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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Moroz, visiting U.S., paints alarming picture of Ukraine

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON — The leader of the Ukrainian Socialist Party, Oleksander Moroz, came here last week to explain why the movement he helped organize in the final months of last year wants to oust Ukraine's current president, Leonid Kuchma.

Mr. Moroz launched the ouster move in late November 2000 when he played conversations secretly taped in the president's office on which Mr. Kuchma's voice is heard discussing the removal of Heorhii Gongadze, an Internet journalist known for his criticism of the administration. The journalist's headless body was later found not far from Kyiv.

Mr. Moroz, who was chairman of the Verkhovna Rada from 1994 to 1998,

Painted an alarming picture of the current state of affairs in Ukraine — including the abuse of power and human rights, officially sanctioned corruption and rampant electronic surveillance.

He also outlined his vision of what needs to be done in order to preserve democracy in that country. "Ukraine today stands at a crossroad," he said on the first day of his visit here. "It can become either a democratic country or a criminal dictatorship."

Addressing a packed briefing room at the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty on February 27, Mr. Moroz said that underlying the current political crisis in Ukraine was the usurpation of power by the president and his closest allies, as was revealed in some of the 300 hours of

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Police forcefully dismantle tent city Kuchma hails "absolutely proper decision"

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Several days after a third major demonstration in Kyiv in as many weeks calling for the resignation of President Leonid Kuchma, Ukrainian authorities on March 1 forcefully took apart the tent city that had come to symbolize the movement and arrested more than 30 people.

The police action occurred just as the work day in Kyiv was beginning and included scores of uniformed militia who paraded out of buses and proceeded to knock down and then gather the tents, the flags and the banners, and heap them aboard waiting dump trucks.

As they worked, other law enforcement officers beat and arrested several dozen of the tent city's inhabitants, who resisted the effort and placed themselves before the wheels of the trucks, while six busloads of reinforcements and a communications vehicle waited on the Khreschatyk and an adjoining street, which were closed to traffic during that time.

National deputies and organizers of the Ukraine Without Kuchma movement expressed outrage at the action and called it unlawful.

"This was done without basis or reason," said Andrii Shkil, the head of the paramilitary organization UNA-UNSO, which was guarding the tents. He also issued a veiled warning: "The government's action unties our hands. Now we can call the nation to another form of protest." Twenty-three members of his organization were arrested in the clean-up operation.

Several national deputies said the destruction of the tent city was a violation of their rights as lawmakers. Several of them, chiefly from the Socialist and Batkivschyna parties, as well as a few from the Ukrainian National Rukh Party, had taken responsibility for all the tents since the encampment was constructed at the beginning of February. Because national deputies have immunity from criminal prosecution, they maintained that no one could touch the tents. Twice city officials had retreated from attempts to clear the tent city.

National Deputy Yurii Karmazyn, speaking minutes after the tents had been cleared, pointed out that the action took place during a time the Verkhovna Rada, within which there exists a strong element of support for the anti-Kuchma movement, was not in session and national deputies were scattered about the country working in their constituencies. He also said the police action marks the beginning of a new stage in the government's handling of the opposition.

"I think that the authorities are now beginning a very serious attack on democracy in all parts of Ukraine," he said. "They have nothing to lose. The tapes have documented their criminal behavior."

President Kuchma commented on the

destruction of the tent city at a press conference on March 1: "I am happy that the Kyiv government showed that it has authority. It was an absolutely proper decision." He added, "It is unfortunate that the deputies who are supposed to uphold the law, ignore it and go even further."

Last week, on February 22, a Kyiv municipal court ruled in favor of a request from the city administration that the tent city be disbanded because it was a danger to pedestrians and a health hazard. Since then, members of the press and protesters had maintained a nightly watch. Although there had been talk on the day of the court decision that the tents would be cleared out that night, most demonstrators had expressed a belief that authorities would wait until after a U.S. congressional delegation left Ukraine and after another mass rally took place on February 25.

On February 23, U.S. Rep. Bob Schaffer, a member of the congressional delegation who had visited the tent city, said that the worst thing government officials could do was to turn more attention to the demonstrators by eliminating their place of protest.

"People ought to lighten up about the tents this is a good thing," said Mr. Schaffer.

Oleksander Savchenko, the commander of the militia unit on the scene, explained after the clean-up operation was completed that he had received his orders after a reassertion from the local court the previous evening that it had the right to remove the tents.

Four days earlier, on February 25, the tent city and much of the Khreschatyk was the site of a mass rally, which organizers

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Weeklong celebrations in Rome mark elevation of Cardinal Lubomyr Husar

by Marta Kolomayets

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

ROME — Archbishop Major Lubomyr Husar, primate of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church worldwide, was elevated to the rank of cardinal by Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square on Wednesday morning, February 21.

He was one of 44 cardinals — the largest number in history — who took part in an ecclesiastical assembly, known as a consistory, for the creation of new cardinals. More than 30,000 people witnessed this regal two-hour outdoor ceremony under the

warmth of the Roman sun.

Significantly, Archbishop Major Husar wore the hooded black cloak of his Studite monastic order, adorned with gold ribbons etched in red silk threads, thus emphasizing the uniqueness of the Eastern Church.

He and two patriarchs from the Eastern Rite, Moussa I Doud of Syria (now the prefect for the Congregation of Eastern Churches) and Stephanos II of Alexandria, did not receive the traditional red skullcap and cardinal's biretta, a silk-covered square hat with no brim, from the holy father.

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Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, primate of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, embraces Pope John Paul II at St. Peter's Square on February 22, on the second day of the consistory.

Tape analysis yields inconclusive results

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — An independent analysis of audio recordings that could implicate President Leonid Kuchma in various criminal acts, including complicity in the murder of a Ukrainian journalist, has given mixed results, according to a report released on February 27. Nonetheless, its authors said that, while there is no hope for an absolutely conclusive result, indications are that — more likely than not — the tapes are real. The report underscores that it is unlikely the recordings could be used as evidence in a court of law.

The results, released on February 27, explained that the recordings are of a type that makes the probability of determining whether they were doctored or manipulated

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ANALYSIS

Presidents Vladimir Putin and George W. Bush, and the National Missile Defense Program

by Dr. David Marples

The new defense and security team put together by President George W. Bush appears to have posed some immediate problems for the Putin administration, which is in the midst of a debate as to Russia's security policy and needs. Specifically, the U.S. proposal to develop a National Missile Defense Program (NMD) allegedly contravenes the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty of 1972 and threatens to lead to a new arms build-up reminiscent of the Cold War. How serious is this question?

The 1972 treaty was signed between U.S. President Richard M. Nixon and Soviet General Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev and marked a significant breakthrough following 15 years of sabre-rattling between the two superpowers. It placed restrictions on ABM systems and systems that were built to defend against strategic ballistic missiles. It did not completely eliminate such sites, as each side was permitted to retain two, with a maximum of 100 ABM launchers and 100 interceptor missiles. Today, the United States has no such sites and the Russians have one, reportedly obsolete, just outside Moscow.

The treaty, according to the U.S. side, is null and void for several reasons. First, the USSR no longer exists, and implicitly Russia, the inheritor of its nuclear weapons, has different interests. Second, the original treaty excluded the other nuclear weapons-holding states, Britain, France and China. Today, as was demonstrated by the Gulf War and by Chinese truculence toward Taiwan (the use of ballistic missiles as a potential threat to enforce political demands), the main danger to the United States emanates not from Russia, but from so-called rogue states, like North Korea and Iraq, which might use ballistic missiles against the Americans.

Thus, several prominent statespersons have supported research into a new protective shield (the NMD), resurrecting in effect a new Star Wars syndrome, despite the fact that research into such a program has yielded few results thus far and a lot of costly failures.

The Russians do have a point. Despite official rhetoric, several officials in the new U.S. administration (including the director of the CIA) have suggested that Russia remains a potential U.S. enemy.

David Marples is a professor of history at the University of Alberta.

The fact that so many officials of the late Cold War era have returned under the new Bush leadership adds weight to the Russian concerns.

On the other hand, the furor over the NMD owes at least something to disputes in the Russian military hierarchy and the vacillations of the president. The main debate has centered on Russia's Strategic Rocket Forces (SRF), a target of Russian Chief of Staff Gen. Anatoly Kvashin, who wishes to join them to the air force. His opponent is Russian Defense Minister Igor Sergeev, the former head of the SRF, who has alienated the Russian armed forces by allocating the bulk of the military budget to a new generation of ballistic missiles, thereby depriving the impoverished army of any new weapons.

Minister Sergeev has denounced the NMD, but at the same time the American program has in some respects provided him with justification for a very dubious defense policy. The latter is reliant on the new Russian ICBM, the Topol-M SS-27, a weapon conceived in the 1980s for the purpose of penetrating a Star Wars style shield. The SS-27 can carry numerous decoy warheads that can stymie radar and interceptors. They represent what the military calls "asymmetrical counter-measures" and are as relevant today – given the NMD – as they were in the Cold War era.

Yet this is to miss the key point, which is that no such NMD or "shield" is in place, and nor is one likely to be completed within the next decade. Meanwhile of the 780 remaining Russian ICBMs, 60 percent have already exceeded their anticipated life-span and require upgrading. Minister Sergeev seems to be living in a time warp, clinging to the view that Russia remains a world power, albeit one with a military budget around 2 percent that of its former adversary. Indeed, the new U.S. administration places less stress on the Russian reaction to the NMD than on the response of the emerging new power in the east, China.

President Vladimir Putin, for his part, appears to be awaiting a consensus between Messrs. Kvashin and Sergeev that is unlikely to come in the near future. In the meantime, he continues to dither and make placatory remarks to the new U.S. president, making many Russians ponder what happened to the bold and decisive young leader they elected with such readiness only a year ago.

Yuschenko most popular in 2000

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

KYIV – A poll by the Oleksander Razumkov Ukrainian Center of Economic and Political Studies conducted between January 22 and February 2 among 2,000 adult Ukrainians found that Prime Minister Viktor Yuschenko was the most popular Ukrainian politician in 2000 (32.5 percent of respondents mentioned his name).

President Leonid Kuchma obtained 14 percent backing.

Other results were: Socialist Party leader Oleksandr Moroz, 5.8 percent; Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko, 5.8 percent; Fatherland Party leader Yulia Tymoshenko, 2.8 percent; Progressive Socialist Party leader Natalia Vitrenko, 1.9 percent; former

President Leonid Kravchuk, 1.7 percent; former Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk, 1.3 percent; National Deputy Hryhorii Surkis, 1 percent.

The popularity rating of other politicians was below 1 percent.

The center also found that 88.6 percent of respondents have heard about the country's bugging scandal – 60.5 percent of them are dissatisfied with how the scandal is presented in the media; 53.6 percent believe the authorities will do everything to make people forget this scandal as soon as possible; 25 percent think the political regime will become even more repressive; and only 14.1 percent believe the authorities will conduct an objective investigation into the bugging case.

NEWSBRIEFS

Deputy accuses NATO of bugging

KYIV – National Deputy Bohdan Boiko, a leader of the Popular Movement for Unity, told journalists on February 27 that President Leonid Kuchma's office was bugged by "special services of one or several NATO countries," Interfax reported. "The famous digital recorder of Maj. [Mykola] Melnychenko has nothing to do [with this case]," Mr. Boiko said. According to Mr. Boiko, Melnychenko is currently hiding in a "NATO military base, most probably in one of the Benelux countries." Mr. Boiko said the "first phase" of the NATO special services' operation against Mr. Kuchma misfired, because the president remains in his post. Mr. Boiko noted that the "second phase" will seek to discredit Mr. Kuchma by pointing to his alleged financial machinations and abuse of power during the 1999 presidential elections. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma: case used as "political weapon"

KYIV – In a letter published in the February 27 issue of the Financial Times, President Leonid Kuchma wrote that some Ukrainian politicians have turned the tragic death of Heorhii Gongadze into a "political weapon designed to destabilize Ukraine." Mr. Kuchma noted: "It is not by chance that my main accusers are precisely the same people who have blocked Ukraine's transformation to a free market economy." The Ukrainian president said there are no grounds to accuse him of Mr. Gongadze's murder, adding that he is committed to protecting the freedom and safety of the press. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma says he will not resign

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma said on February 21 that he will not step down because of the allegations of his complicity in the disappearance of journalist Heorhii Gongadze, Interfax reported. "I won't even speak on this topic," Mr. Kuchma said during a call-in interview with readers of the Kyiv-based Fakty newspaper. "I want to tell people: you need to believe in your country, you need to believe your president. I am looking in your eyes and I am ready to swear on the Bible and the Constitution that I have never, under no circumstances given an order to destroy a man," the president said in the section of the interview that was broadcast the same day by the ICTV television channel. (RFE/RL Newsline)

More on failure to oust Potebenko

KYIV – National Deputy Anatolii Matvienko, leader of the opposition Sobor Party, said he believes the failed attempts on February 22 to pass a vote of no confidence in Procurator General Mykhailo Potebenko

testify to the fact that an "oligarchic majority" has been formed in the Verkhovna Rada. Addressing the Parliament on February 22, Mr. Matvienko congratulated Rada Chairman Ivan Pliusch on the formation of that majority. "I warn you against a threat of losing [our] independence. The hundred [lawmakers] who voted [for Potebenko's ouster] is part of the [real] opposition and pro-Ukrainian force," Mr. Matvienko added. The no confidence resolutions were either boycotted or opposed by the pro-presidential caucuses Labor Ukraine, Revival of Regions, Solidarity, the Social Democratic Party (United) and the National Democratic Party, as well as by the Greens and Yabluko. The Communist Party caucus also refused to vote. Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko commented: "We do not intend to defend Potebenko, but we will also not participate in settling scores between clans." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Melnychenko continues transcribing tapes

KYIV – Mykola Melnychenko, who secretly bugged President Leonid Kuchma's office and provoked a political scandal in Ukraine by publicizing some recordings, told RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service on February 26 that he needs "a great deal of time" as well as "equipment and professionals" to transcribe all the secret tapes he made. Mr. Melnychenko noted, however, that the material he has already transcribed is sufficient to prove unambiguously that President Kuchma is "a criminal who gave criminal orders and controlled [their fulfillment]." He added that he is waiting for the confirmation of the authenticity of his recordings by the International Press Institute in Vienna. Following this confirmation, he is going to publicize more taped information "which is no less criminal than the Gongadze case." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Melnychenko says Kuchma stole \$1 B

KYIV – Mykola Melnychenko, who released secret recordings of conversations in the Ukrainian president's office, was quoted in the February 26 issue of The New York Times as saying that President Leonid Kuchma had pocketed at least \$1 billion for personal or political use. Mr. Melnychenko added that the full transcript of recordings made "since at least 1998" in the president's office will establish that "there is no greater criminal in Ukraine than Kuchma." Prior to this disclosure, it was widely believed that Mr. Melnychenko bugged Kuchma only for an unspecified period in 2000. "My goal is to totally expose the level of corruption in Ukraine as an independent Don Quixote and ensure that thieves will never come to

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FOR THE RECORD: Message to the people of Ukraine

Following is the text of the message to the nation issued on February 13 by the President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Ivan Pliusch and Prime Minister Viktor Yuschenko. The English-language translation below was released on February 26 in New York by the Consulate General of Ukraine. (It is published here without any editorial changes or corrections by The Ukrainian Weekly.)

Dear compatriots!

We have been forced to address you by the attempts to put Ukraine through a great trial, to pull it into a whirlwind of sick passions. Notably, this is being done at the point when we just started to overcome the long economic crisis, when the people have a real hope for improvement.

We have to call things by their names: an unprecedented political campaign featuring a psychological war has been unleashed against our state.

Ukraine and the world will eventually know the names of those who ordered, masterminded and carried out – the driving forces – of this provocation. However, we all see now the involvement in it of these Ukrainian politicians and those political forces who have nothing but personal interests and ambitions, selfish aspirations and current expectations. They are instigating an atmosphere of hysteria

and psychosis, hoping to put out of balance the legitimate state institutions and to get to power at any cost.

This time, the disappearance of journalist Georgy Gongadze and the so-called tape scandal have been used as a pretext for social disruption. They were followed by loquacious generalities about the encroachment on the press and democracy in Ukraine. The directors of the current actions themselves acknowledged that in lieu of this pretext they would have found any other.

We deeply and sincerely sympathize with the family that has been stricken by the plight and apologize for some actions by the law enforcement bodies. Following procedural requirements under current legislation must not contradict the understanding of limitless human sorrow. The instances of unprofessional conduct in the investigation into the case of Gongadze are obvious and regrettable. Now, all measures are being taken in order to ensure its soonest and most comprehensive completion. The results of the analysis of all the circumstances will lead to the most serious conclusions.

On the other hand, we strongly disagree and will never accept making the tragedy a joker card in cynical political speculations and using it in order to defame our country in the eyes of the Ukrainian and the global community; uninhibited and impunitively dissemina-

tion of illegitimately obtained, unverified or falsified information; launching games under slogans of democracy protection which put the very existence of Ukraine, its territorial integrity and social peace at stake; pushing through scenarios leading to destructive consequences and more tribulation for the people.

In a democratic society, everyone has the right to hold his own beliefs and express them publicly. However, there is a border that no one, under any conditions may cross. This is the Law and responsibility for every word.

Dirty techniques are not rare in contemporary world, with its tough methods of political struggle. But even against such a background, the current events in Ukraine stand out by their cynicism and contempt for legal and moral norms. That is discrediting state officials, politicians and political forces, blackmailing the state bodies and manipulation of public opinion.

Today's unconcealed calculation is aimed at deluded ordinary performers. Since the absolute majority of the Ukrainian people does not respond to the provocative calls of these "professional revolutionaries," they have nothing left but to appeal to extremist forces, to the emotional crowd in order to use it as a battering ram and a means for intimidating ordinary people with

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Young intelligentsia's open letter

The letter below, initiated by young members of the Ukrainian intelligentsia was originally released on February 16 in the aftermath of recent developments in Ukraine surrounding the Gongadze case, including demonstrations calling for the resignation of President Leonid Kuchma. The letter now appears on the Internet (<http://www.oksamyt.org.ua/vpered-en.epl>), where additional signatures are being sought.

An Open Letter from the Remnants of the Young Ukrainian Intelligentsia

WE DO NOT WANT to live in a country where corrupt officials headed by the President are turning Ukraine into a police state, thus trying to preserve the current state of affairs. Where the person who calls himself "the guarantor of the Constitution" and his subordinates once again have started political repression. Where the prime minister turns out to be a political amoeba. Where the power organs, called to protect the citizens, are turning into packs of thugs. Where justice is restored by a mighty blow of a policeman's stick. Where the word "lawlessness" has become a synonym for the word "power."

WE DO NOT WANT to live in a country where once again people are afraid of telling the truth and believing in justice. Where everything is for sale: judges and politicians, principles and high offices, pride and votes, and even human thoughts. Where the mass media are turning into gutters for lies and battlefields for clans. Where teachers are forced to become informers. Where independent-minded people once again are forced to either leave the country, or go underground.

WE DO NOT WANT TO AND WILL NOT keep silent. We can see where silence and passivity have led us. In the past the worst human crimes happened because of general apathy. We always reserve the right for freedom of expression, freedom of conscience, freedom of assembly and freedom of beliefs. And if someone attempts to take them away, we reserve the right of resistance.

WE WANT AND WE WILL think, create and act freely regardless of the fact that someone might not like it.

WE WANT AND WE WILL live in a country where human rights and freedoms are not only spelled out on paper, but are also adhered to. In a country with a positive image.

To achieve this, WE DEMAND that current president Leonid Kuchma has to resign.

1. Oles Donii, political scientist, Kyiv
2. Yurii Andrukhovych, writer, Ivano-Frankivsk
3. Andrii Bondar, poet, writer, Kyiv
4. Serhii Zhadan, poet, writer, Kharkiv
5. Vasyl Kozheliianko, writer, journalist, Chernivtsi
6. Viktor Morozov, musician, Lviv
7. Taras Chubai, composer, musician, member of Plach Yeremiya, Lviv
8. Mykhailo Barbara, musician, member of Mertvyi Piven, Lviv
9. Roman Chaika, musician, member of Mertvyi Piven, Lviv
10. Taras Korpalo, philosopher, Kyiv

The full list contained 1,404 signatures as of February 26.

Ukrainian Americans' open letter to Ukraine's leaders

Printed below is the full text of an open letter to President Leonid Kuchma, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Ivan Pliusch and Prime Minister Viktor Yuschenko sent on February 18 by leading members of the Ukrainian American community.

As preparations for the 10th anniversary of Ukraine's independence are being made, we, the undersigned, recognize the many achievements of the people of Ukraine. Ukraine's treatment of minorities, its record of religious tolerance, its positive relations with the West and with its neighbors have given us great pride. At the same time, however, we are gravely concerned about the recent developments in Ukraine. We are most distressed by the continued reports, both in Ukrainian and in the media worldwide, of the suppression of freedom of speech and of the press in Ukraine by the authorities. We fear that the scandal of the Gongadze affair, the widely disseminated revelations of the Melnychenko tapes, and the spreading public demonstrations against the handling of these developments have besmirched Ukraine's image in the world and may lead to an increasing public crisis of confidence in its government.

Since Ukraine became independent, we Ukrainian Americans have spared no effort to convince our U.S. government that the government of independent Ukraine is firmly committed to achieving full democratic freedoms and economic reforms for its people and that it is in the best interest of the United States to support Ukraine politically and economically. Our task may become even more difficult now with a new administration re-examining foreign policy priorities for the United States. Unless the ongoing scandals in Ukraine are dealt with expeditiously and with the most diligent respect for individual legal and human rights, our work on behalf of Ukraine will be severely hampered.

We, therefore, appeal to you to do everything in your power to assure that the investigation of the Gongadze case is carried out in a transparent, objective manner and brought to a speedy resolution. Equally important for the future of Ukraine is respect for a free press. We, therefore, also urge you to show the world that Ukraine understands that freedom of the media in all its forms and the people's right to peaceful demonstrations are hallmarks of all true democracies. Moreover, strengthening the rights of the individual and further implementing the rule of law are likewise indispensable elements for the future of a democratic Ukraine.

The resolution of these matters will allow Ukraine to continue the political and economic reforms that are so necessary for the well-being of its people.

List of signatories:

Andryczyk, Vera, public relations director, Ukrainian Federation of America

Baranetsky, Walter, chairman of the board of directors, Coordinating Committee, to Aid Ukraine (U.S.A)

Baranowsky, Roman, president, Ukrainian American Association

Bilaniuk, Oleksa, member, Ukrainian National Academy of Arts and Sciences

Board of directors, The Washington Group

Burachinsky, Bohdan, member, board of directors, Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine (U.S.A.)

Chernyk, Zenia, chairman of board of directors, Ukrainian Federation of America

Deychakiwsky, Orest, member of the board of directors, The Washington Group

Diachuk, Ulana, president, Ukrainian National Association

Dyhdalo, Roma, chairman of the National Committee, Ukrainian American Coordinating Council

Gawdiak, Ihor, president, Ukrainian American Coordinating Council

Humesky, Assya, president, Ukrainian American Association of University Professors

Ichtiarow, Jury, acting head, Research Institute of Modern Ukrainian History

Iwaniw, Natalie, president, Ukrainian Gold Cross

Kaczaraj, Stefan, treasurer, Ukrainian National Association

Kozenioski, Bohdan, president, Ukrainian Federation of America

Lastowecky, Andrew, president, Association for Democratization of Ukraine

Lysko, Martha, national secretary, Ukrainian National Association

Maksymjuk, Stefan, member, Auditing Commission, Ukrainian American Coordinating Council

Nazarewicz, Walter, president, Ukrainian Institute of America

Oleksyn, Ivan, president, Ukrainian Fraternal Association

Pashchuk, Andriy, member, board of directors, Ukrainian Institute of America

Prociuk, Oleksander, president, Organization for the Rebirth of Ukraine

Shevchenko, Andrij, member, executive committee, Association of American Youth of Ukrainian Descent (ODUM)

Trush, Joseph, president, United Ukrainian War Veterans in America

Wolowodiuk, Wolodymyr, president, Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine (U.S.A.)

Woroch, Stephan, president, Foundation in Support of the Diplomatic Missions of Ukraine

Wynar, Lubomyr, president, World Scholarly Council, Ukrainian World Congress

Procurator General opens murder investigation in Gongadze case

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The Procurator General of Ukraine opened an official murder investigation into the death of Heorhii Gongadze on February 27, a day after it acknowledged for the first time that the body found more than three months ago outside of the town of Tarascha, 75 miles outside of Kyiv, was indeed that of the missing journalist.

The belated decision to begin to inves-

tigate the disappearance of the controversial journalist as a premeditated murder came nearly two months after the Procurator General's Office announced that a DNA analysis of the body showed there was a 99.6 percent probability the body found was that of the missing journalist and more than five months since the journalist disappeared.

Procurator General Mykhailo Potebenko, who had said in January that the DNA result had showed less certainty than he required – and had explained that

he could not take responsibility for declaring Mr. Gongadze dead only to have him reappear in the future – was not present at the announcement.

His second-in-command, Deputy Procurator General Oleksii Bahanets, had explained to reporters a week earlier that the DNA results did not exclude the possibility that the body could be that of a sibling of the dead journalist – even though Mr. Gongadze was an only child. Mr. Bahanets said the change in determination was based on “additional data” from medical experts, but did not explain what that data was.

However, several days earlier, during a special program on the Russian television channel NTV which was dedicated to the Gongadze affair and TapeGate, the Russian forensic DNA expert who conducted the analysis said the probability his analysis had achieved was 99.9 percent, and not 99.6 percent as Mr. Potebenko had repeatedly maintained.

Mr. Bahanets also announced that Mr. Gongadze's wife, Myrosia, and mother, Lesia, had been given official status as victims in the case, which now gives them and their legal representatives the right to present and examine evidence, and take part in all aspects of the investigation. The public prosecutor's office made the decision after losing a ruling in a lower court on the matter last week – a ruling it originally said it would appeal.

But the decision did little to comfort the dead journalist's mother, who has battled official resistance to a murder investigation for months. Although the public prosecutor finally is willing to turn the body of Mr. Gongadze over to the next of kin for burial, Mrs. Gongadze said she would not accept it, demanding instead that another autopsy of the body take place with her repre-

sentatives present.

“They gave us a death certificate, but the reason for the death, the date of the death, where his head is – nobody can tell me this,” said the journalist's mother, according to Reuters. “They want me to bury him so that [the case] can be forgotten,” she added.

The following day Mr. Gongadze's mother had her first meeting with Procurator General Potebenko, whose resignation she has demanded, accusing him of covering up details of the investigation. Afterwards, she announced that Mr. Potebenko had agreed to “look into the matter of a second expert analysis.”

On February 23 President Leonid Kuchma had indicated after meeting with a U.S. congressional delegation that he had accepted an offer made by the U.S. lawmakers to have specialists of the FBI do another forensic analysis of the Tarascha body and urged the Procurator General's Office to cooperate.

The elder Mrs. Gongadze has also asked for a separate meeting with President Kuchma. In a letter to the Ukrainian head of state she implored him to help resolve the case and said that perhaps a meeting with her would help determine the truth.

“You are the president of the country and the guarantor of the Constitution, and I have to believe you,” Mrs. Gongadze wrote in her letter.

Mrs. Gongadze's attorney, Andrii Fedur, who delivered the correspondence directly to Mr. Kuchma during a meeting with him on February 26, said afterwards that he believes the president will fulfill the mother's request. He also said that he had conveyed to the president his client's firm belief that Mr. Potebenko “must bear responsibility for the infringements made during the investigation.”



Heorhii Gongadze, 31, is seen with his wife, Myroslava, and twin girls, Nona and Sofia, in this undated family photo.

Police forcefully dismantle...

(Continued from page 1)

had billed as the beginning of the end of the Kuchma administration and its political cronies. The anti-Kuchma forces had said they expected a turnout of 50,000, which would have made the rally one of the largest ever held in Kyiv.

Although representatives of the more than 20 political parties and organizations that are part of the Ukraine Without Kuchma action kept moving through the crowd that day, telling anyone who would listen that the crowd numbered 20,000, it was obvious to observers that no more than 6,000 to 8,000 interested people were on hand.

Making it more difficult to assess the turnout was the fact that many Kyivans were celebrating the last day before the beginning of Lent, which was marked with several concerts on the city's main thoroughfare.

The rally, including a mock trial of President Kuchma, began after about 1,500 demonstrators marched through the city's central streets carrying banners and placards proclaiming: “Kuchma – Remember Romania,” “Youth for the Truth” and “Kuchma – Time to Resign.”

National Deputy Anatolii Matvienko, a leading figure in the anti-Kuchma movement who at one time was a close ally of the president, called on the nation to unite behind the movement.

“We want the voice of the people to be heard. At the same time, we are going to work to change the Constitution, to make our government more European, to give the people guaranteed rights and a European way of life.”

In the climax to the protest, several leaders of the anti-Kuchma movement donned judicial robes and played the roles of judges and prosecutors in what was dubbed a “popular tribunal,” during which they found President Kuchma guilty of harassment of politicians and the media, falsification of elections, the disappearance of Heorhii Gongadze, and corruption and the abuse of power.

A crudely constructed dummy, kept in a box resembling a cage, symbolized the president. After the verdict, some of the protesters marched to the Supreme Court building a few blocks away, where they made an attempt to hang the dummy from a miniature gallows constructed for the occasion.

First Vice Prime Minister Viktor Medvedchuk on February 26 issued a critical reaction to the mass rally. “This is more akin to a witchhunt or a circus, which is an offense to a normal citizen,” said Mr. Medvedchuk, who explained that it did not reflect the thinking within society as a whole.

The removal of the tent city comes just as the momentum of the anti-Kuchma movement seemed to be ebbing. The previous day an independent analysis of the audiotapes at the center of the controversy (see story on page 1), which opposition members claim are recordings of President Kuchma conspiring to carry out criminal acts with government officials, did not conclusively prove they had not been

edited or falsified.

Earlier, officials of the Procurator General's Office finally had acknowledged that a body found in a shallow grave about 75 miles outside Kyiv in November is indeed that of the Mr. Gongadze, whose disappearance in mid-September led to a series of missteps and alleged cover-ups by law enforcement officials that prompted and has fueled the anti-Kuchma movement.

Yurii Lutsenko, one of the leaders of the Ukraine Without Kuchma movement, said minutes after the tent city was pulled down that this was far from the end of the anti-Kuchma action. “I guarantee you we will continue this action today in the city center,” Mr. Lutsenko asserted.



Opposition protesters carry an effigy of President Leonid Kuchma in a cage, during a demonstration of the Ukraine Without Kuchma movement on February 25 in Kyiv.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC. FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000

ADMITTED ASSETS:

Bonds	\$ 45,737,894
Common stocks	3,727,745
Preferred stock	2,434,306
Mortgage loans on real estate	9,010,474
Certificate loans and liens	373,339
Cash on hand and on deposit	1,699,082
Electronic data processing equipment	43,931
Life insurance premiums uncollected	118,635
Accident and health premiums due	3,079
Investment income due and accrued	796,927
Receivable from subsidiaries and affiliates	180,017
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$ 64,125,429

LIABILITIES, SPECIAL RESERVES AND UNASSIGNED FUNDS

Aggregate reserve for life certificates and contracts	\$ 49,250,000
Aggregate reserve for accident and health certificates	21,892
Supplementary contracts without life contingencies	220,871
Certificate and contract claims-Life	1,128,538
Refund accumulations	431,579
Premiums and annuity considerations received in advance	223,868
Interest maintenance reserve	261,993
Commissions to fieldworkers due or accrued	29,281
General expenses due or accrued	107,392
Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued	108,827
Unearned investment income	476
Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates	3,597,667
Liability for benefits for employees and fieldworkers if not included above	2,799
Asset securities valuation reserve	888,925
Reserve for unrepresented checks	271,981
Orphan's fund liability	188,531
Printing plant expenses due and unpaid	11,537
Unexpired subscriptions to Official Publication	284,157
Deficit net worth of subsidiary	64,009
Reserve for convention expenses	225,000
TOTAL liabilities	57,319,323
Unassigned funds	6,791,063
TOTAL	\$ 64,110,387

GENERAL EXPENSES INSURANCE

	Accident and Health Investment Fraternal				Total
	Life	Investment	Fraternal	Total	
Rent	\$ 454,066				\$ 454,066
Salaries and wages	505,195	7,322	73,217	146,433	732,167
Insured benefit plans for employees	192,831	2,795	27,947	55,893	279,466
Legal fees and expenses	3,324				3,324
Medical examination fees	12,224				12,224
Fees of public accountants and consulting actuaries	212,927				212,927
Traveling expenses	1,292			1,292	2,583
Advertising	9,770			9,770	19,540
Postage, express, telegraph and telephone	35,283			35,283	70,566
Printing and stationery	17,396			17,396	34,792
Cost or depreciation of furniture and equipment	37,614				37,614
Rental of equipment	68,303				68,303
Books and periodicals	1,758			1,758	3,516
Bureau and association dues				1,932	1,932
Insurance, except on real estate	11,134				11,134
Collection and bank service charges	5,558		24,342		29,900
Sundry general expenses	23,820				23,820
Field conferences other than local meetings				20,774	20,774
Official publication				133,927	133,927
Expense of Supreme Lodge Meetings				24,871	24,871
Real estate expenses			1,245,752	474,126	1,872,020
Investment expenses not included elsewhere			10,385		10,385
Donation, Scholarships, Etc.				171,603	171,603
Professional fees	6,010				6,010
Youth Sports Activities				1,596	1,596
General Expense Incurred	\$ 1,598,505	10,116	1,381,642	1,096,653	\$ 4,239,061
General expenses unpaid December 31, previous year	65,931	212	22,794	33,159	122,096
General expenses unpaid December 31, current year	50,354	217	26,246	30,575	107,393
General expenses paid during year	\$ 1,614,082	10,111	1,378,190	1,099,237	\$ 4,253,764

TAXES, LICENSES AND FEES INSURANCE

	Accident and Health Investment Fraternal				Total
	Life	Health	Investment	Fraternal	
State insurance department licenses and fe	\$ 173,078				\$ 173,078
Other state taxes, including for employee benefits	-617	-9	-89	-179	-894
U.S. Social Security taxes	46,021	667	6,670	13,339	66,697
All other taxes	2,515		2,602		5,117
Taxes, Licenses and Fees Incurred	\$ 220,998	658	9,182	13,161	\$ 243,998
Taxes, licenses and fees unpaid December 31, previous year	113,875	-321	-442	-883	112,228
Taxes, licenses and fees unpaid December 31, current year	108,087	24	239	477	108,827
Taxes, licenses and fees paid during year	\$ 226,786	313	8,501	11,801	\$ 247,399

Valuation Exhibit-December 31, 2000

Total admitted assets	\$ 64,125,429
LIABILITIES AND UNASSIGNED FUNDS	
Reserve for life certificate	\$ 49,250,000
Reserve for ADD certificate	21,892
Claim & accrued liabilities	8,047,431
Total liabilities	\$ 57,319,323
Margin of safety to certificate holders	6,791,063
TOTAL	\$ 64,110,387

The ratio of admitted assets to total liabilities at December 31, 2000 was 111.9%

The ratio of interest earned on all funds during the year 2000 was 6.7%

(Signed by)
EDWARD F. COWMAN, FSA, MAAA
BRUCE AND BRUCE COMPANY
(Consulting Actuaries)

ULANA M. DIACHUK
President

STEFAN KACZARAJ
Treasurer

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION INC.

announces

SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS PROGRAM

For undergraduate students – UNA members only

For academic year 2001/2002

The UNA's program of fraternal services for its student members includes two types of financial awards:

UNA AWARDS – to be given out depending on student's year of studies.
UNA SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIPS – six to nine awards with specific designations and requirements.

- Scholarships and awards will be granted to UNDERGRADUATE students attending accredited colleges or universities, studying towards their first bachelor's degree, and to high school graduates entering colleges.
- Applications for UNA SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIPS or UNA AWARDS will be accepted from students who have been ACTIVE UNA MEMBERS for at least TWO YEARS by June 1, 2001.
- Applications and required enclosures must be sent to the UNA in one mailing and be postmarked not later than June 1, 2001.
- Incomplete and/or late entries will automatically be disqualified.

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054

Please send me a scholarship application for the 2001/2002 academic year.

(please print or type)

Name (in English) _____

Name (in Ukrainian) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Tel. _____ E-mail _____

I'm a member of UNA Branch _____



TO UNA CONVENTION DELEGATES REGARDING THE BY-LAWS BALLOT

The Ukrainian National Association's Home Office is currently mailing a voting package to all delegates to the last UNA Convention, held in May 1998 in Toronto, and to current members of the UNA General Assembly.

The package contains proposed changes to the UNA By-Laws and a ballot that is to be returned via the mail. Delegates and General Assembly members are being asked to vote by May 1 on whether they approve the proposed changes to the by-laws.

In the event that a delegate or a General Assembly member does not receive the packet, he/she is urged to phone the Home Office: (973) 292-9800, ext. 3018.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Regression in Ukraine

At the beginning of this week our editorial topic was the annual "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 2000" released by the U.S. State Department. We were going to point out that Ukraine's report card this year is significantly worse than last year's. And for good reason.

Instead of progress there is regression. The report notes that: government agencies "have interfered indirectly in the political process through criminal and tax investigations of politicians, journalists and influential businessmen"; "members of the security forces committed human rights abuses"; the Gongadze case "remained unresolved at year's end"; "the government rarely punished officials who commit abuses"; "many high-profile corruption cases have been dropped"; the government interfered with the news media and restricted freedom of the press"...

Then, as we were preparing to put this issue to bed there was confirmation of this regression in disturbing news from Kyiv, where police forcefully dismantled the tent city set up on the Khreschatyk, beating and arresting protesters in the process. Members of Parliament and organizers of the Ukraine Without Kuchma movement expressed outrage and called the action unlawful. National Deputy Yurii Karmazyn stated that the police action is the beginning of a new stage in the government's handling of the opposition. "I think that authorities are now beginning a very serious attack on democracy in all parts of Ukraine," he said.

Increasingly suspect in the eyes of the West due to the current crisis in Ukraine, President Leonid Kuchma hailed the police action: "I am happy that the Kyiv government showed that it has authority. It was an absolutely proper decision."

However, Prime Minister Viktor Yushenko, then in London, commented: "I feel that one must not use force unless all means for a peaceful resolution are exhausted." The use of force, "only politically polarizes problems, which have elevated this conflict to its current level," he told the BBC in London.

Let us recall that just over two weeks ago the prime minister had signed a transparently disingenuous (to say the least) statement along with the president and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Ivan Pliusch which said the Gongadze case and the Tapeagate scandal had been used "as a pretext for social disruption," and referred to "an unprecedented political campaign ... unleashed against our state" and a "real threat to the national security of the state." Citing "Law" (with a capital L) and "responsibility," the statement conjured up images of "national socialism" and "fascism." The message warned: "... in the interest of citizens, society and the state, such attempts will meet an active and resolute counteraction with the use of all means envisaged by the laws. No one should have any illusions about this."

There were ominous words. And these were soon followed by repugnant deeds.

It all happened only four days after the latest in a series of mass demonstrations and just after a U.S. Congressional delegation had visited Kyiv and had voiced its concern that, in all aspects of the current political crisis, government officials must abide by the rule of law and principles of non-violence, and assure the rights of speech, thought and assembly. President Kuchma reassured the U.S. legislators that this would be the case. His actions, however, would soon speak louder.

As we were going to press, there was news that President George W. Bush had sent a "pointed" oral message via Ambassador Carlos Pascual to President Kuchma, warning that a crackdown on protesters is testing the Ukrainian president's commitment to democracy and human rights. "The message that we delivered makes quite clear that our ability to help them in the future depends on their willingness to abide by the Constitution, abide by their commitments to the rule of law," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said. "We regret the actions by Ukrainian law enforcement authorities this morning ... They disbanded what we saw as a peaceful demonstration which has been in place along Kyiv's main street for several weeks."

Similar comments came from the Helsinki Commission chairman, Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, who cited President Bush's first speech to the Congress: "Nations making progress toward freedom will find America is their friend."

He added: "A decade after independence, Ukraine's progress has stalled."

Which brings us back, unfortunately, to our original point: Ukraine is heading in the wrong direction, and its course must be reversed.

March
5
2000

Turning the pages back...

A year ago, our Washington correspondent, Yaro Bihun, reported on the State Department's annual report on human rights around the globe. Mandated by Congress, these influential reports on governments' respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law are compiled with information provided by U.S. embassies.

The report for 1999, released in late February 2000, gave Ukraine a mixed report, citing "limited progress" in some areas and "serious problems" in others.

The report cited government interference in the October 1999 presidential election process and increased pressure on the media - especially the national broadcast media - through tax inspections and other measures. Ukraine's civilian authorities were seen as generally maintaining "effective control" of the nation's security forces, although it was noted that instances of "institutional government corruption" sometimes can lead to their improper use and human rights abuses. The report noted that Ukraine was widely criticized for failing to curb institutional corruption and abuse; officials who commit abuses are rarely punished; and anti-corruption legislation is enforced selectively and "mostly against government opponents and low-level officials."

The report for 1999 also found "some limits" on freedom of assembly, instances of restrictions on freedom of association and some limits on freedom of movement caused by the holdover Soviet system of registration, or "propyska."

Source: "Ukraine's human rights record receives mixed report," by Yaro Bihun, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, March 5, 2000, Vol. LXVIII, No. 10.

DEVELOPMENTS IN U.S. IMMIGRATION LAW

LIFE Act: last chance for permanent residency?

by Andre Michniak

On December 21, 2000, President Bill Clinton signed The Legal Immigration and Family Equity Act of 2000 (LIFE Act) into law. A main provision of this law, Section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, was extended from January 14, 1998, until April 30, 2001. Section 245(i) allows certain eligible people to become permanent residents without leaving the United States, whereas previously they would have to file the appropriate paperwork with the U.S. Consulate in their home countries.

Eligible individuals have until April 30, 2001 to file an immigrant visa petition (an I-130; I-140 or I-360) with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), or a labor certification application with the Department of Labor (DOL) in order to take advantage of this provision.

The LIFE Act added a new "physical presence" requirement: People who file a petition or labor certification after January 14, 1998, but before April 30, 2001 must prove that they were in the United States on December 21, 2000 - the date this measure became law - in order to be eligible to use Section 245(i).

Filing an immigrant visa petition or labor certification application is the first step in a three-step process. The third step is acquiring permanent residency (the green card) by filing an Adjustment of Status Application (Form I-485). Even if a person does not apply to adjust status until after April 30, 2001, as long as the petition or labor certification is filed before that date, if he/she is qualified, their eligibility will not expire.

Why is this new Section 245(i) needed?

Because Congress phased out the original Section 245(i) on January 14, 1998. People who already qualified as of January 14, 1998, were "grandfathered" to receive the benefits of Section 245(i). However, many qualified people missed the January 14 deadline and others since have fallen out of legal status. The extension of Section 245(i) through April 30, 2001, provides a four-month "window of opportunity" for people to protect their ability to adjust their status in this country.

Who is eligible to qualify for the new Section 245(i)?

A person who is eligible for permanent residency based on a family relationship or job offer and wishes to adjust status to that of a permanent resident without leaving the United States could benefit from the new Section 245(i). Most people who entered the United States without inspection, overstayed an admission, acted in violation of the terms of their status, worked without authorization, entered as crewmen or were admitted in transit without a visa, are considered out of status and would be unable to complete the process to become a permanent U.S. resident without Section 245(i).

Why is unlawful status of concern to potential immigrants, and how can Section 245(i) help them?

The Immigration Act of 1996 introduced the so-called three and 10-year bars to admissibility for those individuals who had been in unlawful status in the United States

Andre Michniak, Esq. is the president and founder of The Law Offices of Andre Michniak, P.C., which maintains offices in Philadelphia and Reading, Pa. Members of this firm represent individuals and corporations throughout the United States, as well as overseas. The firm handles immigration, personal injury and criminal matters.

for more than 180 days. Without Section 245(i), out-of-status people needed to return to their home countries and there complete the process for an immigrant visa at a U.S. Consulate. However, if people have been out of status in the United States for more than 180 days, they will be barred from re-entering this country for at least three years, and perhaps as long as 10 years. Under Section 245(i), an eligible individual can remain in the U.S. to obtain permanent residency through adjustment of status, and thus never trigger these entry bars. Thus, it is particularly important that people subject to the bars not leave the U.S. until they become permanent residents.

How does a person take advantage of the new Section 245 (i) provision of the LIFE Act?

To take advantage of this provision, a relative must submit a visa petition to the INS on behalf of the person seeking Section 245(i) benefits. The U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident who is sponsoring the eligible person must file (and sign) the petition. In addition, an employer can submit a labor certification to the DOL on behalf of the person seeking Section 245(i) relief. Both petitions and applications must be submitted on or before April 30, 2001. The INS or DOL does not have to approve the petition or application by that date. It just needs to be filed by April 30, 2001.

Legal permanent residents can petition for their spouses and unmarried sons and daughters (of any age). U.S. citizens can petition for their spouses, married and unmarried sons and daughters of any age, parents, and brothers and sisters. It is important to know that abused immigrant spouses can submit petitions for themselves and do not need a petitioner.

Aside from the restored Section 245(i) provision of the LIFE Act, immigration law has basically not changed. Similarly, various bars to permanent residence remain in place. Therefore, Section 245(i), by itself, will not cure disqualifying factors, such as a criminal record, use of fraudulent documents or material misrepresentations. Furthermore, Section 245(i) does not grant work authorization, protection from deportation or travel permission.

In addition to restoring Section 245(i), the LIFE Act created a new temporary visa for spouses and minor children of legal permanent residents awaiting immigrant visas. In order to address the severe backlogs on the availability of visas for families, the LIFE Act provides a remedy for the spouses and minor children of permanent residents.

Under current law, because these individuals are intending immigrants, there is no way for them to legally come to the United States, even for a short visit. By creating a new "V" visa, the law grants some family members a legal status and work authorization in the United States. In order to qualify for a new "V" visa, the spouse or child must meet the following criteria: a green card petition was filed for them on or before December 21, 2000, and they must have been waiting at least three years.

The LIFE Act also creates a new temporary status for spouses of U.S. citizens awaiting an immigrant visa. For much the same reason that led to the creation of the new "V" visa, the LIFE Act creates a remedy for the spouses of U.S. citizens who are outside of the United States and waiting for the approval of an immigrant petition.

The law expands the "K" visa, which currently only allows fiancées of U.S. citizens to enter the United States for the purpose of getting married, to include its use by spouses of U.S. citizens, who are already

(Continued on page 16)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wilson book is well-researched

Dear Editor:

I recently read Andrew Wilson's latest scholarly and well-researched work, "The Ukrainians: Unexpected Nation" concurrently with recent articles on Ukraine which appeared in the Economist. In the February 17-23 issue, the Economist referred to Ukraine as a "basket case," while the prior issue of February 10-16 was even less flattering.

Dr. Myron Kuropas is correct in his recent column referring to Prof. Wilson's book as a necessity for any serious student of Ukraine. The candid reference to the disappointing current situation in Ukraine is also significant, particularly coming from someone who has contributed as much as he has to the cause of improving conditions both in Ukraine and in diaspora.

Starting with a description of the various views regarding the origin of Rus' and the historic development of the Ukrainian nation, Prof. Wilson's book accurately describes the almost accidental events leading up to independence. He is direct in discussing what has happened since. Both Prof. Wilson and Dr. Kuropas refer to the "deep pockets" of the incumbent political leaders. According to Prof. Wilson, the series of events which lead up to independence suggest unintended consequences of the Gorbachev policies of glasnost. However, Ukraine seized the moment and a long hopeful diaspora welcomed the result.

What followed appears to lead to disappointment to those diasporans who were militant Cold Warriors. When we read of Russian oligarch purchases of Ukrainian energy resources, there are those among the Cold Warriors who still will not come in from the cold. The warmth appears too artificial, particularly with a former KGB careerist as president of Russia.

Prof. Wilson discusses history, geography, culture, religion and art as he weaves his journal from Volodymyr and "The Lay of Ihor's Host" to the geopolitics of the Kuchma/Putin alliance and Solzhenitsyn's tri-national pan-Slavism.

The book is invigorating to the historian while sobering to those of us who have hope for continued independence and eventual economic revival for Ukraine.

It serves as a warning that the achievement of 1991 is still fragile and the work has just begun.

Paul Thomas Rabchenuk
Salem, Mass.

Opposed to pope's visit to Ukraine

Dear Editor:

I'm writing to let you know that I believe you're doing a marvelous job with your paper. The changes made over the past few years are certainly an improvement that reflect excellent journalism.

My second reason for writing this let-

ter is on the issue of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. A recent article notes that parts of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate are opposed to the upcoming papal visit to Ukraine. I am sad to say that I myself also am opposed to the pope's visit for several reasons.

I'm enclosing the recent clipping from the Bergen Record quoting the Chicago Tribune on the appointment by the pope of five new cardinals, one of which is the Polish archbishop of Lviv. I see no reason for such an appointment regardless of the papal free-hand to do so. Clearly, one sees Polish expansion onto Ukraine's Halychyna for a second time since the 1930s. Your "The Ukrainian Weekly 2000" – Volume I (1933-1969) pages 96-97 clearly describes the abuses to which the Ukrainian Catholics in Poland were subjected in 1946.

The papal announcement of new cardinals cites "concern for the sensitive situation of Catholics in the former Soviet Union" and then goes on about the pontiff's intention to respect the Churches that paid dearly with the lives of Christian men and women, but there is no mention of Ukrainians in Poland.

True, the pope appointed Archbishop Lubomyr Husar a cardinal, but that is not enough. The Ukrainian bishop of Poland was transferred by the Poles to Ukraine in 1946 and then was crucified on the cross by the Soviets. Don't the Ukrainians of Poland also deserve a cardinal? Why shouldn't Ukrainians have a cardinal in North America? Or is it papal authority to slowly kill the Ukrainian soul, replacing it with a Latin Rite authority?

Whoever plans on going to Ukraine for this Polish entertainment, should consider going elsewhere and not waste their time and money for this circus.

My hope is that John Paul II will stay home and let Ukraine wait for a better opportunity or another pope.

Victor Jaworsky, M.D.
Orangeburg, N.Y.

Thanks for focusing on Lithuanian event

Dear Editor:

As a Lithuanian American I would like to commend you for publishing Paul Goble's article in The Ukrainian Weekly (January 21) commemorating the 10th anniversary of the confrontation of Lithuanian citizens with Soviet forces when the troops fired into the crowd surrounding Vilnius television tower, killing 14 demonstrators and threatening to take over the Parliament.

Mr. Goble provides an excellent analysis of the situation. In a thorough, unbiased way he states facts as they were at the time and explains how events in Lithuania influenced the breakup of the Soviet Union. His article reminds the world of a historic situation that some may prefer to forget.

Louis Gudelis
Greenwich, Conn.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Kuchma's garage sale

President Leonid Kuchma is having a garage sale. All Soviet-era enterprises and industries that Ukraine's oligarchs and government red-tape dispensers have not been able to pilfer thus far are on the auction block and going fast. And the winner is (drum roll, please): Russia! What a surprise.

We now know that Presidents Kuchma and Vladimir Putin discussed the production of intercontinental missiles at the same Dnipropetrovsk factory that our Leonid managed during Soviet times. Questioned about this development by a U.S. Embassy official, National Security and Defense Council Secretary Oleksander Marchuk was adamant. "It is absolutely not so," he thundered. Right.

And now we learn from The Economist that "Russian investors have snapped up a bunch of important industrial companies including the \$70 million sale of 68 percent of the Zaporizhia aluminum smelter to the Russian car-maker Avtovaz." In addition, Alfa Group, a well-connected Russian holding company, has bought a 67 percent share of Ukraine's LiNOS oil refinery, and a television and radio station. Alfa Group also controls Novyi Kanal, a Ukrainian TV station, and Nashe FM, a radio station. Kyiv correspondent Charles Clover informs us that the Avtovaz purchase was fiercely opposed by Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko who favored KrAZ, a Ukrainian firm. Unfortunately, KrAZ was not able to provide an adequate bank guarantee.

"Russian business began a serious push into Ukraine last year," reports Mr. Clover from Kyiv, "with the flagship privatization of the Mykolaiv alumina refinery by a subsidiary of Russian Aluminum, now the second largest aluminum group in the world. Last year Russian oil giant LukOil solidified control over the Odesa oil refinery with a large share purchase, and started a joint venture with the Oriana petrochemical plant, one of the largest in Ukraine."

Whereas Western investors "tend to run away screaming when confronted with Ukrainian factories and bureaucrats that plague them, Russian companies have the political clout, the experience and the access to cheap energy to make them work better – or at least less badly. Although the Ukrainian government has tried to block some of these deals, few fell in a position to quibble."

In the meantime, the West appears to be giving up on Ukraine, especially the banking sector. The Netherlands-based Rabobank liquidated its fully owned Kyiv International Bank last October. In February, France's Société Générale closed its doors. The combined profits of Ukraine's 153 commercial banks fell 97 percent last year, according to Vitaly Sych, a Kyiv Post staffer. As Western banks move out, Russian banks move in to offer financing for Russian investors. Russia's Alfa Group last year purchased 76 percent of the KyivInvestBank, now renamed Alfa Bank-Ukraine.

All of this is very legal and easy for the Russians because Mr. Kuchma has a special garage door for Russians only. Russia is determined to keep Ukraine within its sphere of influence – not by military might as in the past, but by economic power and political romancing. Mr. Kuchma's participation in eight presidential summits with Mr. Putin last year suggests that he is smitten by Moscow's siren song.

Things are so bad in Ukraine that the

United States, which has provided Ukraine billions of dollars in economic aid, may soon impose trade sanctions. The U.S. may also block Ukraine's membership in the World Trade Organization. President Kuchma's inability to prevent, as promised, the rampant piracy of audio-video products is part of the reason.

Why is Mr. Kuchma storing more of his eggs in Moscow's basket? I believe there are three reasons. The first is that it's easier for him to deal with Russians than with Westerners. Westerners are more honest because corruption is limited by their nation's laws. In contrast, the old nomenklatura mind-set and network (you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours) is alive and well in Russia and the former USSR. Our Leonid speaks fluent Russian, but no English. It's easier for him to communicate, literally and culturally, with old buddies in the former Soviet Union. Their friendship is an alliance of greed.

A related reason for Mr. Kuchma's flirtation is that the opportunity for lining one's pockets are far greater when dealing with Russia (barter is the preferred method of exchange) than with the International Monetary Fund or the United States. The West demands a certain degree of accountability.

A final reason is that Mr. Kuchma knows that Western nations have grown weary of Ukraine's endless foot-dragging, bribe taking, un-kept promises, crooked government officials, parliamentary skull-duggery and unprincipled corruption. The rapid decline of a free press, the Gongadze murder, Mr. Kuchma's ham-fisted response to demonstrations (in time-honored Soviet bombastic rhetorical style, he warned of "anarchists" and "fascists" and blamed Ukraine's "enemies" for his problems), as well as his ministerial musical-chairs response to governmental failure, are just some of the reasons Mr. Kuchma has squandered any moral capital he may have enjoyed when he first took office. Only Russia understands his woes and offers a "helping hand."

At a time when even Ukraine's great white hope, Viktor Yushchenko, appears to have been co-opted by the Kuchma cabal, it is refreshing to read the "open letter" recently circulated on the Internet by courageous young members of the intelligentsia and students from all regions of Ukraine. Among other things, the letter clearly declared: "We do not want to live in a nation where the corrupted leadership, along with the president, are remaking Ukraine into a police-state in order to preserve their present privileged positions; we do not want to live in a nation where the people are once again afraid to speak the truth and to believe in justice; where everything can be bought and sold, including judges and politicians, principles and positions, the voice of the electorate, as well as word and thoughts... and where dissidents are forced to leave the country or be relegated to a political, social and cultural wilderness; we do not wish to be, nor will we be, silenced. We have seen where silence and passivity have led in the past. The biggest crimes in history were committed during a time of public apathy."

Brave words, brave students. Pray for them. Pray also for a Ukraine without Kuchma.

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The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor and commentaries on a variety of topics of concern to the Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities. Opinions expressed by columnists, commentators and letter-writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either The Weekly editorial staff or its publisher, the Ukrainian National Association.

Letters should be typed (double-spaced) and signed; they must be originals, not photocopies. The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer must be given for verification purposes.

Congressional delegation visits Kyiv on cooperative exchange initiative

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – A U.S. Congressional delegation has agreed on a cooperative exchange initiative with Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada, which will allow the two legislative bodies to address problems common to their countries.

The initiative was announced on February 23 in Kyiv by the group of five U.S. lawmakers, three Republicans and two Democrats, while on a tour of Moldova, Russia and Ukraine aimed at broadening relations with the parliaments of the three countries. While the U.S. delegation spent two days in Kyiv, two of its members, Rep. Marcy Kaptur and Rep. Bob Schaffer, who have Ukrainian roots and will lead the cooperative exchange effort, spent additional time here.

The U.S. delegation also met with leading members of the Kyiv press corps and representatives of the non-governmental organizations to hear first-hand about the problems of press freedom and

to ascertain the state of U.S.-sponsored aid programs

And, the U.S. legislators ran headlong into TapeGate and the Gongadze affair, which occupied a considerable amount of their official meetings with Ukraine's political leadership, including President Leonid Kuchma, Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Ivan Pliushch.

U.S. Rep. Curt Weldon, who chaired the delegation, said the cooperative exchange program with the Ukrainian Parliament, which was proposed by the U.S. side, would allow the two sides to work more closely and better understand each other.

"Some of us in Congress have been concerned that we have not understood the problems and opportunities in Ukraine more fully," explained Rep. Weldon.

The congressman, who explained that the point was "to increase the level of engagement," said the thrust of the program would be legislative exchanges, but



Delegation members (from left) Reps. Marcy Kaptur, Curt Weldon, Bob Schaffer and Andrew Crenshaw listen to remarks by Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko during their visit to Kyiv.

underscored that it would not consist simply of symbolic meetings and formal toasts.

He said that Rep. Kaptur and Rep. Schaffer, leading members of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus in the House of Representatives, as co-chairs

would develop an agenda that would concentrate on issues in which both legislatures have expressed interest, including commerce, energy, medicine and agriculture.

(Continued on page 9)

Moroz, visiting U.S. ...

(Continued from page 1)

recordings purportedly made by the president's personal security guard, Maj. Mykola Melnychenko, who is now in hiding somewhere in Europe.

This abuse is prevalent throughout Ukrainian society, he said – in the monopoly of clans that block economic reforms, authoritarianism and the elimination of the separation of powers in government, one-party rule, repression of dissent, total control of the media and abuse of human rights.

Mr. Moroz was invited to the United States by the Eurasia Group, a private consulting organization founded in 1998 to promote "understanding, development and investment" in that region.

While in Washington, Mr. Moroz said, he would be meeting with representatives of the U.S. government and Congress. His schedule also included wider meetings with journalists, businessmen and interested specialists in that region, such as the briefing at RFE/RL and two paid events, in Washington and New York.

To counter the abuses of the Kuchma administration, Mr. Moroz said, the Ukraine Without Kuchma movement was formed; it now has more than 35 political parties and organizations, encompassing the entire spectrum – left to right – of political affiliation in the country. More recently, the Forum for National Salvation was created, bringing into the opposition movement an even wider range of people from all walks of life, he said.

"The overriding goal of the opposition is not so much to remove President Kuchma, as such. One could say that he is but a temporary player in this," Mr. Moroz said. "We are talking about changing the system of government, by strengthening the power of the Parliament and Cabinet of Ministers – to put it another way, to make the prime minister a chancellor and not just a whipping boy."

In a "normal society," following all of the revelations in recent months, the president would have resigned by now, said Mr. Moroz. And he added that he is confident the coalition will bring about his removal from office and initiate necessary reforms by the end of May or in early June.

Mr. Moroz arrived in Washington on the day the State Department released its annual world human rights report. In the section dealing with Ukraine, the U.S. government criticized Ukraine's "poor" record on press freedom, in handling of the investigation of Mr. Gongadze's disappearance and in other areas.

The visit also came on the heels of increased reporting in the U.S. press about the "Kuchmagate" scandal and two hard-hitting editorials criticizing the Kuchma administration by The Washington Post and Los Angeles Times in the previous week.

Some of the questioners at the RFE/RL briefing pointed to a number of inconsistencies in Maj. Melnychenko's taping story:

- If Maj. Melnychenko began taping President Kuchma in 1998, when he first heard criminal activities being discussed, why did he not reveal the tapes' contents during the 1999 election campaign, when it could have hurt Mr. Kuchma's re-election chances?

- The estimated 300 hours of taped conversations, if done on a recorder hidden beneath the sofa, would require that Maj. Melnychenko come into the office, retrieve the recorder and change the tape at least 150 times. How did he accomplish that without being noticed?

- If, indeed, the tapes contain evidence of crimes in the president's office, why are they being handed out piecemeal and not made available all at once?

Mr. Moroz said that he does not favor the release of all of the tapes. After President Kuchma is removed and changes are made in the governmental structures, he said, a special commission would study these tapes, investigations would be conducted and the evidence would be sealed in

FREE EUROPE LIBERTY



Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz speaks at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty offices in Washington.

the government archives.

"This is not a detective novel," he said. Although Maj. Melnychenko has said that he taped the president on his own, Mr. Moroz said he does not discount the probability that the Ukrainian security services were involved in the taping. While the president at first denied but later admitted that the recordings were made in his office, Mr. Moroz said he shifted the blame for it between Western and Russian intelligence services, depending whom he was trying to appease at the time, and even accused some unnamed mischief-makers within Ukraine.

"I can't say to what extent the Ukrainian security services were involved in the taping, but I think that they were involved," Mr. Moroz said. He noted that the abuse of electronic surveillance within the government is widespread. "In our country, the police bugs the security service; the security service bugs the police; and together they bug the Cabinet of Ministers and leading politicians. All my phones are constantly monitored," he said. "In such an environment it simply would have been impossible to keep conversations in the president's office secret."

Mr. Moroz said that in 1997 almost the entire reserve fund of the Cabinet of Ministers was used to buy the latest eavesdropping equipment in France.

Finally, asked how he views Ukraine's relationship with Russia, he said that "naturally, it is our closest and largest partner and neighbor. Without a doubt, we need to expand our relations with it, while protecting our interests and sovereign rights."

Moroz comments on liquidation of tent city

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON – One of the leaders of the movement against President Leonid Kuchma, Ukrainian Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz, heard about the liquidation of the tent city on the Khreschatyk while meeting with representatives of the U.S. government and Congress in Washington.

While the official U.S. reaction had not yet been announced in Washington that Thursday morning, March 1, Mr. Moroz said that U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual's reaction in Kyiv was "a good indication about the future formulation of the U.S. position in this matter."

"They have consistently underscored the need for the use of democratic means, based on the Constitution and law," he said.

As for the event in Kyiv itself, Mr. Moroz said it was an indication of the "agony" of the present government. "It cannot justify its position constitutionally," he said, "so it relies on force."

He also pointed out that President Kuchma recently met with a group of U.S. congressmen and assured them that he would never allow the use of force against demonstrators. But they did just that on March 1, he added, despite protests by Oleh Bilorus, the former Ukrainian ambassador to the United States and now a member of Parliament, who was there during the police action.

This action, Mr. Moroz said, "confirms once again that the current government has absolutely no respect for the Constitution, the law and human rights."

"It is afraid," he added, "because of its responsibility for past criminal activities, and it is afraid of the possibility of their investigation."

Tape analysis yields...

(Continued from page 1)

"rather slim," if any presupposed alterations to them were made "at a professional level."

However, the report – prepared by two international non-governmental human rights organizations, the Vienna-based International Press Institute and Freedom House, located in New York – also emphasized that the analysis does not mean that the audiotapes are fakes.

"It suggests only that their authenticity cannot be proved to a high degree of certainty via forensic analysis," stated the report.

It further explained that because two of the tapes are digital recordings and a third one was converted to a digital format via a computer, "a library of digital samples could have been created, then deployed to reorder the contents, or to construct fictitious elements to insert into the conversations."

Yet, the report concludes by strongly asserting that, while such a procedure could be utilized realistically to construct or tamper with a relatively small amount of tape, the effort would be nearly impossible for the 300 hours of recordings that were given over for analysis.

"If the existing evidence had consisted only of the approximately 25-minute-long recordings related to the Gongadze case, one could possibly imagine some manipulations or doctoring by a 'potential aggressor.' However, as the total volume of recordings available to the [Verkhovna Rada] Investigative Commission covers hundreds of hours of conversation over the period of three months, it seems hard to believe that such a huge amount of documentary evidence may have been doctored or manipulated," states the report.

The report supports recent admissions by President Kuchma and Procurator General Mykhailo Potebenko – which came after earlier denials – that the voices on the recordings are those of the president and other politicians, as originally had been alleged by the anti-Kuchma forces.

The anti-Kuchma forces had hoped that an indisputable assertion by an independent analyst that the voices are real and the tapes authentic would jump-start a process that quickly would lead to the removal of the president from office.

But the mixed results will allow the president and his supporters to maintain, as they have, that the tapes are doctored recordings of normal political conversations the president had with his ministers and other politicians on various subjects, including the fight against corruption.

President Kuchma and Mr. Potebenko have said the recordings are part of a conspiracy by the president's political opponents to oust him from office at all costs.

The IPI/Freedom House report, which was signed by IPI Director Prof. Johann Fritz, explained that the tapes would in all probability not pass scrutiny as evidence in a court of law because there is no proof they were maintained in compliance with international standards for documentation, preservation and availability for review.

The actual analysis was carried out by a private European forensic accounting firm that specializes in analyzing electronic evidence. The firm was hired by IPI and Freedom House for the job.

The results, announced by Serhii Holovatii, the secretary of an ad hoc parliamentary committee of the Verkhovna Rada that requested in December that the IPI have the tapes analyzed, immediately set off a series of contradictory statements by the committee's leadership.

Mr. Holovatii asserted that the report conclusively states the tapes are authentic, but uses the convoluted language of scientific research and logic, which makes it difficult to understand the results.

"This does not mean that the tapes are not authentic; it only means that a high level of authenticity cannot be established," said Mr. Holovatii, a national deputy who has spearheaded the investigation into the authenticity of the tape recordings made in the president's inner sanctum by Maj. Mykola Melnychenko, a former bodyguard to the president now in hiding in an unknown location in Europe.

"They did not establish either falsification or editing, and they have explained why," added the controversial lawmaker.

However, National Deputy Oleksander Lavrynovych, the chairman of the parliamentary committee, said the results only further muddle the issues.

"We have made no progress, practically. There is no acknowledgment of authenticity, and neither is there proof that [the tapes] are not authentic," said Mr. Lavrynovych, who explained that he had not had time for a thorough analysis of the report because Mr. Holovatii had not given him a copy.

The relationship between Mr. Lavrynovych and Mr. Holovatii has become a sideshow in this case because the outspoken and dogged secretary of the committee often has wrenched the spotlight from its low-key chairman. During a February 23 press conference Mr. Holovatii said Mr. Lavrynovych had been invited to attend the meeting with the press, but had excused himself because he had another appointment.

When contacted by certain television media for a comment on the results of the analysis, however, Mr. Lavrynovych, said he was in the process of trying to get a copy of the report from Vienna. He said he had been told the report had been mailed directly to Mr. Holovatii's home address.

Mr. Holovatii did not dispute the fact that he has had the report since February 22 and that he withheld its public release to get a sound Ukrainian translation of the English-language report. He did not explain why he did not provide the chairman of the investigative committee with a copy.

Since National Deputy Oleksander Moroz announced in November 2000 that he had received some 25 minutes of audiotape that he said implicate President Kuchma and his closest cronies in the disappearance of journalist Heorhii Gongadze, some 300 additional hours have surfaced. In them the president and top advisers are heard talking about kickbacks, payoffs, theft of large amounts of state money and the rigging of the 1999 presidential elections.

But the most damaging recordings – if they were proved to be authentic – would be the initial ones in which President Kuchma is heard discussing, initially with his Chief of Staff Volodymyr Lytvyn and then with Minister of Internal Affairs Yurii Kravchenko, the need to get rid of Mr. Gongadze, a controversial if not widely known journalist who had started one of Ukraine's first Internet newspapers in early 2000. Mr. Gongadze had severely criticized the way the presidential elections were run and more and more frequently published stories on the illegal undertakings of government officials and lawmakers associated with the president, and political and business kingpins known as oligarchs.

Gryshchenko writes to Washington Post

Following is the text of Ambassador Kostyantyn Gryshchenko's letter to the editor of *The Washington Post* as published on March 1.

The February 21 editorial "The Struggle for Ukraine" did not reflect reality for at least four reasons:

(1) It is exactly under President Leonid Kuchma's leadership that Ukraine for six years followed the path of integration into European institutions, established and continues to develop cooperation with NATO and strives to enter the World Trade Organization. Recent efforts to improve relations with Russia do not contradict this major direction of Ukraine's foreign policy.

(2) The disappearance of journalist Heorhii Gongadze is a tragedy for all Ukrainians. Along with the so-called tapes scandal, it is being exploited by Soviet-style forces and their allies in an attempt to destabilize the Ukrainian government.

(3) Allegations related to those two issues are being debated in the national media, parliament and by the public, while generally peaceful demonstrations in the national capital, Kiev [sic], take place freely with minimum law enforcement presence. These are signs of a young but viable democracy.

(4) Ukraine needs transparent and credible completion of the investigation of the Gongadze case, further strengthening freedom of press and continuing the progress along the road of building a civil society and furthering economic reforms.

Kostyantyn Gryshchenko

Ambassador

Embassy of Ukraine

Washington

Congressional delegation...

(Continued from page 8)

Rep. Weldon explained that exchanges of U.S. congressmen and Ukrainian national deputies would take place at least twice a year. Additional communication and transfers of information would take place via Internet linkages that are planned.

The longtime Pennsylvania congressman also said that while several members of the delegation, including himself and Rep. Dennis Kucinich, have a large Ukrainian American constituency, which makes their interest in Ukraine logical, the goal is to get hundreds of other lawmakers involved. The only way that would happen, he explained, would be to address issues high on the U.S. agenda, such as natural resources and the environment, health care and defense issues, which he said also concern Ukrainians.

Rep. Kaptur, who has supported Ukrainian causes for years and first visited the country in 1972, said the exchange initiative is much more than a symbolic program to appease Ukrainian American constituencies.

"This is not just about Ukrainian Americans and preserving cultural heritage, but about working with one of the most important countries of Central Europe," she explained.

A day earlier, during a meeting of the congressional delegation with leading members of the Kyiv press corps and NGOs, Ms. Kaptur said she would concentrate on developing a dialogue with Ukrainian parliamentarians on agricultural reform.

"I have long believed that the freedom of land is essential to a free society," said Rep. Kaptur during a frank conversation with the journalists and NGO officials that touched on several subjects – not the least of which was the political crisis in Ukraine. The crisis – caused by the disappearance and murder of Heorhii Gongadze, along with audiotapes that subsequently surfaced, seemingly implicating the Ukrainian president and high government officials – has caused an international stir.

Mr. Weldon said the delegation held a candid and open conversation with President Kuchma on the subject and was satisfied with the tone and substance of his responses.

He said the Ukrainian president had accepted an offer originally made by U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual to have the FBI do a forensic examination of the body found outside Kyiv in mid-November, now acknowledged to be the remains of Mr. Gongadze (see story on page 4).

Rep. Weldon also said the U.S. lawmakers voiced their concerns that in the investigation and in all aspects of the political crisis surrounding it government officials abide by the rule of law and principles of non-violence, and assure individual rights of speech, thought and assembly. He said President Kuchma had told them that would be the case.

"We tried to assess whether the president would uphold the requirements and in a very candid and forthright way he said he would," explained Rep. Weldon.

But the U.S. lawmakers also warned the president's opponents that as part of a democracy they had to refrain from mob rule and allow for due process and the presumption of innocence.

"Any resolution of the Gongadze case without taking these things into consideration will adversely affect U.S.-Ukraine resolutions," said Mr. Weldon.

The congressional delegation announced that it would introduce a resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives calling for an open investigation into the Gongadze murder and a peaceful resolution to the political crisis that is consuming Kyiv.

Two of the lawmakers, Mr. Schaffer and Mr. Kucinich, trekked to the city center during their stay to get a first-hand look at the tent city constructed by the anti-Kuchma forces.

Mr. Kucinich said he had decided to visit after he was informed that an order had been given to tear the encampment down, which turned out to be a false alarm.

While in the area, the U.S. representative from the Cleveland area attempted to take a peek inside the now walled-in Independence Square, at the place where a memorial stands to St. Michael the Archangel, only to be confronted by six militiamen who gruffly inquired about his purposes. Mr. Kucinich said he quickly realized the irony of a boarded-up Independence Square.

"I quickly said a prayer to St. Michael for the militia and in support of that which this square represents," Rep. Kucinich stated.

Quotable notes

"I feel that one must not use force unless all means for a peaceful resolution are exhausted." The use of force, "only politically polarizes problems, which have elevated this conflict to its current level."

– Ukraine's Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko, commenting on the March 1 police action in Kyiv, as reported by the BBC in London, where he is on an official visit.

U. of Alberta offers course in "Ukrainian Through its Living Culture"

by Deanna T. Yurchuk

PARSIPPANY, N.J.— The department of modern languages and cultural studies at the University of Alberta has announced a new travel-study course in Lviv called "Ukrainian Through its Living Culture" to be offered for the first time this summer.

According to the course description, the program is designed to enhance practical language skills through a direct experience of current life in Ukraine. It employs contemporary popular culture and media, taking maximum advantage of the urban Lviv environment to expand vocabulary and comprehension. "Ukrainian Through its Living Culture" is taught in Ukrainian and is open to Canadian as well as international students.

This intensive course, whose instructor is Alla Nedashkivska, an assistant professor in the department of modern languages and cultural studies, is over a month long (July 8-August 10). Prof. Nedashkivska is a native of Lviv and holds a B.A. in Slavic philology from Ivan Franko State University in Lviv and a Ph.D. in Applied and Slavic Languages from the University of Pittsburgh.

Prof. Nedashkivska has been teaching

Ukrainian language and culture courses, as well as Slavic linguistics, at the University of Alberta in Edmonton since 1999. In this short interview she speaks about her experiences as a young professor at the university.

What is the most interesting aspect of your job?

The great spectrum of students' talents offers daily challenges, innovations and creativity for each of my courses. Every course is composed of a unique group, with its own "joie de vivre." It is exciting when students themselves strive to not only learn but to offer fresh and insightful ideas into the subject matter. My greatest pleasure is to observe students' progress in their studies and the successes they enjoy in life.

How big is the Ukrainian studies department at the University of Alberta?

There is no Ukrainian studies department at the University of Alberta, rather, Ukrainian topics are taught within two departments. Various courses on Ukrainian history are offered in the department of history and classics (H&C) and the Ukrainian language, literature, folklore and culture are

taught in the department of modern languages and cultural studies (MLCS), which offers undergraduate and graduate programs involving 10 language areas. Both of these departments are under the wing of the Faculty of Arts, a degree-granting body.

The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) is a separate institution, which is under the wing of the university's vice-president of research, and does not grant degrees. The focus of the CIUS is on history and the social sciences.

Subsumed under these entities (CIUS, H&C, MLCS), Ukrainian studies were recognized in 1997 as an emerging area of excellence at the University of Alberta. This year, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts forwarded the university's central administration the recommendation to recognize Ukrainian studies as an established area of excellence.

What classes does the university offer?

At the department of modern languages and cultural studies undergraduate students can pursue Ukrainian studies at the bachelor of arts, master of arts and doctoral levels. On this continent there is no other university with such a wide spectrum of offerings. The Ukrainian language and literature program in MLCS has undergone two major curriculum reforms: one in 1993 and another in 1999.

The new menu of courses proposed most recently will be available as of the fall of 2001. It includes language courses at all levels, a set of courses covering the entire historical continuum of Ukrainian literature (11th-20th centuries), folklore courses and linguistic courses. Some of the new offerings include: Ukrainian in the Media and Internet, Language and Films, Children's Literature, Translating Literature, Language Issues in Contemporary Ukraine, and Mykola Hohol.

How many professors and students do you have?

In the department of modern languages and cultural studies there are five full-time professors engaged in the Ukrainian program. They are: Bohdan Medwidzky, Andriy Nahachewsky (both in folklore), Oleh S. Ilytskyj, Natalia Pylypiuk (both in languages and literature) and Prof. Nedashkivska (in language and linguistics).

During the academic year 2000-2001 there were 182 undergraduate registrations in Ukrainian courses offered by MLCS. Currently there are 13 students pursuing graduate degrees, among them Mykola Soroka from Kyiv University, who holds the prestigious F.S. Chia Ph.D. Scholarship.

How do students benefit from your program?

Our language courses emphasize practical skills. Opportunities to work in Ukraine are expanding daily. We believe that Ukraine will play an important role in the future and that a good command of Ukrainian will soon become a powerful asset. Equally important will be an appreciation of Ukrainian culture. Being an integral part of a forward-looking department that emphasizes teaching methodologies and the inseparable relationship between language and culture, the Ukrainian program at the University of Alberta offers many opportunities for experimentation and discovery. For the more academically inclined, Ukrainian literature presents many interesting theoretical questions. Addressing them can only benefit the comparativists. Ukrainian linguistics addresses a great array of contemporary topics (such as the language of mass media, discourse and pragmatics, language and gender, etc.). We believe that the days are gone when Slavic studies were the monopoly of Russianists.

The synergy created by the close proximity of historians, language and literature specialists and folklorists makes this an attractive place for research and study. Our library has the best collection of Ukrainian in western Canada.

What do you hope the students will accomplish while studying abroad?

My strongest hope is that the students will make the maximum use of and enjoy everyday life in Ukraine. I am confident that they will enhance their practical language skills and expand their understanding of contemporary Ukrainian culture. Since the students will be living on the premises of the Lviv University, they will have the opportunity to meet students from Ukraine and learn from them as well.

The course will also include trips to the

(Continued on page 25)



Professors and students from the Ukrainian studies department.

Ukrainian groups seek to save Verkhovyna

by Oleh Kolodiy

MAPLEWOOD, N.J. — The Ukrainian American Cultural Foundation and members of the Ukrainian community in Glen Spey, N.Y., are fighting to save the Verkhovyna resort center.

At its convention in 1998 and its Supreme Council meeting in 2000, the Ukrainian Fraternal Association voted to sell Verkhovyna to the UACF for the price of \$925,000. In August 2000 the UACF received a contract from UFA President Ivan Oleksyn for this sale.

That contract contained a number of clauses that made it impossible for the UACF to obtain a mortgage to purchase Verkhovyna, including stipulations that the UACF could not resell the property without UFA permission for a number of years to be determined and that no third party would be allowed to participate in the deal (the UACF at the time had a third party, a Ukrainian religious group that was interested in supporting the purchase of Verkhovyna). The UACF asked for a meeting to discuss these clauses, but the UFA's lawyer replied that the contract must be signed as is and refused to meet.

In December 2000 Mr. Oleksyn signed a contract for the sale of Verkhovyna to a non-Ukrainian group based in Monticello, N.Y., for the price of approximately \$1.1 million.

The Ukrainian community in Glen Spey and

members of the UFA began a campaign to try to convince Mr. Oleksyn to sell the property to the UACF, and a meeting between the UACF and the UFA and the lawyers for both groups took place on January 31.

Mr. Oleksyn indicated that since the Monticello group was scheduled to close the contract on January 29, he would sell for the same price of \$1.1 million and without the previous clauses if he could be assured that the UACF in fact had the money.

UACF President Dr. Stepan Woroch presented a faxed letter from a bank approving a mortgage based on a 30 percent down payment and the signing of an acceptable standard contract. He suggested that a contract be signed immediately with a 10 percent down payment. Mr. Oleksyn indicated that, pending a vote of the UFA executive the next day, a contract would be signed. The next day however, Mr. Oleksyn took steps to complete the deal with the Monticello group.

Oleh Dekajlo, the lawyer for the groups attempting to stop the sale of Verkhovyna to any non-Ukrainian group, filed papers for an injunction to stop the sale. On February 15, Mr. Dekajlo, representing UACF and UFA members, filed an injunction against the sale of Verkhovyna in Federal Court in Monticello. A court date is scheduled for March 7.

The UFA responds

by Roma Hadzewycz

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — Asked to comment on the controversy over the sale of Verkhovyna, Ukrainian Fraternal Association President Ivan Oleksyn provided a chronology of events resulting from the Pennsylvania Insurance Department's long-standing pressure on the UFA to sell its resort or else face the possibility of a takeover or a forced merger with another fraternal — and not necessarily a Ukrainian group.

Mr. Oleksyn underscored that the UFA had wanted to sell Verkhovyna to a Ukrainian buyer and, in fact, promoted such a sale by supporting mailings soliciting funds for the purchase and giving the Ukrainian American Cultural Foundation (UACF) the addresses of all its branches.

The sale of Verkhovyna to the UACF was approved during the 1998 UFA Convention and again during the UFA Supreme Council meeting in 2000, at which time council members voted unanimously during a roll-call vote to sell the resort to the UACF. That motion contained two key clauses, one which stipulated that the resort was being sold "as is" and another which provided that if the UACF did not meet specified conditions and deadlines, the UFA could sell to someone else.

Mr. Oleksyn acknowledged that the UFA had inserted a clause into the contract proposed to the UACF stipulating that the foundation could not resell the resort for a period of three years, and he explained that the clause was added because the UFA wanted to ensure that the property would remain in Ukrainian hands.

(Continued on page 13)



FOCUS ON PHILATELY

by Inger Kuzych

Philatelic folk art in 2000

In June of 1999, The Weekly's "Focus on Philately" article dealt with "A Rich Heritage of Folk Art." I felt it was time to revisit that subject, since several of last year's philatelic releases so beautifully incorporated folk motifs into their designs.

The first issue of last year that featured folk art was also the most anticipated. Rumors of a souvenir sheet depicting pysanky (Ukrainian Easter eggs) had long been circulating; finally, in April, it appeared (Figure 1). Most everyone agreed that the long wait had been worthwhile.

Shown on a deep red background are decorated eggs from six Ukrainian regions: Podillia (upper left), Chernihiv (upper right), Kyiv (middle left), Odesa (middle right), the Hutsul region (lower left), and Volyn (lower right). The surrounding selva shows a foliage design in gold along with Kalyna berries. Along the top is an angel with outstretched arms; the bottom features an old-fashioned thatch-roofed, village house.

Although I like this issue very much, the beauty of the pysanky made me wish more had been presented. Was so much surrounding selva really necessary? Couldn't it have been reduced and a couple more eggs shown? Oh well, perhaps next time.

About three weeks after the pysanky release, another item featuring folk art was introduced. The issue was in an unusual horizontal souvenir sheet highlighting Ukraine Post's participation in two major philatelic exhibitions: WIPA 2000 in Vienna and The Stamp Show 2000 in London. Depicted are two pairs of young couples, dressed in folk costumes, sending and receiving letters. The two central figures are apparently still "back home" in western Ukraine as their darkened background shows the Carpathians and a wooden church. The outside figures, in urban settings, have received their beloved's missives (Figure 2).

Despite being drawn in a slightly humorous style, this colorful souvenir sheet is utterly charming. The rich apparel of the characters is carefully and beautifully depicted in striking detail. The souvenir sheets were popular items at the two stamp shows where they were introduced – and not only for their eye-catching appeal. Beneath the central portion of the sheet, under the logos of the two shows, appear the first stamps of Austria and Great Britain, respectively. Such stamp-on-stamp issues are a popular collecting topic in philately; this was undoubtedly kept in mind during the stamp design process.

In July a two-stamp and label issue was released featuring artist Tetiana Pata (1884-1976). This was the third year in a row that a female folk artist had been so honored. The arrangement of having the two outside stamps flank a portrait of the artist, has become traditional (Figure 3).

The left stamp shows a painting titled

"Kucheriavky" (Flowers), while the right stamp presents "Kalyna and Bird." Both works date from the 1950s.

August saw the release of a single stamp marking Obzhynky, the Ukrainian harvest festival (Figure 4). Shown in a somewhat modernistic style are some of the traditions of this celebration: the Harvest Queen, wearing a woven "crown" made of wheat; the singing of special songs; the harvest feast; etc. All of the figures wear traditional peasant attire.

Personally, I found that the almost cartoonish presentation of this stamp somewhat trivialized the beauty of the Obzhynky ceremonies. For me this issue was the most disappointing of all the 2000 philatelic issues.

Perhaps the most striking release of last year was an October souvenir sheet titled "Ukrainian Flowers." This very unusual and at the same time very fetching design features the bust of a young woman wearing a folk outfit, coral necklaces and an oversized floral garland (Figure 5). The plaiting of garlands is an ancient and honored Ukrainian folk ritual.

Six stamps highlight the flowers that make up the garland. In the upper left are chornobryvtsi (marigolds), always a favorite flower to include in wreaths and

(Continued on page 18)



FIGURE 1. Ukraine's first stamp issue featuring pysanky.



FIGURE 2. This unusual souvenir sheet proved popular at the international stamp shows where it was featured.



FIGURE 3. Folk artist Tetiana Pata specialized in flowers. The stamp on the left is her painting "Kucheriavky," on the right is "Kalyna and Bird."



FIGURE 4. Stamp commemorating the Obzhynky festival.

To The Weekly Contributors:

We greatly appreciate the materials – feature articles, news stories, press clippings, letters to the editor, etc. – 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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Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

power again in Ukraine," Mr. Melnychenko told Patrick Tyler of The Times, who interviewed him in an undisclosed location in a Central European country. (RFE/RL Newsline, The New York Times)

Lesia Gongadze asks to meet with Kuchma

KYIV – After Deputy Procurator-General Oleksii Bahanets on February 26 ruled that the headless corpse found at Tarascha near Kyiv in November is that of missing journalist Heorhii Gongadze, Lesia Gongadze, mother of the missing journalist, asked President Leonid Kuchma for a meeting, saying it may become a "positive step to finding the truth that will help us put an end to this complex and important case." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Communists plan protests in March

KYIV – The Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU) is going to hold a nationwide protest action on March 12-17 under the slogans "Down with the Regime of Kuchma and Yuschenko" and "All the Power to the Working People," Interfax reported on February 26, quoting the CPU website. The goal of the action is "to tell people the truth about what is going on in Ukraine, and to rouse them for an organized, conscious struggle for their human rights." The CPU declared its intention of correcting the "main mistake" of the Ukraine Without Kuchma rallies by expanding anti-regime protests to include wider social strata. CPU leader Petro Symonenko told the agency that the "ultra-rightist nationalists," who actively participate in ongoing anti-Kuchma protests, "are destroying the idea of social justice and diverting the people from the understanding that [Ukraine's] economic reform has no prospects in essence." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Medvedchuk: coalition Cabinet is needed

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada Vice-Chairman Viktor Medvedchuk told journalists on February 26 that Prime Minister Viktor Yuschenko will survive in his post only if the president, the Parliament and the government agree on forming a "coalition Cabinet," Interfax reported. Mr. Medvedchuk noted that unless a coalition Cabinet is formed under Mr. Yuschenko, "the reformist parliamentary majority will create a new coalition government with a new prime minister." Kyiv-based political analyst Mykola Tomenko said the same day that the Parliament will "most likely" dismiss Prime Minister Yuschenko in April because of his "failure to fulfill the government program" that was approved by lawmakers a year ago. According to Mr. Tomenko, the prime minister may be voted out jointly by the Communists – whose representative will subsequently head the legislature – and some currently pro-Kuchma caucuses that want Mr. Medvedchuk to head the government. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Communists want Yuschenko's ouster

KYIV – The Communist Party parliamentary caucus will vote to dismiss Prime Minister Viktor Yuschenko if the issue is raised in the Verkhovna Rada, the Eastern Economist Daily reported on February 28. "This government openly states that it executes all IMF recommendations ... It is carrying out an anti-social, anti-national policy," Communist lawmaker Heorhii Kriuchkov noted, referring to recent rumors that the Communists may side with some pro-Kuchma legislators to oust Mr. Yuschenko. Progressive Socialist Party leader Natalia Vitrenko told Interfax on February 27 that she does not rule out the possibility of cooperation between the Communists and some "oligarchic" parliamentary caucuses in order to change the top leadership alignment in Ukraine.

Meanwhile, National Deputy Serhii Tyhytko, leader of the pro-presidential Labor Ukraine Party, said the parliamentary opposition should obtain the right to appoint one deputy chairman of the Parliament and several chairpersons of parliamentary committees. (RFE/RL Newsline)

U.S. cites rights problems in Russia

WASHINGTON – In its annual Human Rights Report released on February 26 the U.S. State Department said that "serious problems remain" in Russia's observance of human rights, Western agencies reported. Among the most pressing, the report said, are problems involving "the independence and freedom of the media and the conditions of pretrial detention and torture of prisoners." It added that Moscow's record is poor in Chechnya, where Russian security forces demonstrate little respect for basic human rights. It also suggested that government institutions "remain largely unreformed" and that government leaders remain "mostly silent about violations of human rights and democratic practices." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Russian media minister cites U.S. lies

MOSCOW – Russia's Media Minister Mikhail Lesin said on February 27 that Moscow is considering the launch of an advertising campaign in the United States aimed at creating a positive image of Russia in American society, Interfax reported. He said that the U.S. administration is spending "a large amount of money on making Russia's image worse," and he asked rhetorically: "When will they stop telling Americans lies about the processes that are taking place in our country?" He said that Moscow will publish within two weeks a report "On the Situation of Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Action in the United States." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Pliusch sees no crisis in Rada

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada Chairman Ivan Pliusch said on February 22 that there is no crisis in the Parliament, Interfax reported. According to Mr. Pliusch, even if the Fatherland Party caucus (32 deputies) quits the pro-government majority as it has suggested it may do, the majority will still have 253 deputies who are sufficient to pass "effective decisions." Commenting on the current anti-Kuchma protests, Mr. Pliusch said they are weak. "There is no need to think about violent methods [to deal with those protests]," he added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

The UFA responds

(Continued from page 10)

However, in the end, after four years of discussions, the UACF did not sign a contract with the UFA and "it became evident that the UACF did not have money – not even for a down payment – and thus was not capable of buying the resort," Mr. Oleksyn said. Meanwhile, the Insurance Department kept up its pressure.

UFA Vice-President Stephen M. Wichar Sr. added, "October 31, 2000, was the deadline for the closing, but it never happened because the contract for purchase

was not signed. So, I consider that they [the UACF] invalidated this thing with their actions."

Furthermore, Mr. Wichar said that, in accordance with the UFA By-Laws, a simple majority vote by the executive is need to sell the resort. On November 20, 2000, the UFA executive voted to sell Verkhovyna to another interested party, a private individual.

Both UFA officers told The Weekly they believe the judge will rule on March 7 that the UFA acted properly and, as a result, the UFA will be able to proceed with the sale of Verkhovyna to the non-Ukrainian buyer.

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2. Verification of minutes of the previous Annual Meeting
3. Reports: Management
Credit Committee
Supervisory Committee
4. Discussion and approval of reports
5. Election of three members to the Board of Directors
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

A nominating committee comprised of the following members has been appointed: Mr. Bohdan Mychajliw, Mrs. Inna Kurawychyk and Mr. Mykola Haliw. Nominations for the positions on the Board can be forwarded to:

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Attn: Nominating Committee

Members are requested to bring their regular share passbooks.

Weeklong celebrations in Rome mark elevation of Cardinal Lubomyr Husar

(Continued on page 14)

After the profession of faith and the taking of the oath, each new cardinal knelt before the pope to receive the bull of the creation of cardinals, to be assigned a title or deaconry, and to exchange a kiss of peace.

Amid a sea of red caps and capes, the Ukrainian Catholic prelate moved from cardinal to cardinal, exchanging a kiss of peace with fellow new members of the College of Cardinals. The Ukrainian-born U.S. citizen, who turned 68 on Monday, February 26, was granted the "titular" church of St. Sofia, built by the late Patriarch Josyf Slipyj on the outskirts of Rome in the early 1970s.

Cardinal Husar was one of four cardinals named from countries once dominated by the Soviet Union – an important sign from the Holy See, which wishes to show the openness of the Roman Catholic Church to the East and to underscore the pope's determination that the Church should "breathe with both lungs." Vatican insiders say this is also a signal that the Roman Catholic Church is ready and willing to engage in dialogue with the Orthodox Church as the pope prepares to visit Ukraine on June 23-27 of this year.

Also elevated to the rank of cardinal were Janis Pujats, 70, archbishop of Riga, Latvia; Audrys Juozas Backis, 64, archbishop of Vilnius, Lithuania; and Marian Jaworski, 74, archbishop of Lviv for the Roman Catholics. Cardinal Jaworski, who like Cardinal Husar is a native of Lviv, is an old friend of the pope from Krakow.

"In making Patriarch Husar a cardinal, I think that the holy father underlines how much he cherishes, respects and loves the Church of Ukraine – be it of the Eastern or Latin Rite. And, he wants to be greeted by two cardinals when he comes to Ukraine," said the Rev. Dr. Iwan Dacko, who is responsible for the external relations of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church.

"This pope has paid particular attention to Church life in Ukraine. Over four years ago, when Bishop Lubomyr was made auxiliary head of the Church, and now, there is no question that these are signs of a particular trust and favor that this holy father has in Lubomyr Husar. The pope's Polish origins and his understanding about the fate of Ukraine has been the source of this attention," said the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, rector of the Lviv Theological Academy.

Cardinal Husar was not on the list of the first 37 cardinals nominated on January 21; he did, however, appear on the second list of seven designated cardinals that Pope John Paul II announced one week later, on January 28. It is clear that the pope wanted to honor the Ukrainian Catholics who have suffered persecution throughout the 20th century, but he chose to wait for the election of Bishop Husar (which happened on January 25 but was announced on January 28) by the Ukrainian Catholic Synod of Bishops before he named him a cardinal.

A statement issued by Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls in late January noted that everything hinged on the election of Bishop Husar as head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church; the holy father held a few names back to announce

after the election of Bishop Husar by the Synod of Bishops.

In a recent article about the new cardinals, published in the monthly magazine *Inside the Vatican*, editor Robert Moynihan reported that the Eastern Churches are "steppingstones on the road toward the Orthodox."

Msgr. Dacko explained: "And, as far as ecumenical dialogue is concerned – it is difficult in Ukraine, but it is precisely our patriarch, Cardinal Husar, who is the person for such a dialogue. He is an open man, he is a man who was brought up on the works of Sheptytsky, worked directly under Patriarch Josyf, Cardinal Slipyj, followed under Cardinal Myroslav Ivan Lubachivsky, whom he now succeeds."

"And, I think he is very highly respected in Ukrainian Orthodox circles, so for him the ecumenical dimension will definitely be a priority for our Church," added Msgr. Dacko.

A week of celebrations

The celebrations of this historic event began on Tuesday afternoon, February 20, when Archbishop Major Husar arrived at Leonardo Da Vinci airport located on the periphery of Rome. A delegation of more than 50 bishops, Ukrainian government officials, clergy, nuns, family and faithful came out to the airport to welcome their spiritual leader with the traditional bread and salt, flowers and good wishes.

Among those greeting Archbishop Major Husar were Msgr. Claudio Gugerotti, undersecretary for the Eastern Congregation; Bishops Ivan Khoma and Basil Losten; Lviv Oblast Administration Chairman Stefan Semchuk; Lviv Mayor Vasyl Kuybida; and Ukraine's Ambassador to the Vatican Nina Kovalska.

Visibly moved, the cardinal-designate thanked all those present, and made time to take photos with members of his family, who came from the United States and Canada to witness the elevation of their uncle. He then traveled to his residence at Ss. Sergius and Bacchus Ukrainian Catholic Church and guesthouse, where he hosted a dinner for the heads of Ukrainian institutions in Rome, such as the Basilian Fathers, Basilian Sisters, Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate, seminarians from the Ukrainian Pontifical Seminary of St. Josaphat's, family and friends.

On Wednesday morning Archbishop Major Husar became a "prince of the Church," as cardinals are known, and a member of the College of Cardinals, which elects the pope. He is the sixth Ukrainian cardinal; his predecessors were Isidore of Kyiv (15th century), Mykhailo Levytsky (19th century), Sylvester Sembratovych (19th century), and Josyf Slipyj and Myroslav Ivan Lubachivsky in the 20th century.

The installation was followed by a lunch at the Ss. Sergius and Bacchus guesthouse. Best wishes were voiced by an official delegation from Ukraine, headed by Anatoliy Orel, formerly Ukraine's ambassador to Italy and currently the deputy head of the presidential administration of Leonid Kuchma. Some of the cardinal's colleagues, among them Bishops Sofron Mudryi and Yulian Gbur, offered greetings to the new cardinal. Bishop Gbur commented on both the weather in Rome and the feeling

in his soul: "The sun has warmed us today and spring has arrived for our Church."

Perhaps most moving was a brief statement from Cardinal Husar's niece and goddaughter, Maria Rypan of Toronto, who acted as the family spokesperson for a delegation of 21 nephews and nieces, their spouses and children. They came from as far away as Toronto, Detroit and Kansas City. Her voice cracking, Ms. Rypan conveyed best wishes from her mother, Marta, Cardinal Husar's older sister, who could not attend the celebrations because she is gravely ill, and her father, Zenon Wasylkevych.

Ms. Rypan spoke of how proud the family was of their uncle, noting that witnessing such an event "was an honor beyond words."

"We always knew that our uncle would achieve great things," she added. "Duty always comes first for him, but family is important, and he tries to make time for us," she added.

During a week of many public events, audiences, courtesy calls, banquets and receptions, Cardinal Husar managed to steal away some private moments to spend with his family, presenting his goddaughter with a ticket to receive communion from the holy father. The nine children from the family, ranging in age from 3 to 18, received tickets to the papal audience, where they were able to individually go up to the pope and receive his blessing.

The smallest of them, Mateyko Hudz, 3, violated protocol at the papal audience when, after being blessed by Pope John Paul II, he remembered that he forgot to say bye-bye and ran up to the 80-year-old pontiff to do so.

On Wednesday afternoon, the newly installed cardinals received all those faithful who wished to pay them a courtesy call at the Pope Paul VI Hall in the Vatican. Cardinal Husar spent more than two hours meeting the faithful and greeting his guests. Afterwards he attended a dinner with all of his Ukrainian Catholic bishops who had come for the celebrations, including Bishops Khoma, Mudryi, Gbur, Yulian Voronovsky, Volodymyr Yuschak, Petro Kryk, Michael Wiwchar, Michael Hrynchysyn and Losten.

On Thursday morning, February 22, the Feast of the Chair of Peter, the holy father presided at a mass with the new cardinals. During this open-air service the Holy See gave each new cardinal a ring, a "sign of dignity, pastoral care and the most solid communion with the See of Peter."

The celebratory mood continued on Thursday evening for Cardinal Husar, who hosted a banquet on the grounds of the Ukrainian Catholic University and the Church of St. Sofia, institutions that had been built by his spiritual adviser and teacher, Patriarch Josyf.

Friday began with a papal audience for all of the cardinals and their families, friends and faithful. As the pope acknowledged each new cardinal, he addressed them and their delegations in their native languages. Speaking to the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic faithful, the pontiff spoke of his desire to visit Ukraine later this year.

Cardinal Husar spent the final days before his departure to the United States for the installation of U.S. Metropolitan Stefan Soroka in Philadelphia calling on old friends and colleagues; at the Congregation for Oriental Churches, where he met with the retired head of the Congregation Cardinal Achille Silvestrini; at St. Josaphat's, where he lunched with the new American cardinals as well as Msgr. George Saruskas, the director of the U.S. Bishops Conference office to aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Cardinal Husar also met with Archimandrite Robert Taft, vice-rector of the Pontifical Oriental Institute, and his colleagues at the Basilian Fathers' residence.

Many of these events were facilitated by Archimandrite Giovanni Scarabelli, a good friend of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, who serves the pastoral needs of the new wave of immigrants from Ukraine. Assisting the monsignor in the arrangements were the Rev. Mark Morozovich and the Rev. Ken Nowakowski, the Lviv-based press secretary for the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

On Friday evening a pre-departure dinner was held at Ss. Sergius and Bacchus, which was attended by both Lviv cardinals – Husar and Jaworski – as well as the Ukrainian officials from Lviv. In a very relaxed atmosphere, the guests waxed poetic about their hometown throughout the evening. Greetings were delivered from native Lvivites, such as the mayor and governor, representatives of the Roman Catholic Church, including Cardinal Franciszek Macharski of Krakow and Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz, the pope's personal secretary. Offering greetings from the Western diaspora was Prof. Myroslav Labunka.

After a week of celebrations in Rome, the Ukrainian cardinal brought the festivities to a close with a hierarchical liturgy at the Sobor of St. Sofia. More than 600 people attended the service concelebrated by six bishops and more than two dozen Ukrainian Catholic priests. Many of the faithful, natives of Ukraine who are currently working in Italy, listened attentively to Bishop Khoma's inspirational greeting and prayers referring to Cardinal Husar, movingly



Archbishop Major Lubomyr Husar approaches Pope John Paul II at the public consistory, during which he was elevated to the rank of cardinal on February 21.

Servizio Fotografico de "L'O.R."



Marta Kolomayets

Marusia Hovhera, 20, a student from Lviv currently studying in Italy greets the cardinal-designate as he arrives in Rome on February 20. Standing next to Archbishop Major Lubomyr Husar is Msgr. Claudio Gugerotti, undersecretary of the Eastern Congregation; behind the archbishop is Lviv Mayor Vasyl Kuybida.



Mykhailo Perun

The primate of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church with Bishop Ivan Khoma and Ukraine's Ambassador to the Vatican Nina Kovalska.



Marta Kolomayets

Cardinal Lubomyr Husar celebrates liturgy at St. Sofia on February 25.



Mykhailo Perun

The procession to St. Sofia on Sunday morning, February 25: the cardinal is flanked by Bishops Yulian Voronovsky (left) and Sofron Mudryi.

drawn from the words of Cardinal Slipyj.

In his sermon on the eve of the Great Lent, Cardinal Husar spoke to the faithful of his Church, contemplating the past, present and future of the once persecuted Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church. He said that "whereas in the 20th century the enemy of the Church, the enemy of the people was clear, today the enemy may not be so easy to identify. Once we could point to a system that preached a world without God, a world without faith," he continued. "Today the enemy is much harder to identify and we continue to struggle between good and evil."

"Today it is the lust for money and power that is the enemy, that wants to rid us of a normal, honest human life; today our struggle is against our passions as we fight not to become prisoners of sin, as we struggle to be free from temptation in order to be able to do good deeds, to respect one another, to support one another," he said.

"In our daily lives we must have the foundation of Christ's teachings, of truth, fairness and love for one another. And we must make clear choices – either we are for God, or against God – but this choice is not easy. The Great Lent is a time to set goals for your life, to make choices for yourself and stick to those choices," continued Cardinal Husar.

"Let us remember that the merciful God gave us the grace that our Church and our people survived the persecution of their faith," the Ukrainian Catholic primate underscored. "And despite the many wounds that we received and from which we are still healing, despite all of this, our people kept their faith – they did not stop being human beings, they did not stop being Ukrainians – and we must continue to be courageous and stay true to our convictions. We must continue to stand unwavering



Marta Kolomayets

Archbishop Major Lubomyr Husar is greeted at the airport by his family; standing next to him is Maria Rypan, his niece and goddaughter.

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LIFE Act...

(Continued from page 6)

married and are waiting outside of the United States for the approval of their immigrant visa petition. Any minor children who are accompanying the spouse, can be included in the petition. In order to qualify, the spouse and minor children must meet the following criteria: an immigrant visa petition must have been previously filed (the law requires that the U.S. citizen file an immigrant petition in the United States before a visa can be issued to the spouse abroad; the "K" visa will allow the spouse abroad to enter the United States and await the approval of the petition); and the recipient of the visa must be outside of the United States. Unlike the new "V" visa, which applies only to petitions filed no later than December 21, 2000 (the date the LIFE Act became law), the expanded "K" visa is available to current and future applicants.

While the LIFE Act has been well-publicized in the media, including the ethnic media, much confusion still exists and many people who need to take advantage of this law remain misinformed. This confusion is partly the result of inaccurate information provided by some non-lawyer "immigration consultants" and unqualified social service and ethnic-run information bureaus. It is also due to a simple misunderstanding of the law on the part of potential immigrants. There is no question that immigration law can be complex and often misinterpreted. This is understandable and is the reason that individuals seek legal counsel. Of greater concern, however, to many competent and honest immigration attorneys is that the information provided by unqualified agencies and groups is incorrect and, sometimes, even intentionally distorted.

The greatest problem now involves the proper filing and processing of labor certification applications in conjunction with the provisions of Section 245(i).

Many individuals who do not have U.S. or permanent resident relatives who can file for them are trying to take advantage of Section 245(i) by filing labor certification applications through their employers or future employers. Labor certification is the initial step in the process by which an individual can obtain permanent residency through an offer of employment from a corporation or unincorporated business entity. It requires that the individual have an offer of employment in a position for which there is a shortage of U.S. workers. It also requires that the sponsored individual have the necessary training or experience for the job offered at the time the labor certification application is filed. Training or experience gained with the sponsoring employer cannot be used, it must have been obtained from work for a prior employer.

The offer of employment must include payment of wages at the same level that U.S. workers are paid for a given occupation. It does not require that the individual work for the employer during the application process. The law only requires that the employer hire the individual after he or she obtains permanent residency. Whether or not an offered position is a shortage occupation is determined by the Department of Labor through nationwide studies, analysis of the job market and through the employer's own evidence that the job has been offered to U.S. workers, but has not been filled.

The employer's evidence of the lack of qualified U.S. workers is demonstrated through a process called "recruitment." The employer is required to show that for a period of time before the labor certification is filed, usually six months, the job opening was made known to U.S. workers through a variety of means: newspaper advertisements, internal job postings, website postings, and requests to employment agencies

(Continued on page 17)



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LIFE Act...

(Continued from page 16)

or "head hunters." The employer is not required to show that there are no qualified U.S. workers in the entire country, but only in the region or area where the job offer exists.

Besides certifying that the individual will be hired at the prevailing wage after he or she obtains permanent resident status, the sponsoring employer must also provide proof that the business has the ability to pay the sponsored individual's salary. This documentation, through a tax return, is not provided to the Department of Labor, but to the INS after the labor certification is approved.

Normally, the INS looks to see whether or not the employer's net profit is equal to or greater than the sponsored individual's yearly salary. If it is not, there are other ways that the employer can prove his ability to pay the required wage. However, there are limitations and the presentation of this evidence is critical and must be carefully reviewed before the labor certification is even filed.

There are very few things as disconcerting in this process as having the INS deny the case based on the employer's inability to pay the required wage. At that point, the sponsored individual has spent time and money and has had the labor certification approved, but then suddenly has to face the reality that the case is over. Of greater significance is that a denial by the INS cancels the sponsored individual's "grandfathered" benefits under Section 245(i) because the labor certification was not "approvable" when initially filed. Unfortunately, many individuals who are trying to take advantage of the benefits of the LIFE Act are not properly informed about this requirement.

An important additional benefit of Section 245(i) is that the filing of a labor certification application (or a visa petition) before April 30, 2001, provides the applicant with the legal ability to file other applications in the future. Therefore, even if the case is not successful because the employer could not show a shortage of U.S. workers, the applicant can try again in the future, after April 30, 2001, with a different employer or through a family petition. This is the "coverage" that Section 245(i) provides. It may not lead to permanent residency on the first try, but gives the applicant the opportunity to try again later.

What kind of jobs are best suited for labor certification?

The simple answer is: any job where the employer can demonstrate that there is a shortage of U.S. workers. In reality, however, certain occupations have been classified as bona fide shortage occupations by the

Department of Labor. Occupations such as automobile mechanic, computer professional, skilled construction worker, ethnic specialty cook, landscape gardener, supervisor of cleaning services, travel agency manager, pharmacist, secretary, tailor and all professions with foreign language requirements are considered shortage occupations. Labor certification and permanent residency based on these jobs are most often approved by the Department of Labor.

On the other hand, there are many occupations for which there is no shortage of U.S. workers. These are primarily positions that require little or no training, preparation or work experience: assemblers, cashiers, truck drivers, packers, guards, waiters, taxi drivers, etc. The filing of a labor certification for these positions leads to a denial by the Department of Labor. Such a result seriously prejudices the sponsored individual because the case is denied and the "grandfathering" provisions under the law do not apply. Such individuals fail to obtain permanent resident status and are not even covered by Section 245(i). The likely result is that such an individual will never obtain permanent residency in the United States. Competent and professional assistance can prevent this disastrous result.

Assuming that the labor certification application is approved and the INS approves step two (the Immigrant Visa Petition), how long must a person wait to obtain his or her permanent residence?

The processing of employment-based petitions varies among the different Department of Labor regional offices. A case under the jurisdiction of Region III, based in Philadelphia, may take two to two and a half years. The same type of employment-based case under the jurisdiction of Region II in New York may take four to five years. At a minimum, the job offer should be for an occupation that requires at least two years of prior experience or training. These positions are determined to be skilled occupations. Unskilled jobs require a much longer waiting time before permanent residency can be obtained; these should be avoided, if possible. Again, proper review and professional counseling can assist individuals in making the proper choices before starting an employment-based case.

The LIFE Act of 2000 is an important law that may very well provide a great many individuals with a final chance to obtain permanent resident status in the United States. With so much at stake, applicants should make informed decisions based on competent and professional advice from attorneys well-versed in immigration law. The road to permanent residency is a difficult one, but armed with accurate and genuine information, an immigration applicant can legalize his or her status, and start a new life in this nation of immigrants.



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Insurance \$30.00 per child per week

Instructors: Zenon Snylyk, George Sawchak and staff. Limited to 45 students

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Traditional Ukrainian folk dancing for advanced students ages 15 and over

Room and board: UNA members \$580.00/non-member \$630.00 for full session

Instructor's fee \$140.00 per person, insurance \$30.00 per student

Instructors and assistants: Borys Bohachevsky, Andriy Cybyk, Krissi Izak, Orlando Pagan

UKRAINIAN FOLK DANCE CAMP I – SUNDAY, JULY 22 - SATURDAY, AUGUST 4 UKRAINIAN FOLK DANCE CAMP II – SUNDAY, AUGUST 5 - SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

Traditional Ukrainian folk dancing for beginners, intermediate and advanced

Room and board: UNA members \$580.00/non-member \$630.00 for full session

Insurance \$30.00 per child per week

Instructor's fee \$225.00; director: Roma Pryma Bohachevsky

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CAMP IV Sunday, August 12 - Saturday, August 18 (this session depending on enrollment)

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FIGURE 5. A spectacular souvenir sheet from last fall found a unique way of presenting beautiful flowers from Ukraine.

Philatelic folk art...

(Continued from page 11)

with other blooms to decorate religious icons. Next is romashka (daisy-camomile). In certain parts of Ukraine, this healing flower was placed in wreaths with the belief that the wearer would then not experience any familial problems. The beautiful malva (mallow-hollyhock) is followed by the mak (field poppy) to complete the first stamp row. The short-lived mak, a symbol of beauty and health, also is taken to represent man's uncertain existence.

One of the favorite flowers of Ukrainians is barvinok (periwinkle minor). Symbolizing love and purity, it has a special significance at wedding celebrations where wreaths are made for both bride and groom. The final flower in the garl and is voloshka synia (bachelor's button or cornflower), which also is used to decorate wedding wreaths.

Below the figure is a "field" of flowers, broken into four stamps, that depicts: krucheni panychi (morning glory), lilieya (lily), pivoniya (peony) and dzvonyky (bluebells).

November saw the release of a three-stamp set picturing "Animated Children's Folk Tales" (Figure 6). The characters, whether human or animal, on each of these cute and colorful stamps, are all shown wearing embroidered folk costumes. The first stamp shows little "Ivasyk-Telesyk" escaping from an old witch with the help of some geese. The second stamp depicts an

elderly couple with a "Kryvenka Kachechka" (Crooked Duck), who helps the pair who look after her but which eventually leaves to join a migrating flock. The final stamp "Kotyk ta Pivnyk" (Cat and Rooster) shows the fowl thanking the feline for saving him from the voracious fox.

Finally, in December, three more stamps of the ongoing "Historic Ukrainian Churches" series were issued. The 30-kopiyka value of this set depicts the "Birth of the Blessed Virgin" church in Velyke village (Lviv Oblast, built in the 17th century), an excellent example of wooden folk architecture (Figure 7).

The attractiveness of several of these philatelic folk art issues make them strong candidates to do well in the upcoming Narbut Prize competition for best Ukrainian stamp design. Look for a complete chronicling of the year 2000 Ukrainian philatelic releases (and your chance to vote for the best of them) in the May "Focus on Philately" article.

Dr. Ingerit Kuzych may be reached at P.O. Box 3, Springfield VA 22150, or at his new e-mail address: ingert@starpowernet.net.



FIGURE 6. All of the cartoon characters are shown wearing embroidered clothes.



FIGURE 7. Wooden folk architecture from the village of Velyke (Lviv Oblast).

**DISTRICT COMMITTEE
OF UNA BRANCHES**
of
CONNECTICUT
announces that its
**ANNUAL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE MEETING**
will be held on
SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2001, at 1:00 p.m.
at **Ukrainian National Home**
961 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, CT
Obligated to attend the annual meeting
as voting members are District Committee Officers,
Convention Delegates and two delegates
from the following Branches:
12, 59, 67, 253, 254, 277, 350, 387, 414
All UNA members are welcome
as guests at the meeting.
MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:
Martha Lysko, UNA National Secretary
DISTRICT COMMITTEE
Ihor E. Hayda, District Chairman
Stepan Tarasiuk, Secretary
Taras Slevinsky, Treasurer
Myron Kuzio, Assistant District Chairman

**DISTRICT COMMITTEE
OF UNA BRANCHES**
of
CENTRAL NEW JERSEY
announces that its
**ANNUAL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE MEETING**
will be held on
SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2001, at 2:00 p.m.
at **St. Michael's Church Hall**
1700 Brooks Blvd., Manville, NJ
Obligated to attend the annual meeting
as voting members are District Committee Officers,
Convention Delegates and two delegates
from the following Branches:
26, 155, 168, 209, 269, 312, 349, 353, 372
All UNA members are welcome
as guests at the meeting.
MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:
Ulana Diachuk, UNA President
Yaroslav Zaviysky, UNA Auditor
DISTRICT COMMITTEE
Michael Zacharko, District Chairman
John Kushnir, Secretary
John Babyn, Treasurer

**DISTRICT COMMITTEE
OF UNA BRANCHES**
of
CLEVELAND, OHIO
announces that its
**ANNUAL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE MEETING**
will be held on
SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2001, at 10:00 a.m.
at the **Pokrova Ukrainian Catholic
Church**
6812 Broadview Rd., Parma, OH
Obligated to attend the annual meeting
as voting members are District Committee Officers,
Convention Delegates and two delegates
from the following Branches:
102, 112, 166, 180, 222, 233, 240, 291, 358, 364
All UNA members are welcome
as guests at the meeting.
MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:
Stefan Kaczaraj, UNA Treasurer
Taras Szmagala Jr., UNA Advisor
**Taras Szmagala, Honorary Member of UNA
General Assembly**
DISTRICT COMMITTEE
Taras Szmagala Jr., District Chairman
Luba Mudri, Secretary
Natalie Miahky, Treasurer

Message to the people...

(Continued from page 3)

ominous analogies. It is enough to take a closer look at their symbols and slogans, at the stage properties of their political shows in order to see that we are facing a Ukrainian variance of national socialism.

Recently, a National Salvation Forum has appeared, set up on unknown basis and widely publicized. The leaders of this sundry conglomerate, resentful of their own political losses and fiascos, are indeed looking for salvation. Though not for the state and the nation, but for themselves – from political bankruptcy and oblivion and – some of them – from criminal responsibility.

Each of us, esteemed compatriots, has to understand that the only hope of these petty politicians, who have burnt all their bridges, is that the sparks of enmity, irreconcilability and malice will spread across the whole of society, enter your homes and your fates. Trying to give a new birth to the threat of a large-scale civil conflict, which the Ukrainian state has managed to avoid during the most difficult stages of its development, they hope to stay adrift amidst chaos and uncertainty, in the absence of power and order. Such "saviors" do not see in their narrow-mindedness, or do not want to see the potential harm that their unconsidered and reckless actions will cause.

Of course, we should not dramatize the situation. For the dimensions of the entire society and its life, all this fuss is nothing more than microscopic and short-lived anomaly, which is not to decide the future of Ukraine.

Still, we can not ignore that the attempts to instigate street elements, blatant provocative tricks that they use to deepen the split in society and push the

authorities to counter them by force, pose a real threat to the national security of the state.

We should not forget the lessons of history. You will recall the origins of fascism.

We state that in the interest of citizens, society and the state, such attempts will meet an active and resolute counteraction with the use of all means envisaged by the law. No one should have any illusions about this.

Anarchy, arbitrary action and breach of law will not be allowed!

The state's leadership remains open for political dialogue and is continuously leading it – but with those who really want a dialogue, who are capable of a dialogue and who consider it as the only correct and possible way of resolving differences and disagreements, strengthening political stability, speeding up the resolution of economic and social problems and improving people's lives, which is a priority, a decisive and all-important issue for us now.

Doing everything to further develop democracy, to ensure accord in society and to consolidate it around constructive and creative objectives, we are counting on your understanding, assistance and support, dear compatriots. It has been the Ukrainian people's most powerful resource during the years of establishing our country. It is a vital necessity now – in order to, among other things, rebuff the anti-state forces, whatever flags these forces are flying.

We shall keep focusing the efforts of the authorities and all of the branches and structures of power on ensuring a peaceful present and a clear, predictable future for Ukraine. The unity of our positions and approaches, aimed unequivocally at rebuffing destructiveness in politics, is corroborated by this statement.

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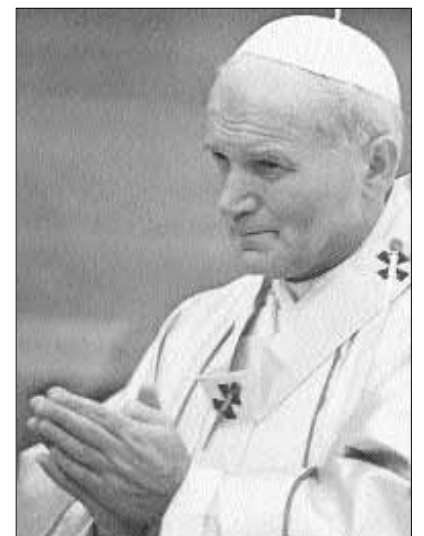
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Branch 18 of UNWLA elects a founder as new president

CLIFTON, N.J. – Branch 18 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America came full circle on February 2 when after over 25 years of community service, the presidency of the branch was turned over to its founder and first president, Camilla Huk of Rutherford, N.J.

Throughout the years, this group of professional Ukrainian American women has supported numerous charitable functions, including local services such as sponsorship of a nursery school, helping senior citizens and promoting Ukrainian culture by preparing exhibits and programs for schools and libraries.

The branch was honored by the presence of the UNWLA's past national president, Anna Krawczuk, and Maria Polanskyj, president of the UNWLA's New Jersey Regional Council.

In her acceptance speech, Ms. Huk thanked the outgoing president, Ulana Kobzar of Rutherford, for her deep devotion and dedication, and in particular for her efforts with respect to fund-raising for The Ukrainian Museum. Ms. Kobzar accepted the branch's museum chair for the coming year. Ms. Huk also pointed out that many women often find themselves alone in their 50s, which is the average age of the membership, and that the organization acts as a sisterhood to support women through lifestyle changes such as divorce and widowhood, and serves as an extended family for those women who remained single, while allowing each one to make a contribution in her primary area of interest. With the departure of children and facing the "empty nest" syndrome, Ms. Huk urged women to focus their energies on helping senior citizens who often are totally alone.

"Let us also not forget to enjoy our friendship, to have fun as well," the new president urged. A theater evening was proposed for the branch members' enjoyment.

Ms. Huk also said that with her recent appointment to the directorship of the Children of Hope Foundation, which addresses the needs of the homeless children of Ukraine, she would strive to integrate the foundation's activity with the work of the UNWLA to the benefit of both organizations.

The newly elected vice-president and secretary of the branch, Lidia Kramarchuk, who is involved in overseeing local environmental protection and occupational health issues, explained that the UNWLA also offers her a venue to learn more about her heritage and events in Ukraine – often a much-needed change

from her work. She also stressed the need to help recent immigrants to the United States with understanding American culture and solving immigration dilemmas, and she suggested that the branch involve itself in helping immigrants complete documentation and applications whenever possible. To this end, she said she would explore ways this could most readily be done.

Sonya Capar, who is a member of the Clifton library board and the Passaic County Education Association's board, accepted the membership chair, citing the fact that the UNWLA is a good place to meet interesting people both at the branch level and during regional and national conferences and events.

Ms. Capar pointed out that the UNWLA is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the National Council of Women, conduits for women to expand their leadership roles.

Christina Blazenko, whose role changed significantly in recent years from librarian to single mother, when she adopted two children from Ukraine, was named treasurer. She will also head the scholarship fund.

Christina Holowchak Debarry, an artist who is past president of the Pastel Society of America, a board member of Allied Artists of America and an elected member of the prestigious Salmagundi Club, was named to the branch's cultural chair. She spoke about future fine art exhibits such as a possible exhibit of Byzantine icons.

Eugenia Cikalo, who now resides outside the branch's immediate area, felt such a bond with the branch that she continues to attend the meetings and remains an active member despite her need to commute. In fact, she assumed the social services chair.

Irene Bendrych Wirszcuk agreed to serve on the Auditing Committee and to assist with social service projects. Joining her are Lida Celuch, who is active in The Ukrainian Museum fund-raising, and Marusia Durbak, who is active in local church affairs.

The branch will hold its annual Easter Bazaar the week before Easter, at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church on President Street (between Lexington and Hope avenues) in Passaic, N.J. It will feature such typical Ukrainian Easter items as pysanky, as well as Ukrainian folk art and fine art.

The branch has invited senior citizens who would like to be on its call list to receive daily free telephone calls from members to make sure they are well, to call Ms. Huk at (201) 933-2580 to register.

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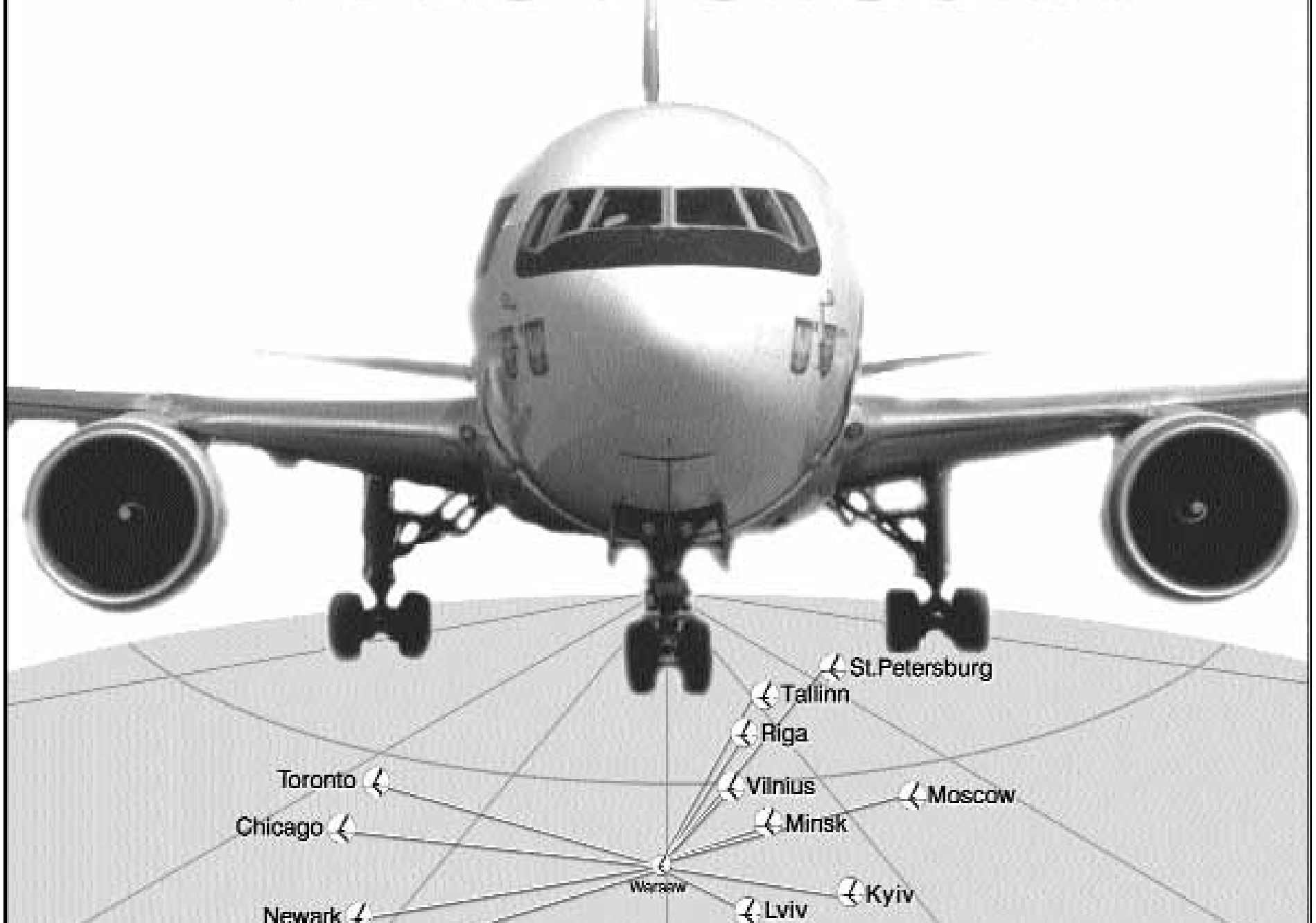
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Suk to concertize at National Gallery

WASHINGTON – Ukrainian pianist Mykola Suk will appear in recital at the National Gallery on Sunday, March 18, in a program of works by Haydn, Kolessa, Thalberg and Liszt. The concert will be held in the gallery's West Garden Court at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Mr. Suk gained international recognition as the winner of the first prize and the gold medal at the 1971 International Liszt-Bartok Competition in Budapest. Since then he has concertized to great acclaim both as a soloist and a chamber musician throughout the former USSR, in North America, Australia, Europe and the Middle East. He recently appeared at Moscow's Great Hall with the Russian National Symphony and with the San Diego and New Haven symphonies in concertos by Bach and Liszt.

After his performance of the Liszt Dante Sonata at the Franz Liszt Festival in Hamilton, Ontario, in 1994, among the enthusiastic reviews were the following: "It was some of the finest Liszt playing I have ever heard. He will surely prove to be one of the more formidable talents to have appeared in this country in years" (John C.



Mykola Suk

Tibbett, American Record Guide); "Indeed, I have seldom heard Liszt playing in which such an impressive technique was so completely subsumed in the task of musical characterization" (William Littler, The Toronto Star).

Mr. Suk has premiered a number of concertos and solo works by Ukrainian composers, including Valentin Silvestrov, Ivan Karabyts and Myroslav Skoryk. Mr. Suk has been awarded the title of Outstanding Artist of Ukraine.

Formerly on the faculty of the Kyiv and Moscow conservatories, he is currently on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music and is artistic director of the "Music at the Institute" series at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City.

Mr. Suk has recorded for the Melodiya, Russian Disc, Hungaraton and Meldac labels.

Correction

The headline (February 25) for the concert performed by the piano duo of Luba and Ireneus Zuk at the Pollack Concert Hall of McGill University in Montreal on February 2 did not reflect accurately the content of the article. The Zuk Duo presented a concert of music by three contemporary Ukrainian composers, as well as a work by the Canadian composer Healey Willan and the Spanish composer Manuel Infante rather than a program of music by Canadian composers.

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U. of Alberta offers course...

(Continued from page 10)

theater, cinema, museums, restaurants, pubs, as well as regular viewing of Ukrainian television – all aspects of contemporary popular culture in Ukraine. Although the students will study primarily in Lviv, some trips may be possible to the Karpaty or Kyiv, depending on interest.

Why did you choose to hold the course in Lviv?

As described in the course description, Lviv, the capital of Western Ukraine, has been designated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. At the crossroads between Western and Eastern Europe, this city saw the rebirth of Rus' culture in the late 16th century. Its architecture reflects the rich legacy of the Renaissance and Baroque within the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and of artistic developments within the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the 19th century.

Home to Ivan Franko University, one of Ukraine's most prestigious institutions of higher learning, Lviv is endowed with numerous churches, research institutes, museums and art galleries that bear witness to the city's multi-ethnic history and role in Ukraine's national revival. Cosmopolitan in nature, the city has a vibrant coffeehouse culture and boasts a number of restaurants serving various national cuisines.

The city's proximity to the Carpathian Mountains allows North American visitors to explore favorite vacation spots among contemporary Ukrainians, along with the rural culture of those whose ancestors once sought to forge a new life in Canada and the United States.

* * *

In addition to offering Ukrainian courses and the new study abroad program, the professors also try to teach their students through Ukrainian-related activities, lec-

tures and trips.

Last year, Dr. Pylypiuk, the department's current associate chair for undergraduate studies, initiated a Literature and Culture Series for the entire department. Within the series Ukrainian topics are offered which attract colleagues not only from the Slavic division of MLCS, but also the Romance and Germanic, and from other departments at the university.

These Ukrainianists, like all other specialists, have the opportunity to test their ideas before a wide spectrum of scholars. For example, Vessela Balinska-Ourdeva compared Ukrainian and Bulgarian Modernism, Prof. Nahachewsky studied the borders of ethnicity and identity formation, Jennifer Dickinson reported on research involving the changing work ethic in Zakarpattia and Prof. Nedashkivska compared discourse of contemporary women's magazines in Ukraine. The lecture series usually have an audience of about 30 scholars or students from other disciplines.

Prof. Nedashkivska also initiated a Ukrainian Language Conversation Club that meets every Friday throughout the academic year. Besides the regularly attending 16 to 28 members, it also attracts students from other departments (e.g., biology, physics, history) who hail from Ukraine.

Also, whenever there are Ukrainian artists or performers in Edmonton, faculty members take their students to these events. For example, next week they are taking students to a concert by Canadian singer Alexis Kochan, whose specialty is exploring Ukrainian folk music, Prof. Nedashkivska noted.

The deadline for applications for the "Ukrainian Through its Living Culture" course is April 13. For additional information about the University of Alberta program, log on to: <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/~ukraina/Homepage.html>, or e-mail the instructor at Alla.Nedashkivska@ualberta.ca.



The University of Alberta Ukrainian Language Conversation Club during a recent celebration.



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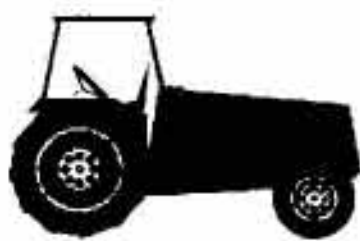


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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

(Continued from page 28)

Borzemsky and Zhdana Fedusczak, as well as ceramics by Slava Gerulak. For more information contact Nadia Liteplo, (914) 949-4911.

BUFFALO, N.Y.: A program honoring Taras Shevchenko, the bard of Ukraine, will be held in the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church Hall, 200 Como Park Blvd., Cheektowaga, N.Y., at 3 p.m. The program is sponsored by the Inter-organizational Committee, with donations going to Ridna Shkola.

Saturday-Sunday, March 10-11

HACKENSACK, N.J.: The Duquesne University Tamburitzans, America's premier folk music and dance ensemble, will showcase the dances, songs and music of Eastern Europe and neighboring cultures. The group of 35 young artists will perform dazzling dances, intriguing instrumentals and sentimental songs in colorful native costumes representative of the many folk traditions on which the ensemble's fast-paced show is based. This season's production features an interpretation of the beloved Ukrainian song "Rushnychok," with soprano Jennifer Grasha. The troupe will appear on the stage of Bergen County Technical High School, 200 Hackensack Ave., on Saturday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, March 11, at 2 p.m. All seating is reserved at \$19. To order tickets (credit card or check), call the Tamburitzans toll free at 1-877-826-6437. Visit the Tamburitzans on-line at www.tamburitzans.duq.edu.

Monday, March 12

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will present a lecture by Lubomyr Hajda, Harvard University, titled "Ukraine through the Opera Glass: Ukrainian Themes and Settings on the Western Stage." The lecture will be held in the institute seminar room, 1583 Massachusetts Ave., at 4-6 p.m. For more

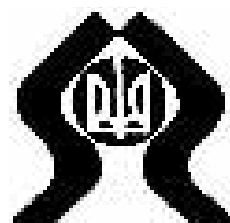
information call the institute, (617) 495-4053.

Sunday, March 18

NEW YORK: The Slavic Heritage Council of America presents the annual European Folk Festival, George Tomov, director, featuring Bulgarian, Serbian, Slovak, Macedonian and Polish folk music and dance ensembles, as well as the Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, Roma Pryma Bohachevsky, director. The program will also feature a guest appearance by the Circassian group The Narts Dance Ensemble. The concert will be held at The Fashion Institute of Technology, Haft Auditorium, Seventh Avenue at 27th Street, at 2:30 p.m. Tickets - at \$20; \$18, seniors and children under 12 - are available by calling (718) 631-8278 (evenings), as well as at the door.

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art presents a concert by the Leontovych String Quartet, with Oleh Krysa, violin; Peter Krysa, violin; Borys Deviatov, viola; and Volodymyr Panteleyev, cello, in a program of works by Beethoven, Shostakovich and Skoryk. The concert will be held at the institute, 2320 W. Chicago Ave., at 2 p.m. For additional information call (773) 227-5522.

NORTH PORT, Fla.: A concert featuring Solomia Soroka, concert violinist, and Arthur Greene, concert pianist, will be held at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church Parish Hall, 1078 N. Biscayne Drive, at 6 p.m. Tickets: \$10. Ms. Soroka is pursuing her doctoral studies at the Eastman School of Music and is also the first violinist of the Ukrainian Quintet Kyiv. Mr. Greene is chair of the piano department of the University of Michigan School of Music in Ann Arbor. For more information call Atanas Kobryn, (941) 423-9499, or Maria Nowarynsky, (941) 493-7923.



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, March 4 and 11

NEW YORK: The Yara Arts Group will present "Spring Songs" workshops in Ukrainian folk singing with Maryana Sadovska, who was born in Lviv, performed for Yara's first project in Ukraine, and in December appeared in Yara's acclaimed "Song Tree." For the last 10 summers she traveled through the Polissia, 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 spring songs. You do not have to be able to read Ukrainian or music to participate. The workshops will be held at La MaMa Theater on East Fourth Street at 6-8 p.m. Fee: \$20 per session; pre-registration required. Call Yara at (212) 475-6474, or e-mail yara@prodigy.net or visit Yara's website <http://www.brama.com/yara/>.

Friday, March 9

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Art and Literary Club and Mayana Gallery present "Rozryta Mohyla," an evening featuring poetry by Taras Shevchenko as interpreted by actors Larysa Kukrytska and Volodymyr Lysniak. Jaroslawa Gerulak will speak on the historical phenomenon of the pillaged grave – the poet's metaphor for Ukraine robbed of her inheritance. The program will also include a selection of recorded songs by composer Ihor Sonevytsky. Donation: \$7. The evening will be held at the gallery, 136 Second Ave., fourth floor, at 7 p.m. Concurrently, the gallery is featuring an exhibit which includes reproductions of Taras Shevchenko's artwork as well as illustrations of his poetry by various contemporary artists. The exhibit, which opened March 2, will be on view through March 18. Exhibit hours: Friday, 6-8 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 1-5 p.m. For more information call the gallery, (212) 995-2640 or (212) 777-8144. Website: <http://www.brama.com/mayana/>.

NEWARK: St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School invites parents and children to an Open House registration at 1-3 p.m. to be held in the school, located at 746 Sandford Ave. Parents will have the opportunity to learn about the school's academic curriculum, programs and student achievements and tour the facilities. Children will

have the opportunity to participate in classroom activities. For further information contact the principal, Sister Evelyn, at (973) 373-9359 during school hours.

Saturday, March 10

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites the public to the 21st annual Shevchenko Conference, co-sponsored by the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Harriman Institute at Columbia University and the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. Participating in the program will be Pavlo Hrytsenko, Institute of Ukrainian Language, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine; Volodymyr Karpynych, Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences, U.S.A.; and George G. Grabowicz, Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. Opening remarks will be delivered by Albert Kipa (UVAN), with closing remarks by Larissa Onyshkevych, (NTSh). Anna Procyk will chair the program. The conference will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 4 p.m. For additional information call (212) 254-5130.

Sunday, March 11

WHIPPANY, N.J.: The One Dollar Fund committee presents the commemorative program "Sviato Shevchenka" (in commemoration of Ukraine's national bard, Taras Shevchenko). Featured will be the esteemed film and stage actor, Ivan Bernatsky, performer of the roles of Taras Shevchenko, with musical interludes performed by singer/bandurist Oksana Telepko. The event will take place in St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall. Suggested donations: \$10; children, \$3; members of Ukrainian youth organizations, free.

YONKERS, N.Y.: The Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) Branch 30 is holding a bazaar and art exhibition at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Broadway at Shonnard Place, at 9 a.m.-noon. This is a wonderful opportunity to purchase unique gifts, Easter greeting cards, pysanky, supplies for making pysanky, etc., for the holiday season. Featured will be artwork by Bohdan

(Continued on page 27)

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Ukrainian Cultural Center, 2850 Taylor Street

North Port, FL – March 20th at 6:00PM
St. Andrew's Ukrainian Religious & Cultural Center, 4100 S. Biscayne Drive

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