and the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, Steven Pifer, threw out the ceremonial first pitch.

Dozens of fans and parents witnessed the final game between Sumy and Kyiv. The weather cooperated, all the boys wore smiles, the sound of baseballs striking aluminum bats echoed off the apartment buildings on the left bank of Kyiv. Shouts of encouragement motivated the local Kyiv team to play harder, but the team from Sumy was just too strong that day. Final score; Sumy 17, Kyiv 8.

Thus, Team Sumy captured the first Ukraine Little League title.

Next stop: Kutno, Poland. The Sumy team traveled by bus to Poland, to represent Ukraine at the Little League Baseball European Region Tournament on August 5-14. With a 3-1 record – wins against Germany, Nigeria and England and a loss to Romania – Ukraine advanced to the quarterfinal game. The result: Ukraine 1, Poland 10. Poland advanced to the semifinals.

Ukraine finished with a record of 3-2 – just two victories short of the World Series in Williamsport, Pa., which is now expanded to include 16 participating teams instead of eight – as a result of which Europe is entitled to send two teams, instead of one, from its region to the World Series.

In Junior League (age 13-14) news, Ukraine sent a team from Kirovohrad to the Baseball Europe Region Tournament in Kutno, Poland, on July 28 - August 5. After defeating the Netherlands and Bulgaria, and losing to Belgium, England and Russia, Ukraine had a final record of 2-3.

Mr. Tarasko noted: "Little League baseball is growing in popularity in Ukraine. Much more equipment is needed to expand the number of participants. Many Little Leagues in the United States have sent me baseball equipment and have pledged to send even more. All donated baseball equipment is classified as humanitarian aid and is

shipped directly to the National Olympic Committee in Kyiv and distributed to schools, Little League teams, National teams and, in the future, to orphanages."

Ukraine's senior national team competed in the European Championship in Slovakia, in the cities of Bratislava and Trnava on July 31-August 5.

The European Baseball Championships B Pool began in Bratislava, with Ukraine defeating Austria 5-4. In Trnava, Ukraine faced Slovenia, easily winning 12-1. Ukraine then met the host team Slovakia, in front of the largest crowd of the championships – 650. The final score was 18-11, with Ukraine the victor. Poland faced the powerful Ukrainian team in the semifinal game. Ukraine continued to dominate, quietly beating Poland 11-1. The championship game was a rematch with Austria, with Ukraine emerging victorious, 11-2.

Ukraine won this important championship, and now moves on to Bonn, Germany, next summer to compete in the European A Pool Championships. Lithuania captured third place, followed by Poland, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Slovenia and Belarus. The top two finishers in A Pool competition qualify for the next Olympic games.

At the closing ceremonies in Trnava, the Ukrainian national anthem was heard, reminding all that Ukraine was the champion. Ukraine was awarded five out of nine individual awards: Roman Yatsuk, best pitcher, based on wins/losses record; Ihor Chornomaz, most valuable player of the tournament; Vasyl Antoshko, most runs batted in; Mykola Taran, most home runs; and Konstantyn Tarasenko, most runs scored.

Ukrainians in professional hockey during the year 2000 can best be summed up as a continuing work in progress. Despite diminished scoring and the retirement of the NHL's most prolific superstar, Wayne Gretzky, the New Jersey Devils, with veteran Ken Daneyko, capped off an exciting playoff chase by capturing another Stanley Cup.

Some 29 players of Ukrainian descent skated on NHL rinks during both the 1999-2000 and current 2000-2001 seasons. Another 124 pucksters of Ukrainian origin toiled away in professional hockey's seven minor league circuits. To top it all off, the "Great One" proved hockey is truly in his blood when he assumed part ownership of the Phoenix Coyotes.

Work in progress? Witness Mr. Daneyko, two-time Stanley Cup champ with the Devils. Speaking with *The Hockey News*, Mr. Daneyko said: "I had my best season at age 34. I've had a long career and I know what I bring to a team. I feel confident that I'm a better player at this age."

Ukes making progress as professional rink rats? We have our share of proven NHL All-Stars like Keith Tkachuk and Peter Bondra, and up-and-comers Oleg Tvedovsky and Denis Shvidki. Down on the farm, from Maine to Alaska, the roster of Ukrainians spans the full alphabet: from A (Alex Alexeev) to Z (Darius Zabawa).

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AP/David Longstreath

Divers Hanna Sorokina and Olena Zhupina compete in synchronized diving finals on September 23, 2000. The pair won the bronze medal at the Olympics.

In between there is a Boh (Aaron), someone Dowhy (Steve), another Gretzky (baby brother Brent), a Huska (Ryan), a Lylyk (David), a Metropolit (Glen), and even a Mucha (Roman).

At the recent league meetings the NHL's Board of Governors unanimously approved the sale of the Phoenix Coyotes to a group that includes Wayne Gretzky. Real estate developer Steve Eilman and Gretzky have until February 15 to close their \$7 million purchase. Among Gretzky's responsibilities will be player personnel decisions and marketing the team.

Sounds like progress on and off the ice!

In other sports news:

- Wayne Gretzky, the soft-spoken superstar who rewrote the NHL's record book (it takes a page and a half in the NHL Record Book 2000 just to list all his records), and who is Ukrainian on his father's side, was in both hockey and philatelic news this year. As the NHL celebrated its 50th All Star Game in Toronto (the site of the first such contest), on February 5, the day before the game, Canada Post issued a special souvenir sheet that depicted six of the sport's greatest players, living and past. The men honored were: Wayne Gretzky, Gordie Howe, Maurice Richard, Doug Harvey, Bobby Orr and Jacques Plante. Round-action vignettes of each of the players appear on square stamps (each denominated 46 cents) in the center of the souvenir sheet. A set of three first-day covers was also prepared for the occasion. Gretzky's stamp appears with that of Gordie Howe, Mr. Gretzky's boyhood idol. The two men also appear on the cachet portion of the cover. It was Mr. Howe's many records that Wayne Gretzky spent his career chasing; in most cases he was able to break the established benchmarks. In all, Mr. Gretzky retired holding or sharing 61 records: 40 for the regular season, 15 for the Stanley Cup championship playoffs, and six for the All Star Game.

- Olympic champions in figure skating Oksana Baiul and Victor Petrenko – still identified as being athletes from Ukraine though both now live and train in the United States – and the specialty comedy duo of Vladimir Besein and Oleksiy Polischuk of Kyiv added their superb talents to the John Hancock Champions on Ice Summer Tour 2000 that covered 34 cities between April 6 and May 27. (Stay tuned for some wonderful news about Ms. Baiul and Mr. Petrenko in 2001.)

- Ukraine's figure skaters placed no higher than seventh at the 2000 World Figure Skating Championships held in late March/early April in Nice, France. Closest to the top in final standings among the championship's four groups – women, men, pairs and ice dancers – were Ukraine's ice dancers Elena Grushina and Ruslan Goncharov, who came in seventh. In the men's group, the best Ukraine could do was 13th place, earned by Vitali Danilchenko. Dmitri Dnitrenko came in 15th. Among women, Elena Liashenko of Ukraine finished 10th and teammate Galina Maniachenko was 21st.

- At the Women's European Artistic Gymnastics Championships that concluded in Paris on May 14, the

Ukrainian national team under head coach Oleg Ostapenko finished second after the Russian team and ahead of world champions Romania. Ukraine's Viktoria Karpenko, considered a leading contender for a medal in Sydney Olympics, won silver in the beam and floor exercises.

- At the DN-Galan track and field meet in Stockholm in August, three Ukrainian women won medals in their respective events: Zhanna Pintusevych Blok took silver in the 100-meter dash, finishing behind Marion Jones; Inga Babakova took silver in the high jump, coming in second to Kajsa Berzvist of Sweden; and Anzhela Balakhanova won gold in the pole vault, beating Stacy Dragila of the United States.

- Stanislav Medvedenko, a 6-foot-10-inch forward and member of the Ukrainian National Basketball Team since 1998, signed a contract on August 15, with the Los Angeles Lakers. Mr. Medvedenko, 21, will become the third Ukrainian player in the NBA, according to the Eastern Economist. He has played pro basketball in Ukraine and Lithuania.

- In November, VeloNews reported on the 2000 World Road Championships held in Plouay, France. The winner: Serhii Honchar, 30, of Ukraine who took home the gold medal with a decisive win over Germany's Michael Rich. Honchar, 30, trains in Italy.

- The Italian Football Federation (FIGC) said on December 1 that it had granted Ukrainian striker Andriy Shevchenko European Union status after heeding an appeal from his club, AC Milan. Mr. Shevchenko has a Ukrainian passport but has been seeking European Union legal status since he arrived in Italy from Dynamo Kyiv at the start of last season. Milan made an appeal on his behalf on the basis of an accord between the governments of Italy and Ukraine. Shevchenko had said that he felt like a second-class citizen in Italy, where clubs are allowed only five non-EU players on their books and a maximum of three non-EU players on the pitch at any one time.

- Olympic champion swimmer Yana Klochkova continued her domination of her signature event – the individual medley – as on December 18 she won the 400-meter medley with a time of 4:35.11 at the European swimming championships in Spain.

- In late December it was announced that Milan's Andriy Shevchenko had finished third in the annual poll by France Football to determine the European Player of the Year 2000. A delighted Mr. Shevchenko said that "I am happy to be third for the second time in a row. Objectively, I couldn't hope to win as Ukraine didn't qualify for Euro 2000, and goals for Milan are not enough. Can I win it in 2001? First, I should help my national team to reach the World Cup finals and should help Milan to win the scudetto or the Champions League." Luis Figo of Real Madrid won first place and France's Zinedine Zidane came second.

Sports in the diaspora

In terms of diaspora sports, the year 2000 also saw Olympic competition – at the 2000 Ukrainian Diaspora Olympiad held July 1-4 in the Philadelphia area, at and near the resort of the Tryzub Ukrainian American Sports Center.

Nearly 500 athletes – ranging in age from elementary school kids to seniors – competed in six sports at and near "Tryzubivka."

The participating organizations included the sports clubs Tryzub-Philadelphia, Chornomorska Sitch-Newark, N.J., Levy (Lions)-Chicago, Chernyk-Detroit, Lviv-Cleveland, Ukrainian Sports Club-New York, Ukraina-Toronto and the Ukrainian Soccer Club-Yonkers, N.Y., as well as the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization. In addition, many independent athletes also competed in individual sports events.

The largest number of athletes – nearly 250 – were registered for the soccer events, which encompassed myriad groups from kids under age 7 to adults over age 30. The next most popular sport in terms of the number of registrants was volleyball. Other sports included swimming, tennis, golf and chess.

The Ukrainian Diaspora Olympiad's events went beyond sports to include a banquet on Saturday evening, July 1, at which the keynote speaker was Ukraine's Vice Prime Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Mykola Zhulynskyi, who brought greetings to the historic sports gathering from President Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko. Dr. Zhulynskyi also presented a certificate of recognition issued by the government of Ukraine to Ihor Chyzowych, president of the Tryzub sports club, who served as chairman of the committee that organized the Ukrainian Diaspora

Olympiad 2000.

During the course of the four-day event Olympiad participants also had an opportunity to relax and socialize at a dance held on the evening of Sunday, July 2. Several performances during the course of the long holiday weekend featured the artistry of the Syzokryli and Voloshky dance troupes, as well as the Oberehy and Lvivian music ensembles.

The Ukrainian Diaspora Olympiad 2000 was the third such mega-meet organized by Ukrainian sports enthusiasts of North America. It is notable that all three were held in the Philadelphia area.

The First Ukrainian American Olympiad, as it was billed, was held in 1936 on Labor Day in Philadelphia. Representatives of various youth clubs in Philadelphia formed an organizing committee to plan and conduct this sports gathering to be held in conjunction with the Fourth Ukrainian Youth Congress. More than 150 Ukrainian youths competed; also participating as guest competitors were some 100 non-Ukrainian athletes.

The second games, dubbed the Ukrainian American Millennium Olympiad and Youth Rally, took place over the Memorial Day weekend in 1988. The Olympiad was held in cooperation with the National Committee to Commemorate the Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine and under the sponsorship of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada. More than 700 athletes participated in diverse sports events.

- The annual ski races of the Carpathian Ski Club (KLC) were held at Ski Windham on March 11. Fifty-six racers from six different states and one from Ukraine competed on the NASTAR-sanctioned course. The races were held at Ski Windham in the Catskills in New York, while the awards banquet was held at nearby Hunter Mountain. Trophies were awarded for the top three places in the six youth divisions. Medals were awarded for all older age brackets.

In addition to these awards, two special trophies were awarded. The transitional trophy, presented to the best all-around skier posting the best time among all age groups and sexes (skiers cannot win this trophy more than once) this year was awarded to Severin B. Palydowycz, who turned in a time of 30.68 in the men's age 35-49 group. A special trophy was awarded to Dr. Valeriy Hrebenuk, consul at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington, who competed in this year's races.

- In the world of Ukrainian tennis, Lesia Bilak, a native of Uzhhorod who arrived in the United States seven years ago to pursue her studies, retained the title of women's national champion at the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK) tennis tournament held over the Labor Day weekend at Soyuzivka in Kerhonkson, N.Y. Ms. Bilak defeated Anne-Marie Shumsky.

In the men's division Andriy Samets of Ukraine, competing for the first time at Soyuzivka, took the men's title by defeating the 1999 champion, Dennis Chorny. In the senior men's group of players over age 35, Dr. George Charuk earned the title with his victory over Adrian Kutko, while among senior men over age 55, George Sawchak succeeded in defending his title by defeating George Petrykewych. In the older senior men's group, Jaroslaw Tymkiw took home the championship trophy by defeating Bohdan Kutko; he also earned the Mary Dushnyck Sportsmanship Trophy.

- At the 44th consecutive USCAK swimming championships held at Soyuzivka on September 2, the Chornomorska Sitch team established a new record by winning the USCAK club championship for the 17th time out of 44. The Tryzub team, which can boast of eight USCAK championships, became the club vice-champions for 2000. The All-Star teams of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) and Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, came in third and fourth, respectively. Competition was held from swimmers in several age groups, ranging from age 10 and under to age 10 and over.

- For the third year in a row Soyuzivka presented an opportunity for golfers to display their competitiveness in the hills of the Catskills of New York State. Golfers came from Canada, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Florida, Connecticut, Massachusetts and, for the first time, from Kyiv, to compete in the four-day event held August 28-September 1 at course in the vicinity of the Ukrainian National Association's resort. Winners of team prizes included: team net – Ihor Zwarycz and Andrej Olexy; team gross – Alex Popovich and Dr. Andy Kuchtaruk; and Blue Ball – foursome of Taras Jaworsky, Paul Masny, Bohdan Puzyk and Dr. Yuriy Charuk. Among individual prizes awarded were: low net – Mr. Zwarycz; and low gross – Mr. Popovich.

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Y2K "noteworthy": diverse people and events

Some of this year's events did not fall under specific categories, but are noteworthy nonetheless. The following are major happenings and achievements in Ukrainian life.

- Gregory Buchai was named honorary consul of Ukraine for Texas, making Ukraine the 73rd country to be represented in the Houston Consular Corps, the second largest consular corps in the United States.

News of his appointment was reported in the Houston Chronicle in spring of this year. But the process actually began three years earlier when Ukrainian Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak met with officers of Ukrainian organizations of Houston to discuss what the local Ukrainian American community could do to help promote Ukraine in Texas.

"I was named to this position because the Ukrainian government wanted to secure a presence in Houston," Mr. Buchai explained, "Ukraine was planning to develop trade relations with the United States and Mexico, and having a foreign trade office in Houston would be advantageous, since Houston is the oil and gas capital of the world and the second largest port in this country."

- Zbigniew K. Brzezinski was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from the Ukrainian Free University on April 13 this year for his scholarly endeavors and efforts in behalf of human rights, world peace and prosperity. Dr. Brzezinski, one of America's leading political scientists and strategists, has been championing Ukraine's cause for more than 40 years.

The presentation took place during a special ceremony at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington. There Dr. Brzezinski recounted the important role the Ukrainian Free University and the diaspora played in preserving Ukraine's national consciousness and Western identity through the years of Soviet rule.

"When Ukrainians ask themselves how they would like to see Ukraine in 20 years," Dr. Brzezinski said, "I hope most Ukrainians both realize and yearn that the answer be clear: Ukraine in the European Union, Ukraine in the Atlantic Alliance."

- There were over 300 people at the Bush Foundation's inaugural ethnic day on November 4 at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station, Texas. Dubbed "Ukraine: Its Traditions and Culture," the event featured cultural displays, demonstrations, performances and entertainment.



Dr. Zbigniew K. Brzezinski speaks after receiving an honorary doctor of laws degree from the Ukrainian Free University.

The highlight of the day's events was a panel discussion of dignitaries and experts, among them, Ambassador Kostyantyn Gryshchenko; Roman Popadiuk, executive director of the Bush foundation; Gregory Buchai, honorary consul for Ukraine in Houston; Lt. Cmdr. Heide Stefanyshyn-Piper, NASA mission specialist; Dr. Alexander Litvinchuk, research scientist; and moderator Eugene A. Kuchta. The discussion, slated to last one hour, lasted nearly two hours due to an abundance of questions from the audience.

The afternoon also featured a magnificent display of Ukrainian arts and culture, as well as a pysanka demonstration, photographs of Ukraine and dance and music performances – all provided or arranged by the Ukrainian American Cultural Society of Houston, which this year marked its 25th anniversary, and Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 118 of Houston.

Ambassador Gryshchenko took advantage of the occasion to become acquainted with Houston. He visited with the city's Ukrainian community, its political leaders, such as Mayor Lee Brown, as well as the consular corps, and business, medical and science institutions, including the Johnson Space Center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, where he was given a VIP tour by Lt. Cmdr. Stefanyshyn-Piper.

- The life of Gen. Roman Shukhevych (Taras Chuprynka) was resurrected on the big screen in the premiere of Oles Yanchuk's new film "Undeclared" (Neskorenyi). It was standing room only on November 11, as more than 1,500 people packed into the two theaters of Kyiv's Kino House.

Focusing on the persona of Shukhevych, the movie recounts the Ukrainian Insurgent Army's (UPA) guerrilla battles with both the Soviet and the Nazi forces in western Ukraine during the second world war and into the 1950s. The film combines historical accuracy with artistic license to tell the story of how Shukhevych and the UPA sacrificed everything – family, friends, their own lives – for Ukraine's freedom. In the past, Soviet propaganda had portrayed Shukhevych as a traitor. The film will have a run in Ukrainian theaters before going to TV and video in a year's time. North American audiences will have a chance to see the movie in early spring of next year.

- The Flying Cossacks, a 1960s U.S. Air Force pilot training unit, held its second reunion in Arizona on August 25-27 this year. Thirteen members of the original group of 40 attended the event. The reunion's organizers were in touch with more than half of the members of this 1964-1965 flying group that fought in Vietnam. They adopted the Flying Cossack name and tryzub emblem at the suggestion of Steve Olek of Chicago, the only Ukrainian in the group. As the Flying Cossacks maintain a strong interest in today's Ukraine, Mr. Olek gave a briefing to the reunion on the current situation in the unit's adopted country.

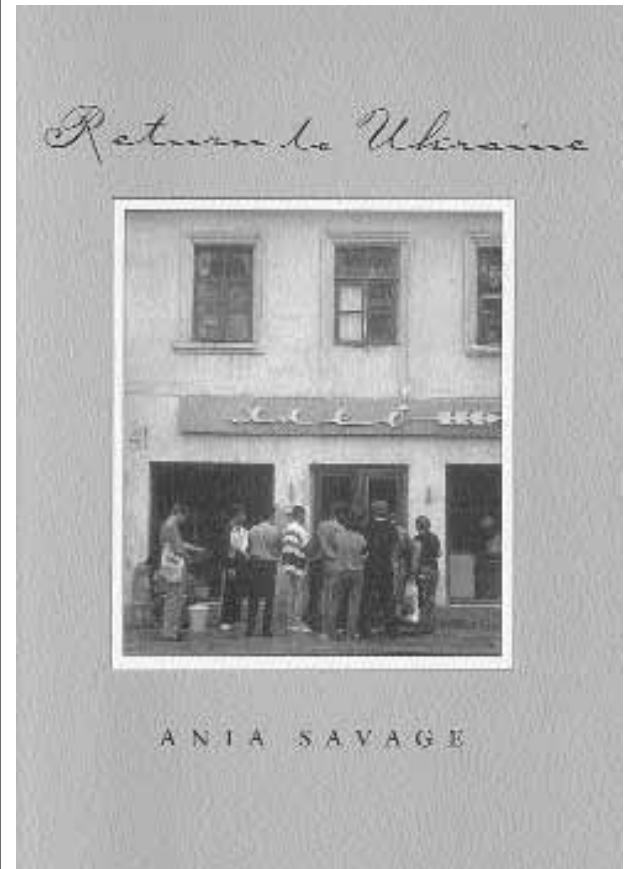
- On July 30 of this year, Michael Komichak, host of the "Ukrainian Radio Program" on WPIT-AM (730) in the Pittsburgh area celebrated the 50th anniversary of his show. The venue was a dinner cruise with 650 of his listeners.

The program broadcasts Ukrainian news, music, community announcements, birthday wishes and wedding and death notices. It has also helped to promote many projects, such as the establishment of the Ukrainian Nationality Room at the University of Pittsburgh and three chairs of Ukrainian studies at Harvard University. Through the years the primary objective of Mr. Komichak has been to nurture the Ukrainian identity of his listeners and to make younger listeners proud of their heritage.

- Middle Tennessee State University featured Ukraine at its 10th annual international celebration. The Dnipro Ukrainian dance ensemble was flown in from Milwaukee to perform for the 1,000 people at the banquet. The festival also featured an exhibit about Ukrainian folk arts, such as pysanky, as well as Ukraine's national poet, Taras Shevchenko. This was the first major event spotlighting Ukrainian culture to the general public in Tennessee.

- For the third year in a row, a historical souvenir sheet won the Heorhiy Narbut Prize, which is awarded annually by the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society. The year 2000 Narbut Prize went to Oleksiy Shtanko for his masterful creation honoring Yaroslav the Wise. Hues of red and gold dominated the souvenir sheet, which depicted Yaroslav on the left supporting a sword. On the right was the ecclesiastic Ilarion, the first native-born metropolitan of Kyiv, who leaned on a staff. The text that appeared around the central scene, and that formed a type of verbal frame, was taken from the "Povist Vremennykh Lit," the surviving chronicle of the time. The public really appreciated Mr. Shtanko's work as it garnered 16 percent of the hundreds of votes submitted this year. For a look at the Narbut Prize for best Ukrainian stamp design log on to www.upns.org.

Books: a banner year for Ukrainian topics



Cover of Ania Savage's insightful narrative of her "Return to Ukraine."

Several new books on Ukrainian topics, many of them by Ukrainian authors, were published this year and aimed at the general public. Most of these books are about Ukraine's history, three of them about Ukraine's most recent history since the dissolution of the Soviet Union and one about immigrants to Canada.

Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk's groundbreaking book "Searching for Place: Ukrainian Displaced Persons, Canada and the Migration of Memory" is a significant contribution to Ukrainian immigration history.

Originally intended as a study of refugee migration, Dr. Luciuk's meticulously documented research study emerged as a comprehensive political history of Ukrainian Canadians as it navigated the realities in Canada and Ukraine over some 100 years.

"Searching for Place" contains a fascinating historical overview of the situation in Ukrainian Canadian community prior to the second world war, especially the socio-political and religio-cultural developments that led to the establishment of various reading rooms (chytalni) and national homes (narodni domy) and other organizations.

Dr. Luciuk's book demolishes many myths regarding Ukrainian Canadian history. First among them is the myth that Ukrainians were well-treated in Canada and have nothing to complain about. Other myths include: the idea that thousands of "Nazi collaborators" snuck into Canada by claiming to be DPs and victims of the war; the notions that Ukrainians were encouraged to retain their ethnic identity as a community in Canada; and the fantasy that Canada and other Western governments were sympathetic to Ukraine's liberation.

The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute published Kostyantyn Morozov's book "Above and Beyond: From Soviet General to Ukrainian State Builder." The book traces Mr. Morozov's family history, early years and military career. He talks honestly and with emotion, as a former Soviet pilot and general officer, about military life and the Communist Party's intervention in the armed forces.

The turning point of the book is Mr. Morozov's narrative of the August 1991 putsch. He provides a detailed account of what he and others did at the time, and of the events that led Leonid Kravchuk to choose him to be Ukraine's first defense minister. Gen. Morozov became the man responsible for managing the huge Soviet armed forces' presence on Ukrainian soil and somehow peacefully transforming it into a Ukrainian military.

"Above and Beyond" ends with the high point of Mr. Morozov's work as defense minister: the oath of loyalty drive of spring 1992. Mr. Morozov provides further narration in three extensive photo collections ranging from his early life to Ukraine's emergence onto the world arena.

Ania Savage's new book "Return to Ukraine," published by Texas A&M University Press, also speaks of

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post-putsch Ukraine. In the memoir billed as “one woman’s journey to the country of her past,” Ms. Savage weaves together the complex story of the fate of Ukrainians during the second world war and the Soviet takeover. As she captures the post-putsch days, she also recreates the terror imposed on the population, decades earlier, at the time of the executions of the men and women of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army.

The book is courageous within the Ukrainian American setting due to the interjection of a personal relationship of the author with her mother, Anna Bojcun. The personal aspect makes the experiences come alive for the American reader and provides a wonderful introduction for those not familiar with the intricacies of being Ukrainian.

“... Going back became one of the highlights of my life,” Ms. Savage writes. “I was lucky to be in Ukraine during a time history will remember. I saw centuries of history being relived, re-examined and reordered. Men and women on the streets walked, smiling and elated, rejoicing at the end of tyranny.”

Another book about Ukrainian history is Anna Reid’s “Borderland: A Journey Through the History of Ukraine,” which was released in the United States by Westview Press

in mid-1999. The book tells the story of Ukraine through the eyes of its citizens.

Ms. Reid, a British journalist, worked as the Kyiv correspondent for The Economist and the Daily Telegraph for several years. In compiling this book the author spoke with villagers, politicians, political dissidents, Ukrainians, Jews, Russians, survivors of both the Great Famine of 1932-1933 and the Holocaust, and others.

In “Borderland,” Ms. Reid delves into Ukraine’s history, from its beginnings as Kyivan Rus’ to the wartime years and the recent past, and uncovers differing perceptions of history that influence its present. As noted on the book’s jacket, “... the book explores Ukraine’s struggle to rebuild its national identity, an identity that faces up to a bloody past, and embraces all the people within its borders.”

The Financial Times reviewed the book saying, “A beautifully written evocation of Ukraine’s brutal past and its shaky efforts to construct a better future ... Reid succeeds in vividly conjuring up dozens of little-known heroes and villains of Ukrainian history. ... ‘Borderland’ is a tapestry woven of the stories of all of its inhabitants, recording their triumphs and their conflicts with the fairness of a compassionate outsider.”

And then this fall, The New York Times Book Review called Ukrainian-Canadian Chrystia Freeland’s new book, “Sale of the Century: Russia’s Wild Ride from Communism to Capitalism,” “one of the finest works of journalism on post-Soviet Russia.”

Alberta-born Ms. Freeland is the deputy editor of The Globe and Mail, one of two of Canada’s national newspapers and she is the former Kyiv-based correspondent for The Economist where she covered Ukraine’s transition toward independence in 1991-1993.

Writing about Ms. Freeland’s book, Robert D. Kaplan of The New York Times said, “In an often witty, savvy style that demonstrates a thorough knowledge of economics and Russian society, [Ms. Freeland] has reconstructed the inside story of how Russia was undermined by a new establishment composed of oligarchs and reformers, each of whom needed the other.”

In September, the Ukrainian Institute of America held a book signing and lecture by Ms. Freeland. Also, this year Ms. Freeland was recognized as a Global Leader for Tomorrow by the World Economic Forum. In November she addressed the Canadian Institute of International Affairs in Ottawa.

Of captains, ships and courageous journeys

Operation Sail 2000 – the largest maritime event in history – brought ships from over 60 countries, including Ukraine, to selected ports along the Eastern Seaboard of the United States. Billed as the largest gathering in history of sailing ships, OpSail 2000 began in Puerto Rico on May 25, then proceeded to U.S. points northward.

The *Batkivschyna*, the 89-foot Ukrainian schooner that was the centerpiece of the “Discover Ukraine” project, left Kyiv on April 7 on a journey to sail around the globe to celebrate the millennium and inform the world about Ukraine.

It was a long and difficult journey for Capt. Dmitri Birioukovitch and his 11-member crew. When the *Batkivschyna* was a no-show at the festivities in Puerto Rico and Miami, fears were raised that the ship was lost at sea. However, having fought storms and severe winds, Capt. Birioukovitch saw that the ship would not make it to Puerto Rico, so he altered the course and headed for Norfolk, where the ship arrived a week early.

“I can’t imagine the amount of courage and skill and sheer audacity it took to cross the Atlantic in this tiny boat,” said one admirer who visited the vessel’s cramped quarters. The ship was dubbed “The Sweetheart of OpSail” by the New Britain Herald, and the “never say die” attitude of its crew was compared by many to the classic story of “The Little Engine That Could.”

The Discover Ukraine idea was the brainchild of Capt. Birioukovitch, who also helped invent the lightweight concrete bottom design utilized by the gaff schooner. The captain hoped that by sailing abroad he and his crew would increase the general public’s awareness of Ukrainian history, culture, and geopolitical and economic potential. Aboard the ship were 20 panels depicting the history of Ukraine from the Scythian period to the present, as well as art work, photographs, videos and souvenirs.

In New York on July 4, hundreds of thousands turned out to greet the ships of OpSail. As the *Batkivschyna* came into the Hudson River, Capt. Birioukovitch, hands at the helm in his white captain’s hat, exclaimed, “This is what it’s all about, my friends. This is what we came for.” The *Batkivschyna*’s other ports of call were: Norfolk, Va., Baltimore, New London, Conn., and Wilmington, Del.

Ukraine’s Black Sea Kozak tradition became part of the fabric of the OpSail tapestry, as fully integrated as

Irish sea chanties and re-enactments of pirate raids.

Another voyager, the *Slavutych*, joined ships in New York Harbor for the grand Fourth of July festivities that included the International Naval Review. The *Slavutych* is part of the ongoing joint cooperation programs between Ukraine’s Ministry of Defense and the U.S. Department of Defense. The 106-meter-long frigate is the main administrative vessel of Ukraine’s relatively small Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol.

Taking advantage of a visit to New York by *Slavutych*, the New Jersey-based Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund on July 7 delivered humanitarian aid destined for the ship’s home port. The medical supplies were donated to meet the health care needs of people in Sevastopol.

Although the *Batkivschyna* and the *Slavutych* dominated the news, there was another ship, the 55-foot ketch *Ikar*, with a crew of eight from Mykolaiv, Ukraine. The ship was to leave Mykolaiv on April 7, but due to complications, it departed a month late.

The *Ikar*, a Bermudan ketch, was especially designed for around-the-world sailing. However, like the *Batkivschyna*, the *Ikar* faced many obstacles in crossing the Atlantic. By July 4 the ketch finally reached the shores of Massachusetts and was warmly greeted by the Boston community.



In port in New York: the *Batkivschyna* (left), which participated in Operation Sail 2000, and the *Slavutych*, which took part in the International Naval Review 2000.

Roma Hadzewycz

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The UNA: gearing up for the new millennium

Our publisher, the Ukrainian National Association, set the tone for the year, and the new millennium, with "Greetings to UNA members and readers of its publications," published in the January 9 issue of this newspaper. UNA President Ulana Diachuk looked to the years ahead in the 21st century and noted: "...we firmly believe that the places of our longtime activists will be assumed by the younger generations born on this continent, and that activists of the new immigration from Ukraine also will become engaged and will serve our organization and the entire Ukrainian community as faithfully as their predecessors did – although, of course, their modes of operation will be new and more modern. ...We firmly believe that the UNA, resolutely entering the new century will faithfully abide by the ideals established by its founders and continued by countless activists of succeeding generations."

Ms. Diachuk reaffirmed those ideals by citing the UNA's Mission Statement: "to promote the principles of fraternalism, to preserve the Ukrainian, Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian heritage and culture; to provide quality financial services and products to its members; and to reinvest its earnings for the benefit of its members and the Ukrainian community."

The Weekly's editorial on the occasion of the UNA's 106th anniversary, observed on February 22, noted the UNA's many roles during over a century of activity. It also pointed out that during the period of 1902-1999, UNA donations and sponsorship amounted to more than \$7 million and the beneficiaries of that support ranged from Ukrainian schools in the United States, teachers in Canada, churches, museums, publications, community organizations, youth groups, scholarly societies, veterans, performing ensembles, not to mention such great national causes as the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, the Shevchenko monument in Washington, the Ukrainian Studies Fund, the World Congress of Free Ukrainians and the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine.

The editorial also noted the UNA's role as a leader of community life and publisher of its two foremost newspapers, *Svoboda* and *The Ukrainian Weekly*, and owner of the beloved Soyuzivka resort. "The UNA is an organization with a proud history and a promising future that is worth supporting with your membership," we urged our readers.

At the beginning of the year 2000, UNA National Secretary Martha Lysko announced new lower premiums on most insurance plans – a savings of between 20 and 40 percent – and noted that preferred rates were now available for non-smokers. As well, the UNA extended most insurance plans to persons up to age 90, and announced new annuity plans for members contemplating how to provide for their own retirement.

Later in the year, in June, the UNA unveiled its Additional Insurance Program, which enabled members to add on between \$1,000 and \$5,000 to their current life insurance coverage, thus providing an easy way for members whose needs have changed to upgrade their coverage.

In April UNA Treasurer Stefan Kaczaraj penned an article about the UNA's 1999 actuarial report, which is a review of the entire operation of the company and an assessment of its profitability, strengths and weaknesses. The results for the UNA as reported by Bruce & Bruce Co., Consulting Actuaries, were good: "As an overview, 1999 was a year of major restructuring: fraternal benefits drastically changed (necessarily); the new computer system was implemented: the products to members were made more competitive with the introduction of a new ratebook; the complete portfolio was refilled in New Jersey in satisfaction of their new law; new reserve factors were installed; and the triennial examination by New Jersey was completed. Any one of these projects represents a major undertaking. The fact that all were absorbed in one year is a great tribute to the industry and abilities of the officers."

Furthermore, the UNA's solvency ratio was reported to be \$113.95 – a very high solvency ratio compared to the \$105 held by most commercial companies. The actuary concluded that the UNA's insurance business is healthy and doing well, although the volume of insurance and annuity sales should be increased. In addition the consultants noted: the UNA's investment portfolio continues to be of the highest quality; expenses were reduced significantly, but further reductions must be



Roma Hadzewycz

Members of the UNA General Assembly at their 2000 annual meeting at Soyuzivka.

taken in 2000; and fraternal benefits were cut and must be maintained at manageable levels.

Another major topic on the UNA agenda for Y2K was the UNA By-Laws. The Ukrainian Weekly issue of October 8 carried a special supplement with proposed changes to the By-Laws, prepared by the UNA By-Laws Committee headed by UNA Advisor Taras Szmagala Jr., in accordance with a resolution of the 1998 UNA Convention.

The process of preparing the changes had started after the convention. The General Assembly at its December 1999 annual meeting discussed the first draft of the proposal. The By-Laws Committee met on May 10 to finalize the draft and the published proposal was the result of that work. Before the final version of the changes was approved, the UNA asked for input from the UNA members, who were asked to carefully read the published proposed changes, familiarize themselves with the issues, discuss them in their branches and at district committee meetings and write their viewpoints, questions and comments for publication in *Svoboda* and/or *The Ukrainian Weekly*. Unfortunately, however, those comments were few and far between.

The General Assembly reviewed the proposed By-Laws at its annual meeting on December 1-3 of this year. All delegates to the previous convention – who will be voting on amending the UNA By-Laws via mail ballot – are to receive all the proposals by the end of January. Afterwards, the proposed amendments are to be discussed at the spring meetings of UNA district committees. Voting by mail will take place after the round of spring meetings. In order for the changes to go into effect at the next convention in May 2002, a two-thirds "yes" vote is necessary.

During their three-day meeting at Soyuzivka, members of the General Assembly, the UNA's highest decision-making body between the organization's quadrennial conventions, adopted a budget for 2001 that foresees \$6,031,000 in income and disbursements of \$5,985,700.

The UNA's executive officers, advisors, auditors and honorary members of the General Assembly also heard and discussed reports on the UNA's business operations and fraternal activities for the past year, taking a particularly close look at the state of Soyuzivka, located in the Catskills of upstate New York.

After holding a special evening meeting on Friday, the Standing Committee on Soyuzivka reported back to the entire assembly. The report acknowledged that Soyuzivka is a necessary and important resource for the Ukrainian community, and that the Ukrainian National Association should continue to maintain an active role in the resort. However, the committee also said it recognizes that Soyuzivka cannot continue to operate with the serious deficits it has been incurring, and, as a result, sees the need to raise capital outside of the significant annual subsidy provided by the UNA.

During their meeting General Assembly members also recalled dedicated UNA'ers who had passed away during the year since the body last met – among them

former UNA Treasurer Alexander G. Blahitka, who had died just two days before the annual meeting convened, and longtime UNA Advisor Andrew Jula, who served a record 10 consecutive terms on the General Assembly.

The UNA's three full-time executive officers presented highlights of their reports before the entire assembly. Treasurer Kaczaraj noted that his report for the first nine months of 2000 showed an increase in the UNA surplus for the first time in more than a decade; that increase amounted to \$300,000. In comparison, during the past 11 years, the surplus had declined by \$20 million. Mr. Kaczaraj also noted that the UNA's two newspapers had demonstrated a major improvement in their financial situation as compared to previous years. He reported a combined deficit for *Svoboda* and *The Weekly* of \$138,000 for the first nine months of 2000.

National Secretary Lysko focused her remarks on the institution of direct billing for all UNA branches as of January 1, 2001, explaining the reasons for this change. She added that now that branch secretaries will no longer be involved with collecting dues they can concentrate their efforts on enrolling members. Mrs. Lysko also reported that UNA membership stands at 53,243 – more than 49,000 of that number in the United States and the rest in Canada.

President Diachuk underlined that the financial results from the UNA's publications are much better and that the editors and administration of both papers were doing everything possible to raise funds. She noted as an example the release of "The Ukrainian Weekly 2000," which brought in a significant amount from sales and donations to *The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund*. She also reported that the UNA is now working on an address list of its members so that both newspapers could solicit subscriptions.

Mrs. Diachuk also introduced the new editor-in-chief of *Svoboda*, Irene Jarosewich, formerly of *The Weekly* editorial staff, who had been appointed less than a month before the General Assembly meeting. Ms. Jarosewich is the first American-born editor of *Svoboda*.

At the conclusion of the meeting Roma Hadzewycz, editor-in-chief of *The Ukrainian Weekly*, who had served as a UNA advisor in 1990-1998, was elected to fill the remainder of the term of Advisor Walter Korchynsky, who had passed away in July 1999.

At the three Executive Committee meetings held during this year, UNA officers paid much attention to the organization's finances and those of its subsidiaries. At the March meeting, reports for the last quarter of 1999 were presented and approved by all present. The treasurer outlined income and expenditures for 1999. Revenue from insurance operations, life, universal life and annuities, was down by \$574,000 due to slow sales of insurance during the last two quarters of 1999. Expenditures were decreased for office staff salaries, commissions and scholarships. Expenditures for insurance department fees were considerably higher due to the triennial examination required by the state of New Jersey, Y2K compliance requirements and filings of new products. Actuarial expenses were also increased

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Front page of *The Weekly's* special supplement devoted to UNA scholarship recipients.

due to compliance regulations and the updating of insurance products.

The year 1999 ended with a decrease in surplus of \$1,099,783. The UNA had made strides in reducing the deficit in 1999, but it must try to cut it even further, Mr. Kaczaraj underscored.

At the second quarterly meeting held on September 9, UNA officers heard better financial news as Treasurer Kaczaraj reported an increase in surplus for the six-month period ending on June 30 was \$344,449.

Mrs. Lysko reported that new business for the first six months included 229 new life insurance policies issued for total premiums of \$50,510 and total face amounts of \$4,363,650. Ten new annuity certificates were issued for consideration of \$253,479. Mrs. Diachuk reported that overall organizing results were dismal since the UNA does not have a professional sales force.

That meeting was devoted also to discussing a proposal to change the site of the 2002 UNA Convention, previously approved by the 1999 meeting of the UNA General Assembly, which had selected Chicago as the host city. There was a heated debate over the issue of the site, as President Diachuk outlined the reasons for the proposal to change the site of the UNA Convention from Chicago to Soyuzivka. Ultimately, in a 3-2 vote, a motion to uphold the previous decision of the UNA General Assembly passed.

The final execs' meeting of 2000 took place December 3 at Soyuzivka, following the annual meeting of the General Assembly. The executives took a look ahead to 2001, establishing an agenda for their own activity and noting the new life insurance application forms are expected to come into use as soon, and that additional space in the UNA's corporate headquarters building will soon be rented, resulting in significant additional income for the building subsidiary, that is, the Ukrainian National Urban Renewal Corp.

A major focus of attention was the Soyuzivka resort, with the General Assembly's Standing Committee on Soyuzivka planning to formulate a business plan for the resort and to explore other means to make Soyuzivka – which the UNA has been subsidizing to the tune of some \$400,000 annually – financially independent or self-sufficient in the near future.

The UNA Auditing Committee held two audits during 2000. The auditors – William Pastuszek, chairman; Stefan Hawrysz, vice-chairman; Dr. Alexander Serafyn, secretary; and Myron Groch and Yaroslav Zavyisky, members – completed their annual audit (for 1999) of the fraternal organization's business operations at the UNA's Corporate Headquarters on May 4 and promptly issued its report to the UNA membership.

Among other things, the auditors said: "Through increased sales of life insurance and annuity policies and continued decrease of expenses, especially for fraternal activities, the growth of the UNA will be revived. The UNA has the financial capacity to support all its

actions as long as corrective steps continue to be taken and the required time is allotted for them to take effect."

Another audit was conducted later in the year, on November 28-30 on the eve of the annual meeting of the General Assembly. Reviewing UNA operations for the first nine months of 2000, the Auditing Committee stated: "For the first nine months of 2000, the UNA's profit was \$306,000, and the surplus grew by \$305,000 to a total of \$7,284,000. This is the first time in 11 years that the UNA surplus has increased (with the exception of 1997, when the surplus increased as a result of the sale of our headquarters building)."

The auditors also focused on Soyuzivka: "The Executive Committee is constantly searching for new ways to increase Soyuzivka's income because all realistic possibilities to further decrease expenses have been exhausted. With this in mind, the Executive Committee obtained three proposals from consultants concerning the expansion of the season. It hired one of these firms, Dayman, Lune & Goldsbury, P.C. This firm reviewed the business activity of Soyuzivka and presented its proposals on September 18. These proposals will be the subject of discussion during the General Assembly meeting at the beginning of December of this year. It must be concluded that without a drastic increase in income and additional capital improvements Soyuzivka will remain deficit-producing and will have a negative influence on the future of the UNA."

When a coal mine disaster near Krasnodon, Luhansk Oblast in Ukraine, took the lives of 81 miners on March 11, the UNA extended its fraternal hand to their families. The UNA and its members donated \$9,405 through the Ukrainian National Foundation and that aid was delivered on September 29 by representatives of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee and the UNA (in the person of *The Ukrainian Weekly* Editor Roman Woronowycz of the Kyiv Press Bureau.)

The Ukrainian National Foundation – which was established to work in educational, cultural and charitable fields of endeavor – this year in October reported on its multi-faceted work, which includes support for the English Teachers for Ukraine Project, the Summer Institute on Current Methods and Practices in TESOL geared toward teaching teachers of English, as well as support for the Ostroh Academy, the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, the Vasyl Stefanyk Library in Lviv, educational activities at Soyuzivka and educational pages in the UNA's two official publications.

With the help of volunteers, Dr. Ivan Pelech, Volodymyr Dzingala and Ihor Zayets, the Ukrainian National Association sorted, packed and shipped English books to various libraries and schools in Ukraine. Some of these books were donated to the UNA and others were in the Svoboda bookstore. A thank-you letter from one of the institutions that benefited from the shipment, the English Teachers' Resource Center in Volyn Oblast, was published in *The Weekly* on June 25.

Last year, when the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee turned to the Ukrainian National

Association for assistance in preparing humanitarian aid shipments for Ukraine, the UNA's Northern New Jersey District, headed by District Chairman Eugene Oscislawski, sprang into action. Beginning in September 1999, the district collected clothing and footwear to help the needy. What is noteworthy is that nearly all of the district's branches contributed to the collection. The UNA added books, both Ukrainian- and English-language publications, from its now-defunct bookstore, to the shipment. On June 30, the UNA sent off a filled container to Ukraine. The shipment was designated for the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Literature, whose director is Dr. Mykola Zhulynskyi. From there the books were to be distributed to libraries, while the clothing and footwear were given to parishes.

The UNA this year again remembered to pay tribute to both mothers and fathers. In May the UNA's two newspapers, *Svoboda* and *The Ukrainian Weekly*, published 254 greetings – art work and written messages – from children to their mothers. The project was spearheaded by Oksana Trytjak, the UNA's special projects coordinator. In June, the UNA resort Soyuzivka hosted the 16th annual Fathers' Day celebration, planned by Andre Worobec, fraternal activities coordinator. The day began with a liturgy at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church and continued with a concert in the Veselka auditorium featuring the Iskra Ukrainian Dance Ensemble from Whippany, N.J., the SUM girls' choir Prolisok, and the bandurist-vocalist duo Lisova Pisnia.

The UNA's Scholarship Program was highlighted in a special insert dedicated to the 1999-2000 scholarship recipients published in our June 25 issue. Later, in our September 3 issue we announced the UNA's latest allocation of \$25,000 in scholarships to 141 college students throughout the United States and Canada. The 2000-2001 awards were determined by the UNA Scholarship Committee, consisting of Treasurer Stefan Kaczaraj, Auditor Yaroslav Zavyisky and Advisor Vasyl Luchkiv. The committee awarded \$100 to each of 51 incoming freshmen, \$125 to each of 26 sophomores, \$150 to each of 30 juniors and \$175 to each of 24 seniors, plus 10 special scholarships awarded in larger amounts to exceptional students.

The 2000-2001 UNA scholarships add to the more than \$1.77 million awarded by the UNA since 1946, continuing its tradition of supporting the education and development of today's Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian youth.

The Ukrainian National Association Seniors celebrated their 26th anniversary at Soyuzivka on June 11-16. They again showed their generosity as they made the final payment of \$1,500 on the gazebo that has been erected in the open area opposite the resort's Main House. The total cost was \$3,500, and the money was raised over a three-year period. The organization's president, Anna Chopek, who is also an honorary member of the UNA General Assembly, noted: "As the public enjoys the gazebo, let's hope that they follow the example of the UNA Seniors by donating money for some much-needed capital improvements at Soyuzivka. I am



Young Syzkryli ensemble members (from left) Laryssa Wozniak of Manhattan, Dianna Shmerykowsky of Bayside, Queens, Danny Walchuk of Annandale, N.J., and Mary Widemeyer from Short Hills, N.J., give a tour of Soyuzivka to Karin Anderson of Manhattan, a first-time guest at the UNA resort during Labor Day weekend.

2000: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

sure that Soyuzivka will be most grateful."

The annual conference also made several other donations to worthy causes, heard reports about legal matters affecting seniors and about current events in Ukraine, attended a banquet whose keynote speaker was the Rev. Bohdan Lukie, CSsR, pastor of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Newark, N.J., and re-elected Ms. Chopek as president of the UNA Seniors.

Speaking of seniors, the year 2000 was especially significant for Stephen Kuropas, former UNA supreme vice-president and current honorary member of the UNA General Assembly, who this year celebrated his 100th birthday. On the occasion of his centennial he was feted on October 1 at a luncheon at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Chicago following a liturgy at St. Nicholas Cathedral. Mr. Kuropas is the patriarch of a UNA family that includes two other UNA VPs, Myron B. Kuropas and the current first vice-president, Stefko Kuropas.

Back at Soyuzivka, there was activity all summer long, with the usual complement of camps for kids of all ages, sports activities, entertainment programs, exhibits and plenty of dancing, indoors and out.

On Saturday, August 12, Miss Soyuzivka for 2001 was selected: Michelle Poliwka of Chicago. She attended Catholic University in Washington on a scholarship, but has now opted to continue her studies in economics at McGill University in Montreal. She is an active member of Plast and the Hromovytsia Dance Group and was vacationing at Soyuzivka when prompted by family and friends to run for the Miss Soyuzivka title.

The Soyuzivka season's culmination, as always, was over the Labor Day weekend holiday. Friends and families all flocked to the UNA estate for what is traditionally considered the last weekend of summer and last big party before it's time for students to once again hit the books. Close to 5,000 people came through the gates of Soyuzivka between Friday and Monday of the holiday weekend. The first Labor Day weekend of the new millennium proved, yet again, that Soyuzivka continues to be a treasured asset of the Ukrainian community in North America.

Income from the UNA's annual Christmas card project this year was earmarked for Soyuzivka. The new series of 14 cards include works by Jaroslav Adamovych, Lviv, Ukraine; Bohdan Borzemyk, Teaneck, N.J.; Marta Cisyk, Lviv; Natalia Josypchuk, Kosiv, Ukraine; Andriy Khomyk, Stamford, Conn.; Moki Kokoris, North Salem, N.Y.; George Kozak, Clarkston, Mich.; Luba Maksymchuk, Kyiv; Leo Mol, Winnipeg; Myron Ryzhula, Lviv, Lydia C. Palij, Toronto; Aka Pereyma, Troy, Ohio; Youlia Tkatchouk, Chicago; and Irene Twerdochlib, Rochester, N.Y. – all of whom contributed their work.

The UNA and its publications promoted Soyuzivka via editorials – underlining that truly, "There is no place like Soyuzivka" – special features and coverage of the diverse events that took place at the resort.

Our editorial of June 4 noted:

"Today Soyuzivka is not self-supporting. As a result, the UNA General Assembly decided at its 1999 annual meeting to support and to seek funding for Soyuzivka's continued development. But the real solution is no mystery: Soyuzivka needs more guests. Without guests, there is no need for this unique resort. Do we want to lose this beautiful center of our community life? And with it a huge portion of our community activities for Ukrainians of all ages? What would we do without Soyuzivka?"

"Soyuzivka today remains a Ukrainian cultural center, located in close proximity to major Ukrainian communities. It showcases the best performers and spotlights the most interesting artists – both from the Western diaspora and Ukraine. It continues to host myriad camps, from day camps for preschoolers to tennis camps, as well Ukrainian folk dance workshops and seminars for teachers of schools of Ukrainian studies. It still is the venue of choice for weddings – there's just nothing like a Soyuzivka wedding! And, it accommodates conferences and events of all kinds, from intimate family gatherings to Plast's annual "Orlykiada" competition for youths, not to mention corporate functions of all kinds. We concluded by urging readers to "Come home to Soyuzivka."

It seems that the year 2001 may be a make-or-break year for Soyuzivka. Many in our community share the hope that the Standing Committee on Soyuzivka will be able to accomplish what it has set out to do: to set in motion preparations for an extensive renovation and capital campaign that will enable Soyuzivka to serve future generations.

We mourn their passing: leaders in diverse fields

During the year 2000, our community and this newspaper recorded the deaths of a number of individuals known for their activity in diverse fields.

- Solomea Pavlychko, 41, literary scholar, head of the editorial board of the Osnovy publishing house in Kyiv, activist for Ukraine's nascent women's movement – December 31, 1999, Kyiv.

- The Rev. Dr. Volodymyr Figol, 88, former professor at the Lviv Theological Academy, pastor in Ukraine, Lithuania and the United States; and "confessor of the faith for the Ukrainian Catholic Church" – December 27, 1999, Yonkers, N.Y.

- Dr. Wasyl Wytwycky, 94, educator, author, critic, composer-conductor and diaspora's eminent contemporary musicologist – December 31, 1999, Summit, N.J.

- Anatolii Lupynis, 62, former Soviet political prisoner and Ukrainian nationalist leader, and since 1990, head of the political section of the UNA-UNSO – February 4, Kyiv.

- Zenon Bodnarskyj, 62, leader in the greater Buffalo area's Ukrainian community, including local chapters of Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine and the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund – February 15, Buffalo, N.Y.

- Patriarch Dymytrii, 85, leader of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church – February 25, Kyiv.

- Michael Starr (Starchewsky), 89, Ukrainian Canadian political pioneer, member of the Progressive Conservative Party, who held various top positions in government, among them mayor of Oshawa, member of Parliament, minister of labor and House Leader – March 16, Oshawa, Ontario.

- Michael Kowalsky, 92, major benefactor of Ukrainian studies, foremostly, the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies and the Kowalsky Eastern Institute of Ukrainian Studies at Kharkiv University – May 24, Toronto.

- Ihor Bilozir, 44, popular singer-songwriter, National Artist of Ukraine, leader of the popular Vatra ensemble of the 1980s – died on May 28 as a result of a severe beating after an altercation with Russophone thugs who objected to the composer and friends singing Ukrainian songs in a Lviv café.

- Georgiy Yakutovych, 70, graphic artist, book designer and artistic director of films, among them the Ukrainian classic "Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors" – September 5, Kyiv.

- Petro Honcharenko, 90, longtime president and administrator of the Detroit-based Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, named Honored Artist of Ukraine in 1992 – September 19, South Bound Brook, N.J.

- Victor G. Kytasty, 57, Ukrainian American professor, administrator, musician, and cultural activist; director of America House, the Foreign Commercial Service, the Ukrainian Office of the Former Members of Congress and consultant to the Council of Advisors to the Verkhovna Rada and to the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy – September 22, Kyiv.

- Yevdokiia Dychko-Blavatska, 79, known stage actress in western Ukraine and wife of Volodymyr Blavatsky, director of the Lviv Opera Theater; appeared with the Lviv State Drama and Opera theaters and with the Ensemble of Ukrainian Actors in Germany and the United States; director of the Volodymyr Blavatsky Ukrainian Radio Program in Philadelphia – September 30, Philadelphia.

- Andrew Jula, 89, longtime outstanding member of the Ukrainian National Association Supreme Assembly, who served 10 consecutive terms as advisor, recipient of the Rev. Hryhoriy Hrushka Award in acknowledgment of his many years of dedicated service to the UNA – October 22, Ambridge, Pa.

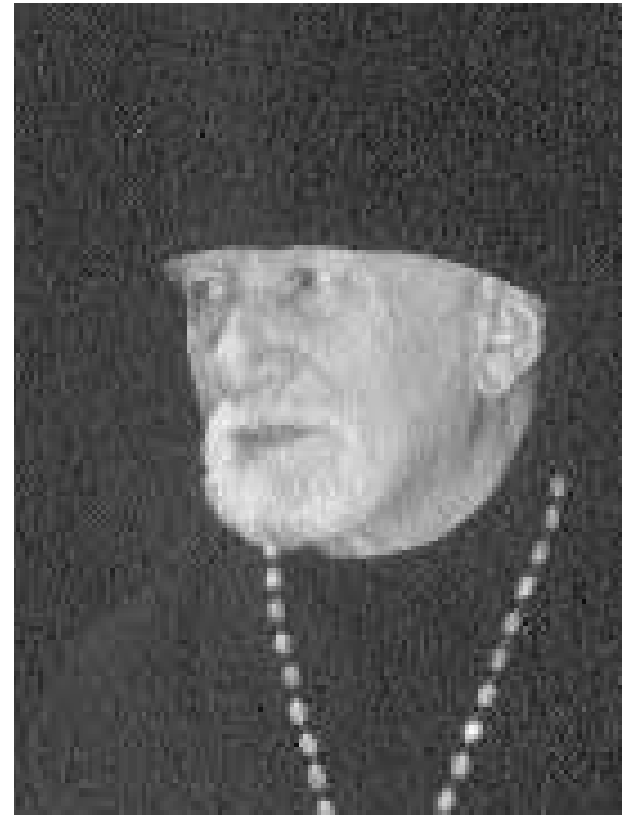
- Roman Lewycky, 92, church and youth choir director in New York and New Jersey, bandurist – October 28, Perth Amboy, N.J.

- Bishop Platon Kornyljak, 80, one-time Apostolic Exarch for Ukrainian Catholics in Germany and Scandinavia – November 1, Munich, Germany.

- Alexander Blahitka, 52, treasurer of the Ukrainian National Association (1990-1994) – November 29, Blairstown, N.J.

- Walter Klymkiw, 74, conductor and artistic director of the Koshetz Memorial Choir of Winnipeg, officer of the Ukrainian National Federation of Canada – December 4, Winnipeg.

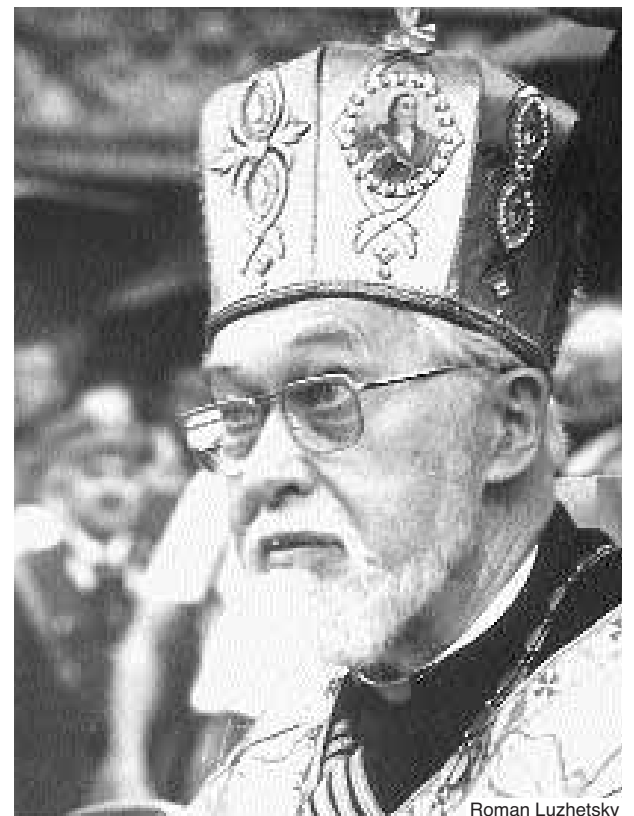
- Cardinal Myroslav Ivan Lubachivsky, 86, head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church – December 14, Metropolitan Palace of St. George Cathedral, Lviv.



Patriarch Dymytrii, head of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church.



Michael Starr (Starchewsky), Ukrainian Canadian political pioneer.



Cardinal Myroslav Ivan Lubachivsky, head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church.

2000: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Meanwhile, at The Weekly: it's yearender time, again

When last we wrote from our editorial offices here at The Ukrainian Weekly, it was 1999, the end of a millennium ... or maybe it's the year 2000 that was the end of the millennium. Millennium-schmillennium – life goes on!

Whatever the case may be, in what was just a blur, another year had passed, and it was time once again for our yearender. But there is one difference: this time, due to various production scheduling concerns, our review of the past year's events appears in the first issue of the new year, instead of the last issue of the old.

As has become traditional, we conclude our "Year in Review" with a look at the goings-on here at The Weekly.

Milestones in Y2K

- The Ukrainian Weekly celebrated its 67th birthday in 2000. Our editorial on the occasion noted that the paper was born with the mission of keeping Ukrainian Americans involved in the Ukrainian community and telling the world the truth about Ukraine. "Today The Weekly continues as the voice of our community and as a purveyor of information about Ukraine and Ukrainians wherever they may be. That it continues to function as intended by its founders is due to the colossal support of our publisher, the Ukrainian National Association, as well as our devoted readers." We concluded by assuring our readers that "The editorial, production and administrative staffs here at The Ukrainian Weekly remain as strongly committed as ever to the founding principles of this newspaper. With the support of our readers and our community at large we will see to it that this commitment is fulfilled."

- Our first volume of "The Ukrainian Weekly 2000" – a compilation of the most significant news stories and commentaries published by The Ukrainian Weekly during the newspaper's 66-plus years of existence – turned out to be a financial success as book sales brought in approximately \$24,300 and press fund donations added \$32,200, for a total of nearly \$56,500. Volume I covers events between 1933, when The Weekly was founded, through the 1960s. Volume II, to be released in 2001, covers the 1970s through the 1990s.

- UKELODEON, our section "for the next generation," the inaugural issue of which was published on Valentine's Day 1999, celebrated its first anniversary this year and is still going strong. We're always looking for more submissions from the younger generations. Consider this an open invitation.

- The Weekly marked its fifth anniversary in cyberspace in July, and its second on its own official website, www.ukrweekly.com. The Ukrainian Weekly Archives site now contains 8,569 full-text articles, not counting the 285 excerpted articles for the year 2000. Full texts for that year will become available soon.

- The Weekly's website registered 100,000 hits as of early December. The site now gets about 2,500 hits per day.

- Awilda Rolon, a member of our production staff (we call her a typesetter, but in reality she is much more than that ...), marked a "significant" birthday in May, so we, her colleagues, decided to host a surprise celebration. Then, on December 15, she celebrated her 20th anniversary with The Ukrainian Weekly. It was an occasion for thanks and kudos, and for that all-purpose Ukrainian song "Mnohaya Lita" (one of Awilda's favorites).

- Roma Hadzewycz marked her 20th anniversary as editor-in-chief of The Weekly in May. Later in the year she was elected to the Ukrainian National Association's General Assembly during its annual meeting in December. An advisor in 1990-1998, Roma was voted to fill the vacancy on the General Assembly that had existed since the death in 1999 of Advisor Walter Korchynsky.

- Perhaps the most significant of our milestones in terms of personnel was the departure of Editor Irene Jarosewich, who was tapped to be editor-in-chief down the hall at the Svoboda Ukrainian-language weekly. "Weekly's loss is Svoboda's gain: Jarosewich named editor-in-chief of Svoboda," announced the headline in our November 19 issue. Irene, who had been with The Weekly for just short of four years, took over as editor-in-chief at Svoboda on November 9; she was introduced

to the newspaper's readers in the November 17 issue. Irene's colleagues at The Weekly congratulated her at a staff gathering, raising a toast to her success at Svoboda.

- Editor Roman Woronowycz of the Kyiv Press Bureau and our layout artist/computer troubleshooter, Serge "Sid" Polishchuk, both marked eight years with The Weekly. Roman spent approximately half that time at our editorial offices in Jersey City and the other half in Ukraine's capital. Serge has been with us at both our Jersey City and Parsippany headquarters.

- The anniversary count is a little more difficult to figure out for Ika Koznarska Casanova, our arts editor plus. She joined the staff full-time in 1980 and worked into 1981, but then returned part-time in 1990. So, do we celebrate a 10th anniversary of Ika's current term, or the 20th anniversary of her first signing on?

Innovations

- Our first "Wedding Announcements" section was published in March. Two others followed in August and December. We hope to publish more such sections in 2001. It's a great way to have our community share in the joy of such meaningful occasions.

- Likewise, our "Congratulations, Graduates!" section appeared for the first time this year, in July, just after graduation season. We plan to continue this special section in 2001.

- In April we announced that Sputnik Global Telecommunications Corp., an Illinois corporation, had designed a telecommunications fund-raiser to benefit The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund. George Stromeckyj, president of Sputnik Global Telecom and a lifelong member of Ukrainian National Association Branch 399 in Chicago, called the plan "Dial All Day for the UNA." A portion of the commissions earned by the company are donated to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund; those commissions are directly proportional to the total volume of usage by those who sign up for the plan.

- The newsstand price of The Ukrainian Weekly, as well as Svoboda, was rolled back as of April 1 from \$1.25 to \$1 per copy. The newsstand price in Ukraine remains \$2.

In other news...

- "A Ukrainian Summer" – our fourth annual supplement of seasonal articles on where to go, what to do – was published on May 7. Offerings ranged from the old mainstays of summer camps, courses and festivals to a self-guided tour of Lamont County in Alberta, "the church capital of North America," as well as sites and doings in Ukraine.

- In August/September of this year, The Ukrainian Weekly sent letters to 22 credit unions in the United States – the Ukrainian community's strongest financial institutions – in an effort to solicit financial support for the cost of complimentary subscriptions sent by this newspaper to all members of the U.S. Congress. The goal was to offset this program's annual cost of approximately \$27,000 which is currently funded by The Weekly but serves the interests of the entire Ukrainian community.

The first to respond, with a \$1,000 donation, was the newspaper's neighbor, Selfreliance (UA) Federal Credit Union, whose main office is in Newark, N.J., but which has a branch here in Parsippany in the UNA Corporate Headquarters Building. Three other credit unions followed suit: Self Reliance (NY) Federal Credit Union, New York, \$5,000; Rochester Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, Rochester, N.Y., \$1,000; and the Ukrainian Orthodox Federal Credit Union, New York, \$250. The total raised thus far for the Copies for Congress Project is \$7,250.

- UNA President Ulana Diachuk in September penned an article titled "Will you become an ambassador of The Weekly?" in which she encouraged our readers "to assist us in our efforts to increase The Weekly's circulation."

She continued: "Who else has been so supportive of this paper over the decades? You have been looking forward to each issue because you appreciate its reports of the news from Ukraine by The Weekly's own correspondent; or you like to read the letters to the editor and commentaries on a variety of topics of concern to the Ukrainian American and Canadian communities; or you use the paper as a source of information about upcoming events in the Ukrainian community ... If each subscriber could encourage only one person from the circle of his/her relatives or friends, acquaintances or colleagues to become a new subscriber, our circula-

tion base would be much strengthened ... The Ukrainian Weekly has already served three generations. Please be assured that its publisher, the Ukrainian National Association, and its editors are looking forward to serving you, the readers, for many years into the future."

- The annual meeting of the General Assembly of the Ukrainian National Association, our publisher, unanimously decided to institute an across-the-board increase of \$5 per year for subscriptions to both The Weekly and Svoboda that will take effect in April 2001. Thus, the price of a yearly subscription to either newspaper will be \$45 for members and \$55 for non-members.

- In the year 2000 we published 1,364 pages of our newspaper; in comparison, in 1999 we printed 1,148.

A note of thanks

It is only fitting that at the end of the year we thank all those who made our work possible:

- our regular correspondents, Yaro Bihun, our Washington correspondent, and Michael Sawkiw Jr. of the Ukrainian National Information Service, Oksana Zakydalsky in Toronto and Chris Guly in Ottawa;

- our occasional contributors in North America and beyond, including Frank Sysyn, Roman Serbyn and Jars Balan in Canada; Tamara Stadnychenko, Natalka Gawdiak, Bohdanna Wolanska, Olena Stercho, Olena Welhasch and photographer/writer Andrij Wovk in the United States; and Marta Kolomayets, Stefan Korshak, Pavel Polityuk, Danylo Kulyniak and Yana Sedova in Kyiv; as well as Peter Shmigel, who is based in Australia and covered the Sydney Olympics exclusively for our readers;

- our analysts, David Marples, Roman Solchanyk and Taras Kuzio, plus the staffers and correspondents of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, whose reports we gladly utilize;

- our regular columnists, Dr. Myron B. Kuropas ("Faces and Places"), Andrew Fedynsky ("Perspectives"), Helen Smindak ("Dateline New York"), Orysia Paszczak Tracz ("The Things We Do"), Dr. Inger Kuzych ("Focus on Philately"), Ihor Stelmach ("Ukrainian Pro Hockey Update") and Roman Sawycky ("Sounds and Views");

- the editor of our UKELODEON section, Lydia Smyk.

- our administration, headed by Walter Honcharyk; as well as with our advertising manager, Maria Oscislawski; our subscriptions/circulation manager, Mary Pendzola; and Roman Pawlyshyn, administrative clerk;

- our secretary in Kyiv, Ira Zhelezniak;
- our colleague at the Associated Press, Efrem Lukatsky; and

- many, many more community activists who have kept us and our readers informed, as well as our numerous benefactors and advertisers, whose support is essential from the financial perspective.

A special "thank you" goes also to our young editorial assistants: Myroslaw Bytz, Peter Steciuk, Taisa Welhasch and Stepan Vitvitsky, all college students who have helped out at The Weekly at various times during the year 2000, and Deanna Yurchuk, a senior majoring in journalism/English at Rutgers University, who has been a steady part-timer since late November.

* * *

In closing this section, and the "2000: The Year in Review," we wish all of you, Dear Readers, good fortune, success, happiness, health and the fulfillment of your dreams in 2001 and beyond.

Credits

The materials in this year-in-review section were prepared by Roma Hadzewycz and Ika Koznarska Casanova in Parsippany, Roman Woronowycz in Kyiv, Irene Jarosewich next door at Svoboda, Yaro Bihun in Washington, Chris Guly in Ottawa, Halyna Holubec in London, Ihor Stelmach in South Windsor, Conn., and Deanna Yurchuk and Taisa Welhasch, who are currently with us at our home office. Reinforcement came in the person of Stepan Vitvitsky, a college student home on winter break, who was assigned to heavy proofreading duty, along with the rest of our staff in Parsippany.



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PERSONALS

To "Anonymous" in Saddle River:

A note to express our sincere thanks for your support: financial and moral, and "spiritual." It is much appreciated and even more cherished because it is from you – one who knows well what this "business" is about.

You've "socked it to us" twice now. And we've enjoyed every bit of it.

All the best to you in 2001 and beyond from your "anonymous" colleagues.

PS: We will be celebrating the beginning of the New Year with La Grande Dame.

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Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

of Ukraine is modified to give him more powers relative to the Verkhovna Rada, Interfax-Ukraine reported. If there are no changes soon, he said, "Parliament will remain what it has been during the past month" and "nothing sensible" will be achieved. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Patriarch blames Vatican for problems

MOSCOW – Russian Orthodox Patriarch Aleksei II on December 29, 2000, expressed the hope that there will be improved relations between his Church and the Roman Catholic Church in the future, Interfax reported. But Patriarch Aleksei insisted that the "still serious problems" between the two confessions "have arisen through no fault of Orthodox Christians." And he added that the situation in western Ukraine is especially serious because there "three Orthodox eparchies were literally smashed up with the active support of Greek Catholics." In addition, he sharply criticized efforts by the Roman Catholic Church "under the pretext of 'social work'" "to convert Orthodox Christians. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Zlenko on Ukraine-Russia-NATO triangle

KYIV – Speaking on Ukraine's first "Day of the Diplomat," Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Anatolii Zlenko on December 22, 2000, said that Ukraine will continue to cooperate with NATO as long as that corresponds to Kyiv's interests, ITAR-TASS reported. He argued that "the triangle Ukraine-Russia-NATO already exists de facto, but it is early to speak about its existence de jure." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Russian prosecutors in Kyiv on case

KYIV – Officials of the Russian military prosecutor's office arrived in Kyiv on December 22, 2000, to interview senior Ukrainian officials, including Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, about the abuse of office charges against Gen. Georgii Oleinik, the former head of the Russian defense Ministry's Budget and Finance Department, ITAR-TASS reported. The investigators want to ask Ms. Tymoshenko about large cash transfers between the Ukrainian government and Russian officers. Russian President Vladimir Putin on December 29 issued a decree suspending Col. Gen. Oleinik, who has been charged with exceeding his authority and is being investigated for involvement in a multi-million dollar scheme between Russia and Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

OPIC chief comments on investments

KYIV – George Munoz, the president of the U.S. Overseas Private Investments Corp. (OPIC), told the Bloomberg Business Information Service that Kyiv has failed to create a favorable climate for foreign investment, ITAR-TASS reported on December 25, 2000. He added that the International Monetary Fund's willingness to resume loans is a positive step, but only if Ukraine lives up to the IMF's conditions. The Ukrainian Finance Ministry said that Kyiv will ask the Paris Club to reschedule Ukrainian debt payments, ITAR-TASS reported. Meanwhile, President Kuchma on December 23, 2000, signed into law the credit agreement with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, under the terms of which Kyiv will get a credit of \$100 million to purchase fuel this winter. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine to reorganize tax administration

KYIV – Tax Administration chief Mykola Azarov told Interfax on 26 December 26, 2000, that Kyiv will divide

his organization into separate functional departments, modernize its facilities and improve management training in 2001. The moves are prompted by the government's need to improve tax collections, the Associated Press reported. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Moldova opts out of military cooperation

CHISINAU – Moldovan President Petru Lucinschi has announced that his country will not participate in any military cooperation projects within GUUAM, the informal group that aligns Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Moldova, Caucasus Press reported on December 29, 2000. Mr. Lucinschi said Chisinau seeks to maintain its neutrality and will therefore abjure military cooperation within the CIS as well. But he reaffirmed Moldova's interest in economic cooperation within GUUAM, including the transportation of Caspian oil to European markets via the South Caucasus. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Icon thieves caught near Chernobyl

KYIV – Two men suspected of stealing church icons in 1997 from a special temporary storage facility in Chernobyl have been arrested, the Security Service of Ukraine told the Associated Press on December 28, 2000. The authorities noted that the icons were not radioactive. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Poll shows most Slavs favor unification

MOSCOW – The unification of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine in a single state – federative or unitarian – is supported by 61 percent of Russians, 53 percent of Ukrainians and 69 percent of Belarusians. The number of opponents is 15 percent, 36 percent and 19 percent, respectively, according to a report on the results of a December poll obtained by Interfax from the Moscow Humanitarian Academy on December 29, 2000. Academy sociologists had surveyed 1,700 adults in Russia, 1,100 in Ukraine and 1,000 in Belarus. Asked about the preferable form of the possible unification, 38 percent of the Russians, 43 percent of the Ukrainians and 57 percent of the Belarusians polled said they favored a single state as existed in pre-revolutionary Russia. The supporters of a federation were 36 percent, 16 percent and 15 percent, respectively. (Interfax)

IMF approves resumption of credits

KYIV – The International Monetary Fund's board of directors has unanimously approved the resumption of credits to Ukraine. The next tranche of \$245 million (U.S.) will be provided by the end of the year. The IMF decision is a good sign for all foreign creditors and allows the Ukrainian government to start talks with the Paris Club on restructuring Ukraine's debts. The loans were suspended back in September 1999. IMF First Deputy Managing Director Stanley Fischer said that the "Ukrainian authorities should be commended for the recent improvements in economic policy implementation and progress on their reform agenda. Economic performance in 2000 has been encouraging, as real GDP growth is expected to be positive (5 percent) for the first time since independence, and there has been a significant turnaround in Ukraine's external position. The authorities are urged to continue with their overall economic strategy, based on a sound budget, tight monetary policy and the implementation of structural reforms." It is expected that the first tranche of the extended fund facility (EFF) loan will arrive in Ukraine on December 26-27, said First Vice Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov. (Eastern Economist)

Counsel to international...

(Continued from page 1)

which the international commission's findings were unanimous:

- "overwhelming evidence" exists that the famine occurred in Ukraine from 1932 to 1933, peaking in the spring of 1933;
- the famine was man-made and not the result of climatic conditions or other natural disasters;
- the three main causes were compulsory grain requisitions, collectivization of agriculture and dekulakization; and
- Soviet authorities not only refrained from sending aid but took a number of steps that exacerbated the famine through decrees and enforcement of an internal passport system that condemned people in the areas of starvation.

The commission concluded that, at a minimum, 4.5 million people had died in Ukraine. Although we now know that the figure may be closer to 10 million, Mr. Hunter asserted that it was correct of the commission to estimate conservatively in order to safeguard its reputation as independent and objective at a time when the Soviet Union steadfastly denied that there was a famine to investigate.

International conference...

(Continued from page 2)

increase significantly, and agriculture could be severely affected. "Certainly the prospect of drying in the summer half of the year is likely to worsen the problems of soil impoverishment, desertification, salinization, particularly where irrigation is used," explained Mr. Carter.

It's not clear from the climate models used to compile the report just how severe these impacts would be on states north of the Mediterranean rim, such as Bulgaria. They, too, can be expected to suffer more extreme heat waves and consequently extra soil dehydration and associated problems. But some models indicate rainfall in the region may increase instead of decrease.

Therefore, it would seem that Romania, which lies still further north, could have a more moderate mix of extra summer heat and rainfall.

In any event, the editor of the British-organized report, Prof. Martin Parry, says it's essential for the EU to start incorporating estimates of climate change impacts into its regional and environmental policies, including agricultural policies.

While a majority of the jurists found that "the Soviet authorities had decreed and promulgated measures that would foreseeably bring about famine and hindered relief efforts," three members found that it was not possible to prove the legal crime of genocide and thus to apply the term genocide as defined by the United Nations Convention.

Mr. Hunter also spoke about the testimony before the commission of Malcom Muggeridge, a friend of his whom he called a decent, honest and courageous man and perhaps the greatest journalist of the century. Because Mr. Muggeridge was old and quite ill at the time of the inquiry, the commission traveled to his home in Sussex, England to take his testimony.

Writing for the Manchester Guardian, 30-year-old Mr. Muggeridge had traveled through Ukraine in the spring of 1933 - he had his translator buy the railway pass since he would not have been allowed to purchase one. What he saw horrified him. He witnessed people dying of starvation, sometimes in sight of granaries guarded by soldiers. His articles were smuggled out via British diplomatic pouch.

Mr. Hunter described the taking of Mr. Muggeridge's testimony as a poignant vindication of a man who had been vilified for his honesty, most famously by Walter Duranty, a New York Times reporter during the famine, who called Mr. Muggeridge a liar (although privately Mr. Duranty said that millions had died), and by George Bernard Shaw, who called Mr. Muggeridge "a hysterical liar."

During the question and answer period, members of the audience suggested reasons that the report did not receive more attention. It was suggested lack of funds resulted in less than adequate print quality and distribution efforts. Mr. Hunter pointed out that by the time of the report's release in 1990, to some extent, events had overtaken the commission's inquiry, with Mikhail Gorbachev acknowledging the famine. It is likely he did so, according to Mr. Hunter, because he knew the commission was about to rule.

Mr. Hunter concluded by calling the International Commission of Jurists Inquiry into the Famine in Ukraine a "ground-breaking initiative" and a "noble undertaking" that could serve as a model for future efforts to address allegations of atrocities.

The event was held on November 30, 2000, at the Munk Center for International Studies at the University of Toronto.

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We greatly appreciate the materials - feature articles, news stories, press clippings, letters to the editor, and the like - we receive from our readers. In order to facilitate preparation of The Ukrainian Weekly, we ask that the guidelines listed below be followed.

- ✦ News stories should be sent in **not later than 10 days** after the occurrence of a given event.
- ✦ All materials must be typed (or legibly hand-printed) and double-spaced.
- ✦ Photographs (originals only, no photocopies or computer printouts) submitted for publication must be accompanied by captions. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.
- ✦ Full names (i.e., no initials) and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- ✦ Newspaper and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.
- ✦ Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date of The Weekly edition in which the information is to be published.
- ✦ Persons who submit any materials must provide a daytime phone number where they may be reached if any additional information is required.
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Business in brief

(Continued from page 3)

2001. Damen purchased the stake for 26 million hrv, and is obliged to pay off 11 months of wage arrears to workers and 230 million hrv of shipyard debt. Damen has already supplied material, equipment and documents needed to construct new vessels at the Mykolaiv site. Okean has also hired 600 more workers for construction of ships that were recently ordered. (Eastern Economist)

Number of farms increases by 1,700

KYIV – The number of farms in the first nine months of 2000 increased by 1,700 reaching 37,600, stated the State Statistics Committee. Farmers use 2.058 million hectares of land and on average have 55 hectares of land each, up from 32 hectares in 1999. Forty-six percent of the land used by the farmers is rented. (Eastern Economist)

Lithuania sells new shipping corridor

ODESA – Ukrainian and Lithuanian port and shipping company representatives have initiated the creation of a transport corridor called Baltics-South. The corridor will operate from Germany through Klaipeda, Lithuania, and Odesa, Ukraine, to the seaports of the Caucasus. Corridor capacity will depend on the effective use of ferries on the Black Sea. UkrFerry Commercial Director Volodymyr Cherniyevskyi stated that a privileged tariff should be introduced for transport through the corridor. (Eastern Economist)

Farmers join U.S. backed feed program

IVANO-FRANKIVSK – Farmers in Prykarpattia became members of the international Ukrainkyi Kombikorm or Ukrainian Mixed Feed program, a U.S.-backed support extension service to agrarian producers, said agricultural service co-op Hrono member Myron Petryshyn. Local farmers will prepare concentrated feed that ensures daily weight gains of livestock and record milk yields with the help of U.S. assistance. The first stage of the program will begin this year. (Eastern Economist)

Kyiv is upgrading city transport system

KYIV – Kyiv's public transportation fleet will be completely renovated by 2002, said Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko during the presentation of the public program titled Buy Ukrainian Goods – Strengthen the State. Mr. Omelchenko added that this year Kyiv has already signed a contract with the Lviv bus plant for 100 buses. Fifty, he said, have already been received, while another 20 to 30 are expected by the new year. Mayor Omelchenko added that an agreement has been signed with a Hungarian company on leasing 100 buses. The mayor also said that the city plans to purchase 120 to 150 Mercedes buses, capable of carrying 180 to 230 passengers. Moreover, he said that "a metro station at Palladina street will be opened next year, connecting Palladina to the city's Teremki district. (Eastern Economist)

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 31
Please be advised that Branch 31 had merged with Branch 9 as of January 1, 2001. All inquiries and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Michael Stock.

Mr. Michael Stock
349 Chestnut St.
St. Clair, PA 17970-1315
(717) 429-0117

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 194
As of January 1, 2001, the secretary's duties of Branch 194 were assumed by Mrs. Oksana Lopatynska. We ask all members of this Branch to direct all correspondence regarding membership and insurance to the address listed below:

Mrs. Oksana Lopatynska
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A soldier of the peacekeeping forces on watch on the Mediterranean coast.



A minesweeping contingent in southern Lebanon receives instructions before setting out on assignment.

Ukraine's troops...

(Continued from page 1)

ity because it has the expertise and the technology, which includes 100 pieces of assorted minesweepers, cranes, bulldozers and trucks.

The Ukrainian mine experts go about the tedious and nerve-wracking task of sweeping for explosive devices in perimeters enclosed with barbed wire and watched by guards located in towers. There are so many explosive devices hidden in Lebanon that it could take up to 40 years to clear the country of them, explained Lt. Col. Khivrenko.

In Kosovo, where Kyiv first contributed troops in September 1999, several months after NATO's bombing of rump Yugoslavia ceased, the Ukrainian contingent includes both a helicopter squad and a detachment assigned to the recently mobilized Ukrainian-Polish Division that includes 260 Ukrainian troops.

The helicopter squad utilizes four MI-8 helicopter gunships to carry out its multifaceted primary mission of equipment and supply transport, VIP escort, evacuation of wounded and general patrol. It is assigned to the town of Uroshevats, near a U.S. military base.

The Polish-Ukrainian force, which was several years in the making before receiving the U.N. peacekeeping assignment, is responsible for general patrolling, convoy escort, civilian escort, and tunnel and bridge defense. It is located near the towns of Brezovica and Kacanik in southern Kosovo.

The Kosovo operation is considerably more costly for Ukraine than the other peacekeeping efforts inasmuch as it is a NATO-organized initiative. Whereas the U.N. offers countries that participate in its operations liberal compensation for manpower and equipment, under NATO command no economic benefits are offered. Quite conversely, countries taking part in NATO operations pay for their own supplies, such as food and fuel consumption.

For cash-poor Ukraine, however, staying in Kosovo remains a priority in order to maintain contact and cooperation with NATO military structures and as a concrete expression of its desire and ability to take part in joint international efforts. Or as Lt. Col. Khivrenko put it, the compensation is in the "prestige, the image and the experi-

ence" the country and its armed forces receive.

Ukraine at one point had considered reducing its role in the effort and had decided to remove its helicopter squad. But then NATO offered to subsidize the costs inasmuch as the technology is unique to Kosovo and the pilots have the experience that another national contingent would have to develop.

One cost-savings measure that Kyiv did implement was to have its soldiers stay for a one-year tour, whereas their Polish brethren are rotated out after six months and other members of the international force, such as the Canadians or the Germans, leave after merely four months.

In general, participation in U.N. peacekeeping operation is a moneymaking venture for both the countries that participate and the soldiers that are sent.

The United Nations provides all the supplies needed for each peacekeeping force, everything from uniforms, helmets and ammunition to food, shelter, spare parts and gasoline. In addition, every country receives \$990 in hard cash monthly for each soldier taking part in the peacekeeping operation.

While Ukrainian officers receive from \$800 to \$900 from this amount, the typical soldier makes about \$500. The balance stays in Kyiv's coffers. But that is only the tip of the iceberg, because the United Nations also pays compensation for use of technology. In sum, Ukraine has received some \$80 million from the United Nations for its eight years of involvement in peacekeeping operations.

In addition to their U.N. salary, the officers and soldiers continue to receive their regular pay, which is sent directly to their families. For those troops stationed in tropical climates, another 10 percent is added to their U.N. salary, while those working in the high-risk mine removal operations in Lebanon receive an additional 20 percent.

Besides the financial advantage, there is the practical benefit of the work. Again, because Ukraine has such limited budgetary resources, its troops do not have the full capability of live-fire training at home. Neither do they receive the amount of time they should get in tracked vehicles or in the air because of gas shortages and financial limitations. With the United Nations they are able to do both.

"It has given Ukraine the ability to raise the expertise level of the veterans and to give its new recruits basic experience," Lt. Col. Khivrenko explained. As an example, he said that a helicopter squad gets what would be a month of training in Ukraine in two to three days in Kosovo.

By remaining close to the situation in these troubled countries, Ukraine also gives itself a decided advantage, or at least it hopes so, to become part of the rebuilding efforts that eventually occur and to receive the profits that go along with it. For example, Kyiv has made it widely known that it believes that when NATO begins awarding contracts for the reconstruction of the infrastructure in Kosovo that Ukrainian companies should be considered for some of the tenders.

Finally, along with Ukraine's utilitarian and economic reasons for volunteering so many of its boys for duty in dangerous parts of the world, there is the political and the high-minded purpose. To achieve influence in the international community and to put itself squarely within that group of countries advocating peaceful resolution of conflict, Ukraine – which has lost 19 of its service personnel and seen more than 50 injured in eight years of international peacekeeping operations – must show that it is willing to make the difficult commitment and is ready to put young Ukrainian men and women in the line of fire to maintain the peace.

"If there was no battalion in Lebanon, what right would Ukraine have to try to influence what is going on there?" asked Lt. Col. Khivrenko.



Col. Oleh Khavroniuk with a local boy in Beirut.

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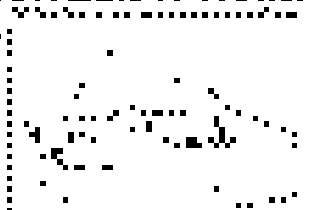
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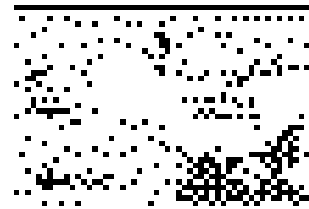
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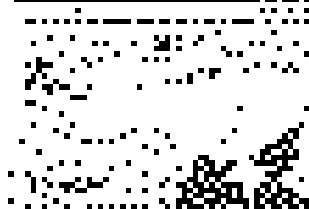
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(Continued from page 4)

in Kyiv and franked with field post stamps are considered philatelic rarities and only Kyiv to Vienna examples are known, none from Kyiv to Lemberg or from Kyiv to Krakow. No special Ukrainian airmail stamps or cancels were ever produced.

Air service milestones

As previously mentioned, the first regularly scheduled flight from Vienna via Krakow and Lemberg to Kyiv took place on March 31, 1918. The majority of the letters on this flight bear March 30 Vienna cancellations and March 31 airmail postmarks (Figure 8). This first flight carried 184 covers from Vienna to Krakow and 264 covers from Vienna to Lemberg. The official mail to Kyiv is unrecorded. The first return flight to Vienna took place on April 3, 1918 (Figure 9). A total of 103 pieces of mail were carried from Lemberg to Vienna and 81 from Krakow to Vienna. Soon daily flights began to leave from both Vienna and Kyiv heading in opposite directions. In the first 90 days of operation, 80 successful one-day flights were made from Vienna to Kyiv. On the other days, bad weather prevented take-off or the completion of the entire journey.

Regular flights of the Vienna-Kyiv line formally ended on October 15, 1918 (Figure 10). The war was drawing to a close and the schedule could no longer be maintained. Nevertheless, occasional flights between the cities continued. Letters bearing postmarks with dates between March 20 and March 31, 1918, that is before the inauguration of regular mail service, or with dates after October 15, are extremely scarce but do exist.

During the period of airmail service the following quantities of items are known to have been carried between the cities:

- Vienna-Krakow – 6,488 items
 - Vienna-Lemberg – 9,428 items
 - Krakow-Vienna – 8,332 items
 - Lemberg-Vienna – 11,038 items.
- So, about 20 percent more mail was

delivered to Vienna than left the capital.

The amount of mail between Vienna and Kyiv certainly did not reach the levels quoted above. However, this author was not able to locate any official tallies of quantities to or from the Ukrainian capital. There could be several reasons for this. The Austrian postal service may have felt it was necessary only to keep track of domestic use of the new airmail service (between Vienna, Krakow and Lemberg). Since mails to Kyiv were travelling to another country, there may have been less concern by postal personnel to keep thorough records. On the other hand, just the opposite could be true. Because so much of the post between these capitals was likely of an important nature (official or military, and not civilian), perhaps counts were deliberately withheld for security reasons. The latter scenario may be the more likely.

An extension of the line

On July 4, 1918, the airmail service was extended to Budapest from Vienna. This service had a direct connection to the Vienna-Kyiv route. The intention was to create a second service to Ukraine via a "southern route" from Vienna to Budapest, through Arad and Bucharest, with Odesa as the final destination (Figure 2). This second line was never established, but the Vienna-Budapest leg operated for a short while until July 23, 1918.

Hungarian airmail stamps were created for this service by overprinting two values of stamps then in use with the words "REPULO POSTA" (air mail). The Hungarian rates were a bit more complicated than those in the Austrian half of the empire and will not be elaborated upon here.

Some published reports stating that the link to Hungary closed because of lack of use are not creditable. The numbers speak for themselves:

- Budapest-Vienna and other Austrian destinations – 6,247 items
- Budapest-Krakow – 405 items
- Budapest-Lemberg – 192 items
- Budapest-Kyiv – a few items
- Vienna-Budapest – 1,845 items.



FIGURE 10: Last flight cover, October 15, 1918, Lemberg to Vienna.

In reality, the shutdown was caused by a couple of unfortunate plane crashes, the first on July 13 and the second on July 21, both of which saw the two-man crews killed.

Epilogue

The pioneering Vienna-Krakow-Lemberg-Kyiv airmail line gave birth to the airmail service that we today take for granted.

Inasmuch as it traversed Austrian, Czech, Polish and Ukrainian territories, and briefly also Hungarian, it is of interest to philatelists who collect any of these countries.

Dr. Inger Kuzych may be contacted at P.O. Box 3, Springfield VA 22150; or by e-mail at ingertik@starpower.net.



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Tour 2: Cruise Tour – Dnipro River Cruise plus Kyiv, Lviv and Warsaw. June 17-27, 2001.
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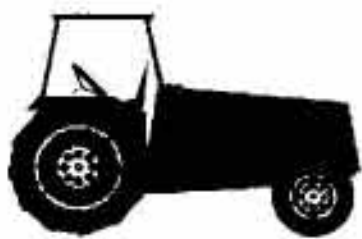
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Basilian Sisters celebrate jubilees

FOX CHASE MANOR, Pa. – The Sisters of St. Basil the Great, of the Jesus, Lover of Humanity Province, recently held a jubilee celebration honoring six sisters for their years of service and commitment to the Order. Sisters were honored for 60 and 70 years of service.

The Sisters of St. Basil the Great are located throughout the world. They came to Fox Chase in 1911 and for over 85 years have been doing missionary work and providing educational facilities for neighboring communities.

Two sisters celebrated 60 years of service.

- Sister Bernarda Arkatin, OSBM, was born in Chesapeake City, Md. and was a member of the St. Basil the Great Parish there. She entered the Basilian Order in June 1940 and professed in August 1943. Sister Bernarda served as principal in St. Nicholas Parish in Philadelphia and taught in Newark, N.J., Hamtramck, Mich., Chicago and Philadelphia. In 1995-1996 she served in the Philadelphia Ukrainian Archdiocese as promoter for the cause of the beatification of Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky. Active in missionary work in Ukraine in service to children, Sister Bernarda currently resides at the St. Basil convent in Chesapeake City.

- Sister Leontia Burda, born in Gilberton, Pa., entered the order in January 1940 and professed in August 1943. Sister Leontia loves children and taught in Auburn and Syracuse, N.Y., Chicago, Hamtramck, Mich., Parma, Ohio, Jersey City, N.J., Olyphant and Northampton, Pa. Having retired in 1998, she now resides in the Motherhouse at Fox Chase Manor. Four sisters celebrated 70 years of

service.

- Sister Magdalene Komanowsky was born in Chester, Pa., and attended the Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church there. She entered the order in August 1930 and professed in August 1933. Sister Magdalene taught in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and Michigan, and spent many years as prefect to the boys at St. Basil Orphanage on Lindley Avenue in Philadelphia. While Sister Magdalene retired to the Motherhouse at Fox Chase Manor in 1990, she continued to teach religion at the Ukrainian School at the Ukrainian Cultural Center.

- Sister Sebastian Komanowsky was born in Chester, Pa., and attended Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church there. She entered the order in August 1930 and professed in August 1933. Sister Sebastian served in parish schools in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Illinois and Ohio. She retired to the Motherhouse at Fox Chase in 1990, where she is very involved in handcrafts.

- Born in Ormrod, Pa., Sister Mary Macrina Goida attended St. John the Baptist Parish in Northampton, Pa. She entered the order in May 1930 and professed in August 1933. Sister Mary was missioned to parishes in New York, Maryland, Illinois, New Jersey and Washington.

- Sister Isidore Gilewitch entered the order in September 1930 and professed in August, 1933. She served in New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Illinois. Sister Isidore became sacristan at the Motherhouse in 1982. Talented in the area of sewing and crafts, Sister Isidore sews vestments and altar linens.



Jubilarians celebrating 60 and 70 years of service: (top row, left to right) Sisters Paula, Laura, Dorothy Ann, the Rev. Michael, Sisters Cecilia, Claire; (middle row) Sisters Bernarda, Isidore, Magdalene, Sebastian; (bottom row) Sisters Macrina and Leontia.

Baltimore Malanka

January 13, 2001, 9 p.m. 'til ?

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

to be published in The Ukrainian Weekly – in the Ukrainian
or English language – are accepted by mail, courier, fax, phone or e-mail.

Deadline: Tuesday noon before the newspaper's date of issue.
(The Weekly goes to press early Friday mornings.)

Rate: \$7.50 per column-inch.

Information should be addressed to the attention of the Advertising Department
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Please include the daytime phone number of a contact person.

The Consulate of Ukraine in New York City,

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and

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request the Ukrainian and American communities
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MOLEBEN SERVICE

- To thank our Heavenly Father for the final closure of the last Chernobyl nuclear power generator on December 15, 2000;
- To pray for the people of Ukraine during this difficult transition;
- To pray for those individuals who continue to suffer the physical consequences of the world's worst nuclear disaster;
- To express our gratitude to Almighty God for the assistance provided from all corners of the world over the past 15 years in the process of healing the Ukrainian Nation in the aftermath of the disaster.

Sunday, January 14, 2001, 1:00 p.m.

Ukrainian Vice-Council Ihor Ivanovych Sybiha, speaker
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, January 13, 2001

HARTFORD, Conn.: A traditional Ukrainian New Year's Eve dance, "Malanka," will be held at the Ukrainian National Home, 961 Wethersfield Ave., at 9 p.m.-2 a.m., featuring the Svitanok Orchestra. For tickets and table reservations call the Ukrainian Gift Shop, (860) 296-6955. Donation: adults, \$20; students, \$15.

Saturday and Sunday, January 20-21

NEW YORK: Yara Arts Group will present "Winter Songs from 'Song Tree,'" workshops in Ukrainian folk singing with Maryana Sadovska, who was born in Lviv. She performed with Yara's first project in

Ukraine and last month appeared in Yara's acclaimed "Song Tree." For the last 10 summers Ms. Sadovska has traveled in the Polissia, the Poltava, Hutsul and Lemko regions of Ukraine collecting songs and stories and documenting rituals. Discover the folk voice in you. Enjoy traditional harmony singing, learn the ancient winter songs Yara artists recorded this year in Ukraine. You do not have to be able to read Ukrainian or music to participate. The workshops will be held Saturday, noon-4 p.m., and Sunday, 2-6 p.m., at La MaMa Theater, East Fourth Street. Fee: \$20 per session. You must pre-register. Call Yara at (212) 475-6474, e-mail yara@prodigy.net., or visit the website <http://www.brama.com/yara/>.

PLEASE NOTE REQUIREMENTS:

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (**\$10 per submission**) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Payment must be received prior to publication.

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be no more than 100 words long; all submissions are subject to editing. Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment of \$10 for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, please include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours. Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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Our staff, which includes Certified Public Accountants and Financial Planners, are busy gearing up for the upcoming tax season. We are available for year-end tax and financial planning.

Please have a Safe & Enjoyable Holiday Season.

Sincerely,
Peter Yurkowski & Co. P.C.
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