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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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## Soroka enthroned as metropolitan for Ukrainian Catholics in the U.S.



Andrij Wowk

**Archbishop Stephen Sulyk (right), metropolitan emeritus, with his successor, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka, during enthronement in Philadelphia.**

by **Andrij Wowk**

*Special to The Ukrainian Weekly*

PHILADELPHIA — As thundering choruses of "Axios!" (he is worthy) were sung by the choir within the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Bishop Stefan Soroka of Winnipeg was enthroned as the new metropolitan-archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia on Tuesday, February 27. He is the sixth metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States.

More than 2,000 faithful and clergy, as well as prelates from the Ukrainian Catholic, Ukrainian Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches filled the cathedral to witness the ceremony, which began at 2:30 p.m. The official enthronement itself was conducted by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Two newly appointed cardinals, Archbishop Major Lubomyr Husar, primate of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, and Roman Catholic Archbishop Theodore McCarrick of Washington, participated in the event. Also present were Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua of the Latin-rite Archdiocese of Philadelphia and Cardinal William Keeler of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

During a ceremony replete with Church tradition, clergy of the Philadelphia Archeparchy lined up to take their turns in greeting and prostrating themselves before the newly installed archbishop, expressing their promise of obedience to him.

After the enthronement ceremony, Archbishop Soroka, 49, celebrated a hierarchical divine liturgy with many of the prelates in attendance. The concelebrants included retired Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephen Sulyk, who headed the Philadelphia Archeparchy since 1980, and Metropolitan-Archbishop Michael Bzdel, spiritual leader of Ukrainian Catholics in Canada, who is based in Winnipeg.

The prelates and faithful present included four cardinals, 17 Eastern Catholic metropolitans and bishops, 16 Roman Catholic bishops, Bishop Vsevolod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., about 90 priests and 70 nuns, and over 2,000 laity, among them nearly 400 children from the eparchy's parishes.

In his homily, Metropolitan-Archbishop Soroka called himself the new "chief shepherd" of the archeparchy, and pledged to maintain "a relationship of deep love and trust" with the faithful. The flock responds "to a shepherd whose voice they recognize calling them forward to follow. ... A shepherd must model the direction and lead the way, and the sheep will follow."

"As your shepherd, I am called to be among the priests, religious and people enough that you will recognize my voice and trust my heart. I must have enough courage to go first, compassion enough to choose a safe path for the weakest among you, and confidence enough to know that you will follow if I lead," the

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## Kyiv authorities dismantle second tent city erected by students near Shevchenko University

by **Roman Woronowycz**

*Kyiv Press Bureau*

KYIV — Thirty burly, yellow-jacketed municipal workers made short-shrift of a newly erected tent city opposite the main building of Taras Shevchenko State University on the morning of March 6, tearing down the several tents and hauling them away.

The action came two days after several dozen students of five local universities and others from Lviv and Rivne constructed a new tent city consisting of four pup tents in Taras Shevchenko Park, located across the street from the university, to replace a larger one law enforcement officials had dismantled days before.

The action came before several days observances of the anniversary of the birth of Shevchenko, a 19th century poet considered the single greatest figure in fomenting the development of a Ukrainian national self-image. Traditionally, the leaders of Ukraine's three branches of government lay flowers at the foot of the park's Shevchenko monument on that day.

The students, who are backed by the Forum for National Salvation and the

Ukraine Without Kuchma movement, two closely linked organizations calling for the resignation of President Leonid Kuchma, were hoping to block the president's access to the park and the monument by forming a human chain. They had been calling on concerned citizens to join them and were expecting a crowd of about 1,000 demonstrators.

National Deputy Volodymyr Filenko, a member of the Reforms-Congress faction and a leading figure of the Forum for National Salvation and another newly formed group, the Ukrainian Pravysia, had announced the new action on March 2.

"We will not allow the president or his wreath near Shevchenko. We believe he has no moral right to approach this great symbol on this day," explained Mr. Filenko.

He said that after the demonstration at Shevchenko Park, the protesters had planned to move to the Khreschatyk and form a human chain along the more than one-kilometer-long thoroughfare.

Oleh Diomyn, assistant chief of staff to President Kuchma, responded to the threat to deny the president access to the

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## Yuschenko rejects demands for coalition government

by **Roman Woronowycz**

*Kyiv Press Bureau*

KYIV — Prime Minister Viktor Yuschenko on March 2 rejected a demand made by a leading Ukrainian lawmaker that he immediately revamp his Cabinet into a coalition government representative of a parliamentary majority.

The prime minister said he had no intention of succumbing to political pressure brought to bear by Verkhovna Rada First Vice-Chairman Viktor Medvedchuk, considered a prime political opponent of Mr. Yuschenko. He explained that there existed no legal basis for such a move.

"The ultimatum that certain politicians give for the deadline looks no more than political maneuvering," said Mr. Yuschenko, during a press conference in which he presented the relatively glowing economic figures for last year in comparison to the nine previous years of economic downturn.

Mr. Yuschenko said he did not believe he had a responsibility to form a government such as the one Mr. Medvedchuk was demanding until a legislative basis for it was established. He explained that documents needed to be approved specifying the legal foundation for such a government and its responsibilities, as well as the relationship between the Parliament and the government.

Mr. Yuschenko stated that the lawmakers who were demanding a coalition gov-

ernment were looking to the wrong person to create it. He explained that the first step to a coalition government is the official formation of a parliamentary coalition and then a majority, "which then becomes the basis for a coalition government."

The prime minister underscored that, until those proposing a new form of government make a serious effort to develop the underpinnings for it, they had no right to blatantly pressure the prime minister.

"It must be understood the government is a constitutionally mandated entity, and it demands respect and cooperation," said Mr. Yuschenko.

In the last month, as the year-old parliamentary majority in the Verkhovna Rada disintegrated over the Tapagate political crisis, three political parties in which business oligarchs hold much sway — Labor Ukraine, Democratic Union and the Social Democratic (United) Parties — have been clamoring ever more loudly for a coalition government that would consist of representatives of a new majority coalition they are developing, and which would then give the Ukrainian Parliament more sway over the work of the government.

Many political experts believe the three parties simply are looking to oust Prime Minister Yuschenko, who has made a concerted effort to reform the Ukrainian economy and move it away from the shadow

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## ANALYSIS

## Increasingly assertive Russia poses challenge for U.S. policy

by Taras Kuzio

An increasingly assertive Russia will provide the new U.S. administration with one of its first foreign policy challenges, particularly in four post-Soviet states deemed by the former Clinton administration to be of strategic interest to the West: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Ukraine.

Writing recently in *The Washington Times*, Frank Gaffney, president of the Washington-based Center for Security Policy, called for "strengthening Ukraine as a counterweight to Russia" through a "strategic partnership" that shows U.S. commitment to its independence and sovereignty.

Securing Ukraine as a "bulwark against Russia's emerging revanchism" is a complicated business. As Mr. Gaffney points out, the quid pro quo for this U.S. commitment to Ukraine would be that it "be willing to undertake at long last genuine democratic, political and free market reforms."

Although pro-Western Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko is a strong supporter of such policies, President Leonid Kuchma is tarnished from allegations made during "Kuchmagate" and has presided over years of stagnation. The United States and the West therefore, have to balance between criticizing President Kuchma while supporting Ukraine's independence and the Yushchenko government so that any criticism does not lead Ukraine, which already is disillusioned by the coldness of the European Union, to return to Eurasia.

Ukraine can choose to be either Russia's buffer, in the manner of Belarus, or the West's; while Mr. Kuchma remains Ukraine's president its integration into Trans-Atlantic and European structures will prove to be impossible.

Ukraine traditionally dampens its pro-Western foreign policy during winter when its demand for energy grows. But, recent developments in Ukraine's relations with Russia have proven to be more than the usual winter warming of relations.

In October of last year President Kuchma fired his pro-Western Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk after Russia insisted that he be removed in return for it compromising over energy debts and pipelines. Mr. Tarasyuk was replaced by Anatolii Zlenko, whose first official visit was to Moscow where he successfully obtained a concession from Russia that it would no longer build gas pipelines to bypass Ukraine through its dominion, Belarus. Interviewed this month by the Kyiv-based newspaper *Segodnya* Mr. Tarasyuk said, "I am sure that (my removal) was 'ordered' by the state structures of our northern neighbor."

During the last two years Ukraine and Russia have held eight presidential summits, far more than with the United States. Foreign Affairs Minister Zlenko admitted that relations with Russia were "normalizing," which made "it seem as though we are sharply strengthening the eastern vector of our foreign policy."

At the last CIS summit Russia obtained assurances that Ukraine would expand its presence in the CIS in the military and political realms – areas that Ukraine has traditionally avoided. The Ukrainian Parliament, although dominated for a year by the non-left majority, has withdrawn its threat to withdraw from the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly which it joined in

early 1999. Ukraine has also joined the newly created Moscow-based CIS Anti-Terrorist Center run by the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB), is considering upgrading its participation in the CIS Air Defense Agreement from associate to full membership and has agreed to increase the number of joint military exercises with Russia from 28 in 1998 to 52 this year.

Most recently Russian Defense Minister Igor Sergeev told his Ukrainian counterpart, Oleksander Kuzmuk that "Russia considers Ukraine as its most important strategic partner," adding that "Russia would like to clarify and coordinate the positions of the two states on a number of important problems related to the security of both Russia and Ukraine." After intensive discussions Mr. Sergeev optimistically concluded that Moscow and Kyiv had reached "common approaches" on a number of issues, although both sides continued to air different viewpoints on NATO enlargement.

On January 18 Russian and Ukrainian defense ministers signed their first ever joint military program. The agreement foresees the creation of a joint-command post of marines in Sevastopol and a "powerful major rescue detachment" based on the Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian navy. Mr. Sergeev also held talks with President Kuchma, Prime Minister Yushchenko and Verkhovna Rada chairman Ivan Pliusch. Other discussions centered, on cooperation between both countries military industrial complexes and the coordination of arms exports.

This shift in recent months can be understood in either of two ways.

Pessimists would see in it a serious strategic re-orientation of Ukraine away from the West and NATO towards Russia and the CIS. Russian Col. Gen. Leonid Ivashov also read this into the new agreements believing that they signified a "joint parrying of foreign threats."

Optimists would say that these developments could be placed within the context of the Soviet tradition of unfulfilled "protocols of intention." The May 1997 Ukraine-Russia treaty has numerous unfulfilled articles. Ukraine and Russia signed an extensive 10-year economic agreement in February 1998 that also led many to conclude that Ukraine was re-orientating itself eastwards. Instead, the treaty has remained on paper, and trade between both countries continued to decline. Similarly, in July and November 1998 Ukraine released detailed programs on its integration into the EU and NATO, respectively, that have been only partly fulfilled.

Ukraine also has joint military units with Poland, and it is unlikely that it is a coincidence that both countries signed a military agreement on January 22, only four days after signing similar ones with Russia. The Polish-Ukrainian military agreement also envisages expanding their joint military unit and further cooperation in military technology.

President George Bush warned the Ukrainian Parliament on August 1, 1991, just over three weeks before Ukraine declared independence against "suicidal nationalism" in what has been dubbed his "chicken Kiev" speech. Nearly a decade later the geopolitical situation in Europe has changed. President George W. Bush is now likely to support Ukrainian independence in the face of Mr. Putin's attempts to re-assert Russian hegemony, a test of nerves over Ukraine that could re-ignite a new Cold War.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### *Kuchma: support me or quit*

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma said on March 6 that state officials have one week to publicly renounce ties to the opposition or resign their posts. "I suggest that every civil servant, starting with ministers, who are members of, or sympathize with ... opposition groups, should decide within a week whether to give up their jobs in authority bodies or publicly renounce anti-state groups," Interfax quoted Mr. Kuchma as saying. According to the president, such a step by officials would be "politically correct and honest." The president added that some officials, including those of "the highest rank," have taken a "wait-and-see position" on Ukraine's current situation. "One has an impression that some people want to keep silent, which is equivalent to passively encouraging those actions [by the opposition]. I do not understand or accept this," President Kuchma said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### *Kuchma against parliamentary republic*

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma harshly criticized a draft law proposed recently by the opposition to change the Constitution in order to transform Ukraine into a parliamentary republic. Mr. Kuchma asked: "How much cynicism and disregard for the people is needed in order to practically reject the implementation of the [constitutional] referendum results, in order to redraft the Constitution for satisfying personal political ambitions?" The president noted that the current political campaign against him was initiated "not for national salvation or strengthening the state or the people's well-being, but for [gaining] power itself." He added that "It is necessary to do everything, in both the center and the provinces, in order to defend society in a democratic way from such deliverers." (RFE/RL Newsline)

### *Detectives to look for Melnychenko*

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma told reporters from Poland's PAP news agency in Kyiv on March 5 that Ukraine has requested help from Western private detective agencies in investigating the bugging scandal provoked by former presidential bodyguard Mykola Melnychenko, Interfax reported. Mr. Kuchma added that international detectives are working independently from Ukrainian investigators. Referring to Maj. Melnychenko, President Kuchma said: "Some say he is a hero, but the majority of people say he is a traitor, and I agree with them. For me, he is not a human at all." (RFE/RL Newsline)

### *Kuchma will not dismiss Cabinet*

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma said he is not going to dismiss the cabinet of

Viktor Yushchenko. He noted, however, that the government should be efficient and depend more on the parliamentary majority. According to Mr. Kuchma, current relations between the government and the parliamentary majority are not developing well. The president said the prime minister should cooperate with all caucuses in the majority, not only with those Mr. Yushchenko "likes." (RFE/RL Newsline)

### *Opposition appeals for world support*

KYIV – The Ukraine Without Kuchma public committee and the Forum for National Salvation have called on the world's democratic communities, parliaments and governments to support democracy in Ukraine, Interfax reported on March 2. A joint statement accused Ukrainian authorities of the failure to conduct a civilized dialogue with society; "grave crimes against man and humanity"; as well as corruption and embezzlement of state property. The statement notes that President Leonid Kuchma is "the obstacle upon Ukraine's path to democratic Europe [and] the free world." Addressing the Ukrainian people, the anti-Kuchma opposition appeals to them to "create structures of resistance in every town and village, at every plant and at home." (RFE/RL Newsline)

### *PM upbeat on restructuring foreign debt*

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko on March 2 said he believes there is a good chance that the Paris Club of creditor nations will decide to restructure Ukraine's debts, the Associated Press reported. Mr. Yushchenko added that Ukraine sent a restructuring proposal to the Paris Club on February 1 for the country's \$1 billion debt to that group. Ukraine's foreign debt now stands at \$10.35 billion. Meanwhile, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development told the prime minister that Kyiv will receive money to complete the construction of nuclear reactors at the Rivne and Khmelnytskyi power plants only after it comes to terms with the Paris Club on a debt restructuring plan, the Eastern Economist Daily reported on March 5. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### *Chief tax inspector goes into politics*

KYIV – At its congress on March 3, the Party of Ukrainian Regions elected State Tax Administration Chairman Mykola Azarov as its leader, Interfax reported. The Party of Ukrainian Regions, which until the March 3 congress bore the name of the Party of Regional Revival-Labor Solidarity of Ukraine, was created in November 2000 in a merger of five smaller parties. Mr. Azarov said after the congress that his party

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Taras Kuzio is a project manager at the Center International and Security Studies, York University, Toronto.

## FOR THE RECORD

### George W. Bush's message to Leonid Kuchma

*Following is the text of an oral message from President George W. Bush delivered by Ambassador Carlos Pascual to President Leonid D. Kuchma at a February 27 meeting in Kyiv.*

Thank you for your letter of February 2. Please let me take this opportunity to assure you of the important place Ukraine holds in American foreign policy and express my conviction that Ukraine has an important role to play in building a stable and prosperous Europe.

You have often spoken of an independent, democratic and market-oriented Ukraine, committed to the rule of law and integrated with the Euro-Atlantic community. I believe these goals are in the interests of both our countries. They will advance the prosperity of the Ukrainian people, while at the same time serving America's interest in a Europe whole, free and secure.

Our mutual success in pursuing these goals will depend in large part on the steps

that Ukraine is willing to undertake in moving toward meaningful reform. Your decisions and actions on reform, will, in effect, define the very nature of the future Ukrainian state, and these decisions and actions can only be taken from within.

Ukraine did very well in 2000 in economic reform, especially in such areas as finance and energy. You know how critical continued progress is, and I urge you to continue the reforms now begun.

I know that the political atmosphere in Ukraine is strained at the moment. This is just one of many tests that Ukraine and its political leaders will face as to their commitment to the rule of law, democracy and human rights. I trust you will do your utmost to ensure that Ukraine passes this test.

I look forward to working with the people of Ukraine on the challenges our countries face together. If we proceed on the basis of common values and common goals, I am confident that our efforts will be successful.

### Pascual's comments on dismantling of tent city

*U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual made the following comments on March 1 about that morning's events on the Khreshchatyk, while speaking at the opening of the website of the Ukrainian Think Tank Network at the IREX ProMedia press center. The statement was released by the Public Affairs Section of the United States Embassy in Kyiv.*

I need to note that the United States regrets this morning's actions by Ukrainian law enforcement authorities to disband the peaceful demonstration which was taking place along the street on Khreshchatyk.

We are also concerned by the apparent prohibition on further demonstrations and are seeking clarification of the exact nature of restrictions that might have been contained in the court order on which these recent actions were based.

Certainly, we recognize that all countries require laws and procedures for pub-

lic assemblies and demonstrations. And the key test for democratic society is whether the state creates channels where people can express dissent through peaceful means. On many occasions the Ukrainian government has indicated its commitment to resolve political issues using constitutional means, to engage in a dialogue with the opposition, to take steps to conduct and conclude a more transparent investigation of the Gongadze case.

In fact in recent weeks in many discussions that we have had with Ukrainian officials – in the Foreign Ministry, in the presidential administration – they have often pointed to the tents on Khreshchatyk as a sign of the development of Ukrainian democracy.

We would strongly urge the government of Ukraine to honor its commitments to create and develop a democratic state and to find ways to allow its citizens to express dissent and express their views.

### State Department's responses on Kyiv events

*Following is an excerpt of a transcript of a press briefing regarding recent events in Ukraine by the U.S. State Department's spokesman, Richard Boucher, on March 1.*

#### **Do you have anything to say about Ukrainian police pulling down a tent camp of anti-Kuchma protesters?**

Mr. Boucher: 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. We would call upon the Ukrainian authorities to observe their international commitment to freedom of assembly.

The Ukrainian government has stated its commitment to resolve political issues using constitutional means, to engage in dialogue with the opposition, and to take steps to conduct and conclude a transparent investigation of the Gongadze case. And we would strongly urge the government to honor those commitments.

#### **There was also a report in Kyiv that President Bush had sent a letter to President Kuchma preceding this. Can you give any clarification on that?**

Mr. Boucher: Our ambassador conveyed an oral message from President Bush to

President Kuchma on February 27. He covered in that message three main themes that will, I think, be familiar to you. The first is the present situation in Ukraine presents Ukraine and its leaders with a test of their commitment to the rule of law, democracy and human rights; second, the United States and Ukraine share the long-term goal of seeing Ukraine become an independent, democratic, market-oriented state committed to the rule of law and integrated with the Euro-Atlantic community; and, third, success in reaching that goal and our ability to provide support towards that goal depend on the Ukraine's taking concrete steps toward meaningful reform.

**It's slightly coded. I mean, it's not specific. Has the administration come to any conclusion about these allegations of corruption, and when you're talking about, I mean, they are repressing journalists, but are there any instances of anti-democratic activities? I guess theft would be one, if true. But what's behind your concern?**

Mr. Boucher: There are a lot of allegations. A lot of them have to do with these audiotape recordings. Some of them talk about repressing journalists, some talk

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## Helsinki Commission chairman urges Ukraine to confront legacy of corruption

WASHINGTON – U.S. Helsinki Commission Chairman Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Colo.) on March 1 expressed concern about the current political crisis in Ukraine, sparked by revelations on secretly recorded tapes implicating President Leonid Kuchma and high government officials in the Gongadze case.

Chairman Campbell that day met with the former chairman of the Ukrainian parliament, Oleksander Moroz, who first released the tapes to the Verkhovna Rada on November 28, 2000.

"Given the importance of our relationship with Ukraine, I am extremely concerned about the direction in which Ukraine may be heading," Sen. Campbell said. "Reports of pervasive, high-level corruption, the controversial conduct of the government in the investigation of the Gongadze case and a pattern of harassment of media are raising legitimate questions regarding Ukraine's commitment to democracy, human rights and the rule of law."

"I am especially troubled about rampant corruption in Ukraine at all levels, which has had such a debilitating impact on ordinary people and discourages valuable foreign investment," Campbell added. "The political leadership of Ukraine needs to undertake concentrated efforts to root out corruption, which, if allowed to fester further, could undermine Ukraine's democratic

development as an independent state."

The State Department's annual Human Rights Country Report cites Ukraine's mixed human rights record and notes the government's failure to curb institutional corruption and abuse.

Chairman Campbell expressed the hope that the Ukrainian government would resolve the Gongadze investigation in a serious, transparent manner that might restore confidence in its credibility. Sen. Campbell also urged the Ukrainian government to have a genuine dialogue with the opposition and encouraged the use of constitutional, democratic means to resolve the current crisis in a manner consistent with Ukraine's commitments as a member-state of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, including the right to peaceful protest.

The Helsinki Commission chairman recalled President Bush's remarks in his February 27 Address to Congress, in which the president stated that: "Nations making progress toward freedom will find America is their friend."

"A decade after independence, Ukraine's progress has stalled," Sen. Campbell observed. "For freedom to flourish, Ukrainians will have to overcome the legacy of corruption that continues to plague their nation and hold them back from reaching their potential."

## Human rights report notes Ukraine's record in 2000

*Following is an excerpt from the section on Ukraine contained in the "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 2000" released by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, U.S. State Department.*

... The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), the Ministry of Internal Affairs (which controls the various police forces), and the Ministry of Defense have equal responsibility for internal security and report to the President through the Cabinet. The State Tax Administration also has law enforcement powers, which it exercises through the tax police. The armed forces largely have remained outside of politics. While civilian authorities generally maintain effective control of the security forces, institutional government corruption sometimes can lead to their improper use. The SBU and other 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 government's human rights record was poor in some areas; however, the government continued to respect the rights of its citizens in other areas. In previous years, police and military committed extrajudicial killings; however, there were no reports of such incidents during the year.

A prominent journalist disappeared in September. In November a decapitated body believed to be his was found. Later that month, a prominent political opponent accused the President of complicity in the disappearance. Those charges have not been proved or disproved. The government asserted that it is investigating the journalist's disappearance and conducting tests to determine the identity of the corpse; however, the case remains unsolved at year's end, and the authorities' poor handling of the investigation

proved a source of great concern.

... The government rarely punishes officials who commit abuses. The SBU, police, and Prosecutor's Office have drawn domestic and international criticism for their failure to take adequate action to curb institutional corruption and abuse in the government. Many high-profile corruption cases have been dropped, ostensibly because of lack of evidence. Anti-corruption legislation has been enforced selectively, mostly against government opponents and low-level officials. Political interference and corruption affect the judicial process. The judiciary is overburdened, inefficient, and lacks sufficient funding and staff. These factors undermine citizens' right to a fair trial. The criminal justice system has been slow to reform, due to both lack of government effort and strained economic resources.

The government continued to intrude in citizens' lives and infringe on their privacy rights. The government interfered with the news media and restricted freedom of the press; however, a wide range of opinion is available in newspapers and periodicals. Government interference was particularly severe during the period preceding the April referendum on amendments to the Constitution that would expand presidential powers by limiting the power of the Parliament and in response to coverage of the scandal surrounding the disappearance of an opposition journalist. Self-censorship remained a significant problem. During the 1999 presidential election campaign, government authorities interfered in the election process and stepped up pressure on the media through tax inspections and other measures. The national broadcast media came under particular pressure. There were some limits on freedom of assembly, and there were some instances of restrictions on freedom of association. ...

## OBITUARIES

### Bishop Ivan Prasko, 86, former leader of Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia

MELBOURNE, Australia – Bishop Ivan Prasko, retired leader of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia, New Zealand and Oceania, died on January 28 at the age of 86.

Bishop Prashko was born May 1, 1914, in Ternopil, Ukraine. He studied at the Theological Academy in Lviv, then in Rome at the Pontifical College Damascenum and at the Pontifical University Urbanianum where he earned an S.T.L. in 1939.

He was ordained by Bishop Dionysij Njaradi in Rome on April 2, 1939.

He continued his studies at the Pontifical University Gregorianum and at the Pontifical Oriental Institute, where he was awarded a doctorate in 1943.

He served as pastor of Ss. Peter and

Paul Church in Melbourne (1950-1958) before being ordained exarch of Australia and New Zealand on October 17, 1958. He became eparch of Australia, New Zealand and Oceania, June 24, 1982, when the exarchate was raised to an eparchy.

Bishop Prashko retired as eparch January 12, 1993.

Bishop Prasko was remembered for his community-building skills in Australia, for which he was awarded the designation Member of the British Empire. He also played a vital role in keeping alive the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the catacombs.

Funeral services were held February 2 and 3 at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Melbourne.

### Sister Rose, SSMI, educator and administrator

SLOATSBURG, N.Y. – Sister Rose (Catherine Olisky), a member of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate for 63 years, passed away on January 24.

Sister Rose was born June 5, 1917, in Sayre, Pa., to Isidore and Anna (née Bubniak) Olisky, parishioners of Ascension of Our Lord Greek-Catholic Church in Sayre. Growing up in a family of three brothers (John, Michael, Samuel) and four sisters (Lena, Helen, Rose Olisky and Josephine Didiuk), Catherine attended the local grade school and high school.

As a young girl growing up in her home parish, Catherine realized there were many girls bearing the same first name as she. Thus, through her initiative, the St. Catherine's Society was established. As the years unfolded, others, not necessarily bearing the name of Catherine, began to join; it was only this past year that the organization dissolved itself due to a lack of members.

Sister Rose entered the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate in October 1938, traveling to Mundare, Alberta, for her novitiate training. It was just three years prior to that in 1935 that the Sisters Servants came to the United States, answering the request of the Metropolitan Constantine Bohachevsky. Sister Rose became a part of the first group of American sisters to enter the community which at the time was one province with Canada.

Sister Rose completed her novitiate formation, received her first vows and returned to the United States to begin her teaching ministry – her mission for the greater part of her religious life.

Her first mission was to Grades 2, 3 and 4 at St. Nicholas School in Passaic, N.J. Unknown to her, she would return again to become principal and teacher of Grades 7 and 8, not once, but on three other occasions.

In the ensuing years, Sister Rose would become a highly respected, well-loved educator in Ambridge, Minersville, Philadelphia, Shamokin and Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Elizabeth and Passaic, N.J., Buffalo, N.Y., and the Sisters Servants' own St. Mary's Villa Academy, Sloatsburg, N.Y. Her last parish mission was in Syracuse, N.Y. Due to poor health, Sister Rose completed her ministry of teaching and returned to the Motherhouse in 1993.

Sister Rose earned a B.S. in education from Misericordia College, Dallas, Pa., and a master's degree in education from Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J.



Sister Rose (Catherine Olisky)

Utilizing the many talents she had been given, the community appointed Sister Rose to many areas of leadership throughout her religious life. For 10 years (1959-1969) she served as assistant to the provincial superior in the newly founded American Province of Sisters Servants in the U.S. For many years she held the title of principal, teacher and superior in many of the parishes to which she ministered. In 1986 she became pilgrimage moderator for the Holy Dormition (Assumption) Pilgrimage and held this position until her health began to decline in 1991. She also held the position of corresponding secretary on the National Board for the League of Ukrainian Catholics.

The thousands of children she taught will long remember the gentle and kind woman of tall stature who gave to the fullest, for she understood well the words of Jesus spoken in the gospel of Matthew, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." (Mt.19:14).

Parastas services were held at St. Mary's Villa chapel on January 26 by the Rev. Mitred John Terlecky of Stamford, Conn. Divine liturgy and Panahyda were offered the following day by Msgr. Terlecky and the Rev. Emil Paulshock. Sister Rose's body was taken to her home parish, Ascension of Our Lord in Sayre, for viewing and burial alongside her parents, brother Samuel and sister Helen on January 29.

### Kyiv authorities...

(Continued from page 1)

park by stating that the demonstrators must honor the rights of citizens to enter the park and pay respect to the Ukrainian bard.

The anti-Kuchma organizations have sought the ouster of the president for what they believe is his involvement in planning the disappearance of a Ukrainian journalist and other criminal conspiracies, based on secret audiotapes made by a former presidential bodyguard of Mr. Kuchma's conversations with high-ranking government authorities. The political crisis has come to be referred to as "Tapegate" or the Gongadze affair.

The new tent city was supposed to be the continuation of a series of largely peaceful civil protests that have occurred in the city over the last month, including several mass rallies attended by thousands, of which the focal point was a large tent city of nearly 50 structures erected on February 6 that had stood along Kyiv's main thoroughfare for about a month. Then, on March 1, scores of state militia violently tore down the tents and arrested more than three dozen protesters.

Volodymyr Chemerys, head of the Ukraine Without Kuchma movement, said the liquidation of the Shevchenko Park encampment began after a city official presented a document from the municipal administration calling for the tents to be removed, according to Interfax-Ukraine. A student who was present said the campers had not been prepared for the action because they were awaiting a court ruling on the legality of the new tent city that was not expected before noon on that day. He explained that all but a couple of his colleagues were in class at the time.

The student said the city workers worked methodically, taking great care not to break or tear anything, and especially not to desecrate the blue-and-yellow Ukrainian flag.

He explained that he heard the workers remark, "Be careful with the state flag," as they took apart the tents.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs has directed the dismissal of the officers who showed disrespect for the national flag during the destruction of the encampment on the Khreschatyk, where some officers dragged and trampled the Ukrainian flag as they tore the tents down.

At the time the new tent city was constructed, several students threatened a hunger strike should their domiciles be destroyed. At press time it was not clear whether the students would follow through and whether the March 9 demonstration would be held even with the tent city gone.

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In other Tapeagate developments President Kuchma said on March 6 that he expected government workers who did not support his administration, whether ministers or mid-level bureaucrats, to resign.

"I propose that each government officer, including ministers having membership in, sympathy towards and especially, contacts with the opposition, should decide in a week either to resign or publicly break with anti-government formations," the president said during an address to representatives of regional governmental bodies.

A day earlier he told Polish journalists that he had no intention of resigning or opening new lines of communication with the opposition. He asserted that government officials had the responsibility to assert their authority.

"I was elected by 16 million, not by 3,000 or 5,000," said President Kuchma

according to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

He also told the Polish reporters he was puzzled how people could consider Maj. Mykola Melnychenko, the bodyguard who recorded conversations in the president's office, a national hero when he is "a spy and a traitor" and "not even a human being."

President Kuchma said that private Western detective agencies had been hired to investigate the bugging scandal and Maj. Melnychenko.

Meanwhile National Deputy Oleksander Turchynov, head of the Parliament's Budget Committee, accused the leadership of the Procurator General's Office, including Procurator General Mykhailo Potebenko and his first assistant, Mykola Obikhod, of maintaining contact with a shady figure Mr. Turchynov identified as a U.S. citizen going by the name of Mr. Lambert.

The national deputy, who has taken over as Batkivschyna Party leader for Yulia Tymoshenko since she was imprisoned two weeks ago on charges of forgery, embezzlement and blackmail, said the leadership of the Procurator General's Office is guilty of "corruption, abuse of power and actions inflicting damage on the national economy and security."

Mr. Turchynov said he had in his possession documents that implicate the country's chief prosecutor of illegally entering into a deal with Mr. Lambert, which gives the U.S. citizen 12 percent of all monies he can obtain from the accounts of Pavlo Lazarenko for return to Ukraine. Mr. Lazarenko, a former Ukrainian prime minister under President Kuchma, is spending his second year in a U.S. detention facility on charges of money laundering in the United States and Switzerland.

Mr. Turchynov said that Ms. Tymoshenko and her firm, United Energy Systems, earlier had been approached by Mr. Lambert, who had offered "for millions of dollars" to turn over to them all the records that the Procurator General had on them and to have the various investigations closed. Mr. Turchynov said United Energy Systems turned down the offer.

Procurator General Potebenko reacted to the accusations by stating that his office "will do everything needed to get the money stolen by Pavlo Lazarenko returned to Ukraine."

Mr. Potebenko also told Green Party leader Vitalii Kononov during a March 5 meeting that shortly he will publicize a list of lawmakers who took money from Mr. Lazarenko while he was prime minister, reported the Eastern Economist.

Finally, on March 5 Mr. Potebenko said he had authorized a second DNA examination of the Tarascha corpse, for which earlier testing had established a 99.6 percent probability that it belonged to the dead journalist.

"In doing so we have met the request of Heorhii Gongadze's mother," explained Mr. Potebenko.

For weeks Mr. Potebenko would not certify the body as Mr. Gongadze's, stating the test was not conclusive. When he finally did and offered to release the remains for burial, Mr. Gongadze's mother demanded a second, independent examination.

## Clarification

The report on Oleksander Moroz's U.S. visit (March 4) refers to "two paid events, in Washington and New York," which, instead of indicating that those in the audience paid to attend the event – \$50 in Washington and \$150 in New York – may have suggested that Mr. Moroz received remuneration for his appearances.

# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## March news from the Home Office

by **Martha Lysko**  
National Secretary

### Proposed changes to UNA By-Laws

All delegates to the 1998 Convention and current UNA General Assembly members received a ballot to vote on the proposed changes to the UNA By-Laws. If any delegate did not receive the voting package, please notify the national secretary at the Home Office, (973) 292-9800, ext. 3018. All votes must be in by May 1 to be counted.

Our by-laws mandate a two-thirds majority for the change to be approved. If the change is not approved we will abide by the by-laws adopted at the 1998 Convention.

### New applications

The UNA has new life insurance applica-

tions that comply with the latest Insurance Department guideline. There is only one application for both juvenile and adult members; this one application replaces all other applications. No separate forms are needed for any rider to the application. As of March 1 only the new applications should be used.

These applications, and instructions on how to complete them, will be discussed at all district meetings. No applications will be processed without payment of one premium.

### Annual branch meeting and fraternal activities

We, as a fraternal organization, must have branches, branch officers and fraternal

(Continued on page 21)

## Why participation in branch meetings is important

by **Ulana M. Diachuk**  
President

In the first three months of each year all branches of the Ukrainian National Association are obligated to hold their annual meetings. At those meetings branch officers render their reports for the prior year, members elect new officers for the coming year, and make plans for enrolling new members in the branch and in the UNA. At the same time they also set their plans for branch fraternal activities.

Therefore, the participation of members in those meetings is desired and very important.

The Ukrainian National Association has 249 branches in many cities of 25 states and 6 Canadian provinces. Branches possess only such powers as are conferred to them by the New Jersey Statutes, the UNA Charter and By-laws, the Convention, General Assembly, and the Branch Manual of the Association. Every member must belong to a branch, preferably the one closest to his/her place of residence.

We urge our membership to participate in all branch meetings and especially in annual meetings. Information about insurance matters and about membership privileges is also disseminated at the meetings.

Branch secretaries complain to the Executive Committee that, regardless of their efforts, meetings often fail to attain the required quorum in order to make decisions. According to our Branch Manual, meetings of branches with 25 members or more must have 10 members present, and with less than 25 members must have five members present in order to have a quorum.

Branch meetings are announced in our two official publications, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, and via mail notices.

Our By-Laws demand that each branch must hold meetings and, therefore, members are obligated to participate. A successful meeting attests to the membership's interest in the work of the branch for the benefit of its members, our organization and the Ukrainian community.

We ask you to actively support all the activities of our branches.

## UNA Foundation/Ostroh Fund Donations received as of December 31, 2000

Listed below are the contributors who have generously donated to the National University of Ostroh Academy as of December 31, 2000, through the Ukrainian National Foundation/Ostroh Fund. All questions should be directed to Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, chairman, Friends of Ostroh Academy, 107 Ileshamwood Drive, DeKalb, IL 60115.

### \$2,400.00

Mostowycz, Leonidas and Oksana

### \$2,000.00

- Heritage Foundation c/o First Security Federal Savings Bank, Chicago
- Nenadkevich, Nicholas and Dioniza

### \$1,800.00

Mychaluk, Alexander and Irene

### \$1,450.00

Pidstryhach, Leonid

### \$1,000

Selfreliance Federal Credit Union, Philadelphia

### \$580

St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral (Silver Spring, Md.)

### \$500

- Coalition of UWO
- Iluk, Alexander and Zina
- Lytwynyshyn, Joseph
- Modryckyj, Myroslav
- Selfreliance Federal Credit Union (Chicago)
- Selfreliance Federal Credit Union (New York City)
- Tkachuk, Roman and Illa
- Ukrainian National Home (Lorain, Ohio)
- Ukrainian American Senior Citizens Association (Jenkintown, Pa.)
- Voronka, Roman and Zirka

### \$337

Stephen Kuropas

### \$300

- Shyprykewich, Vladimir and Helena
- Stachiv, Dennis and Myra
- Ukrainian National Women's League of America (Chicago)

### \$250

- Kodelsky, Maria Sajkewycz
- Mirel, Jeff
- Ukrainian Gold Cross Branch 12 (Chicago)
- Klos, Wolodymyr

### \$240

Suriwka, Lubomyr

### \$200

- Bakum, Vladimir and Oksana
- Baransky, Maria
- Baransky, Ulana
- Baziuk, Walter
- Committee to Aid Ukraine (Michigan)
- Ukrainian Village Inc. (Warren, Mich.)
- "Zustrich" Senior Citizens Club of Rochester

### \$150

Klos, Wolodymyr

### \$100.00

- Andreyko, Mary
- Bochey, Joseph
- Cherney, Alla and George
- Chojnacki, Jan
- Cieply, Oleh
- Danysh, Z.S.
- Derzko, Eustachiy
- Fedyaniak, Oresta
- Golash, Roman
- Gorchynsky, Iwanna
- Hnatzuk, Wsewolod
- Hrush, Peter
- Hrushetsky, Petro
- Hryshko, Wasyl and Halyna
- Humnicki, Michael and Judith
- Jarosewich, Daria
- Klos, Wolodymyr
- Korsun, Benjamin
- Korowsky, Helen
- Krychuk, Alexander
- Kuropas, Myron and Lesia
- Kuzmycz, Valentina
- Marchuk, Basil
- Markus, Daria
- Mryszuk, Larysa
- Myskiw, Nicholas and Zinaida
- Nehaniw, Bohdan
- Nowak, Luba
- Oleksiuk, Irena Pyskir
- Procyk, George
- Pryma, Helen
- Rozhin Living Trust

(Continued on page 17)

### SHAMOKIN, PA, DISTRICT COMMITTEE

of

### UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

announces that its

### ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on

**SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2001, at 1:00 p.m.**

**at the St. Michael's Church Hall  
W. Oak St., Frackville, PA 17931**

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:

**1, 7, 9, 78, 98, 242, 305, 382, 389**

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

**MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:**

**Martha Lysko – UNA National Secretary**

**DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

**Joseph Chabon, District Chairman  
Helen Slovik, Secretary  
Adolph Slovik, Treasurer**

### WOONSOCKET, RI, DISTRICT COMMITTEE

of

### UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

announces that its

### ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on

**SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2001, at 1:15 p.m.**

**at the St. Michael's Church Parish Hall  
74 Harris Ave., Woonsocket, RI**

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:

**177, 206, 241**

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

**MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:**

**Martha Lysko – UNA National Secretary**

**DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

**Leon Hardink, District Chairman  
Yuriy Kalita, Secretary (Ukrainian)  
Teodor Klowan, Secretary (English)  
Janet Bardell, Treasurer**

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

## The "chief shepherd"

On February 27 Bishop Stefan Soroka was enthroned as the sixth metropolitan-archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States, thus becoming the seventh spiritual leader of Ukrainian Catholics in this country. He has chosen as his motto "One who serves," and in his first homily pledged to be a "good shepherd."

[For the record, Soter Ortynsky was the first bishop for Ukrainian Catholics in the United States, named in 1907 by Pope Pius X on the recommendation of Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky of Lviv. Initially, Bishop Ortynsky served under the authority of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, but later, in 1913, he was named exarch for Ukrainian Catholics. The first metropolitan was Constantine Bohachevsky, enthroned in 1958. He was followed by Ambrose Senyshyn, Joseph Schmondiuk (the first and only U.S.-born metropolitan), Myroslav Ivan Lubachivsky and Stephen M. Sulyk.]

It is significant that the new metropolitan-archbishop's motto contains the same guiding words he chose five years ago when he was elevated to bishop in Winnipeg – because, as he explained, "a bishop should stand in the midst of his people as one who serves." In his first address to the faithful he promised to be a shepherd who has a "developed relationship of deep love and trust" with this flock, his faithful. He also noted: "I want us to come to know one another with much familiarity, with much mutual love and respect. I beg your patience and understanding of my limitations, and your kind assistance so that I may become who our Lord Jesus calls me to be for you."

At age 49, this Ukrainian Canadian born in Winnipeg is the youngest metropolitan in the history of the U.S. Ukrainian Catholic Church. Archbishop Soroka is also the first Canadian-born U.S. metropolitan, and only the second spiritual leader of this country's Ukrainian Catholics who was born in North America.

Ordained a priest in 1982, he was elevated to bishop only four years ago, serving as auxiliary to Winnipeg's Metropolitan-Archbishop Michael Bzdel, spiritual leader of Ukrainian Catholics in Canada. He is unique also because his educational background is in social work: he holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Manitoba, as well as a doctorate from The Catholic University of America.

Thus, Metropolitan-Archbishop Soroka is a hierarch who was born, reared and educated in the New World. His young age leads one to believe that he will succeed in reaching out to younger generations of Ukrainian Americans – something that is key to the survival of the Ukrainian Catholic Church as a particular Church.

The new metropolitan's predecessor, Archbishop Stephen Sulyk, had said in a message to the faithful announcing Bishop Soroka's appointment to lead U.S. Catholics: "His youth, his enthusiasm and his dedication will enable him to bring a new vitality to our Church as we journey into the 21st century."

We welcome Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka and pray for God's blessings so that he will be a good, wise and successful "chief shepherd" to his faithful in the Philadelphia Archeparchy and the Philadelphia Metropolia, which unites Ukrainian Catholics throughout the United States.

March  
13  
1971

## Turning the pages back...

One hundred forty years ago, Taras Shevchenko, the greatest poet of Ukraine, whose works have been translated into more than 100 languages, died in St. Petersburg, Russia. Two months later, his remains were buried near Kaniv, Ukraine, on the banks

of the mighty Dniro River – a prominent subject of his poetry.

Shevchenko gave voice to the timeless aspirations for freedom of all Ukrainians, and, indeed, all humankind. According to the Encyclopedia of Ukraine: "He created the conditions that allowed the transformation of Ukrainian literature into a fully functional modern literature. His influence on Ukrainian political thought and his role as an inspirer of modern democratic ideals of renewed Ukrainian statehood are without parallel. His poetry contributed greatly to the evolution of national consciousness among the Ukrainian intelligentsia and people, and his influence on various facets of cultural and national life is felt to this day."

That is why each year the anniversaries of his birth (March 9, 1814) and his death (March 10, 1861) are observed by Ukrainians worldwide.

Below are excerpts of an editorial originally published in this newspaper in 1971, on the occasion of the 110th anniversary of the bard's death.

\* \* \*

The month of March is usually set aside for observances in honor of Taras Shevchenko, Ukraine's great bard and universally acclaimed champion of freedom. Thousands of Ukrainians – from the youngest to the oldest – take part in special programs and concerts dedicated to the memory of the man most strongly identified with the ideals and aspirations of the Ukrainian people.

A veritable man for all seasons, Shevchenko is admired as much for his poetry as he is revered for his undaunted spirit and devotion to freedom, truth and justice – ideals that have meaning and relevance now as they did in his own time and in the centuries before. ...

Born a serf, Shevchenko lived but nine short years in freedom. Yet he understood the essence of freedom better than those who enjoyed it. Not so much for himself, but for his people whose spokesman he chose to be for all of his adult life. Unwavering and uncompromising, he could not be shackled by the oppressors even in exile, where he was forbidden to write.

In his passion for liberty he often castigated his own people for past errors and meek subservience to their overlords. Yet he believed in the people, in their will and determination. Thus, his legacy for them – to hope, to struggle and to overcome.

His words retain full relevance for us today. Both as an inspiration and as moral sustenance for the yet unfulfilled dream of our people's liberty. ...

Source: Editorial, "The Relevancy of Shevchenko," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, March 13, 1971; "Shevchenko, Taras," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vol. IV, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993.

## Rough draft

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

## "Tapegate" engenders conspiracy theories

Why Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma decided to dismantle and sweep away the tent city erected by opponents calling for his resignation two days after U.S. President George W. Bush conveyed a personal message of support defies logic.

Mr. Kuchma, who is fighting for his political life in the crisis dubbed "Tapegate" and the Gongadze affair that has paralyzed his administration, can use all the political support international leaders are willing to extend. He should have been pleased to receive the message from the leader of what few would contest is the strongest and most influential country on the globe. Then why, two days later, did he turn his political behind Mr. Bush's way as if to flaunt his disregard for the support?

Did Mr. Kuchma think that Mr. Bush's message, conveyed by U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual on February 27, which praised Ukraine for its progress in economic reforms in 2000 and expressed hope that the president will continue to uphold the rule of law, democracy and human rights, was an expression of carte blanche support for Mr. Kuchma, the person, and his actions of late? Did he not understand that the United States, in expressing support for Ukraine's policy of reform, was expressing confidence in the country's ability, and that of its president, to continue to submit to the rule of law and guarantee freedom of speech and assembly?

It also, without a doubt, was meant to unequivocally tell the anti-Kuchma forces that in a democracy the accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law – in effect, more support for Mr. Kuchma's situation.

Less than two days after the unexpected communication from President Bush, on March 1, Ukrainian law enforcement officials descended on the tent city on Ukraine's main thoroughfare, the Khreschatyk, and systematically but forcefully disassembled the shabby tents, while manhandling and arresting the protesters.

There was no need for such an unprovoked and public show of force. The protest camp was a sea of tranquility. Even during large rallies the call was always for peaceful demonstration and the exercise of restraint. The banal everyday life in the tent city consisted of meetings with the press, dissemination of literature and discussions with passers-by.

Furthermore, the anti-Kuchma movement was not gaining momentum. On the contrary, while the militant members of the Ukraine Without Kuchma movement have sustained the vitriol, it was becoming increasingly redundant and uninteresting. Like music during a card game it had become background noise for many Kyivans as they undertook the daily challenges of their often bleak lives. But the actions by state militia on March 1 have given the movement new impetus.

The decision to take down the tents either was more bumbling by a Keystone Kops outfit in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the presidential administration offices or a cynical expression of "law and order." But it also could have been a deliberately timed act by certain Ukrainian authorities with influence over the president and a secret agenda to keep

criticism and international pressure on Ukraine.

Whatever the reason, the United States responded negatively, as could have been expected, expressing its regret for the action and calling upon Ukrainian officials to "to observe their international commitment to freedom of assembly." The statement also put the United States on record as directly linking human rights guarantees in Ukraine with future U.S. financial aid, which the country still will require to lift itself fully from the economic quagmire of the last decade.

Did the Kuchma administration not realize this would be the response from Washington? It becomes evermore puzzling why President Kuchma and those around him continue to make what seem to be glaring political missteps.

But even more interesting is how the events seem to be paralleling one of the several conspiracy theories about who killed Heorhii Gongadze, the journalist at the center of the political crisis, which was laid out around the time audiotapes implicating the president in the journalist's disappearance became public.

There are two constants in all the theories. First, that Mr. Gongadze, the journalist cum Internet publisher, who so severely criticized the president and the political oligarchs on his website and whose violent death began this dark odyssey for the Ukrainian people, is an innocent victim sacrificed to begin a chain of carefully planned events. The other one is that Maj. Mykhailo Melnychenko, the former presidential bodyguard who made hundreds of hours of recordings of conversations held in the president's offices, is a foreign agent.

Of the two most popular theories, one states that the United States and Europe conjured up the whole mess in order to force Mr. Kuchma from office and replace him with their beloved Viktor Yushenko, the youthful prime minister who better fits the West's description of what a democratic reformer should be. The other holds that Russia developed the intricate plan to force Ukraine away from the West and into its open arms – the final piece in the return of empire to Moscow.

It is the second scenario that has been gaining proponents as Mr. Kuchma has begun to turn increasingly to Russian President Vladimir Putin, whether coincidentally or not, in the four months since the controversy reached crisis proportions. The U.S. threat to withhold aid, which came after the tent city was destroyed, is another development that seems to give credence to the theory.

It holds that Russian intelligence officials pasted together a plot to bring Ukraine back into Moscow's orbit by first setting up a scenario in which the Ukrainian president seems to be complicit in the death of a journalist. As the rumors fly and audiotapes suddenly appear that show what a crook the president is, the West begins to keep him at arms length, which forces the increasingly politically fragile leader to turn to Moscow for support. Moscow first demands, through its agents in the Ukrainian government, that a new prime minister be appointed, one more open to pro-Moscow policies. Eventually this leads to overtures of reunion in a loosely bound confederation

(Continued on page 14)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Board structure not in tune with fraternalism

Dear Editor:

As a lifelong fraternalist, a 50-year Ukrainian National Association member and a 60-year Ukrainian Fraternal Association national officer, I read with interest the proposed UNA By-Laws changes that are to be voted by the previous convention's delegates.

Taras Szmagala's pitch for a "yes" vote in the February 4 issue of *The Weekly* was well-written, but, in my humble opinion, he came to the wrong conclusion – especially when he writes: "most importantly a switch to this system would preserve our fraternal status."

Where can he show that a corporation administrated by a board of directors operates in a fraternal manner? The fact is that what is proposed is a "business type corporation" for the purpose of selling insurance (supposedly at a fraternal discount). Does Mr. Szmagala and other supporters of this change really believe they can compete with the commercials, just because a board of directors will be running this organization?

Mr. Szmagala, the UNA By-Laws may need some changes. The existing ones do provide for that. This process has been going on at most conventions. However, such a drastic change could very well cause a loss of interest by the local branches, especially their leader, who render volunteerism, motivated by Ukrainian patriotism, etc.

No, Mr. Szmagala, the way to save our "soyuzes" (fraternal organizations), is to "unite" all four fraternal, expand our fraternal activity, find a way to interest the new Ukrainian arrivals – the newest immigrants – find out their needs and try to create programs and policies to fill those needs. A united organization can do so much more for its members, for our Ukrainian community and for our ancestral country, Ukraine.

A united organization can work with our Ukrainian credit unions in a joint venture for a more profitable investment strategy.

It can concentrate more on Ukrainian culture, and less on partisan politics.

The "old" system worked well for over 100 years for the Ukrainian National Association, 90 years for the Ukrainian Fraternal Association and quite a few years for the other two Ukrainian fraternal societies.

At fraternal conventions, democratically conducted, we always managed to elect competent officers. Of course, now and then, not everyone was the best available, but, overall things worked out. As has been proven, specialists were and can be hired to perform duties elected officials cannot.

For the time being, let's stay the course set by our fraternal forebears. Some of them did such a wonderful job that their names should be inscribed in a Ukrainian Fraternal Hall of Fame.

Mr. Szmagala, here is one "no" vote on the proposed changes.

**Joseph Charyna**  
Coconut Creek, Fla.

### Marlboro congregation moves to new location

Dear Editor:

St. Wolodymyr's Ukrainian Catholic Church of Marlboro, N.J., has moved to a new interim location. The congregation is celebrating divine liturgy at the new location at Monmouth Chinese Christian Church on 1209 W. Front St., Lincroft,

NJ 07738-1262, beginning on Saturday, March 3, at 5 p.m.

St. Wolodymyr's UCC extends its most grateful thanks to the Rev. Paul Chang and the Rev. Al McNally, pastors, as well as the leaders and deacons of the MCCC.

This new arrangement will allow the growth of St. Wolodymyr's UCC through access to better and more complete facilities than previously available.

St. Wolodymyr's UCC has been using the original church building of St. Gabriel's Roman Catholic Church in Marlboro for the last 16 years. The parish needed to move as a result of interior renovations that are necessary to preserve the historic Roman Catholic church which was built over 100 years ago.

This is a continuation of renovations of exteriors that was undertaken a few years ago as joint undertaking of the Roman Catholic parish of St. Gabriel's with the Ukrainian Catholic parish of St. Wolodymyr. Unfortunately, St. Gabriel's future plans for expansion of their cemetery and their own use of the chapel required St. Wolodymyr's to find a new home.

Over time St. Wolodymyr's UCC parishioners have grown fond of the church building which they have called home for the past 16 years. Especially emotional was the farewell for those who have buried their loved ones at the St. Gabriel cemetery, which adjoins the church property.

**The Rev. Victor Bek**  
Carteret, N.J.

*The letter writer is pastor and administrator of the Ukrainian Catholic Church of St. Wolodymyr in Monmouth County and Patronage of the Mother of God in Carteret, N.J.*

### Response to assertions by executives of UFA

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to comments by President Ivan Oleksyn and Vice-President Stephen Wichar of the Ukrainian Fraternal Association regarding the sale of Verkhovyna (March 4).

I would like to state that on June 20, 2000, at the meeting of the UFA Supreme Council, Mr. Oleksyn stated that besides the Ukrainian American Cultural Foundation there are two Ukrainian groups which are interested in purchasing the Verkhovyna Youth Center. One group is headed or represented by attorney Peter Piddoubny and the other by Stefan Kapczak.

In the event that the UACF was unable to purchase the Verkhovyna Youth Center, the question then is: Why is it that Mr. Oleksyn has rejected the offers to purchase Verkhovyna made by the other Ukrainian groups and chose to sell to a non-Ukrainian American buyer? This is against the decision of the 24th UFA Convention in 1998.

Also, it is important to inform the public that, during the meeting between the representatives of the UFA and the UACF which took place on January 21, two days after the expiration date of the closing with David Willner, UACF representatives offered to match the price of \$1,078,750 offered by Mr. Willner and wanted to sign a contract right then and there at the meeting. Mr. Oleksyn offered to call a meeting of the executive board the next day in order to formally approve the contract with the UACF and said he would inform the attorney immediately. Well, the UACF is still waiting.

The membership of the UFA and the Ukrainian American community must find out why Mr. Oleksyn does not want to sell the Verkhovyna Youth Center to any Ukrainian American organization or group.

After comparing the two contracts of sale – one to the UACF and the other to Mr. Willner – it appears that Mr. Oleksyn had never intended to sell Verkhovyna to a Ukrainian group.

The question is: Why not?

**Olga Filimonchuk**  
Glen Spey, N.Y.

### Kids in Ivano-Frankivsk need our assistance

Dear Editor:

Four Ukrainian orphan children, age 6-14, Anastasia, Katrusia, Roman and Lidia Orbov, who live in Ivano-Frankivsk with their young woman guardian, Halyna Partsei, may end-up on the street if unable to get their own apartment.

This poor and wonderful family has to vacate their present apartment at the end of May this year to make room for the new owner. They cannot acquire a new place to live on their own, and are asking people of good heart to help them in their critical situation.

A small two-room apartment costs about \$7,000. The money received for this family will be deposited at the Self Reliance (N.Y.) Federal Credit Union in New York, account No. 17785002. Any donation will be greatly appreciated.

Please write checks to the Orphans Aid Society, include the above account number and mail to one of the following 2 addresses: Self Reliance Federal Credit Union, 108 Second Ave., New York, NY

10003; or Orphans Aid Society, 129 Ridge Road, Douglaston, NY 11363.

Each donation, which is tax-deductible, will be acknowledged with thanks and gratitude by the Orphans Aid Society, Ukrainian American organization.

**Roman Slysh**  
Raleigh, N.C.

### We, too, must use proper terminology

Dear Editor:

As we Ukrainians battle the American press on the proper use of our Ukrainian names/places, along with their correct spelling, we should also get our own house in order.

On February 27 I had the opportunity to attend the installation of our new metropolitan in Philadelphia. A commemorative booklet was distributed to all. Page 2 shows that a greeting will be given by His Beatitude Cardinal Husar, metropolitan of Galicia.

When did Halychyna revert back to Poland? As a faithful reader of *The Ukrainian Weekly*, I can only assume that I failed to read that article.

**Michael W. Bohdan**  
Union, N.J.

**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.**

## IN MEMORIAM: Oleksander Yemets, one of Ukraine's heroes of democracy

by Bohdan D. Shandor

I was deeply shocked and saddened to learn of the tragic and untimely death of another of Ukraine's heroes of democracy, Oleksander Yemets.

I had the pleasure and honor of meeting Oleksander in the fall of 1991, when he and I were both organizers and participants in the First World Congress of Ukrainian Lawyers in Kyiv. One of the purposes of the congress was to introduce concepts of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

As soon as I met Oleksander, I knew he was different. His understanding of these principles was simply far beyond his years and Soviet experience. When I asked him about this, he responded simply: "I read a lot." I was thrilled to send him a copy of "A Miracle in Philadelphia," the story of the United States Constitution.

During the congress, I gave a lecture on foreign investment and what a future independent Ukraine needed to do in order to attract in particular, Western investment. After the presen-

*Bohdan D. Shandor is an attorney and founding member and past president of the Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA). He is currently managing director of Shandor & Co., an investment banking and financial services firm.*

tation, he approached me and asked so many questions that we agreed to meet afterwards, which we did many times on my future visits to Kyiv.

I always smile when I think about the time I asked him what he thought about that lecture. He showed his boyish grin and replied, "The content was excellent but your Ukrainian is archival. It is like your language has been kept in a museum for 50 years." We both laughed, but he was, of course, correct; it had been, for reasons we both understood. We then spent many hours talking about the issue of languages, Russian, Ukrainian and all of the others that are spoken and what it meant for the future of Ukraine.

Having held many different positions in which he contributed so greatly, it is difficult to choose in which he excelled the most. I personally believe his most important contributions were in the area of ethnic matters, when he served as Ukraine's minister for nationalities and migration. He was so proud of the opening of Ukrainian-language schools that had been closed, the reconstruction of the oldest Jewish Temple in Kyiv that had been made into a puppet theater and the resettlement of Tatars back to their homeland in Crimea, to name but a few. For this, Ukraine should always be grateful.

We will miss you greatly, Oleksander, Vichnaya Pamiat!

## Ostroh Academy officials in U.S. to meet with Ukrainian Americans

CHICAGO – Profs. Ihor D. Pasichnyk and Natalia Lominska, rector and vice-rector, respectively, of the National University of Ostroh Academy will be visiting various U.S. cities this month.

Thus far they are scheduled to meet local Ukrainian Americans in Cleveland (Parma), Detroit (Warren), Chicago and Minneapolis. Other stops are in the planning stage.

Dr. Pasichnyk was born in the village of Hlynky, Rivne region, in 1946. He attended Kyiv State University, Lviv State University, and the Rivne Pedagogical Institute. He received his candidate's degree in 1981 and his doctorate in psychology in 1993.

He has published more than 50 scientific articles; his book "The Psychology of Stage Formation, Operation and Structure in Systematization," was published by Ostroh Academy.

He has served as rector of the Academy, now called the National University of Ostroh Academy, since its resurrection in 1994. The educational institution has prospered under his leadership.

Prof. Lominska was born in Ostroh,

Rivne region, in 1969. She graduated from Lviv State University with a degree in philology. She was hired as a professor of English at Ostroh in 1994.

In 1997 she was one of three Ostroh professors who enrolled at Northern Illinois University (NIU) as part of the NIU/Ostroh project in "Democracy and Education," funded in part by the Eurasia Foundation. While at NIU she taught courses to undergraduates as a member of the Leadership and Educational Foundations faculty, attended classes, and worked on her thesis.

She graduated with a master of science degree in education. Her NIU thesis, "Language Education in Ukraine and National Identity: A Historical Analysis" was directed by NIU adjunct professor Dr. Myron B. Kuropas. It was eventually translated into Ukrainian and published this year in both languages by Ostroh Academy Press. Prof. Lominska was appointed vice-rector of the National University of Ostroh Academy in 1999.

During their visit to the United States the Ostroh professors will focus on the topic "Educating Future Patriotic Leaders

(Continued on page 21)



Profs. Ihor D. Pasichnyk and Natalia Lominska of the National University of Ostroh Academy.

## University rectors confer in Bonn on Ukrainian-German cooperation

BONN – During the first week of February, 40 university rectors (presidents) from Ukraine attended a conference in the former capital of Germany. The topic of the conference was "Status and Perspectives of Cooperation between Ukrainian and German Institutions of Higher Learning."

Heading the Ukrainian delegation were Vasyl G. Kremen, Ukraine's minister of education, and Viktor V. Skopenko, president of the Ukrainian University Presidents Union. The German side was represented by the following government officials: Dr. Uwe Thomas, secretary of the Ministry of Education and Research; Prof. Erich Thies, general secretary, Permanent Conference of the Ministry of Culture of the States; Prof. Klaus Landfried, president of the German Conference of University Presidents; and Dorothe Fitterling from the German Academic Exchange Program, Bonn.

In addition to two plenary sessions, the conference included an exhibit on higher education in Ukraine, a joint press

conference, and numerous working sessions during which several bilateral agreements were signed. The conference also served as a forum for the representatives of various German universities, who read papers or presented reports on their work in the area of academic cooperation between Germany and Ukraine.

Ukraine's ambassador to Germany, Dr. Anatolii Ponomarenko, who came to Bonn from Berlin, extended to the assembly an official greeting from the government of Ukraine, noting with satisfaction that the rector of the Ukrainian Free University, Leonid Rudnytsky, was among them. Subsequently Prof. Rudnytsky addressed the meeting, outlining the role and function of the Ukrainian Free University as an academic bridge between the two countries.

The participants discussed and resolved several existing problems of an administrative nature. They resolved to hold their next meeting in Crimea in the year 2003.

## Math-Physics-Technical Section hosts program at Shevchenko Society

by Dr. Orest Popovych

NEW YORK – The Math-Physics-Technical Section of the Shevchenko Scientific Society of America hosted a program on February 17, composed of two lectures in the society's headquarters at 63 Fourth Ave. in New York City.

Dr. Roman Kuc, professor of electrical engineering at Yale University, lectured on the subject of "Seeing with Sound." Intrigued by the fact that bats and dolphins perceive their environment with sound waves, Dr. Kuc has conducted research using sensors that mimic biological systems, obtaining and analyzing the echoes of sound waves from simple objects. Under controlled conditions, objects generate unique echoes, from which they can be identified. A lively discussion followed.

Dr. Wolodymyr R. Madych, professor of mathematics at the University of Connecticut, delivered a talk on "Wavelets:

A New Signal Analysis Tool." Although much more specialized than the first, this lecture too found resonance with the many knowledgeable members of the audience.

The program was well attended: a large number of newcomers from Ukraine, young scientists as well as Ph. D. candidates from area universities, were in the audience.

The lectures were followed by a social hour with refreshments, after which the M-P-T Section held a business meeting. High on the agenda of the section is participation in the upcoming international conference on mathematics in Kyiv, which is scheduled for next August. Current information about its activities may be accessed on the website under the heading "Math-Phys-Tech Section" [www.shevchenko.org](http://www.shevchenko.org). The chairman of the M-P-T Section is Dr. Roman Andrushkiw, the society's first vice-president.

## Immigration History Research Center receives \$500,000 grant

MINNEAPOLIS – The University of Minnesota has been awarded a \$500,000 Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in support of the Immigration History Research Center (IHRC). The award is one of 26 challenge grants made nationwide by the NEH for the year 2000, including only eight to colleges and universities. The university received the maximum amount provided to award recipients in this year's competition.

Funds from the grant will be used to enhance the work of the IHRC, regarded by many as the country's leading institution for the preservation and promotion of the history of American immigration. In conveying the award to the University, NEH Chairman William Ferris remarked, "evaluators were impressed by the IHRC's ability to sustain high quality in humanities programming and resources. In particular, they applauded the way in which the center has brought humanities perspectives to social issues."

The NEH Challenge Grant is a centerpiece of the IHRC's endowment campaign, "Stories Worth Remembering, Stories Worth Telling." The campaign seeks to provide permanent funding in four areas:

endowment of the Rudolph J. Vecoli Chair in Immigration History; care and development of the archival collections; research support; and community outreach (including work with ethnic organizations and elementary school educators).

As a result of the challenge grant, contributions to the IHRC's campaign for the next three years will be matched by federal dollars on a 4:1 basis (i.e., for every \$4 of private donations, the university will receive \$1 of matching money).

The announcement of the challenge grant caps a momentous year for the IHRC, which moved in February into its new award-winning facility, the Elmer L. Andersen Library. The IHRC's "Documentation of the Immigrant Experience" was designated as an Official Project of Save America's Treasures, a public-private partnership of the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The IHRC was founded in 1965 in response to keen interest in the role of immigration in the making of America. Today the IHRC maintains a vast and diverse archive of documentation on various immigrant groups throughout the

United States. Included are diaries, memoirs, photographs, "America" letters, newspapers, pamphlets, organizational records, oral histories and much more. The center also produces a wide array of programs and publications aimed at fostering greater understanding of the immigrant experience.

"Because of the richness of its collections, its skilled and dedicated staff, and the intellectual ferment it nurtures, the center attracts researchers from all parts of the United States and abroad," said University President Mark Yudof.

Steven Rosenstone, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said, "The IHRC has for a long time been at the forefront of research on the dynamic heritage that has made this country what it is: a cultural and political mosaic created by people from every region of the world. As the nation rides the crest of another great wave of immigration, this grant makes an especially powerful statement about the current and future importance of that work."

The center's work of documenting immigration history has been in partnership with the communities whose heritage it preserves. As IHRC friend and

benefactor Alex Batinich noted, "People want to know where they come from. We're doing this work so our history, our heritage, won't be forgotten. It helps us understand our common bond."

As large numbers of immigrants arrive from around the world, there are lessons to be found in the stories of those communities. Said Rudolph J. Vecoli, director of the IHRC since 1967 and the guiding force behind its many achievements, "If we look at our history, we can find answers to questions which will inform our current understanding."

With the challenge grant multiplying private gifts, the IHRC is poised to play an even greater national leadership role in building public knowledge of immigration's impact. "This is an exhilarating time for the center," said Vecoli. "We are preserving a crucial chapter of the story of America just as that story is expanding and evolving all around us."

The Immigration History Research Center is located on the West Bank of the University of Minnesota, at 311 Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55455; telephone, (612) 625-4800; e-mail, [ihrc@tc.umn.edu](mailto:ihrc@tc.umn.edu); website, [www.umn.edu/ihrc](http://www.umn.edu/ihrc)





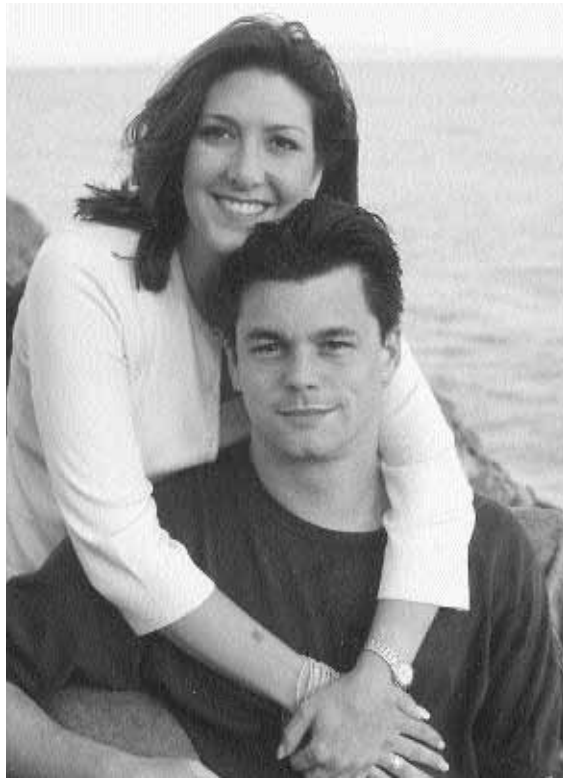
# Wedding Announcements



Мирослав і Марія Сербини  
з приємністю повідомляють  
про вінчання своєї доні  
Леонори Марії

з

Дам'яном Романом Платошем  
сином Романа і Соні Платошів  
яке відбулося в суботу, другого грудня,  
двохтисячного року в Українському  
Католицькому Крайовому Соборі Пресвятої  
Родини у Вашингтоні, Д.К.



Mitzi and Arthur Hamilton

and

Oksana and Petro Jaroslaw Piaseckyj

take great pleasure in announcing  
the marriage of their children

Claudia Gabrielle and Petro Mykola

on Sunday, June 25, 2000,

at the Japanese Garden in Van Nuys, California.



Valentina and Dr. Bohdan Nowakiwsky  
of South Orange, NJ,

announce the marriage of their daughter

Lisa Xenia

to

Mark Blyth Arnott

on October fourteenth, two thousand,

at St. Volodymyr's Ukrainian Orthodox Chapel,

UNA Estate – Soyuzivka, Kerhonkson, NY.

Многая Ліма!



Mr. and Mrs. George V. Kinal of Washington, DC,

are pleased to announce  
the marriage of their daughter

Juliana Maria Kinal

to

John Albert Ballard

son of Dr. and Mrs. John Ballard

of Beavercreek, Ohio

on the ninth of September, two thousand,

at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine

of the Holy Family, Washington, DC



Roman and Daria Rakowsky

proudly announce the marriage of their son,

Lieutenant Peter Ivan Rakowsky

to

Lieutenant Danielle Bales,

which took place

on Saturday, June 10, 2000,

at St. Josaphat Catholic Cathedral in Parma, Ohio.

## Anniversary



To celebrate the second anniversary  
of the marriage of

Handzia Lysko

and

Robert Schiavone

on March 4, 1999, in Rome, Italy,

the family congratulates them and wishes that

the joy of that day remain with them forever.



## DATELINE NEW YORK: Farmiga has a starring role in De Niro film

by Helen Smindak

Actress Vera Farmiga gives a stunning performance as a Czech immigrant who witnesses a horrible crime in the New Line Cinema murder mystery "15 Minutes," released nationwide on Friday, March 9. Although I'm not a cops-and-robbers movie fan, I went to a screening of this Robert De Niro who-dun-it because Ms. Farmiga is in it. Surprisingly, I liked it. And I was very impressed with Ms. Farmiga's emotional appeal and acting ability.

This searing, R-rated thriller will blow you out of your mind – it's so suspenseful and tense, filled with wild car chases and scorching fire sequences, that it will have you cowering in your seat much of the time. Yet there are segments of humor, comradeship, compassion and bittersweet romance that balance out the gore and turn it into a believable story.

The plot revolves around a double murder that has to be solved by superstar homicide detective Eddie Flemming (Robert De Niro). Because a fire had been used to cover up the grisly crime, Flemming must work with a quiet but intense young arson investigator, Jordy Warsaw (Edward Burns). The two wrangle with each other as they try to track down the pair of Eastern European (Russian and Czech) killers, played by Karel Roden and Oleg Taktarov. But first they must find the alluring Czech immigrant, Daphne Handlova (Vera Farmiga), who witnessed the crime. The cops are chasing the criminals, the newspeople are chasing the cops, and the whole thing fuels an escalating drama.

Shot primarily in Manhattan, the film also stars Kelsey Grammer as a television tabloid anchor who sees himself as an old-fashioned crime reporter chasing important stories; Melina Kanakaredes as Flemming's field reporter-girlfriend; Kim Cattrall as a ratings-hungry TV producer; and John DiResta as Warsaw's partner.

What makes the movie so riveting is writer/director John Herzfeld's take on a speeded-up New York City saturated with blaring color and hyped-up reality, creating a film that careens and cuts across the screen so that the viewer is right in the midst of the action. The story is told through a variety of media, from a hand-held video camera to slick TV coverage and original artwork.

Looking to Eastern Europe for an actress to play the mysterious Daphne, the filmmakers instead discovered Ms. Farmiga during auditions and were impressed with her fluent Ukrainian and "wild-hearted sensibility." The actress said they had no idea she was a Jersey girl when she read for the part: "John Herzfeld suggested I keep my accent throughout production and not reveal to any of the other actors that I was really American. Halfway through the production I broke accent and spoke in English to Ed Burns. He was shocked!"

Ms. Farmiga says she was drawn to playing Daphne as a woman who uses everything at her disposal in order to survive. "Daphne doesn't want fame the way some of the others do, but she's willing to use it to bring her what she wants," the actress explained.

The Ukrainian American actress, a native of Irvington, N.J., turned critics' heads last year with her performances in two films – "Autumn in New York" with Richard Gere and Winona Ryder, and "The Opportunists" with Christopher Walken. During 2001 she will be seen in the romantic comedy "Dummy," opposite Adrien Brody; ABC's new version of "Snow White," opposite Miranda

Richardson; and a Robert Redford-produced film, "Nine Scenes About Love." Other credits include the film "Return to Paradise" with Vince Vaughn and Joaquin Phoenix, appearances in the Xena-style TV series "Roar" and several on and off-Broadway productions.

### Commemorating a sculptor

He was born in the village of Stezhnytsia in the Lemko region of Ukraine that is now a part of Poland. He took up woodcarving as a boy and had to make his own carving knives so that he could create topirtsi (decoratively carved wooded axes). Seated on the steps of the county courthouse, he sold all of the topirtsi for 48 zloty. Later, he attended school in the Hutsul town of Kolomyia, where woodcarving is a locally specialized craft.

This was the start of Mykhailo Chereshnovsky's career as a woodcarver and sculptor, related by the artist himself in a video/film screened at The Ukrainian Museum during a mid-February commemoration of his life and work. Mr. Chereshnovsky, who died in 1994 at the age of 83, would have turned 90 on March 5.

In the darkened auditorium, there was a hushed, nostalgic feeling as scores of friends and admirers of the artist relived scenes of Mr. Chereshnovsky at work in his studio or chatting with guests during art exhibits at the Ukrainian Artists' Association gallery in New York. The artist was pictured beside the exotically carved iconostasis he created for St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Hunter, N.Y., and standing near the Shevchenko and Lesia Ukrainka monuments at the Soyuzivka estate in Kerhonkson, N.Y.

I remember Mr. Chereshnovsky as a gentle man, a man without any airs, always kind and generous to others. He was soft-spoken and good-natured, and he went about his daily life without much thought to his appearance, his mind focused on creating beauty through his sculptures and carvings. These characteristics were evident in the film, as the artist reminisced about his life or commented on his work, his hair boyishly tousled, his grey suit somewhat rumpled.

Prepared by Anatol Vulvych at the time of Mr. Chereshnovsky's 80th birthday, the film was shown in two segments, intercut with a dramatic program of poetry and Lemko-dialect folk songs by members of Lviv's touring Les Kurbas ensemble. Natalka Polovynka, Oleh Stefan, Andriy Vodychev and artistic director Volodymyr Kuchynsky perceptively wove haunting Lemko airs and Bohdan Ihor Antonych's poetry into a moving, poignant presentation.

Museum Director Maria Shust, who said that Mr. Chereshnovsky "lives on in our hearts and lives on in his sculptures," thanked Ludmyla Chereshnovsky, seated in the audience, for her support. She noted that an album of essays, reminiscences and other materials about the artist was recently published by the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences through the initiative and funding of Mrs. Chereshnovsky.

Sculptor Anya Farion, former head of the Ukrainian Artists' Association gallery in New York, in her remarks to the gathering said that Mr. Chereshnovsky liked to help young artists and encouraged them because he believed that "talent is God's gift and to neglect it would be a sin."

Mr. Chereshnovsky's work is charac-



Phillip V. Caruso/New Line

Vera Farmiga (right) in a scene from the new movie "15 Minutes" with Karel Roden (center) and Oleg Taktarov.

terized by a monumental style and a classical simplicity that was apparent in bronze and wood sculptures on view that evening: a head portrait of his wife Ludmyla, titled "A Portrait of My Wife" (1950), a 20-inch high head portrait of Stepan Bandera (1948) and a 17-inch high full-figure bronze rendering of Lesia Ukrainka (1961), that served as the model for the monument of the poetess which stands in Cleveland. Beautiful and impressive was the 28-inch high sculpture "A Modern Madonna" (1953), showing the gracefully elliptical lines and curves which the sculptor liked to reserve for his images of the Virgin Mary.

Mr. Chereshnovsky graduated from the School of Plastic Arts in Krakow, Poland, in 1939, emigrating to Germany after the war and then to the United States. He sculpted busts of many prominent Ukrainians, including Roman Shukhevych and Oleh Olzhych, and Ukrainian Americans Valentyna Pereiaslavets and Roma Pryma Bohachevsky, and produced several bronze monuments, such as the Monument to the Heroes at the resort of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) in Ellenville, N.Y. The artist served for years as president of the Ukrainian Artists' Association in the

United States and was a longtime director of the UAA gallery.

### A musical cause

The Ukrainian Institute of America's excellent "Music at the Institute" series, guided by artistic director Mykola Suk and executive director Dr. Taras Shegedyn, has been drawing more and more non-Ukrainians to its elegant soirées. Classical music – the creations of Ukrainian and world composers – and the superb artistry of singers and musicians from Ukraine and the United States draw a music-loving melange to the French Gothic mansion at the corner of Fifth Avenue and 79th Street. (The only element that could be said to be poorly represented is the younger Ukrainian generation; a pity the young people are missing a treasure trove of outstanding singers and musicians.)

February's musicale, a prime example of the mix of artists, featured the virtuosity of cellists Natalia Khoma, Suren Bagratuni and Rachel Lewis Krysa, violinists Peter Krysa, Catherine Cho and Todd Phillips, pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky and violist Daniel Panner – all of them seasoned professionals with lengthy resumes in concert appearances,

(Continued on page 17)



Actors from the Les Kurbas Theater of Lviv perform at The Ukrainian Museum commemorating the 90 birthday of sculptor Mykhailo Chereshnovsky. From the left: Oleh Stefan, Natalka Polovynka and Andriy Vodychev.

## The coat of arms of the new metropolitan-archbishop



The coat of arms is surmounted by a bishop's mitre in the center, flanked by the cross and crozier, all symbols of a bishop's pastoral office in the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

The left side presents the Mother of God with hands raised in prayer, placing the archeparchy under her protection. The archbishop thus invokes her maternal love and intercession for himself and his people.

The right side depicts a heart, recalling the greatest commandment, "love God with your whole heart ... and love one another as yourself" (Luke 10:27). The letters "IC XC, NI KA" within the heart, center Jesus Christ as the conqueror of our hearts, calling the archbishop and his people to live Christ-centered lives. The flame within the heart recalls a particularly favorite Scriptural passage of the archbishop, that of Luke 21:32, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he explained to us the Scriptures." These words encourage our passionate love for the Scriptures.

The background on the right side depicts the American flag – the domain of the metropolitan.

The Ukrainian embroidered ritual cloth ("rushnyk") centered by the maple leaf expresses the archbishop's Ukrainian Canadian ancestry. The rushnyk recalls St. Stephen (icons depict St. Stephen with a ritual cloth draped in his hands), elected to serve by the early apostles and martyred for his faith.

The motto, "One Who Serves," expresses the archbishop's role as a successor of the apostles, called and ordained to serve Christ and His people (Luke 22:27).



Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka

## Soroka enthroned as metropolitan for Ukrainian Catholics in the U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

metropolitan stated.

"As your new archbishop and metropolitan," he continued, "I commit myself to serve you according to the ideals of the One High Shepherd, Jesus Christ Our Lord. I want us to come to know one another with much familiarity, with much mutual love and respect. I beg your patience and understanding of my limitations, and your kind assistance so that I may become who our Lord Jesus calls me to be for you. I pledge you my passionate love for God, for our Church and for all of you."

Buses filled with faithful from throughout the Philadelphia Archeparchy, which includes parishes in Delaware, eastern Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia, began arriving at the cathedral by mid-morning. A large number of schoolchildren, including Sodality members and altar boys, were in attendance during the services. Hymns during the services were sung by the choir of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church of Melrose Park, Pa.

Prior to the installation ceremony, a testimonial luncheon was held in the metropolitan-designate's honor at the Hyatt Regency at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia. Bishop Soroka was welcomed by the Archbishop Sulyk, 76, who retired as metropolitan for U.S. Ukrainian Catholics last year, and Archbishop Major Husar, who only six days before had been elevated to cardinal by Pope John Paul II. Ukrainian

Orthodox Archbishop Vsevolod also addressed the formal gathering.

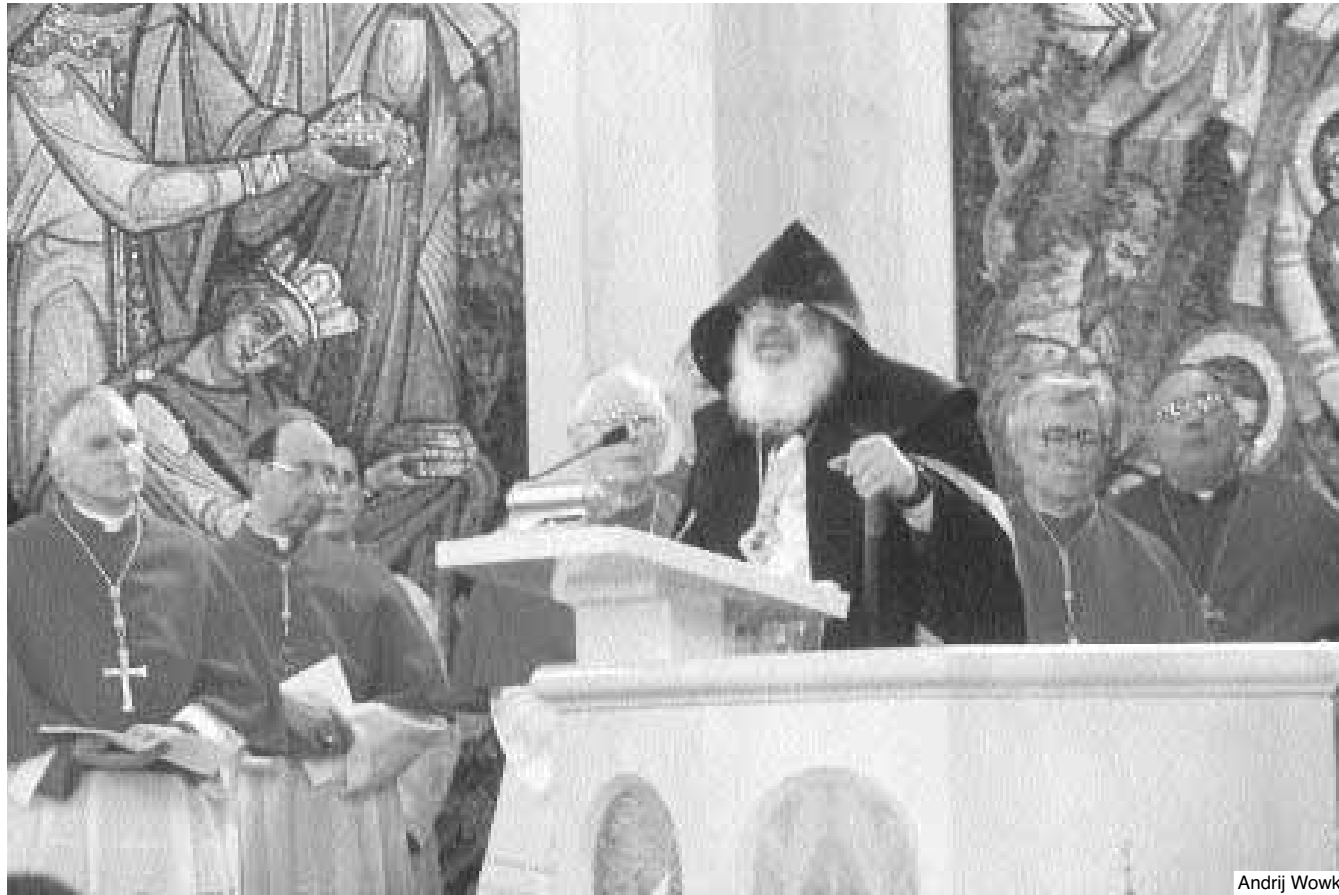
After the liturgy, Metropolitan Soroka greeted guests and well-wishers at a reception in the cathedral's social hall to which all clergy, religious and faithful were invited.

The Archeparchy of Philadelphia comprises 68,000 parishioners in 74 churches. Besides the territory encompassed by the Philadelphia Archeparchy, the Philadelphia Metropolitan Province encompasses eparchies based in Chicago, Stamford, Conn., and Parma, Ohio.

Archbishop Soroka was born November 13, 1951, in Winnipeg. He received bachelor's and master's degrees in social work at the University of Manitoba, and in 1979 entered the Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Washington. After earning a bachelor's degree in sacred theology from The Catholic University of America in 1982, he was ordained as a priest in the Archeparchy of Winnipeg on June 13, 1982.

As a priest, Archbishop Soroka ministered to parishes in Manitoba, and served as a judge of the archdiocesan tribunal and as director of vocations. He also continued his graduate studies and earned a doctorate in social work in 1985. In 1994 he was named chancellor and financial administrator of the Winnipeg Archeparchy. In 1996, at the age of 44, he was named auxiliary archbishop in Winnipeg, becoming the youngest Ukrainian bishop in that country.

*Borys Prokopovych contributed to this report.*



Andrij Wowk

Cardinal and Archbishop Major Lubomyr Husar speaks during ceremonies in Immaculate Conception Cathedral.



Metropolitan-Archbishop Metropolitan Stefan Soroka celebrates liturgy in the filled-to-capacity cathedral.

## Homily by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka

*Below are excerpts of the homily delivered by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka during the ceremony of his enthronement at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.*

In the reading of the papal bull by His Grace Archbishop [Gabriel] Montalvo at the beginning of the installation, the holy father cites the exhortation of the Vatican II Ecumenical Council, wherein it describes a bishop as a good shepherd who knows the sheep and whose sheep know him. A bishop should stand in the midst of his people as one who serves – the very motto chosen for my episcopal ordination almost five years ago.

This is expressed in the verse preceding today's Gospel reading from St. John, where the shepherd is described as one who enters through the gate first, and then calls each of his own by name, and the sheep hear his voice and follow him, because they recognize his voice. The Gospel reading we heard cites the good shepherd as one who knows his sheep and they know him. The good shepherd is prepared to lay down his life for his sheep. And, the good shepherd must also lead and call other sheep which do not belong to this fold and they, too, will recognize his voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd.

Jesus reveals to us the heart and motivation of the shepherd. Jesus gives you and me deep insights as to who we are to be with one another – what our relationship should be like – and how we are to exercise our leadership over one another.

The shepherd calls his sheep by name, and they know his voice and they follow. There is a developed relationship of deep love and trust between the shepherd and his flock. ...

Those of us called to leadership in our Church are called to lead by example. We cannot expect our people to do anything which we would be unwilling to do with them. As your shepherd, I am called to be

among the priests, religious and people enough that you will recognize my voice and trust my heart. I must have enough courage to go first, compassion enough to choose a safe path for the weakest among you, and confidence enough to know that you will follow if I lead. As the chief shepherd among you, I am called to develop our relationship of love and trust, so that when I call you by name, you will have confidence and love to respond – because you have come to know me and my heart, and I have come to know you and your heart, and then we can proceed together in our journey with our Lord, Jesus Christ. ...

These insights into the qualities of a good shepherd are ones that should be characteristic of all the faithful in the Church. The priests and deacons, and the religious sisters, all are, in varying ways, shepherds to the faithful, and are called to shepherd in ways that reveal the heart and love of Jesus, our Lord. You are also shepherds to me, your chief shepherd, as you exercise your responsibilities in sharing in the nurturing of our faithful, and also of me as your brother in Christ.

And all the faithful – all of you, regardless of age – you also are called to direct your lives in our Church and to take on roles that shepherd others to greater fullness of life in Jesus, to support and nurture the chief shepherds of your parish (your priests, deacons, sisters) and in the care and nurture of me, your chief shepherd in the archeparchy.

As your new archbishop and metropolitan, I commit myself to serve you according to the ideals of the One High Shepherd, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. I want us to come to know one another with much familiarity, with much mutual love and respect. I beg your patience and understanding of my limitations, and your kind assistance so that I may become who our Lord Jesus calls me to be for you. I pledge you my passionate love for God, for our Church, and for all of you. ...

## New metropolitan's remarks at luncheon reception

*Following are excerpts of remarks by Bishop Stefan Soroka at the luncheon preceding his enthronement.*

... We are all familiar with the words of Jesus in the Gospel of St. Matthew, where he says "For I was a stranger and you welcomed me." And, "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine you did it for me." ...

For reasons beyond our limited human understanding, God directs me to come to Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love, to celebrate that brotherly love amidst His faithful here. I come as a stranger to a different environment, unaccustomed to your massive free-ways, much larger population and cities, a Ukrainian Catholic Church with more history and more successive generations of developed Ukrainian American identity, and a much larger Church. I come with a slightly different accent, the well-known Canadian "eh?" in my dialogue, and being a first-generation Ukrainian Canadian.

I have had opportunity to visit in advance of my move to Philadelphia, to get acquainted with the Philadelphia Archeparchy with the kind assistance of the retiring Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephen Sulyk and his auxiliary, Bishop Walter Paska, and the Chancery priests, religious and staff. I have had opportunity to meet with the members of the planning committee preparing this magnificent installation and celebration, and with various people who are to take an active part in the liturgy. Their enthusiasm and their dedication have touched my heart, and are very admirable and much appreciated. ...

I particularly want to thank the nuncio, Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, for his gracious hospitality during my recent visit, and for your presence and participation today. Thank you, Metropolitan Stephen Sulyk for your prayerful invocation and gracious passing of the reins of

the metropolia you love and have served so well. ...

The presence and participation of our Major Archbishop and Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, who incidentally celebrated his birthday yesterday – your participation is particularly heart-warming and expresses our solidarity with one another, our mutual caring and support as brother bishops of our Ukrainian Catholic Church. Mnohaya Lita, Vladyko Lubomyre, on the occasion of your birthday!

Thank you also to all my brother Ukrainian Catholic bishops, particularly my brother bishops in the U.S.A. – Bishop Basil Losten of the Eparchy of Stamford, Bishop Robert Moskal of the Eparchy of Parma, and the administrator of the Chicago Eparchy, Bishop Michael Wivchar, for your presence and tremendous support.

A special gratitude to my former boss, Metropolitan-Archbishop Michael Bzdel of Canada for your tremendous support, instruction and guidance while I served as your auxiliary bishop. I know that we will share a close fraternity as brother metropolitans. ...

Thank you, Bishop Vsevolod, for your brotherly sign of affection and greetings. I so look forward to our close association together in this great land for the service of our Ukrainian people. ...

You have all opened your hearts and the goodness of who you are to me, your new metropolitan and archbishop. I am confident that you will receive the blessings of our Lord Jesus, for "whatever you did for the least of these brothers of Jesus, you did it for Jesus Himself."

... having been the recipient of so many blessings by God through so many of you, then truly I am no longer a stranger amidst you – but your new brother in Christ, your new chief shepherd to walk with you in the way of the Lord, and to rejoice with you. ...



Andrij Wowk

Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo reads the papal bull during the enthronement ceremony.



The newly enthroned metropolitan-archbishop with hierarchs, clergy and servers at the conclusion of the divine liturgy.



A nun pays homage to the new spiritual leader of Ukrainian Catholics in the U.S.

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## "Tapegate" engenders...

(Continued from page 6)

of the Slavic states, to include, of course, Belarus.

With the signing of a series of bilateral agreements in Dnipropetrovsk on February 13, Russia and Ukraine have drawn as close as they have been since the Soviet Union collapsed. Although to some extent the cooperation agreements were a result of the U.S. threat to build a space-based national defense system, many political pundits here believe Mr. Putin obtained Mr. Kuchma's signature on the agreements because the Ukrainian president, whose political situation was deteriorating rapidly at that time, had no recourse but to accept Mr. Putin's demands for closer military cooperation and a single electricity grid in return for a hearty show of support.

While the West has attempted to express confidence in Mr. Kuchma, as evidenced by the presence of European Union leaders in Kyiv a day after Mr. Putin left and more recently the remarks by President Bush, it seems that somebody in Ukraine keeps trying to make the president look bad. The state militia's actions after the message by Mr. Bush did nothing to help Ukraine's relations with the new U.S. president.

Several theorists who propagate the theory of Russia as marionette master in Tapegate and the Gongadze affair have attempted to identify the person pulling the strings for Moscow. One of them has gone so far as to name a high-ranking National Security and Defense Council official who once belonged to the KGB. Others say it could be a ranking member of the Verkhovna Rada leadership. In Ukraine's insidious and turbulent political climate finger-pointing is easy and abundant. At the moment, however, the claims are based on no more than circumstantial evidence and are far from provable.

Those who support the conspiracy theory believe that the next stage in this stranger-than-fiction drama will soon ensue. They say that within a few weeks Prime Minister Viktor Yuschenko will be forced to resign. Mr. Yuschenko is currently in a political struggle with certain faction leaders within the Verkhovna Rada, led by First Vice-Chairman Viktor Medvedchuk, to dismiss his cabinet and appoint a new one to be based on representatives of a new parliamentary majority that is arising among the lawmakers.

The parliamentary majority that some political experts see developing in the Parliament will consist of the Communist faction in coalition with the three centrist factions controlled by the business oligarchs, namely the Labor Ukraine, the Regional Rebirth and the Social Democratic (United) factions.

Pundits are predicting that Prime Minister Yuschenko, who thus far has refused to consider the proposal and the usurpation of his authority by parliamentary leaders, could receive a vote of no confidence when he appears before the Verkhovna Rada in early April to give his annual report. If he goes, could it be that the next phase in this implausible scenario of intrigue will have been fulfilled?

**TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 474**

Please be advised that Branch 474 has merged with Branch 473 as of March 1, 2001.

All inquiries and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Serguei Djoula, Branch 473.

Mr. Serguei Djoula  
 4740 Lacombe  
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## CONCERT NOTES: Soroka and Greene in Florida

NORTH PORT, Fla. – Ukrainian violinist Solomia Soroka, who made her American recital debut in 1997, and critically acclaimed pianist Arthur Greene, will appear in a series of concerts in southwest Florida.

On March 16 and 17, Ms. Soroka will appear as guest soloist with the Venice Symphony Orchestra, Wesley John Schumacher, conducting, in a program of works by Sir William Walton, Grieg, Skoryk, Tchaikovsky and Vieuxtemps. The concerts will be held at the Church of the Nazarene in Venice, Fla.

On March 18, Ms. Soroka and Mr. Greene will give a concert for the community of the North Port area at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church Parish Hall, as part of a concert series initiated last year by the cultural committee at the parish. Featured in the program will be works by Beethoven, Chopin, Franck, Lysenko, Skoryk and Sonevytsky.

Ms. Soroka, born in Lviv in 1971, is among the most internationally accomplished Ukrainian musicians of her generation. She graduated from the Kyiv State Conservatory in 1995, earning a master's degree summa cum laude, and served on its faculty in the department of violin and chamber music.

Ms. Soroka made her Australian debut in 1994, giving recitals throughout that country and appeared as a soloist with the Australian Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra. She also gave the Australian premieres of a number of contemporary Ukrainian compositions for violin, including works by Liatoshynsky, Skoryk and Stankovych.

Ms. Soroka has appeared as soloist and as chamber musician at concerts and festivals in Australia, New Zealand, Germany, France, Italy, Russia, Ukraine and the United States.

Since her American recital debut in Boulder, Colo., she has performed in cities throughout the United States. Her recitals in Washington were programmed as a part of the Smithsonian Institute performing arts series and were reviewed for The Washington Post by Joseph McLellan, who referred to Ms. Soroka as "a superbly equipped violinist, at ease with the technical challenges of Sarasate or of Jenő Hubay's Czardas No. 2, but even more impressive in the gentler moments ..." (February 26, 2000).

At present Ms. Soroka is pursuing her doctoral studies at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., where she teaches secondary violin as a teaching assistant to Prof. Charles Castleman.

Pianist Arthur Greene has received critical acclaim as "a profound musician" (The Washington Post), "a masterful pianist" (The New York Times) and, a "stellar Scriabinist" (American Record Guide), to cite a few. His powerful mastery and interpretive sensibility have earned him Gold Medals in the Gina Bachauer and William Kapell International Piano Competitions, and he was the top laureate at the Busoni International Competition.

Mr. Greene has appeared as soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra, National Symphony, RAI Orchestra of Turin, the San Francisco Symphony, the Czech National Symphony, the National Symphony of Ukraine and the Tokyo Symphony, and in recitals at Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Tokyo Bunka Kaikan, Lisbon Sao Paulo Opera House, Hong Kong City Hall and in concert houses in Shanghai and Beijing. He has performed the complete solo piano works of Brahms in a series of six programs at the Gardiner Museum in Boston, and has recorded the Complete Etudes of Scriabin for Supraphon.

Mr. Greene is chair of the piano department of the University of Michigan School of Music in Ann Arbor, with degrees from Yale, the Juilliard School, and the State



Solomia Soroka



Arthur Greene

University of New York at Stony Brook.

The Venice Symphony concerts, with performances on Friday, March 16, at 8 p.m., and on Saturday, March 17, at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., will be held at the Church of the Nazarene, 1535 E. Venice Ave., Venice, Fla. Tickets: \$14, \$16 and \$18; reserved seating. For tickets and information call the symphony office, (941) 488-1010.

The Sunday, March 18, concert, featuring Ms. Soroka and Mr. Greene, will be held at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church Parish Hall, 1078 N. Biscayne Drive, at 6 p.m. Tickets, \$10. For information call Atanas Kobryn, (941) 423-9499.

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### TO UNA CONVENTION DELEGATES REGARDING THE BY-LAWS BALLOT

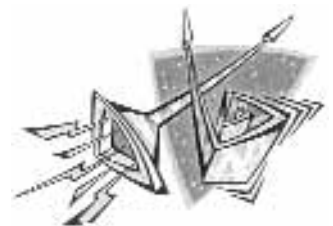
The Ukrainian National Association's Home Office is currently mailing a voting package to all delegates to the last UNA Convention, held in May 1998 in Toronto, and to current members of the UNA General Assembly.

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.

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## "Gift of Life" for Children of Ukraine Committee Chicago Area

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Ukrainian-American community and its friends, for the enthusiastic support of our work, begun in January, 2000 as a complement to Chicago's ROTARY/One "Gift of Life" project. The "Gift of Life" program, a worldwide Rotary International Service Program, helps critically ill children from around the world by providing life-saving corrective heart surgery. Our Committee's mission is to:

1. Establish and maintain a Ukrainian community support group for the children from Ukraine scheduled for surgery and their parents.
2. Develop sources of funding in support of additional heart-related surgeries and other medical opportunities to benefit children of Ukraine.

Our fundraiser, held in April 2000 and a subsequent letter campaign, have raised a total of \$40,165. We have assisted ROTARY/One with successfully completing surgeries for THREE children. ROTARY/One has also expanded the number of participating hospitals during this time from one to three, increasing the number of possibilities for additional surgeries.

The Committee gratefully acknowledges the time and efforts of ALL our volunteers and the generous support of our contributors, whose donations received to date (12/31/00) are listed below:

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Zaverailo</p> <p><b>Contributions towards fund raiser costs:</b> <b>\$250</b> - I. &amp; O. Matwyszyn <b>\$240</b> - L. &amp; O. Krushelnycky <b>\$200</b> - O. &amp; V. Chryniwsky - O. &amp; L. Eliashevsky - M. &amp; D. Jarosewich - O. &amp; I. Karawan - J. &amp; M. Ozga - J. &amp; R. Poluchowicz <b>\$100</b> - N. Pawluk <b>Up to \$100</b> - I. Skubiak - L. Truchly</p>
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# Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

opposes the recently voiced proposal to create a "coalition government" and supports dialogue between the government and the opposition. Audiotapes published by former presidential bodyguard Mykola Melnychenko implicate Mr. Azarov in blackmailing collective farm managers over unpaid taxes to muster support for President Leonid Kuchma during the 1999 presidential elections. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Soros calls on Kuchma to step down

LONDON – In an article published in the March 2 issue of the Financial Times, international financier George Soros urged President Leonid Kuchma to step down pending an inquiry into his alleged role in the disappearance of journalist Heorhii Gongadze. "If Mr. Kuchma cares about Ukraine's survival as an independent democratic state, he must take responsibility for his actions and hand over his duties to the prime minister," Mr. Soros noted. Mr. Soros also urged the West to take a clear position by denouncing President Kuchma's behavior and discontinuing doing business with the Ukrainian president until an impartial investigation has been completed. Mr. Soros, who gave more than \$100 million in support to Ukraine through his Ukrainian Renaissance Foundation, said he was watching with dismay as Mr. Kuchma pressured independent media and used "questionable methods" during the last presidential campaign. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Yuschenko prefers dialogue to force

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yuschenko told journalists in London on March 1 that as long as the possibilities to reach a "sensible compromise" have not been exhausted, the use of force against opponents of the government is "premature and inadmissible," Interfax reported. Mr. Yuschenko was commenting on the dismantling of the tent camp on the Khreschatyk in downtown Kyiv earlier the same day. Meanwhile, Yuri Lutsenko, a leader of the Ukraine Without Kuchma protest, said the authorities will be given an "adequate response" to their tearing down of the tent camp. The authorities on March 2 released all 44 protesters who were detained during the dismantling of the camp. Some of them were fined by courts. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Armenian president visits Kyiv

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma and his Armenian counterpart, Robert Kocharian, agreed in Kyiv on March 1 to increase economic cooperation and develop trade transit routes between the two countries, the Associated Press reported. "It's very important for Ukraine to transport its goods through Armenia to Iran and vice versa," Mr. Kuchma said. The presidents signed a joint statement and several agreements, including one on economic cooperation for 2001-2010. (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)

### PM rejects ultimatum from Medvedchuk

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yuschenko on February 28 said "the government will never participate in a dialogue of ultimatums with any political force," the Eastern Economist Daily reported. Mr. Yuschenko was commenting on Verkhovna Rada Vice-Chairman Viktor Medvedchuk's statement that the Cabinet of Ministers may be dismissed unless a coalition government is created. The prime minister added that Mr. Medvedchuk's statement is "a prologue for destabilizing the situation in Ukraine" and "an attempt to change Ukraine's future," Interfax reported. "We are convinced that this is a purely clannish approach toward organizing Ukrainian politics," Mr. Yuschenko said on behalf of his Cabinet, which discussed the domestic political situation at a closed-door session. (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)

### 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)

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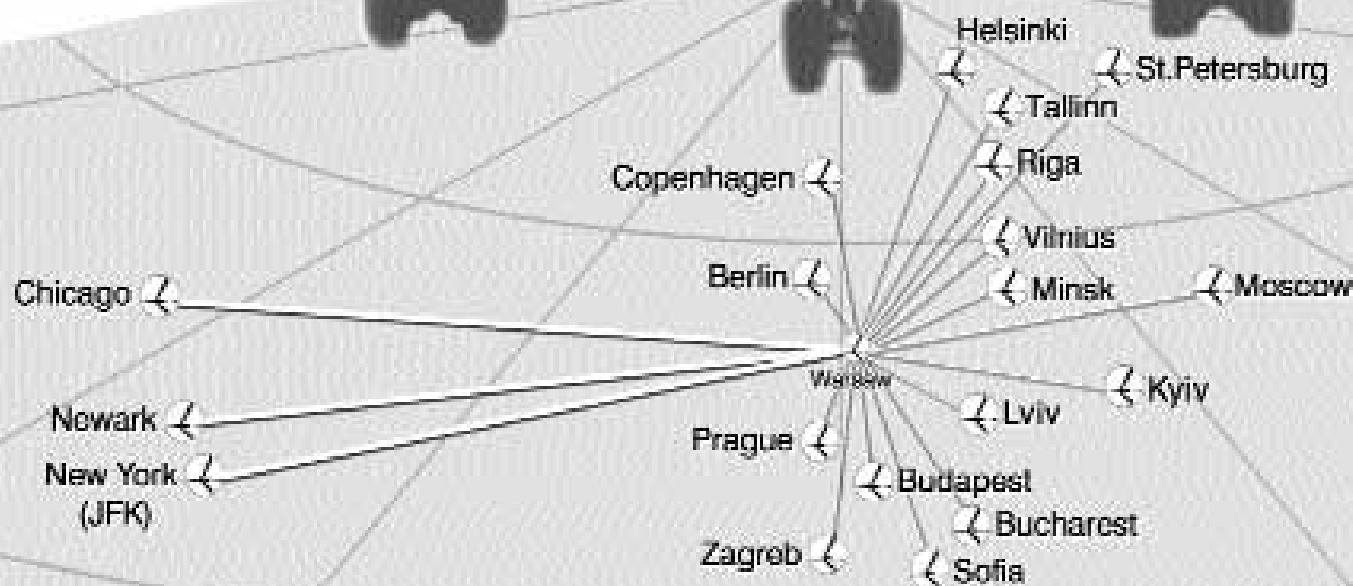
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## March news...

(Continued from page 5)

activities.

Once again, all branches are reminded to hold an annual branch meeting and elect branch officers. All lists of officers should be sent to the Home Office after the meeting.

We will advertise, free of charge, any branch meeting if the notice is sent in a timely fashion. As previously noted, the UNA will pay \$5 per adult member when they attend any planned branch activity. The Home Office must receive a listing of attending members with their signatures. If the member does not sign the list, no payment can be made.

We urge all branches to plan some fraternal activity during the year. A list of ideas for fraternal activities was published in our official publications and will be repeated again.

### Premium notices

Since the UNA went on direct billing, there have been many questions regarding premium notices. The UNA will send out only two notices.

The first premium notice will be sent three weeks prior to the premium due date,

which is posted on the premium notice. If payment is not received within 45 days after the premium due date (printed on the notice) a member will receive a lapse notice. This means that the policy went on extended insurance. If this is a term policy, there is no coverage as of that day. All policies can be reinstated to good standing if all back premiums are paid.

### New members

The 35th UNA Convention in May 2002 is fast approaching. It is time to organize new members for your branch and ensure your branch's representation at the 35th Convention.

This task should be made easier by the fact that our current insurance rates are the lowest ever. Plus, we are now advertising high interest rates on our annuity products.

Soyuzivka exists for the benefit of the UNA's members. Please plan to spend part of your vacation there, send your children to our camps or enjoy a family reunion.

### Convention minutes and by-laws

Minutes of the 34th Convention were sent to all delegates in January. New UNA By-Laws adopted at the 34th Convention were mailed in November 2000. Anyone wishing to receive a copy should contact the Home Office.

## Ostroh Academy...

(Continued from page 8)

in a Democratic Ukraine."

The following schedule for the Ostroh educational leadership visit has been finalized.

• Friday, March 23: Pokrova Church Hall, 6810 Broadview Road, Parma, Ohio, 7 p.m.; call Volodymyr Bazarko, (440) 237-2598.

• Saturday, March 24: Ukrainian Village Retirement Home, 26377 Ryan Road, Warren, Mich., 7 p.m.; call Bohdan Nehaniv, (248) 828-1994, or

Stephen Wichar, (810) 286-6490.

• Sunday, March 25: Ukrainian Cultural Center, Chicago Avenue and Oakley Blvd., Chicago, 1:30 p.m.; call Stefko Kuropas, (847) 923-7458, or Roman Golash, (847) 963-0102.

• Saturday, March 31: St. Constantine Church Hall, 314 Sixth Ave. NE, Minneapolis, 6:30 p.m.; call Anatoli Kushnir, (763) 788-0026, or Walter Anastas (651) 484-6990.

For more information about the National University of Ostroh Academy or the NIU/Ostroh project, contact: Dr. B. Kuropas at (815) 758-6897 or mbkuropas@compuserve.com.

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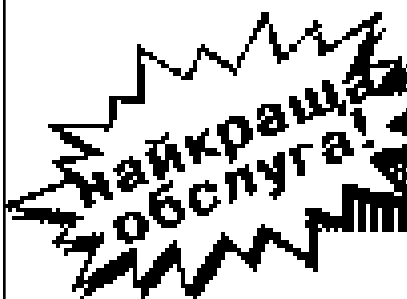


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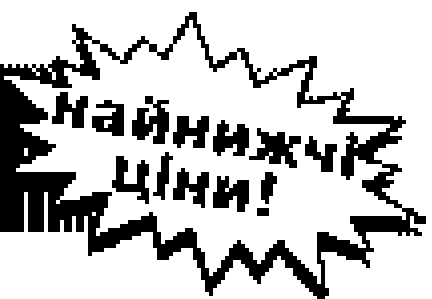
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## Yuschenko rejects...

(Continued from page 1)

dealings and opaque methods the business clans so embrace.

The clans want one of their own – in the person of Mr. Medvedchuk – to lead the government, according to Mykola Tomenko, a well-respected political analyst in Kyiv. Mr. Tomenko believes the move's timing, a year before the March 2002 elections to Parliament – is meant to give the oligarchs the governmental resources and influence to lay plans for a decisive victory in parliamentary elections and set them up for the presidential elections two years after that.

He said the three centrist parties are ready to call for Mr. Yuschenko's dismissal after a vote of no confidence when he appears before the Verkhovna Rada on April 10 to give his annual report on the state of the government. In order to obtain the majority that they currently lack to oust the Cabinet, the three parties are ready to cut a deal with the Communist Party, which has remained relatively quiet in the Tapegate scandal and recently even has cooperated with President Leonid Kuchma.

The Ukrainian president expressed support for Mr. Yuschenko during a meeting with Polish journalists on March 5 but said the prime minister needed to find the will to work more closely with the Parliament.

"I am not preparing to ask Viktor Yuschenko to resign," said President Kuchma. "He should, however, not simply work with the factions he likes, but also with those he doesn't get along with."

Labor Ukraine leader Serhii Tyhypko, who spent a very short time in the Yuschenko government as minister of

economy before resigning to run for a vacant seat in the Verkhovna Rada, first proposed the coalition government in mid-February and stated that, should the Yuschenko government refuse to consider it, perhaps a new one would be needed. Mr. Tyhypko's proposal fell into a political crack until Mr. Medvedchuk dragged it out of the shadows in a very direct manner during a Parliament weekly press briefing on February 27.

"Either the government goes along the path of cooperation with the parliamentary majority by forming a coalition government to carry joint responsibility, or in April the majority will create a new coalition government with a new prime minister, who will be responsible for cooperation between the branches of government," said Mr. Medvedchuk.

Lawmakers who in theory, support the idea of a coalition government have nonetheless criticized the way in which Mr. Medvedchuk and the three parties supporting him have pursued the matter. National Deputy Viktor Pynzenyk called the notion "a beautiful concept" during a press conference on March 2.

"Today, however, this is an effort simply to remove the prime minister and replace him with an oligarch," said Mr. Pynzenyk. "It is an attempt to build a new coalition of oligarchs and communists, who will then divide the ministerial portfolios among themselves."

Mr. Pynzenyk added that the proper time to begin a debate on a coalition government would be after the parliamentary elections, and only if the elections are held on the basis of proportional (by party) representation as was proposed in a legislative bill recently passed by the Parliament, but vetoed by the president in February.

## State Department's...

(Continued from page 3)

about attitudes towards opponents, some talk about undermining elections. We have no basis for speculating as to which ones of those might be true and which ones might not be.

As you know, the government in Ukraine has pledged an investigation. I think we have pledged to help with that investigation in some ways. But in the end, what we want to see is an investigation and respect for constitutional process. And our ability to help this government, to help with the process of reforms, depends on their honoring their commitments to respect the Constitution and democracy and the rule of law.

Any consideration of assistance,

which is what, the third largest? They are our third biggest recipient of U.S. aid. Anybody thinking of maybe using aid as leverage to get a little more democracy in Kyiv?

Mr. Boucher: There is no change in our aid program at this point, but I think the message that we delivered makes quite clear that our ability to help them in the future depends on their ability, on their willingness, to abide by the Constitution, abide by the commitments to the rule of law.

Are you concerned that this crack-down of the protesters, and some of the press incidents, that perhaps President Kuchma doesn't have the moral authority to govern?

Mr. Boucher: I wouldn't make a statement like that.

## Snow day for Mykola Myshka

Dear Readers:  
Due to the Nor'easter that hit the area, Mykola Myshka had two snow days this past week. As a result, UKELODEON will appear in next week's issue.



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36 E 8th Street (betw. Broadway & University Place)

Jenkintown, PA – March 12th, 13th & 14th at 7:00PM  
Ukrainian Educational & Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road

Hollywood, FL – March 15th at 6:30PM  
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

Warren, MI – March 24th at 5:00PM & 8:00PM  
Ukrainian Cultural Center, 26601 Ryan Road

Chicago, IL – March 31st at 6:00PM & 8:30PM  
UAYA Center, 2457 W. Chicago Avenue

Film tour is sponsored by:



## FAA AIRSPACE REDESIGN WORKSHOP

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Eastern Region, is advising the public that the FAA will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia Metropolitan Airspace Redesign Project. The EIS will assess the potential environmental impacts resulting from proposed modifications to air traffic routing in the state of New Jersey and parts of New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

The FAA will examine ways to develop viable air traffic control (ATC) alternatives to current operations. All reasonable alternatives will be considered including a no-change alternative/option.

Over the coming weeks, the FAA will host a series of community scoping workshops in the Eastern Region from 7 to 9 p.m. The purpose of those workshops is to invite public comments with respect to the airspace redesign project. Comments will be taken throughout the duration of the meeting.

The following website and toll free number have been established to provide project information:

<http://www.faa.gov/programs/airspace.htm>  
1-866-EISLine (1-866-347-5463)

Written scoping comments may be sent through June 29, 2001, to:

Airspace Redesign Project, c/o Ms. Jackie Brown, PRC Inc.,  
Mail Stop 6S3, 1500 PRC Drive, McLean, VA 22102  
or e-mail: [brown\\_jacqueline@prc.com](mailto:brown_jacqueline@prc.com)

Scoping workshops will begin at 7 p.m. with a presentation, followed by a review of exhibit displays and a question & answer period, which will end by 9 p.m.

Workshops will be held at the following locations in your local area. For directions and weather-related cancellations, please call the numbers listed below or visit the website address above.

March 20, Holiday Inn, Springfield, NJ (973-376-9400)  
March 21, Immaculate High School, Somerville, NJ (908-722-0200)  
March 26, Holiday Inn, Parsippany, NJ (973-632-2000)  
March 27, New Jersey City University, Student Union Bldg, Jersey City, NJ (201-200-3585)  
March 28, Knights of Columbus, 100 Kreisler St., Totenville, Staten Island (718-948-9882)



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