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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Pro-presidential deputies announce majority in Rada

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Leading members of the pro-presidential parliamentary factions announced on September 26 that they had succeeded in gathering assent from a sufficient number of lawmakers to form a majority.

The parliamentary coalition would include the nine factions that once constituted the For a United Ukraine political bloc along with the Social Democratic faction plus a small number of independent lawmakers. Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine faction, along with the Tymoshenko, Communist and Socialist factions remain outside the majority.

While the press initially announced that a parliamentary majority was in place, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn admitted during a routine weekly briefing on September 30 that it was merely an unofficial agreement among lawmakers. The coalition still needed to be officially registered

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## Newly elected UNA executives hold first meeting

by Christine E. Kozak  
UNA National Secretary

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The newly elected Executive Committee of the Ukrainian National Association met on Monday, September 9, at the UNA Home Office, for their first quarterly meeting. In attendance were members of the Executive Committee: Stefan Kaczaraj, president; Martha Lysko, first vice-president; Eugene Iwanciw, second vice-president; Al Kachkowski, director for Canada; Christine Kozak, national secretary; and Roma Lisovich, treasurer. Also present was Zenon Holubec, chairman of the auditing committee. President Kaczaraj chaired the meeting.

Opening the meeting, Mr. Kaczaraj welcomed the new Executive Committee members, wishing them all the best in the next four years. In keeping with the theme of the UNA's 2002 convention in Chicago, Mr. Kaczaraj spoke of the necessity for teamwork.

Ms. Lisovich, treasurer, presented a detailed comparison of UNA income and expenses between the first six months of 2002 and the first six months of 2001.

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## Ukraine to allow U.S. experts to inspect Kolchuha facilities

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukrainian authorities will allow technical experts from the United States and Great Britain to inspect several sites in Ukraine connected to the development and production of the Kolchuha air defense system.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Elizabeth Jones and Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma agreed on such a course of action while Ms. Jones was in Kyiv October 1-2, during which the focus of discussions was the Kolchuha that Washington has alleged Ukraine might have sold to Iraq.

The U.S. is concerned that such a system, whose sale is banned by United Nations sanctions against Baghdad, could be used to shoot down British and U.S. military aircraft, which patrol a no fly zone over Iraq.

The team of experts should arrive on October 13 and will have access to all relevant documents. They will see operating Kolchuha air defense installations stationed in Ukraine and will visit the Topaz Plant where the military hardware is produced.

The latest Ukrainian controversy erupted on September 25 when the U.S. State Department said it had suspended aid to the Ukrainian central government after verifying that a portion of the recordings made by former Ukrainian

presidential security officer Mykola Melnychenko in the office of President Kuchma is authentic. U.S. State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher said at the time that the U.S. also had "some indications" that the system was already in Iraq.

In the Melnychenko recordings Mr. Kuchma is said to give the go-ahead for the sale of a Kolchuha system for Iraq to the head of his military export committee, Valerii Malev. The sale was to take place through a Jordanian intermediary.

Maj. Melnychenko has been at the heart of allegations of presidential improprieties and criminal behavior ever since he went public with recordings he says he made in the inner chamber of the presidential offices.

President Kuchma has categorically stated from the outset that Ukraine did not sell a Kolchuha system to Iraq, and he has pledged to cooperate with U.S. officials to prove that is the case.

While more Ukrainian government officials have accepted that the voices on the recordings, which were authenticated by U.S. experts, are really those of President Kuchma and his state export control official, the official Ukrainian government line remains that no such air defense systems were ever sold to Iraq.

Procurator General Sviatoslav Piskun told reporters on October 2 that he has no basis upon which to begin an investigation of possible criminal complicity by

anybody.

"The only thing that concerns me is that the sale of Kolchuhas to Iraq did not occur," explained Mr. Piskun. "Maybe there are moments of ethical impropriety, but I am only concerned with the legal moments."

However, National Deputy Viktor Yushchenko, head of the Our Ukraine political bloc and a central player in the growing opposition movement trying to oust President Kuchma, told The Weekly on October 2 that the moral and ethical aspects of a conversation to allow the sale of a system that could lead to the deaths of U.S. pilots had to be considered.

"Simply the fact that this was even considered carries much responsibility. This, after all, could have affected relations between partners. There was a strategic relationship," said Mr. Yushchenko.

The United States has been vague about what specific "indications" it has received that a Ukrainian Kolchuha may be in Iraq and has been unwilling to provide more information. During a press conference on September 29 U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual said he could not elaborate on what indications exist that the Kolchuha is on the ground in Iraq.

However, Mr. Pascual provided hope

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## Ukrainian American Bar Association celebrates 25th anniversary

by Tamara Stadnychenko-Cornelison  
Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

PHILADELPHIA – Twenty-five years ago, on September 23-24, 1977, a group of Ukrainian American attorneys gathered in Cleveland to discuss an idealistic agenda. Their vision was to organize a national association of American attorneys of Ukrainian descent, an association that could provide a collegial framework in which individual attorneys could use their respective legal training and expertise to promote and defend the interests of the Ukrainian American community and bring to the attention of the international community the manifold human rights violations occurring in Soviet Ukraine.

Twenty-five years later, that association is a well-established fixture in the Ukrainian American community, one that has retained at its core the two principles that led to its creation. Today the Ukrainian American Bar Association is recognized as a professional body with a significant voice in both domestic and international legal issues.

On September 27-29, UABA members gathered at the Sheraton Rittenhouse Square Hotel in Philadelphia to participate in a professional conference, to celebrate



Tony Rubel

UABA President Andre Michniak (left) presents the Rule of Law Award to Rep. Bob Schaffer.

their 25th anniversary and to honor a select group of individuals for their special achievements.

The event, which opened with a reception hosted on Friday evening by current UABA President Andre Michniak, was well attended. Professional seminars, each related to the theme of recent develop-

ments in American and Ukrainian law, began with a Saturday morning presentation by Nancy E. Medwid, a member of the UABA Board of Governors. Ms. Medwid spoke on recent developments in employment law in the United States. A session on how attorneys might use the

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## ANALYSIS

## U.S. authenticates Kuchma tape of intent to sell Kolchuha to Iraq

by Roman Kupchinsky

RFE/RL Crime and Corruption Watch

U.S. administration officials have authenticated a tape made by Maj. Mykola Melnychenko of President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine telling the head of a Ukrainian state arms sales company to proceed with the sale of advanced radar technology to Iraq.

The United States is withholding millions of dollars in grant aid as it probes further into the issue of whether Ukraine violated U.N. sanctions on Iraq as a result.

The taped conversation, which reportedly took place on July 10, 2000, has consistently been denied by the Ukrainian president despite numerous demands on the part of the West for an explanation of what was said.

The tape, including the passage on the sale of the Kolchuha radar system via the UkrSpetsExport company, was authenticated earlier this year by BEK TEK, a Virginia-based group that provides authentication services to the FBI, the U.S. Supreme Court and other organizations.

A high-level U.S. administration official was quoted by Reuters on September 23 as saying the Justice Department has authenticated the tape as well. The U.S. official told Reuters, "We have not physically observed the Kolchuha [radar system] in Iraq, although we have some information which I cannot get into that suggests it may be there."

Roman Kupchinsky is the editor of RFE/RL Crime and Corruption Watch.

Experts say it would be difficult to be certain that Iraq had the Kolchuha for a number of reasons: it does not emit signals of its own; it is mobile; and it is easy to hide, involving an antenna attached to an ordinary-looking truck.

The official went on to say: "We have informed the Ukrainian government and NATO allies that we have reached this assessment, that there has been a pause in certain types of assistance and that a policy review is under way."

Patricia Guy, the press attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, told RFE/RL that extensive examination of the recordings has convinced the American government that they are authentic. "What is new is that we've recently concluded an analysis of a July 2000 recording that was provided by former Ukrainian presidential bodyguard Mykola Melnychenko. And on one of the tapes, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma is heard approving the clandestine sale of Kolchuha early warning systems to Iraq, and we believe this recording is authentic," she said.

Ms. Guy said the United States is withholding some of the money that it gives annually to Ukraine under the Freedom Support Act, which is meant to help solidify democracy in countries. "The recording's authentication has led us to re-examine our policy toward Ukraine, and in particular toward President Kuchma. As a result we've initiated a temporary pause in new obligations of Freedom Support Act assistance that goes to the central government of

(Continued on page 16)

## 'Kuchmagate' saga continues

by Taras Kuzio

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

Last week's decision by Washington to block nearly \$55 million in previously approved aid to Kyiv over suspicions that Ukraine may have illegally sold Iraq Kolchuha radar systems capable of helping bring down U.S. aircraft has once again placed the so-called "Kuchmagate" scandal in the international spotlight.

The U.S. Department of Justice authenticated a section of Mykola Melnychenko's tape recordings in which President Leonid Kuchma appears to have authorized the sale of four Kolchuha radar systems to Iraq. Since allegations of the illegal sale have become a very serious problem in current U.S.-Ukrainian relations, it appears advisable to recapitulate the main stages of the prolonged Kuchmagate case to readers of "RFE/RL's Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report."

In November 2000, Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz first unveiled to the Verkhovna Rada a portion of tapes made in President Kuchma's office by one of his security guards, Mr. Melnychenko. This portion of the tapes revealed a conversation between Mr. Kuchma; Volodymyr Lytvyn, then head of the presidential administration (and currently Parliament chairman), and Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Kravchenko about opposition journalist Heorhii Gongadze, the editor-in-chief of the Internet publication Ukrainska Pravda.

Dr. Taras Kuzio is a resident fellow at the Center for Russian and East European Studies and adjunct staffer at the department of political science, University of Toronto.

The first reaction of the authorities was to deny the authenticity of the tapes themselves and even the existence of Maj. Melnychenko, who had by then fled Ukraine for Prague. The authorities also consistently denied it was possible to bug the president's office and ridiculed the suggestion that a digital tape recorder was placed under his couch.

It was not until a video interview of Mr. Melnychenko was broadcast in Parliament that it was confirmed that he was a member of the Security Service unit responsible for protecting high-ranking officials, such as Mr. Kuchma. The illegal search by customs officers of the opposition deputies who brought back the videotape also was suspicious. What did the authorities have to hide if the tapes were not authentic?

Slowly, the official view changed from total denial of the authenticity of the tapes. One reason was that opposition deputies began to acknowledge their voices on the tapes. Eventually, Mr. Kuchma himself accepted that his voice was to be found on the tapes but claimed that Mr. Melnychenko had spliced different portions of the tapes to incriminate him. This had remained the official version concerning the tapes until recently.

Calls by opposition deputies to interview Mr. Melnychenko and to use the tapes as part of an investigation into the criminal deeds discussed on them were always refused by former Procurator General Mykhailo Potebenko. This in itself was suspicious. Mr. Melnychenko offered to take a lie-detector test to prove the tapes were genuine. Instead of dealing with the tapes and the issues they raised, the authorities swept the whole issue under the rug,

(Continued on page 23)

## NEWSBRIEFS

### U.S. official in Kyiv on Kolchuha issue

KYIV – U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Elizabeth Jones arrived in Ukraine on October 1 to discuss what she said would be "U.S.-Ukrainian relations in the context of the ongoing U.S. policy review toward Ukraine," which was launched on the basis of a tape recording suggesting that President Leonid Kuchma approved the sale of Kolchuha radar systems to Iraq in contravention of a United Nations embargo, the Associate Press reported. Ms. Jones was expected to meet with President Kuchma and Foreign Affairs Minister Anatolii Zlenko later in the day. (RFE/RL Newswire)

### Ukraine pledges assistance to probe

KYIV – Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma told U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Elizabeth Jones in Kyiv on October 1 that he will cooperate with any probe into allegations that Ukraine might have sold a Kolchuha radar system to Iraq, Reuters reported. Presidential spokeswoman Olena Hromnytska quoted Mr. Kuchma as saying he is ready to investigate the Kolchuha charges together with U.S. experts. President Kuchma denied that Ukraine sold any weapons to Iraq in contravention of United Nations sanctions. U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said later the same day that Ms. Jones in Kyiv "pressed the seriousness" with which Washington views evidence that Mr. Kuchma approved the sale of Kolchuhas to Iraq. "We will now look at the reports that we get and make our assessment on the next steps," Mr. Boucher added. ITAR-TASS reported that Ukrainian

Defense Minister Volodymyr Shkidchenko promised Ms. Jones that Ukraine will show Kolchuha radars to U.S. experts as soon as they arrive in Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newswire)

### Opposition plans October 12 protest ...

KYIV – Three opposition leaders – Yulia Tymoshenko, Oleksander Moroz, and Petro Symonenko – announced on October 1 that they will organize another nationwide protest on October 12 to demand President Leonid Kuchma's ouster and will stage "people's tribunals" across the country to judge him, the Associated Press reported. "The protest action 'Arise, Ukraine!' has not yet reached its climax, as was claimed by some pro-presidential political scientists and some media," UNIAN quoted Mr. Moroz as saying. (RFE/RL Newswire)

### ... seeks talks with Russian president

KYIV – Yulia Tymoshenko, Oleksander Moroz and Petro Symonenko, as well as Our Ukraine head Viktor Yushchenko, have sent a letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin asking him to meet with them during his visit to Ukraine on October 6, UNIAN reported on October 1. "We asked Putin not to interfere in the domestic affairs of our people, [and] we just informed him about our situation," Mr. Symonenko said. The opposition leaders said they want to talk with President Putin about a planned Russian-Ukrainian agreement creating a consortium for the transport of Russian natural gas through Ukraine to the rest of Europe. They said they fear that private

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## RFE/RL ends Czech broadcasts

RFE/RL Newswire

PRAGUE – In a statement released on September 30, RFE/RL President Thomas Dine said that after 51 years of "devotion in promoting freedom and democracy," the end of broadcasting by the organization's Czech Service, Radio Svobodna Evropa (RSE), is a "sad event."

He added that, "looking back, RFE/RL takes great pride and pleasure in the enormous effort of this service in disseminating truthful news and information to the Czech and Slovak peoples" and to the "great impact" produced by the broadcasts "over the course of half a century."

Mr. Dine said that RSE provided "accurate news and information" during the dramatic days of the Cold War and the Prague Spring, and provided on-the-

spot reporting of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of communism. He said the "eloquent pleas" of "the newly democratic nations of Central Europe" and "in particular Czech President Vaclav Havel" persuaded U.S. authorities not to end RFE/RL broadcasts, adding that Prague became "the new home" of RFE/RL in "a symbolically important situation that remains relevant today."

He said the end of the Czech broadcasts came due to budgetary constraints and that, while there is still a need for the broadcasts in the Czech Republic, "we are now needed more urgently elsewhere." He ended by quoting a Mlada fronta Dnes reader, who wrote on September 27 that "RSE has every right to [pass into history] with its head high because it fulfilled its mission flawlessly."

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# INTERVIEW: Viktor Yushchenko on the crisis in Ukraine

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Viktor Yushchenko is the leader of the Our Ukraine political bloc and the eponymous parliamentary faction in Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada. The bloc took the largest number of seats, with nearly 25 percent electoral support in the March 31 elections. However, Our Ukraine subsequently was excluded from the parliamentary leadership in a political power play in which pro-presidential forces allegedly used strong-arm tactics and blackmail to convince a large number of non-aligned lawmakers to join their side.

Denied the leadership position Mr. Yushchenko thought was due his bloc, he made a series of demands upon President Leonid Kuchma, whose presidential team he accused of masterminding the ploy, and announced that he would call a democratic forum in which like-minded forces would develop an action plan for the true democratization of society. Mr. Yushchenko has maintained that Ukraine is in the most significant political crisis since it became independent in 1991.

Prior to the forum, Mr. Yushchenko also announced that his political group would support and participate in nationwide anti-Kuchma demonstrations that had been scheduled for September, which it consequently did. However, until recently Mr. Yushchenko continued to maintain a dialogue with Mr. Kuchma and the government in the hope that he could help develop a democratic parliamentary majority to eventually form a government. Those talks recently broke off.

Mr. Yushchenko has been particularly critical of President Kuchma's new chief of staff, Viktor Medvedchuk, the former head of the Social Democratic Party-United, who has his own presidential aspirations and whom many consider a ruthless and effective political player. Many believe it was Mr. Medvedchuk who organized the ouster of the Yushchenko government in 2001.

The following is an edited interview with Mr. Yushchenko conducted on October 2 in the Our Ukraine offices.

**With the breakdown of negotiations with pro-presidential forces over a parliamentary majority, can you now say that you have fully gone over to the opposition, or are you continuing to maintain a dialogue with the authorities and with the president?**

As you know, political power here is divided into two categories, those that are in power and those that are against the authorities, or the opposition.

Has Ukraine gone into opposition? It has, absolutely, and has expressed such a stance for the last six months, since [parliamentary elections]. The current attitude is that democratic processes must take hold in Ukraine.

So then what is currently getting in the way? Today the attitude of those in power stands in the way. In my opinion the authorities do not adequately understand that only through a dialogue can a way be found to democratically escape this Ukrainian crisis, the deepest in the last 11 years.

Currently these problems are not being discussed. All types of conflicts end with peace negotiations, even wars. We believe in a process of negotiations,

it is the shortest and most rational way out of the Ukrainian crisis.

Another question, can and do the authorities currently accept negotiations as alternative, adequately, sincerely and fully? Absolutely not. This is why radical steps are required. As we demonstrate our willingness to submit to a dialogue, we also understand that the radical steps we are undertaking is another way to develop motivation for [dialogue].

So the two are found in a single context, they are not mutually exclusive.

**There are those who believe – and I have heard this on the streets myself, although I haven't seen it in political surveys – that your attempts to both maintain a dialogue with those in power as well as keep ties to the opposition movement without taking a strong stance either way will lead to an image of you as an indecisive fence-sitter. Does it concern you at all that such an image could lead to loss of support among the populace, which you currently enjoy?**

No it doesn't trouble me. It doesn't trouble me for one reason: we cannot concern ourselves with surveys or emotions at the moment; we need to be smart.

We need to put our hands to our hearts and answer the question: What needs to be done so that Ukraine does not tumble towards dictatorship, but turns to democracy? If you have the answer, then go down that road and do not let the behavior of some political activist or political power sway you.

I understand that for some of the powers that be coloring the world in black and white is their expertise, more so because most of them, do not see any other shades. This is a very simplistic approach to politics, to give a person a simple choice of either this or that, because it rarely occurs that way in real life. When we talk of the current political situation in even the most optimistic tones – let's say to turn Ukraine into a true democracy in a matter of weeks – I would express real concern about whether such a possibility exists.

I do not know how much more I can say on the record. However, I can tell you that if the consensus is that there is no hope for democratic negotiations in Ukraine, then I have little hope that there is a way for Ukraine to become democratic.

While not wanting to hold a single

individual responsible, please understand that a system has been developed in Ukraine down to the village level, a system of intimidation. If this system is given merely five to eight months between [parliamentary elections and upcoming presidential] elections for unfettered development, there will be no possibility for democratic elections in the country.

I really do not know how else to make this clearer, while staying on the record. I can only say do not be afraid of complicated but honest answers. We must be open and sincere.

I know why the people are ready to go to the streets. The Parliament must provide answers. The authorities need to start being more forthcoming, but they remain deaf, dumb and blind. They do not hear the questions.

**So what do you propose then?**

I propose two ways that change can occur. There are sufficient democratic forces in the Ukrainian Parliament to form a democratic majority. But the Ukrainian Parliament has effectively always been a branch of the presidential administration. This is why there never has been a democratic majority. This is why there never was real democratic change and an independent Parliament.

To correct this situation and to attempt to form a democratic majority without those currently in power, we have said let's propose to some political powers through a democratic forum to move towards a democratic majority. We should form the manner of entry and exit, the various guarantees within the majority, the rights and the responsibilities – in short, develop the coalition model.

This process was open and we pro-

(Continued on page 4)

## USAID to provide farm loan guarantees

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced on September 29 that it would provide loan guarantees on certain loans to Ukrainian farmers and agricultural suppliers.

The program, to be carried out in cooperation with the Nadra Bank, will provide U.S. guarantees against default by farmers for 50 percent of the worth of each loan. Nadra Bank, a Ukrainian commercial financial institution, is ready to provide the equivalent of \$6 million in credits to allow Ukrainian farmers to develop various segments of their business.

"This is a pilot project, a starting point to show whether this is possible," explained U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual at the signing ceremony establishing the cooperative effort.

Mr. Pascual said that changes in the Ukrainian economy made the agreement possible: first the realization by farmers that they do not need to farm simply for subsistence, but could transform their work into a valid entrepreneurial activity; and second, the realization by Ukraine's banking system that it cannot continue to survive by bidding for the services of a limited number of large borrowers and that the small entrepreneur can be a valid source of business.

Ukrainian farmers – freed by extensive agricultural reform in the last two years to begin the rebirth of this once mighty Ukrainian economic sector – have remained constrained by a lack of readily available credit. Although some Ukrainian banks are willing to provide loans, they do it at usurious rates. Another problem is that the lack of a land

market has not allowed the farmer to use his mightiest resource – the land he farms – as collateral.

The Nadra Bank-USAID cooperative effort, named the Development Credit Authority, will allow the Ukrainian agricultural sector to obtain about 720 low-interest loans in the next year. Farmers, as well as suppliers of agricultural machinery, feed, fertilizers, herbicides and seed, are eligible. Nadra Bank will have exclusive control over the credit committee that decides who receives the loans. It will set percentage rates, collateral requirements and terms of repayment.

"We understand that the guarantees are not a gift, and we will organize our loan-giving in a manner so that the most viable projects and the most honest entrepreneurs are chosen," explained Nadra Bank President Ihor Gilenko.

Nadra Bank was chosen over two other banks that failed to complete the required process, explained USAID Regional Director Christopher Crowley. He said that he hopes the project will allow farmers access to capital to raise the amount and quality of their yields. He also explained that the U.S. government does not consider the program high-risk.

"For all of our small farm loan programs throughout the world, the repayment rate is something like 97 to 99 percent," explained Mr. Crowley.

Nadra Bank has recorded assets of 1.2 billion hrv (about \$240 million) with a credit and investment portfolio of 938 million hrv (about \$190 million).

Since 1992 USAID has provided over \$1.6 million worth of technical and humanitarian assistance in support of Ukraine's democratic, economic and social transition.

## Quotable notes

Confrontation is growing. We are heading for a deep and long-drawn-out political crisis, one that we have not seen in the 11 years of Ukraine's independence.

– Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko commenting on September 24 on the anti-Kuchma movement, as reported by RFE/RL Newline.

## Ukraine to allow...

(Continued from page 1)

that the financial squeeze that Kyiv might now feel should not last long. The U.S. envoy emphasized that the suspension of aid to the central government of Ukraine was a "pause," and not a sanction as such, and that it would remain only until a policy review that Washington had launched regarding its relationship with Ukraine was completed – unless, of course, more evidence of illegal weapons sales is found. He explained that all kinds of other assistance programs for Ukraine, including promotion of a free press, student exchanges, rule of law development, remain funded.

Ambassador Pascual also indicated that there is concern on the part of Washington that if any documentation had existed in Ukraine on the production and sale of the air defense system to Iraq, it may already have been destroyed.

"This issue, appropriately, has received a great deal of attention, but this creates an environment in which individuals could have been manipulated and information destroyed," explained Mr. Pascual.

The Kolchuha controversy has caused reverberations also in the capital of Ukraine's closest Central European ally. While European Union officials said that at present they will not change their policy toward Ukraine, Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski told a meeting of NATO defense ministers being held in Warsaw at the time the announcement came from Washington, that he was "deeply concerned" about the allegations and might have to review his relations with Kyiv.

Poland's Prime Minister Leszek Miller announced several days later that he was considering not attending a Polish-Ukrainian economic forum scheduled for October 3 in Lviv. However, after conferring with President Kwasniewski, he arrived in Lviv for the opening session.



## Viktor Yushchenko...

(Continued from page 3)

posed to the democratic forces how to consolidate their efforts around this document, that is, to those political forces that have been our partners, who have a philosophy closer to our own.

As for those who are further from our path, let them retain their old attitudes. The goal, however, is to enter into a new democratic orientation.

That's one alternative. The second option – if this process is not occurring and if the questions being asked by political powers are not being heard by the authorities – then it becomes a matter for the streets to pose the questions. This would take longer and cost us more; nonetheless it too would end with the formation of a parliamentary majority. It could be imperiling democratic processes, but it, too, is an alternative.

Today as we attempt to initiate democracy we have strong doubts that the authorities will accept the single mechanism we propose to get beyond the crisis. That is why we keep gunpowder in one hand while continuing efforts at dialogue.

**What would need to happen for Our Ukraine to stop being in opposition and to declare that it has achieved its goals?**

The formation of a democratic majority in the Parliament and the formation of a government of national trust would do it. The final phase would occur with the signing of a political accord between a democratic parliamentary majority, a new government and the president on political, economic and social reform in Ukraine.

**What is your stance on an effort to impeach the president?**

When we speak about the impeachment of the president, we all know that I regularly vote for the removal of the

president. It is easy for me to answer this question.

The position of our political faction is that in Ukraine the procedure for removal of the president has yet to be developed legislatively. It would be politically honest to propose in the Parliament a procedure for the removal of the president, whether it be within the current law on the president or through separate impeachment legislation. This type of procedure would be fair, open and honest.

**Turning to the matter of the Kolchuha air defense systems that Ukraine allegedly sold Iraq, could these allegations simply be a scenario, an exclusively political situation that has been developed by the U.S. to further destabilize President Kuchma and the government?**

I cannot exclude this because there are foreign powers that would like to take advantage of such developments to destabilize the situation in Ukraine. I do not believe that additional comments are necessary. In every similar situation there is always a party keenly interested.

But, from another viewpoint, a huge political responsibility ensues as a result of such a scandal. The legal aspect is much more straightforward because here facts need to be ascertained, facts to prove the allegations, which requires investigations.

Since the recordings have been proven to be authentic, there is room to believe that it could have happened. Without a doubt, the matter of proving the facts is far from done. There needs to be more investigation and analysis in Ukraine. Only afterwards will responsibility be able to be ascertained.

I am more concerned, however, with the moral and political aspect of this matter. Simply the fact that [the sale of Kolchuha air defense systems] was even considered carries much responsibility. This, after all, could have affected rela-

tions between partners. There was a strategic relationship. Morally, this is very complicated.

**Do you and Our Ukraine have contacts with the U.S. government or with the U.S. Embassy and Ambassador Carlos Pascual?**

We maintain a working relationship through meetings, joint participation in roundtables, during events to which we invite all the diplomats, whether from the European Union, the United States, Canada or Eastern Europe, Japan and a host of other countries. We try to maintain an open political attitude. We are interested in having U.S. diplomats and other diplomats know the political positions of Our Ukraine on a variety of subjects. These are beneficial and responsible relations. Both sides benefit. They are trusted relations. We value the cooperation of the U.S. Embassy, our work with Ambassador Carlos Pascual, as well as our relations with all the diplomatic missions in Ukraine.

**Did the U.S. Embassy contact you or consult with you before the announcement in Washington of possible illegal Ukrainian arms sales to Iraq?**

No, on a working level there were no contacts.

**Does that mean you were surprised by the announcement?**

Yes. These types of operations (arms sales) take place in a very specific regime, a special regime. The announcement was quite unexpected.

**In your opinion, what is the role the Ukrainian diaspora should play in the transformative processes still under way in Ukraine? Should it be a passive role or an active role?**

What Ukraine needs most today is a democratic process that cannot be turned back. We wouldn't have the problems we do if we had a transparent leadership

structure, an open economy, a politically responsible system that formulated and secured domestic and foreign policy. The key, therefore, is to change the political system. The system must become democratic.

How can the [diaspora] contribute? They must understand that Ukraine has large domestic and foreign policy problems at the moment. They should not forget that Ukraine is not just its president. They should not forget that there is a healthy democratic element in Ukraine that cares about Ukraine and knows how to change the situation.

Today what is needed is for the democratic forces in the Ukrainian Parliament to form the first truly democratic, transparent parliamentary majority in 11 years. The political life of the Parliament is key. The Parliament must become the active center of political life in Ukraine, which forms the government. Then the government and the parliamentary majority form a healthy domestic and foreign policy, and proceed with economic and social reforms.

We need formal relations with the diaspora. As prime minister I proposed a structure that included various circles of the diaspora for the preparation of a formal agreement that would include a schedule for the development of relations; to develop the tasks and goals of our mutual interest, the government on one side and diaspora representatives on the other.

I would only add that both sides need each other. The diaspora needs our attention and support so that its attributes and its community life do not lose their Ukrainian roots, their Ukrainian legacy and history, and the Ukrainian language. Broad contacts are required, which Ukraine needs to maintain.

From the other side, Ukraine needs for its brothers and sisters abroad not to forget about it during those times when help is needed, to give the basic support required.

## Pro-presidential deputies...

(Continued from page 1)

with the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat, a process that could take a couple of weeks.

"The majority has been de facto formulated. It has around 230 members," Mr. Lytvyn told journalists.

Among much erroneous speculation over who had joined the 10 factions that support presidential policy – whose members total 217 lawmakers, nine short of the minimum needed to achieve a majority – rumors abounded that some members of Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine faction had defected. One national television network even announced incorrectly that leading Communist faction member Hryhorii Kriuchkov had joined, an announcement he later vociferously repudiated.

It became apparent after a short time that no Communists and no members of the Our Ukraine faction had broken ranks, and that the nine lawmakers needed to achieve a majority came from the ranks of unaligned national deputies.

Mr. Lytvyn told journalists he was optimistic that negotiations between the leaders of the fragile majority and Mr. Yushchenko's faction, which at 110 members is the largest individual faction, would continue. He reinforced the notion that Our Ukraine is needed for a sustained and effective majority, essential for the formation of a coalition government.

"As Hennadii Udovenko so aptly said today, we need to keep the door open, that is what is most important," explained

Mr. Lytvyn. Mr. Udovenko heads the National Rukh Party, a leading member of the Our Ukraine faction.

Last week, after a second round of public demonstrations seemed to mark the deepening of a domestic political crisis in Ukraine in which thousands of protesters again called for the resignation of President Leonid Kuchma over allegations of widespread corruption, Our Ukraine announced that it would join the three opposition factions in blocking the work of the Parliament by not taking part in legislative votes.

The decision by the faction came after negotiations between Mr. Yushchenko and Serhii Tyhypko, leader of the Labor Ukraine faction, broke down over demands put forward by Our Ukraine that any parliamentary majority must represent the desires of the Ukrainian nation as expressed in the March 31 vote for Parliament.

In that election a plurality of Ukraine's voters – some 30 percent – supported Our Ukraine. However, Mr. Yushchenko's political bloc was effectively shut out of the Verkhovna Rada leadership after arm-twisting and alleged blackmail by presidential representatives gave the For a United Ukraine bloc a temporary majority.

Mr. Lytvyn told journalists that he believed the only matter separating the pro-presidential factions and Our Ukraine was a clash of personalities and personal ambitions.

"There are personality differences, but the last meeting with Viktor Yushchenko showed that even these may not be insurmountable. I believe perspectives remain

for the development of a consensus," explained Mr. Lytvyn.

It remains to be seen whether a majority can exist at all without Our Ukraine's participation. On September 29 the just-born pro-presidential majority attempted to establish its viability by pushing through minor bills by the closest of votes. Opposition lawmakers complained, however, that the bills passed only with ghost voting by national deputies for colleagues not present – an illegal but common practice in the Verkhovna Rada. After several unsuccessful appeals to the Secretariat to disconnect the voting instruments of lawmakers not present, the opposition blocked the leadership rostrum, paralyzing parliamentary work and forcing the end of that day's session.

National Deputy Petro Poroshenko, a top lieutenant to Mr. Yushchenko, said that if pro-presidential political forces continue to ignore Our Ukraine's demands, it would paralyze the 2003 budget process, which could lead to the ouster of the government.

"A 230-voice majority may settle some theoretical issue surrounding numbers, but the budget does not support the interests of a great many lawmakers, and forcing them to vote against their will is not going to work," said Mr. Poroshenko.

Mr. Lytvyn said that if the current minority in Parliament continues to refuse to take part in legislative work, he would respond by ordering a change in committee chairmanships.

The opposition announced on October 1 that it would continue to call for the

resignation of President Kuchma and would stage another round of nationwide demonstrations on October 12.

Oleksander Moroz, leader of the Socialist Party, said during an October 1 press conference that the opposition forces would also ask for a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is expected to visit Ukraine on October 6. Mr. Moroz, with Yulia Tymoshenko of the eponymous faction and Petro Symonenko of the Communist faction expressed similar beliefs that circumstances and developments would soon force Our Ukraine firmly into the opposition camp.

Mr. Yushchenko, who has taken part in the two demonstrations and has signed resolutions calling for President Kuchma's resignation, nonetheless has maintained a political dialogue with the pro-presidential forces in the hope that a compromise can be achieved in which his faction would obtain the reins of parliamentary or governmental power.

President Kuchma has not show any inclination to either heed any sort of political demands or work toward a compromise. On September 28 President Kuchma told a nationwide television audience that he had no intention of resigning and would carry out his presidential responsibilities until the end of his term in 2004.

Mr. Kuchma stated that the attempt at political upheaval made by the opposition in the last weeks had failed. The president called on the "radicals" to return to the work of the Verkhovna Rada and carry out the responsibilities their constituents have placed upon them.



# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## Newly elected UNA...

(Continued from page 1)

The UNA posted a decrease in net premium income, however, the income from annuities increased due to the excellent interest rates UNA is paying on first year monies. Soyuzivka, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly posted decreases to their bottom line and need to focus on decreasing their deficits, she said.

The good news was the Ukrainian National Urban Renewal Corp. posted an increase in net income of \$14,331, and has 4,000 square feet of space available for leasing. Efforts will intensify to increase revenues from insurance product sales, while intensively pursuing a deficit-reduction program for the papers and our resort.

Due to the volatility of the market, the UNA did suffer financial losses. These losses however, could have been astronomical had not the UNA had foresight to remain conservative and invest only 5 percent in common stocks with the majority of investments in bonds.

Ms. Kozak, national secretary, reported that for the first six-month period of this year 223 new applications were approved and issued for a total insurance amount of \$4,635,000 and premium amount of \$74,441.61. The top three producers for the first half of 2002 were: Lubov Streletsky, secretary of Branch 10, with a total of 12 policies issued for \$197,000.00 of insurance; Nicholas Fil, Branch 13, 11 policies issued for an insurance amount of \$600,000 Christine Brodyn a UNA Home Office employee, professional agent and secretary of branch 27, who sold 10 policies for a total of \$150,000.

Ms. Kozak expressed congratulations and sincere thanks to those top producers and ALL secretaries and organizers who work hard to both conserve and increase membership in the UNA.

Six new secretaries came on board: Irene Sarachmon, Branch 206; Susan Soldan, Branch 441; Michael Kuropas, Branch 22; Maria Lischak, Branch 15; Vladimir Kaploun, Branch 260; and Paul Bilecky, Branch 257.

Mr. Kachkowski, director for Canada, submitted an action plan he believes would revitalize UNA's Canadian membership. Mr. Kachkowski spoke of the myriad challenges he is facing, but stressed his commitment to act in whatever capacity is necessary to bring Canadian citizens into the UNA's membership ranks.

Mr. Iwanciw, second vice-president, voiced his apprehension regarding the status of Soyuzivka, saying that he feels the UNA resort is a priority. In the interest of Soyuzivka, Mr. Iwanciw visited the resort to speak to members, guests and employees, gathering opinions, ideas and comments from parties who care about Soyuzivka's future.

Mr. Iwanciw continues to represent the UNA at various functions in Washington whether at the Embassy of Ukraine on Capitol Hill, and, since UNA is a member of the Central and East European Coalition, he attends its weekly meetings.

Mrs. Lysko, first vice-president, reported that her main focus in the next four years will be to build a base from which the UNA can expand its membership, increase visibility in the community and draw new members. Mrs. Lysko, as well as other UNA executives, attended a meeting with Ihor Wyslowsky, president of the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America.

At the initiation of UNA Special



Roma Hadzewycz

**Officers at the first meeting of the Executive Committee elected at the UNA Convention in May: (from left) First Vice-President Martha Lysko, Second Vice-President Eugene Iwanciw, Director for Canada Al Kachkowski, Treasurer Roma Lisovich, President Stefan Kaczaraj, National Secretary Christine Kozak and Auditing Committee Chairman Zenon Holubec.**

Projects Coordinator Oksana Trytjak, Mr. Wyslowsky proposed a joint project between the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy in Kyiv (NUKMA) and UNA. This project will give the UNA and NUKMA the possibility of working together by encouraging potential gift givers to purchase UNA insurance policies and designating the Academy as the beneficiary of their death benefits. The premiums paid by UNA members will be tax-deductible. A meeting was scheduled with Dr. Viacheslav Briukhovetsky, however, due to his sudden illness the meeting was postponed.

One mechanism needed to increase membership in the UNA is a professional sales force. Mrs. Lysko attended a meeting between UNA executives and Western Catholic Union representatives, National Secretary Paul Grawe and Vice-President Robert Mitchell of sales, who have been successful in recruiting agents for their organization. With their guidance and expertise, the UNA hopes to mirror the level of success as achieved by this fraternal.

Mr. Kaczaraj began the president's report by announcing that \$18,050 in scholarships had been awarded to UNA members. The scholarships are divided into four categories, and the UNA awarded the following: 33 scholarships for \$125; 19 scholarships for \$150; 21 scholarships \$175 and 17 scholarships for \$200. In the special scholarships category, awarded were Galandiuk Scholarship, (one for \$2,000); the Jarosewycz Scholarship (one for \$1,000) and the Blackstone Scholarship (two for \$500.00 each).

As expected, Soyuzivka was the major topic of discussion as President Kaczaraj outlined a multi-level plan for the UNA resort. Even with the renovation plans and the planned improvements, the UNA is not guaranteed that Soyuzivka will emerge prosperous. The one and only true barometer will be the test of time, he underscored, the occupancy rates and the support Soyuzivka receives from the Ukrainian community at large.

With the October 2003 deadline looming it will take the tireless efforts of our

entire community to pool our resources, knowledge and wherewithal in order to preserve what we inherited from our fathers and what we must pass along to the next generations of Ukrainians and Ukrainian Americans who feel at home at Soyuzivka, Mr. Kaczaraj commented.

The UNA Executive Committee unanimously approved two directors for the UNURC: Advisor Eugene Oscislowski, who remains as a director, and Advisor Vasyl Luchkiw.

The UNURC will be installing a security system, replacing carpets and implementing other small upgrades that are planned for the year's end at the UNA Corporate Headquarters.

Due to the complaints received from

General Assembly members that they have no specific job descriptions, the following have been proposed to form standing committees: Fraternal Committee – Second Vice-President Iwanciw, chair; Organizing Committee – National Secretary Kozak and First Vice-President Lysko, co-chairs; Financial Committee – Treasurer Lisovich and President Kaczaraj, co-chairs; and Canadian Committee – Advisor Myron Groch, chair.

At the annual meeting of the General Assembly, slated for November 22-23, members of the assembly will be asked to join one of the standing committees to help develop ideas, objectives and goals that can be met during their four-year term in office.



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## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Our 69th anniversary

Today, October 6, 2002, The Ukrainian Weekly marks the 69th anniversary of its founding. It was on October 6, 1933, that the first issue of this newspaper rolled off the presses at the Svoboda Press print shop in Jersey City, N.J.

In its first year the neophyte newspaper reported on the Great Famine of 1932-1933, created by the Soviet regime to crush the people of Ukraine and ethnographically Ukrainian areas. It wrote also of the dearth of young leaders in the Ukrainian American community, the need to perpetuate the Ukrainian heritage and the role of our younger generations in giving voice to the aspirations of the subjugated Ukrainian nation. Its founding mission was at once simple and difficult: to keep Ukrainian American youth involved in the Ukrainian community and to tell the world the truth about Ukraine. Simple to declare; difficult to implement.

Through the decades, The Weekly has endeavored to stay true to that original mission, while expanding its reach. Today our newspaper strives to keep Ukrainians of all ages involved and engaged in our community life, and to serve as a network for the increasingly more dispersed members of our community. Simultaneously, it attempts to inform the world about Ukraine and Ukrainians, as well as to provide Ukrainians in the diaspora with a true picture of developments in Ukraine.

A key role in The Ukrainian Weekly's expanding mission in recent years was played by the 32nd UNA Convention in 1990, which adopted a resolution calling for the opening of a Kyiv Press Bureau. As a result, The Weekly was on the ground in Ukraine when independence was proclaimed. More than 10 years later that bureau continues to provide unparalleled coverage of historic developments in Ukraine.

Since 1998 The Ukrainian Weekly Archive has been available to the general public via the World Wide Web. Maintained and continuously updated as a community service by Weekly staffers, the site was inaugurated on August 20, 1998; it now contains 11,115 full-text articles, including archival materials published in the newspaper since its founding in 1933. Also found at [www.ukrweekly.com](http://www.ukrweekly.com) is the largest collection of materials on the Internet dedicated to the Great Famine, the full texts of all issues published in 1996-2001, as well as excerpts of the top news stories published each week during the current year. As well, there is an index of stories published in the years 1933-1948, 1977, 1979-2001, and year-in-review issues for each year since 1976, when The Weekly inaugurated that special annual section.

In 2000 and 2001 the two-volume compilation "The Ukrainian Weekly 2000" provided a sampling of the major events covered by The Weekly since its founding through the end of the century by reprinting the most significant articles from the period. Most recently, we released "Ukraine Lives!" – a special book dedicated to the first decade of Ukraine's newly re-established independence. Our hope is that "Ukraine Lives!" will serve as both a historical record of Ukraine's rebirth and a keepsake.

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As we reflect on our 69th anniversary, we must underscore that The Weekly is fortunate to have an extremely loyal readership. (We could certainly use your help, dear readers, in attracting new subscribers, which would help make this paper more viable, financially speaking.) However, subscriptions, do not even come close to supporting the work of this newspaper. To be sure, our advertisers and our benefactors do help foot the bill, but, frankly, without the financial input of our publisher, the Ukrainian National Association, neither The Weekly nor the Ukrainian-language Svoboda would exist. Both weekly newspapers are funded with hefty subsidies from the UNA – probably the best concrete example of the UNA's role as a fraternal benefit society that exists to benefit its members and their community.

As The Weekly enters its 70th year, we pledge – with the continued support of the UNA, community organizations and institutions, and individual readers – to continue our work and our mission. May our joint efforts ensure that The Ukrainian Weekly remains a resource for years, and decades, to come.

Oct.  
7  
2001

### Turning the pages back...

Last year at this time, The Ukrainian Weekly reported on developments in the then-year-old Gongadze case. There was news on two fronts. In Kyiv, Ukraine's chief prosecutor had cleared President Leonid Kuchma of complicity in the disappearance of Internet journalist Heorhii Gongadze, while in New York, the Committee to Protest Journalists, called for an international investigation into the unsolved case.

Mr. Gongadze was editor of the Internet news site *Ukrainska Pravda*, which often reported on alleged high-level government corruption in Ukraine. He disappeared on September 16, 2000, after several weeks of harassment by police officials. In early November 2000, a headless corpse believed to be his body was discovered in a forest outside Kyiv. Several weeks later Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz released tapes recorded by a former presidential security officer implicating the Kuchma administration in Mr. Gongadze's disappearance. The journalist's widow, Myroslava Gongadze, had called for an international investigation into the case.

CPJ Executive Director Ann Cooper said in a release published in The Weekly on October 7, 2001, "President Leonid Kuchma and other Cabinet officials have spent an entire year obstructing this inquiry," adding, "Journalists in Ukraine will not feel safe until the government's role in Mr. Gongadze's disappearance is fully clarified, and those responsible for his abduction and death are behind bars."

At the same time, in Ukraine the Procurator General's Office cleared President Kuchma of involvement in Mr. Gongadze's disappearance and rejected a request by his mother that it launch a criminal investigation regarding the actions of the president and his top officials in the affair.

The Weekly reported on October 7, 2001, that Assistant Procurator General Oleksander Bahanets said in a letter to Lesia Gongadze, the journalist's mother, that his office had looked into the actions of the president and two of his top-ranking officials,

(Continued on page 23)

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### UNWLA's social welfare programs provide assistance to people of Ukraine

by Lidia Babiuk

Americans of Ukrainian descent ought to be proud of the fact that, from the time they first settled in the United States, they have been providing assistance to other Ukrainians throughout the world. They have helped their relatives, friends and strangers, the ill and infirm, the elderly and orphans. They have always been particularly sensitive to the plight of women and others.

The Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA), one of the oldest women's organizations in the United States, has focused a great deal of attention on social welfare – a matter of great concern to its members. In the last decade the Social Welfare Chair of the UNWLA has directed its assistance programs toward Ukraine, supporting its economic, national and cultural development and thus strengthening the country's stability and independence.

On the 75th anniversary of the UNWLA, Patriarch Lubomyr Husar sent the following message: "Since the founding of the UNWLA and continuing through the subsequent years, Ukrainian women in America have shown great organizational capability, particularly benefiting women, as well as compassionate service worthy of admiration on behalf of the needy in the United States, beyond its borders, and especially in Ukraine."

President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine sent his greeting: "People are grateful to you for your humanitarian support, which you gave following the Chernobyl catastrophe and the destructive floods in Zakarpattia."

Dr. O. Myndiuk, chief of the Regional Special Children's Clinic in Lviv wrote: "Your long-term, invaluable and multifaceted aid consequentially acknowledges our standards and achievements, thus allowing us to continue high-quality diagnostic work and medical treatments for children in Ukraine."

The president of the Luhansk branch of the Women's League of Ukraine, Ivanna Kolesnyk, in her financial report about the initiative "Milk and Buns" for the youngest schoolchildren of Ukraine, said: "Of the 61 schools in Luhansk, this is the only school where the children receive free breakfast. It was difficult before to fill a class of Ukrainian studies, but this year, thanks to you, parents are enrolling their children. The children are not sick as often. ... On Easter we sent 25 children/orphans from large families to

the Stryi district, Lviv region. These children learned how to conduct themselves in church. They came back totally different – better-behaved, more serious and kinder. The unification between the East and the West has great significance in the education of our youth."

The UNWLA also receives many letters of gratitude from elderly women, "babusi," who appreciate even the smallest gift, knowing that very far from them, in the United States, someone remembers them.

The UNWLA works in close cooperation with twenty-two regional branches of Soyuz Ukrainok in Ukraine. We send them money, which they distribute to the needy. Once every year \$1,000 is sent to each branch of Soyuz Ukrainok for Christmas gifts for the elderly. We receive exact reports with signatures of the gift recipients. Only then do we continue with our aid. In August we send funds to cover the cost of the "Milk and Buns" initiative for the schools that have sent reports of the program's activity during the previous year. Free breakfasts are given to children in Lviv (three schools), Kharkiv (three schools), Luhansk (one school), Yalta (one school), in Zakarpattia (two schools). The schools also utilize these funds to organize events for the children, such as the Feast of St. Nicholas, Mother's Day and others.

Money from the Chernobyl Fund is utilized to organize curative summer camps for children from regions that are ecologically polluted: Vinnytsia, Volyn, Dnipropetrovsk, Zhytomyr, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kyiv, Lviv, Mykolaiv, Rivne, Sumy, Cherkasy, Chernivtsi, Chernihiv and Khmelnytsky. Each summer 100 children receive medical care in Truskavets.

The economic situation in Ukraine remains complex. Let us make an effort to help those who need our support, primarily elderly and frail people who often are alone. Their lives were hard and their senior years are difficult, since the pensions they receive hardly cover food. Many, many children are in orphanages. They have to be clothed, fed, educated and properly raised. The government covers only a minimal portion of the costs.

Recently Barbara Bachynsky, UNWLA Welfare Chair, received a letter from Sister Maria Bernard of the Basilian Order in Fox Chase, Pa., who wrote: "Please help me in my missionary work with orphans in Ukraine. I suffered a horrible automobile accident and came out

(Continued on page 7)



Children from Luhansk in Hoshiv during Easter 2002.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Thanks to activists of scholarship fund

Dear Editor:

I would like to express my gratitude to those individuals who were instrumental in establishing a scholarship fund in memory of my late husband, professor of music, Wolodymyr Czyzyk.

First among them are cellist Natalia Khoma, Ms. Khoma's mother, Marta Khoma, who acted as the fund's president and Oksana Kuzmowycz Shpot, fund officer, as well as my dear friend Ruta Halibey of Chicago. Mmes. M. Khoma and Kuzmowycz Shpot were the fund's representatives in Lviv, and oversaw the according of the stipends to the students.

Since its founding in 2000, "Children and Music: The Natalia Khoma Fund in Memory of Wolodymyr Czyzyk," has been supporting talented young musicians in Lviv by awarding a stipend to a gifted student on an annual basis. With the aim of benefiting the permanent fund, a series of five concerts, featuring Ms. Khoma in collaboration with guest performers, was held in Ukraine and in the United States.

Since I will no longer be involved with the fund, I would like to make it known that Account No. 37365 at Selfreliance Ukrainian Federal Credit Union in Chicago, to which donations were made, has been closed effective July 14.

Henceforth, the fund will be managed by Ms. Khoma; all inquiries should be addressed to her at 1291 Sebewaing Road, Okemos, MI 48864.

Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to all those who have made the creation of the fund possible, to all contributors, as well as to those individuals in the United States and in Ukraine who will continue in their efforts to ensure that the fund continues its beneficial work.

**Dr. Maria Pohoretska-Czyzyk**  
Chicago

### Clenched-fist salute inappropriate

Dear Editor:

During the "Requiem 2002" ceremony in front of the Taras Shevchenko monument in Washington, singer Vika Vradii raised a clenched-fist salute (The Ukrainian Weekly, September 22).

Perhaps Ms. Vradii did not even realize the meaning of the clenched fist salute. This salute was introduced by the Bolsheviks, and was used especially in the early 1920s to signify the violence of the proletarian revolution.

Subsequently, Antin Makarenko, employing dialectical logic, coined the phrase "paradoxical humanism" to justify terror and cruelty. He believed that cruelty is the highest form of humanism because it forces an individual to change his/her behavior. Makarenko even glorified Feliks Dzerzhinsky, head of the GPU, as "a man of kind heart," a great "humanist."

In the 1960s on campuses in the U.S. the clenched fist salute became a symbol for misguided student groups such as Students for a Democratic Society and the Black Panthers.

The issues of the Gongadze case are too complex and painful, and will not be resolved by slogans or demonstrations, especially, if they are not carefully planned out.

**Ivan Z. Holowinsky**  
Somerset, N.J.

### Congratulations on "Ukraine Lives!"

Dear Editor:

Thank you very much for sending me the 10th anniversary publication "Ukraine Lives!" You have done an excellent job. This is a book of historical value. I read with great satisfaction and emotion your survey of the activities of Rukh in the years 1989-1991, the proclamation of the independence of Ukraine on August 24, 1991, the referendum of December 1 and the election of the first president of Ukraine.

Your survey of the activities for the years 1991-2001 is also most interesting, as are various comments of Ukrainian historians. I like the one given by Dr. Roman Szporluk.

I have given the book to read to some of my American friends and they were truly impressed by Ukraine's peaceful revolution and rebirth.

Again, I congratulate you for your work on publishing this excellent account of the rebirth of Ukrainian independence.

**Wolodymyr Petryshyn**  
Cranford, N.J.

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

### UNWLA's social welfare...

(Continued from page 6)

alive, therefore, for the past eight years I have been working with children, as my thanks to God that I am still alive. I try to visit as many orphanages as possible, bringing gifts to the children – fruit, cookies, medical supplies, juices, etc. I know the places where the need is the greatest and where they don't steal from the children. In many orphanages the children are terribly neglected and oppressed." She described the orphanages she had visited and through her we are able to provide money to the needy children.

The children of Ukraine are its future!

Please help them become good citizens of their country. A happy smile on a child's face will make us happy, too. With our generous donations we are also helping our homeland.

In her opening speech to the 26th Convention of the UNWLA, President Iryna Kurowyckyj said: "Ten years have passed since Ukraine became independent. We should consider ourselves lucky to be part of these historic times, to be active participants in the creation of a brilliant future for Ukraine. In this, we ask God's help."

Donations may be sent to: Ukrainian National Women's League of America Inc., Social Welfare Chair, 203 Second Ave., New York, NY 10003. Donations are tax-deductible.

## Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



### My (and your) big, fat Greek wedding

If you haven't seen "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" yet, you're missing the ethnic phenomenon of the year.

This film was not produced by Hollywood elite so it's OK to take the kids. No swearing, no nudity, no violence. It's a hit!

Most truly ethnic Americans will relate to this low-cost masterpiece of a love story. It involves a rather plain, no-so-young-anymore woman (Toula, portrayed by Nia Vadalos) from a totally Greek American family who is being courted by a handsome young man (Ian, played by John Corbett) who truly loves Toula and wants to marry her. Wed her, not bed her.

Big problem. Ian is not a Greek. He comes from a somewhat bland, sedate Anglo family that is overwhelmed by the wonderfully joyous, open, loud, food-focused, Ouzo-drinking Greek family.

Toula's father is shocked by her decision to date an Anglo. He tries mightily to dissuade her by inviting a farrago of single Greeks to dinner; each potential suitor is more dorky than the other. Dad's efforts fail. Toula eventually accepts Ian's proposal of marriage. Dad is devastated.

The father, by the way, is played by the same actor who played the Ukrainian father in that other great, but largely underrated ethnic film, "My Life" starring Michael Keaton and Nicole Kidman. Rent this one if you haven't seen it.

How "Greek" are some Ukrainian families? Very. Some more than others. Ukrainian parents may not be as overbearing as some Greek families, but in my generation, at least, it was sort of understood that Ukrainians in America were supposed to marry Ukrainians.

I was not serious about marriage until I was in my late 20s. As the clock kept ticking, however, and as my parents, subtly and sometimes not so subtly, kept breathing down my neck, I became more and more concerned. Concerned, yes. Worried, no.

Part of the problem was my sainted grandmother who lived with us. I was her prince. As long as I lived at home I wanted for nothing. I had my own room. My laundry was done. The food was superb. And it was all free. Life was good.

Soyuzivka was a marvelous place to meet young, pretty Ukrainian girls and I met many of them. In the 1950s and early 1960s, Soyuzivka was loaded with them. Unfortunately, Soyuzivka was also loaded with many handsome young Ukrainian men seeking young Ukrainian girls. Everyone knew how to tango. I didn't. Everyone spoke fluent Ukrainian. I didn't. Everyone belonged to Plast or SUM. I didn't. I was what many new immigrants called an American-born "baniak." Girls from proper Ukrainian families did not date baniaks.

People often asked me how I got luscious Lesia, a gorgeous, former Miss Soyuzivka, to marry me.

Here's the story I love to tell. I approached marriage very scientifically, I explain. I began my search with a survey of all eligible, single Ukrainian girls and discovered that there were exactly 100 of them.

Of these 100, 50 were from Ukrainian Orthodox homes. My family is Greek-Catholic. That left only 50 eligible maidens.

Of the remaining 50, 25 were old-calendar Catholics. My family was new calendar. That left only 25 eligibles.

Of these, 15 had parents who were staunch "Banderivtsi." My whole family

belonged to the "Melnykivtsi" clan. That left 10 lassies.

Of the remaining 10, three were bone-ugly. Five of the remaining seven thought I was bone-ugly. That left two. One girl lived in California and never went to Soyuzivka. The last one was lovable Lesia, who taught singing at the cultural courses at Soyuzivka. I learned to tango, my Ukrainian improved, we had a long-distance romance, we married, and we've lived happily ever after.

Although the story isn't quite true, it does illustrate some of the absurd hurdles young Ukrainian people had, and in some instances continue to have, in seeking out eligible Ukrainian Americans to marry. The Greeks have it easier. They are not as diverse as we are. To my knowledge, they don't have a calendar issue, nor is something like the Banderivtsi-Melnykivtsi divide a major problem.

With some Ukrainians, language is also an issue. Today, there are still Ukrainian Orthodox and Ukrainian Catholic churches that wouldn't dream of offering an English-language liturgy. Ukrainian Americans married to non-Ukrainians are out of luck, especially if the non-Ukrainian spouse has been made to feel like a gypsy selling religious relics at a Baptist convention. If you don't believe me, try this. Attend a Ukrainian church where no one knows you. Observe what happens. There may be few people in the church but you can be almost certain that no one will come up to welcome you. If someone does, it will be in the Ukrainian language. Want to be a gypsy? Answer in English.

It is no secret that our church membership is dwindling. There is some hope that the Fourth Wave, unquestionably the largest immigration from Ukraine we've ever had, will respond to their frayed Ukrainian roots and join us. Don't bet on it, however. Some will, but many won't.

In the meantime, more and more of our young people will be marrying non-Ukrainians. It's inevitable. Can we continue to be so exclusionary? Is there a solution that works, really works?

Of course. Visit some of our early communities in the United States. Go to eastern Pennsylvania, where our pioneers first settled to work in the anthracite coal mines. Attend a liturgy at the Catholic church in Mount Carmel or Shenandoah, for example. The original churches burned down. New ones have been constructed in a Byzantine style by a membership that is Ukrainian, Italian, Polish, Rusyn and Irish – the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of mixed marriages. Why are they here and not in a Latin-rite church? Because they love the beauty of the Ukrainian liturgy; they grew up with it; they understand it; it is part of their American heritage. The members of these churches attend liturgy and are active in the parish because their Ukrainian churches provide spiritual nourishment and renewal. Can you believe it? Ask them if they ever heard of the Banderivtsi and they will proudly answer, "Sure. They're the guys who play the bandura."

If you haven't seen "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," do so tonight. Tomorrow at the latest. You'll relate. You'll realize that Ukrainians aren't the only crazy ethnics on the block.

Myron Kuropas' e-mail address is: [mbkuropas@compuserve.com](mailto:mbkuropas@compuserve.com).



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# Yarymovych awarded von Kármán Medal for distinguished service to NATO research and technology

BRUSSELS – Dr. Michael I. Yarymovych, currently chief scientific advisor to ANSER Corp. of Arlington, Va., was presented the von Kármán Medal by the NATO Research and Technology Board during ceremonies held at Mandelieu, France, in March.

Named in honor of Dr. Theodore von Kármán, one of the pre-eminent aeronautical scientists of the 20th century, the medal is awarded annually for exemplary service and significant contribution to the enhancement of progress in research and technology cooperation among the NATO countries, carried out in conjunction with NATO Research and Technology Organization activities.

Dr. Yarymovych's distinguished service to NATO research and technology covers three decades, beginning in 1970 when he was appointed director of the Advisory Group for Aerospace Research and Development (AGARD) in Paris. During his term of office (1970-1973), he successfully focused AGARD work on relevant military needs and created the format and structure of publications still in use today.

In his capacity as the U.S. national delegate to AGARD (from 1991), and its chairman (from 1994), he encouraged the formation of an outreach program with the former Soviet Union.

From 1996 to 2000, Dr. Yarymovych served as chairman of the newly established NATO Research and Technology Organization, a scientific body that came into being with the successful integration of the AGARD and the Defense Research Group (DRG) programs into a single scientific body dedicated to support NATO and its Allied Forces.

In addition to his role in NATO research and technology programs, Dr. Yarymovych has had a distinguished career in prominent government and industry positions.

Dr. Yarymovych, retired from Boeing in 1998, served as vice-president for missile defense business development and most recently as vice president for international

technology in the Information, Space and Defense Systems Group.

Prior to this assignment in 1997 and the merger of Boeing with the aerospace portion of Rockwell International, he was vice-president and associate center director of Rockwell's Systems Development Center (SDC) in Seal Beach, Calif.

Before assuming his role at SDC, Dr. Yarymovych served in several key positions in Rockwell's corporate and aerospace organizations. From 1981 to 1986 he served as vice-president, advanced systems development, at Rockwell's corporate offices; and as vice-president of engineering and advanced technology for North American Aerospace Operations (1977-1981), an organization that encompassed the Space Systems Group, Rocketdyne and Energy Systems Group; and as vice-president of advanced technology and engineering for Rockwell's Aircraft Group (1977-1980).

Dr. Yarymovych held several prominent leadership positions in the government prior to his association with Rockwell, among them, as assistant administrator for field operations of the U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) and as chief scientist of the U.S. Air Force.

He also served as deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for research and development and technical director of the USAF Manned Orbital Laboratory. In addition, he held responsible positions with the NASA Headquarters Manned Space Flight Program involving the Apollo lunar landing effort and initial definition studies of the space station and the space shuttle.

Furthermore, Dr. Yarymovych has played an active role on many scientific advisory committees, including the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board, NASA Advisory Council Task Force on Space Goals, Strategic Defense Initiative Advisory Council, Stanford University Industrial Affiliates Advisory Board, Defense Science Studies Board, and the

Space Panel of the Navy Studies Board.

Widely recognized for his accomplishments in engineering management and research, Dr. Yarymovych is a four-time recipient of the Air Force Exceptional Civilian Service Award. He also received the ERDA Distinguished Service Award in 1977.

Dr. Yarymovych was elected president of the International Academy of Astronautics in 1997, where he had served as vice-president for science programs since 1985. He is a fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and of the American Astronautical Society.

He is also a member of the French Air and Space Academy, and, upon Ukraine's independence in 1991, was elected to the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences in Kyiv. Dr. Yarymovych is an honorary member of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, the Shevchenko Scientific Society and the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences in the U.S.

Dr. Yarymovych received a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering at New York University in 1955, magna cum laude. He earned an M.S. degree in engineering mechanics from Columbia University the following year. In 1960 he received a doctoral degree in engineering mechanics, also from Columbia, where he was a Guggenheim Fellow at the university's Institute of Flight Structures.

Dr. Yarymovych is the author of many publications on topics ranging from lunar mapping to strategic defense policy. Currently he is associate editor of the Encyclopedia of Space Science and Technology to be published by Wiley and Sons.

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*The Weekly asked Dr. Yarymovych to elaborate on initiatives in technology cooperation undertaken with newly independent Ukraine. Following are his comments.*

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, a  
(Continued on page 16)



Dr. Michael I. Yarymovych



The von Kármán Medal awarded to Dr. Yarymovych in recognition of his "lifetime achievements and exceptional dedication, leadership and sustained commitment of the (NATO) Research and Technology community."

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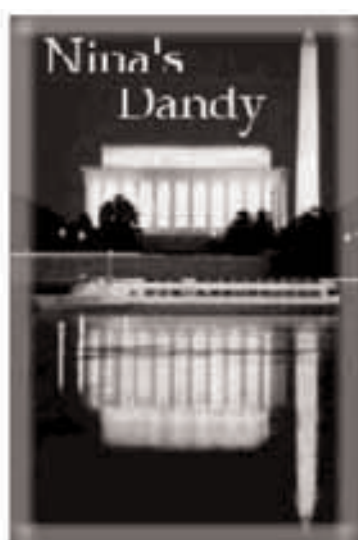
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George Pazuniak (left) receives the UABA Founders Award from the association's president, Tony Rubel.



Arthur V. Belendiuk and Bohdanna Pochoday-Stelmach at the podium after receiving the UABA's Litigation Award for their suit against CBS. They shared the award with Askold S. Lozynskyj.



Judge Bohdan Futey accepts the Rule of Law Award.

## Ukrainian American...

(Continued from page 1)

World Wide Web to enhance their professional activities was presented by website designer Roman A. Lupan.

The afternoon session began with a workshop on Ukrainian foreign adoptions. Presenters were lawyers Peter Piddoubny and Svitlana Labets, Esq.; Darrell Clark, founder of Children Are Hope; and Steve Vetterlein, founder of the Ukrainian Orphaned Children's Fund of Philadelphia.

The second afternoon seminar, dealing with credit unions in Ukraine, was presented by Dean Mahon, director of microfinance and small business development of World Education Inc.

The UABA's gala banquet, preceded by a cocktail reception, was held on Saturday evening. Guests were officially welcomed by President Michniak, who spoke briefly about the founding of the UABA, citing the enormous challenges faced by the founders in the political climate of the day.

"The Soviet Union's power," he stated, "was at its height, and was consistently unleashed against Ukrainian writers, poets and lawyers." He cited the relentless Russification of Ukraine and the equally relentless attempts of the Soviet government to discredit Ukrainians in the diaspora by labeling them "Nazi collaborators" and traitors. Unfortunately, evidence supplied by Soviet sources, Mr. Michniak continued, was considered acceptable in American courts. The absence of proper representation, both for individuals and for an entire ethnic community, was more the rule than the exception. It was the dream of the Ukrainian American attorneys who gathered in Cleveland in 1977 to offer their time and professional expertise to correct this situation.

Today, Mr. Michniak continued, many things have changed. Having shed Soviet subjugation, independent Ukraine has been

working to implement post-independence reforms and an adherence to the rule of law. Acknowledging that the paradigm shift is a difficult one, Mr. Michniak emphasized that the support of several extraordinary individuals has made a tremendous difference.

At this juncture, Mr. Michniak introduced the first honoree of the evening, Rep. Bob Schaffer from Colorado, who serves as co-chair of the Ukrainian caucus in the U.S. Congress. The Republican congressman, who has visited Ukraine eight times, is knowledgeable about Ukraine's historical struggle against Soviet domination and has nurtured valuable exchanges between members of the Ukrainian Parliament and American legislators. In recognition of his outstanding work in supporting independent Ukraine, he was presented with the UABA's first Rule of Law Award.

In his gracious and entertaining acceptance speech, Rep. Schaffer spoke of his Ukrainian grandparents, a grandfather who told stories of Ukraine's history and a grandmother who was instrumental in teaching him about the Ukrainian character - slow to trust and wary of financial, political and legal institutions. In an intriguing anecdote, Congressman Schaffer then described the path that led him to the creation of the Ukrainian caucus.

Elected to represent the people of the state of Colorado, he was determined to be an active advocate of their interests. Believing that he could benefit from the advice of a senior member of Congress, he asked Rep. Frank Wolf of Virginia, how best to achieve this goal. Wolf's startling reply was that he should "pick a country, learn more about it than anyone else here and learn how to care for that country." The fledgling congressman was taken aback, but told his older and wiser colleague that his mother was Ukrainian and thus he was inclined to choose Ukraine. Rep. Wolf responded, "Well, it's yours. We need someone to think about Ukraine."

A serendipitous meeting with

Pennsylvania Congressman Jon Fox, a longtime supporter of the Ukrainian community in his state, followed, and from this meeting came the idea of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus. The caucus now boasts 53 members and is one of the most active on Capitol Hill.

Rep. Schaffer spoke about his recent visit to Ukraine with Bohdan Futey, a federally appointed judge on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. As an election observer, the congressman visited Donetsk, spending time with the miners by "crawling on my belly underground." He explained that his experiences with ordinary people and with Ukrainian legislators and diplomats have left him with two impressions, the first of these being that the Ukrainian people must learn to believe in the power of a system that is based on the rule of law, and the second being that Ukraine has the potential to be a great nation.

He stressed, as well, that the legal profession has much to offer Ukraine, that it can provide much-needed assistance in developing, for example, a fair and uniform land code and a reliable legal code that supports an independent judiciary. He closed by citing the UABA for its "bridge-building" activities in encouraging Ukraine to evolve as a sovereign state built on the foundation of rule of law.

Mr. Michniak then introduced Judge Futey, the recipient of the UABA's second Rule of Law Award. In presenting the award, the UABA president commented on Judge Futey's commitment to Ukraine's new Constitution and the judge's role in influencing its formulation.

Accepting the award, Judge Futey recalled meetings with Ukrainian ministers unhappy about the lack of American investment in Ukraine. It was the ministers' lack of understanding about legal and financial impediments that made American investors wary of doing business in Ukraine that propelled him into an active role in helping Ukrainian legislators draft a new

Constitution. Today, he stated, the Constitution of Ukraine merits recognition for its guarantee of human rights and because it is a document that represents the end of one era and the beginning of another.

The judge further commended Ukraine for making the transition to independence by means of the ballot box and diplomacy, but emphasized that many legal issues remain unresolved and that international observers of Ukrainian elections have noted that the elections are free, but not always fair. "The future," he concluded, is in Ukraine's own hands. "Outsiders can help or hinder, but their influence is marginal. It's really up to Ukraine."

As dinner was served, the UABA president introduced the Experimental Bandura Trio, composed of Julian Kytasty, Michael Andrec and Jurij Fedynskij. The incomparable Mr. Kytasty explained that the selections that would be played during the evening would include songs "taken out of the museum and given a modern sound." Those assembled seemed especially delighted by the "Bat Out of Hell Kozachok," one of several compositions and improvisations performed during the remainder of the banquet.

Dinner was followed by the presentation of awards recognizing the professional achievements of several attorneys who have changed in a significant way the lives of Ukrainian Americans long burdened by ill-deserved labels rooted in Soviet propaganda and in the turbulent struggles of World War II.

Mr. Michniak presented a brief review of the 1994 CBS broadcast "The Ugly Face of Freedom," calling it a scurrilous and bigoted attack on Ukraine and a "kick in the midsection of the Ukrainian American community." He then spoke of the Ukrainian American attorneys who fought CBS in court, winning a victory that clearly taught CBS executives and others that they could not libel an entire ethnic community with impunity.

(Continued on page 14)



Ukrainian community members with the UABA's guest of honor: (from left) Lyudmyla Michniak, law office administrator; Victor Holubowsky, legal office administrator at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital; Oxana Holubowsky, CPA; Re. Bob Schaffer, UABA President Andre Michniak; and Andy Horbowy, president of Hamilton National Mortgage Co.



Myroslaw Smorodsky (left) and Danylo Kurdelchuk, after receiving the Litigation Award, which went also to their colleague Pyotr S. Rabinovich, for their class-action suit filed on behalf of forced laborers.





## FOCUS ON PHILATELY

by Inger Kuzych

### The founding family of Kyivan Rus'

#### PART I

It has long frustrated me that so many historians, Ukrainian and otherwise, seem to accept so "blindly" the medieval records of early Kyivan Rus' (the first state on Ukrainian and eastern European lands). By "blindly" I mean that obvious inconsistencies within the earliest chronicles are parroted as if they were set in stone, without any critical examination and without searching for possible alternate sources. I have long had an interest in Ihor, my royal namesake of the 10th century (Ihor derives from Ingvær, which derives from Inger(t)), and over several years have researched and compiled his biography as well as biographies of his wife, Olha, and son, Sviatoslav. Together they form medieval Ukraine's first "First Family."

These biographies have been turned into the next three "Focus on Philately" submissions and will present a much more thorough and accurate introduction to these monarchs than what is conventionally found in textbooks. Although these articles are lengthier than my typical columns, I have tried not to make them overly specialized.

It is my contention that Ihor is the true originator of the ruling Rus' lineage in Kyiv and that the name of the larger-than-life Riurik whose "Riurikide" appellation is given to the dynasty, should be expunged once and for all. It is almost certain that the real Riurik never visited Ukrainian lands and any Rus' territory that he may have acquired would have been in the far Baltic north, in present-day Russia. I believe that it is high time that Ukraine finally lays its rightful claim to its glorious medieval Rus' legacy by jettisoning the baggage brought on by the "Riurikide" label and by which Russian historians still lay claim to the Kyivan Rus' heritage.

The articles in this monarch series are illustrated, where possible, with related philatelic issues. Regrettably, no stamp issue of Ihor has ever been made, but a representation of him has appeared on a postcard.

\*\*\*

#### Ihor: king of Kyiv, founder of dynasty

Despite being the husband of St. Olha and the father of Sviatoslav the Conqueror, relatively little is known about Ihor, the head of this illustrious family and the true founder of the dynasty that would rule in Rus' for some four centuries (Figure 1).

Most of the information we have about Ihor comes from the "Povist Vremennykh Lit" (PVL), or "The Tale of Bygone Years," a valuable historical source compiled in the early 12th century according to tradition, by the monk-chronicler Nestor. The PVL is based on earlier Kyivan and Novgorodian compilations and draws on contemporary Byzantine sources and includes texts of a number of Rus'-Byzantine treaties. The Povist is quite reliable and detailed in recounting events closer in time, to its editing, but for occurrences of Ihor's time some two centuries earlier, the chronology is less trustworthy and contains some major discontinuities.<sup>1</sup> We are fortunate that a number of additional references in other sources help fill in some more details about Ihor.

#### The traditional story

According to the PVL, Ihor was the son of the great Varangian (Viking) leader Riurik, who had been invited to rule over Rus' lands around the year 860.<sup>2</sup> Riurik is almost certainly the notorious Danish Viking adventurer Rorik who set himself up in the east Baltic area at about this time.<sup>3</sup> The chronicles for the year 779 state that: "On his deathbed, Riurik bequeathed his realm to Oleh, who belonged to his kin, and entrusted to Oleh's hands his son, Ihor, for he was very young."<sup>4</sup> We know from Western medieval sources, however, that the Danish King Rorik must have been born circa 800,<sup>5</sup> so for him to have fathered a son just prior to his death is unlikely.

Ihor is described as having played a very subordinate role to Oleh; his guardian even arranged his marriage. Little is recorded of Ihor until the entry for 903: "As Ihor grew up, he followed after Oleh, and obeyed his instructions. A wife, Olha by name, was brought to him from Pskov." For 907, the chronicle states that Oleh left Ihor as ruler in Kyiv while he conducted a campaign against Byzantium.<sup>6</sup>

Nothing more is mentioned of Ihor until 913, when the chronicles state that he succeeded Oleh and began his reign. The following year: Ihor attacked the Derevlians, an East Slavic tribe, and after conquering them he imposed upon them a tribute larger than Oleh's." In 916 the Pechenegs, migratory Turkic tribesmen, first entered into Rus'. Ihor reached an agreement with them and "they went on their way to the Danube" to raid Bulgaria. Five years later (920) they reappeared, and

this time Ihor was forced to fight them (Figure 2).<sup>7</sup>

There now follows a hiatus of 21 years in the record during which nothing is known of events in Rus'. When the narrative picks up again in 941 to record the events of the last years of Ihor's reign (he died around 945), the account is much richer in detail, in sharp contrast to the reporting of his early years. This striking difference in the timeline has caused more than a few historians to question the reliability of all texts pertaining not only to Ihor's early career, but to many of the events prior to 940.<sup>8</sup>

There is also the fact that the PVL states (déjà vu-like) that at his death Ihor left behind a young son, Sviatoslav, who "was but a child."<sup>9</sup> By this time, however, we know the records are accurate for the birth, since Sviatoslav is attested to in other writings from that time.<sup>10</sup> If the PVL is to be believed, a son born to Ihor in 942 or 943 would make the father at least 64 at the time of his birth (the chronicles state Ihor was born about 878) and his mother around 60. This chronology is highly suspect and not only for the late birth. The average medieval life span was only about 35 and probably about a decade or two longer for nobility.<sup>11</sup>

(Continued on page 15)



Figure 1. A portrait of Ihor (top) and his family (Olha and Sviatoslav) as they appear in "Ukraina: Istorychnyi Atlas" published in Ukraine in 1997.



Figure 2. The late historical artist Petro Andrusiw twice depicted Ihor. This rendering is of Ihor's Battle with the Pechenegs. Although Ihor was an able military leader, it is doubtful that he campaigned against these Turkic people.



Figure 3. An enlargement of an Askold and Dyr stamp release with a first day of issue cancellation from July 4, 1998. The brothers are shown seated in the lower stamp portion, while the upper non-denominated label reproduces (in microprint) their description from "The Tale of Bygone Years."

1 The English translation of the PVL consulted for this article is that of Samuel Hazzard Cross and Olgerd P. Sherbowitz-Wetzor, "The Russian Primary Chronicle," Laurentian Text (Cambridge, Mass.: The Medieval Academy of America, 1953), hereafter PVL. See Ohloblyn, O., "Chronicles" in Encyclopedia of Ukraine, Vol. I (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1984), pp. 462-463 for a complete survey of Ukrainian chronicles.

2 PVL, p. 59.

3 This identification was first made by Friedrich Kruse in a series of articles appearing in the Journal Ministerstva Narodnego Prosvescheniya: "On the Origin of Rurik," Vol. IX (1836): 4373; "On the Boundaries of Normannia and on the Names of Normans and Rus'," Vol. XXI (1839); pp. 1-77; and "On the Relation of the Rus' Who Came to Spain in 844 and Plundered Seville, to Russia," Vol. XXI (1839), pp. 159-179.

4 PVL, p. 60.

5 Summaries of Riurik/Rorik's adventurous and turbulent life may be found in Belaiew, N.T., "Rorik of Jutland and Rurik of the Russian Chronicles," Saga-Book of the Viking Society for Northern Research, No. 9-10 (1920-1929); pp. 267-297, and in Vernadsky, George, "Ancient Russia" (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1943), particularly pp. 337-339 and 365-366.

6 PVL, p. 64.

7 PVL, p. 71. See Pritsak, Omeljan, "The Pechenegs: A Case of Social and Economic Transformation," Archivum Eurasiae Medii Aevi I (1975), pp. 211-235.

8 For example, Pritsak, in his "The Origin of Rus'," Vol. I (Cambridge: Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, 1981) discounts all of Ihor's campaigns recorded in the PVL prior to the Byzantine expedition of 941.

9 PVL, p. 80.

10 "Leon Diaconus Caloensis, Historiae libri decem," Pt. 9, chap. xi, pp. 156-157.

11 "Life Span, Human," in Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol. 13 (Chicago: University of Chicago, 15th edition, 1965), p. 1101.



## DATELINE NEW YORK: A whirlwind of events opens the new season

by Helen Smindak

September ushered in a burst of stirring events featuring Ukrainian performers and artists – a whirlwind that may be the prelude to a most exciting cultural season for Ukrainians in the Big City.

Versatile character actor John Spencer walked off with top honors at the Emmy Awards for best supporting actor in a drama series. Character actor George Dzundza opened in the Robert De Niro film "City by the Sea" and in the new CBS series "Hack." Olympic skating champion Victor Petrenko and the award-winning acrobatic team of Vladimir Besedin and Oleksiy Polishchuk showed their mettle at a Madison Square Garden fund-raiser featuring some of the world's top skaters. World-renowned acrobatic champion Tatyana Petruk was the central figure in breath-taking aerial acrobatic work at Macy's 100th birthday outdoor extravaganza at Herald Square.

On the club scene in downtown Manhattan, jazz pianist John Stetch, celebrating the release of his first official solo CD, gave a concert at the Jazz Gallery and an interview on WNYC-FM radio before starting out on a North American tour. The underground gypsy punk rock band Gogol Bordello, led by Eugene Hutz, launched its first North American tour with two outings at the Knitting Factory.

Valued Met artist Paul Plishka took part with Placido Domingo, Olga Borodina and Renée Fleming in the Metropolitan Opera's gala opening night performance.

Actress/singer Olga Talyn of "Phantom of the Opera" fame, now auditioning for a new Broadway role, participated in recent Ukrainian functions, while actress/model Oksana Babiy has chalked up two more episodes in HBO's highly popular series "The Sopranos."

In the realm of literature, Ukrainian authors and Ukrainian subjects are getting great play with Adrian Slywotzky's "The Art of Profitability" and Chuck Palahniuk's "Lullaby," and at least two books with Ukrainian subjects, Jonathan Safran Foer's "Everything is Illuminated" and Claire Messud's "The Hunters."

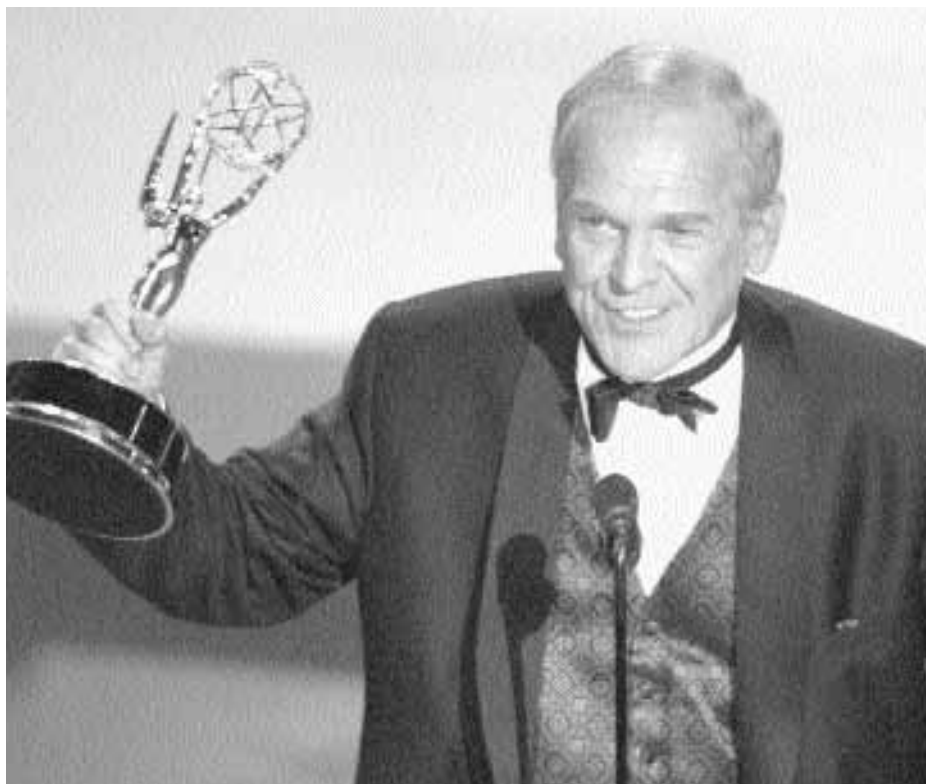
With such a great harvest of events to survey, this bounty will be brought to readers in two separate "Dateline New York" columns.

### Spencer wins award

On his third nomination, an emotional John Spencer proudly accepted the statuette for best supporting actor in a drama series during the 54th annual Emmy Awards, held at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on September 22 and telecast live by NBC.

Mr. Spencer, who plays the White House chief of staff on "The West Wing" (Wednesday 9 p.m. ET/PT) and is usually seen as a somber, very thoughtful adviser to President Bartlet (Martin Sheen), had a wide smile as he paid tribute to the show's writers and declared that "the prize for me is doing the thing I love." He came up on stage again with the entire "West Wing" cast as former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani presented the best drama award (its third consecutive Emmy) to the show's creator, Aaron Sorkin.

A veteran of television, film and stage, Mr. Spencer (profiled in the August 18 "Dateline New York"), is perhaps best known to TV audiences as the tough and funny attorney Tommy Mullaney on the hit series "L.A. Law" (1990-1994). When he's not working on "The West Wing," the actor shuttles between New



John Spencer receives an Emmy Award for his role on "The West Wing."

York and a new million-dollar house in one of L.A.'s prominent canyons.

### Dzundza – cop and priest

Former New York resident George Dzundza has played a variety of characters in films and television during his long career, from Robert DeNiro's hometown buddy in the 1978 film "The Deerhunter" to the owner of a German-themed restaurant in NBC's 1998 comedy "Jesse." Mr. Dzundza can draw upon his Ukrainian ancestry to play Russians and East Europeans, but his upbringing on New York's Lower East Side also lends authority to his portrayals of working-class urbanites. He's probably well remembered as Detective Sergeant Max Greevey in the initial season of NBC's acclaimed "Law & Order."

In the newly released Warner Brothers film "City by the Sea," a gripping story playing at theatres in New York and across the country, he is the partner of dedicated homicide detective Vincent LaMarca (Robert De Niro), who discovers that the chief suspect in his current murder investigation is his own son.

On CBS Friday nights, Mr. Dzundza is seen in the new CBS drama series "Hack," starring David Morse as Mike Olshansky (Friday 9 p.m. ET/PT), where he portrays Father Tom "Grizz" Grzelak, Mike's drinking buddy and forthright friend. The drama revolves around Olshansky, who left the police force in disgrace and now drives a taxi, seeking redemption by fighting for and righting the wrongs of others.

While Mr. Dzundza's roles in both the movie and the TV series are small, the actor gives fine performances, as he has always done in the past, regardless of his role. His film credits include "The Butcher's Wife," "Basic Instinct," "Crimson Tide," "Dangerous Minds," "Impulse" and "White Hunter, Black Heart." He has played lead roles in numerous television films, including "The Babymaker," "What She Didn't Know," "The Ryan White Story" and "Cross of Fire," and he's had guest-starring roles in the TV series "Touched by an Angel" and "Third Watch."

Mr. Dzundza, who lives in Tarzana, Calif., with his wife, daughter and two sons, got his first big break in 1973 in the national touring company of "That Championship Season" after spending six years working as a bartender, waiter and elevator operator in New York while

studying under renowned drama instructor Stella Adler. Later, he got the role of understudy to Jack Weston in "The Ritz" and was bumped up to the lead when Weston left. His role as Mr. De Niro's buddy in "The Deerhunter" opened the doors to Hollywood.

### Skaters strut their stuff

Victor Petrenko, who has won European, World and Olympic championships since 1988 and took all three in a clean sweep in 1992, is a professional figure skater hailed for his versatility as a performer. Appearing at Madison Square Garden on September 20 with a roster of world champions in the "Stars, Stripes and Skates" show, the Odesa-born skater displayed his great artistry and superior technical skills as he went gliding airily across the ice to the song "Flight" by Brian Lane Green.

Besides Mr. Petrenko and Olympic skating stars Nancy Kerrigan, Timothy Goebel, Surya Bonaly, Philippe Candeloro and a host of other famous skaters, the gala event included two Kyiv natives – 6'2" Vladimir Besedin and 5'7" Oleksiy Polishchuk – who perform amazing acrobatic feats on ice as a team. Together since 1988, Messrs. Besedin and Polishchuk thrilled the Madison Square Garden audience with their dangerous stunts.



John Stetch

The fund-raising event, with Gov. George Pataki in the vast audience, was organized by the "Coalition of 9/11 Families," with all proceeds earmarked for scholarships for children affected by acts of terror of September 11, 2001.

### Stetch jazzes it up

Canadian-born jazz pianist John Stetch, who lived in the Big Apple for several years and now makes his home just north of New York City, has recorded a solo-piano CD titled "Ukrainianism." As the name suggests, it features Ukrainian music – folk songs jazzed up in Stetch's unique style. The pianist gave a concert of works from the new CD at the Jazz Gallery in Greenwich Village on September 27.

To celebrate the new CD, released by Justin Time and described by a reviewer as "a meditative, folkish-jazz project," Mr. Stetch is making a zigzag tour of Canadian and American cities that started with the New York concert and takes him to Montreal and Peekskill, N.Y., then on to the Canadian West (Vancouver, Edmonton, Regina and Winnipeg), back east to Halifax, and west again to Yellowknife and Edmonton (his home town), where he will perform with the Ukrainian Male Chorus. His U.S. itinerary begins in Washington, on November 12 at Blues Alley for an appearance with a trio, continues with concerts in New York (Ukrainian Institute of America, November 15) and Montclair, N.J., and winds up at the Philadelphia Museum of Art on January 10.

In a live appearance on the WNYC-FM show "Sound Check" on September 20, Mr. Stetch played two compositions from "Ukrainianism" – Ukrainian folk melodies with a jazzed-up sound that sounded quite delightful to this listener – chatted with host John Schaefer about the new CD (his seventh album) and joked about his birth name, Ivan Stechishin. Mr. Schaefer rounded out the show very nicely with recordings of Ukrainian folk songs by Met Opera bass/baritone Paul Plishka and a recording of Virko Baley's piano work based on the Ukrainian "kolomyika" dance.

One of three finalists in the 1993 Thelonious Monk International Jazz Composers' Competition, Mr. Stetch went on to win first place in the Prix de Jazz du Maurier at the 1998 Montreal Jazz Festival. Hailed by The Toronto Star as "a rising star in this crowded firmament" and by Jazz Times as "an abundantly gifted artist who bears watching," Mr. Stetch reveals an immaculate, lyrical style ranging from free-form improvisation to adventurous interpretations of standards.

### Looking ahead

Though details about other performers and new books must be held over to the next "Dateline New York" column, some upcoming events bear mentioning now. American Ballet Theatre, for instance, will hold its fall season at City Center from October 15 to 27, with principal dancers Irina Dvorovento and Maxim Belotserkovsky set to perform at the opening-night gala (the pas de deux and coda from the Grand Pas Classique) and throughout the two-week season. Vladimir Malakhov, however, is not appearing in this fall outing.

The Metropolitan Opera has scheduled Paul Plishka and Vasily Gerello for appearances in Puccini's "La Boheme" from February 18 to May 2, with Mr. Plishka in dual roles as Benoit/Alcindoro and Mr.

(Continued on page 21)



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## Ukrainian American...

(Continued from page 11)

The three attorneys chosen to receive the UABA's Litigation Award in this matter were lead counsel Arthur Belendiuk, Bohdanna Pochoday-Stelmach, and Askold S. Lozynskyj. In accepting his award, Mr. Belendiuk defined the results of the lawsuit by stating that the "victory is that we have not seen any more programs like this." Ms. Pochoday-Stelmach commented that the action against CBS was a team effort, one that the litigators shared with a community that demonstrated, wrote letters and supported the attorneys in countless other ways. Mr. Lozynskyj was not present, but in a letter read by President Michniak, echoed the sentiment that the "award belongs to the community."

The three recipients of the second set of Litigation Awards were individuals who felt that Ukrainians who had suffered at the hands of the Nazis by being forced into labor camps for the benefit of the Third Reich deserved to be compensated for their pain and suffering. Filing class-action suits against Austrian and German companies that were the beneficiaries of slave labor, they were able to secure compensation for more than 600,000 Ukrainians.

Accepting his award, Myroslaw Smorodsky commented that the experience was a sobering one because it reopened horrible wounds. The compensation, he added, does not make up for it, but it is a step in the right direction. Danylo Kurdelchuk, the Ukrainian attorney who worked with Mr. Smorodsky to secure compensation for survivors in Ukraine, reminded those assembled that many of his compatriots returned from the German camps only to be transported to Soviet camps. Unable to attend the UABA event was Pyotr S. Rabinovich, who forwarded a letter expressing his gratitude for the award.

The Founders Award was presented to George Pazuniak, one of the Ukrainian American attorneys present at the meeting in Cleveland's Port of Call Inn where the Ukrainian American Bar Association had its humble beginnings. Mr. Pazuniak, who has been an active and committed UABA member since that time, accepted his award with a characteristic humility, protesting that "there was no founder; there was a group of people and this award should be shared with them." He made a point of singling out members of that group present in the audience, including those who were law students at the time, and sadly recited the names of some of those who had died in the intervening years. Like most of the previous award recipients, Mr. Pazuniak expressed his happiness at being recognized by a jury of his peers.

The final award of the evening was presented to an individual who is neither an attorney nor of Ukrainian descent. Steve Vetterlein, the founder of the Ukrainian Orphaned Children's Fund of Philadelphia became acquainted with the plight of Ukraine's orphans when he "just happened to see" a report on the subject that aired on the Ukrainian television program "Kontakt." Inspired to help these children, he organized a bike-a-thon to raise funds and to increase awareness of the problem. In accepting the UABA's Humanitarian Award, Mr. Vetterlein modestly stated his belief in the saying "Strive not to be a success, but strive to be of value."

The program ended with another musical performance by the Experimental Bandura Trio, one that included an amusing piece called "Advokat."

The following morning, UABA members convened in the Rittenhouse Conference Room for a business meeting. Reports were presented by UABA officers, the Board of Governors, and the Scholarship Committee. Before dispersing, the attorneys also discussed ongoing UABA projects and the 2003 conference venue and agenda.



## The founding family...

(Continued from page 12)

A more realistic chronology

A somewhat revised, but far more possible, chronology has Ihor (a Varangian leader) being born around 910 and not necessarily related to Rurik or Oleh in any way, conquering Kyiv about the year 935,<sup>12</sup> and marrying Olha about 940. His subsequent exploits as recounted in the PVL and in other sources would then follow very nicely and make more sense.

What about the gap in the timeline? The chronicler obviously had no information for the years 920 to 941, and probably as far back as 911. He more than likely made up the story of young Ihor being the scion of the famous, and by then legendary, Riurik in order to embellish the line of descent and to help bridge the gap in the years from 912 (Oleh's death) to ca. 940. The few campaigns recorded for Ihor in 913-915 and 920 echo similar events recorded earlier (expeditions against the Derevlians are first mentioned in 883)<sup>13</sup> and for 945 and later,<sup>14</sup> and were clearly made up by the chronicler to "fill in" embarrassing lacunae. There is no compelling evidence to support the claim that Ihor, or the entire dynasty to follow him, was in any way related to Riurik/Rorik.

The so-called Riurikide Dynasty that ruled in Kyiv until 1240, and in Galicia-Volyn until 1340, should more properly be termed the Ihoride Dynasty.

Some discussion is in order regarding Ihor's installation in Kyiv. The PVL mentions that it was Oleh, in the name of the infant Ihor, who usurped the leadership of Kyiv in 882 by killing the city's leaders, Askold and Dyr. An earlier version of the PVL, a compilation known as the Novgorod Chronicle (NPL), has a very similar story but it is a grown Ihor, with his "general by the name of Oleh, a man valiant and wise," who undertakes a campaign southward (no year is given) to secure the Dnipro River and arrive at the Kyivan hills. Inquiring as to who rules in Kyiv, they are told: "Two brothers, Askold and Dyr."

"Ihor and Oleh pretended to be just passing by, and having hidden themselves in the boats, they came out to the bank with a small retinue; and representing themselves as ... merchants, they called Askold and Dyr."

"As they both came down, Ihor's hidden warriors jumped out of the boats, to the bank. And Ihor said to Askold: 'Both of you are not kings, nor even of royal stock, but I am a king, and I am fit to reign.' They killed Askold and Dyr ... And Ihor set himself up as king in Kyiv."<sup>15</sup>

Another historical source also mentions the capture of Kyiv. Jan Dlugosz's "Historia Polonica," a work most likely based on the chronicle "Peremyshlian Codex," which has not survived, does not

mention Oleh at all; Ihor is the lone actor. The brief statement reads: "Ihor ... having attained adulthood, treacherously killed the Kyivan princes, Oszkald [Askold] and Dyr, who suspected no hostility on his part, and then occupied their principality and lands."<sup>16</sup>

It would seem, then, that the compiler of the PVL reassigned Oleh, a contemporary of Ihor, to the previous generation in order to help fill out the chronicle of events during the latter decades of the ninth century and early part of the 10th. As we shall see below, however, there are other references that would seem to indicate these two personalities lived at the same time and Oleh could well have served as Ihor's commander-in-chief (voyevoda).

The ancient chronicles relate that Kyiv was taken from two Varangian boyars (nobles) Askold and Dyr (Figure 3); they themselves had wrested the city from the large eastern European empire of the Khazars<sup>17</sup> in about 860.<sup>18</sup> How true some of these statements are is difficult to know. Askold and Dyr may in fact have been Khazar vassals since evidence seems to indicate that the Khazars may still have ruled in Kyiv into the 930s.<sup>19</sup> Ihor took Kyiv from the Khazars (whose liegemen may or may not have been Askold and Dir) in about 935 and set about consolidating his rule.

The capture and control of Kyiv was a strategic coup. Beginning about the year 900, much of the focus of trade in Eastern Europe had shifted from the Volga River water route to that of the comparatively empty Dnipro. Although there was an obstacle of nine rapids to be overcome (over an almost 70-kilometer stretch) in the lower reaches of the Dnipro River – as well as Pecheneg raiders to guard against during the arduous portage – the dangers were worth it to the Varangians and Rus' traders since this route was so much closer to their ultimate destination of Constantinople. Additionally, the tithes and tolls on Volga River traffic, imposed by the Bulgars and Khazars who controlled that river's passage, could be avoided by the new route.<sup>20</sup>

Up to this point the "history" of Ihor's rule is mostly informed speculation based on sparse and sometimes vague information; it stands in marked contrast to the many detailed reports about Ihor and his Rus' followers that are available for the years 941-945. Some of these sources list Inger (i.e., Ihor) as being the leader of the Rus' at this time, while others mention Helgu (Oleh). Since Oleh, as Ihor's general, conducted some of the Rus' campaigns, such citations are not necessarily contradictory. We will examine these references in more detail in part II of this article.

*Inger Kuzych may be contacted at P.O. Box 3, Springfield, VA 22150 or by e-mail at [ingert@starpower.net](mailto:ingert@starpower.net)*

12 Golb, Norman and Pritsak, Omeljan, "Khazarian Hebrew Documents of the Tenth Century" (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1982), pp. 67-69.

13 PVL, p. 61.

14 PVL, pp. 78, 85. The PVL entries for 915 and 968 both state that the Pechenegs entered or invaded Rus' "for the first time." The earlier entry was most probably fabricated. Pecheneg attacks did not become troublesome for Rus until the latter half of the 10th and the first half of the 11th centuries.

15 "Novgorodskaja Pervaia Letopis Starshego i Mladshego Izvodov," ed. A. N. Nasonov (Moscow Leningrad, 1950), p. 107.

16 "Ionnis Dlugossii Annales seu cronicae incliti Regni Poloniae," ed. J. Dabrowski Vol. I (Warsaw, 1964), p. 122.

17 The Khazars were a Turkic-speaking people who appeared in southeastern Europe after the expulsion of the Huns in the fourth century and lived in the area until late in the 11th century. During the seventh century they conquered some of the neighboring peoples and established the Khazar Kaganate, the first state in eastern Europe. The Kaganate reached its greatest extent in the late eighth century when it grew to encompass northern Caucasia, the Azov steppe, and most of Eastern Europe up to the Dnipro River. Although the Christian, Muslim and Jewish faiths co-existed peacefully on Khazar territory, it was Judaism that was established as the state religion in the early ninth century.

18 PVL, pp. 59-60.

19 Golb and Pritsak, "Khazarian Hebrew Documents," p. 71.

20 The shift in Rus' trade orientation is well described by Franklin, S. and Shepard, J. in Chapter 2 of "The Emergence of Rus' 750-1200" (London, Longman Group Ltd., 1996), pp. 71-111.



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**NEW YORK DISTRICT  
FALL ORGANIZING MEETING**

will be held on

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2002, at 6:00 PM  
at "Selfreliance" Association, 98 Second Ave., New York, NY**

Obligated to attend the meeting are: District Committee Officers, Branch Officers,  
Convention Delegates and  
two delegates from each of the following Branches:

**5, 8, 16, 86, 130, 184, 194, 204, 256, 267, 293, 325, 327, 361,  
450, 489**

**THE MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:**

**Stefan Kaczaraj – UNA President  
Barbara Bachynsky – UNA Advisor  
Dr. Vasyl Luchkiv – UNA Advisor  
Honorary member of the UNA General Assembly,  
Joseph Lesawyer**

-----  
District Committee:

Barbara Bachynsky, District Chairman  
Motria Milanytch, District Secretary  
John Choma, Treasurer  
Dr. Vasyl Luchkiv – Honorary District Chairman

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

*announces that the*

**CONNECTICUT DISTRICT  
FALL ORGANIZING MEETING**

will be held on

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2002, at 2:00 PM  
UCC of Holy Protection B.V. Mary in Bridgeport  
255 Barnum Ave. Bridgeport, CT**

Obligated to attend the meeting are: District Committee Officers, Branch Officers,  
Convention Delegates and  
two delegates from each of the following Branches:

**12, 59, 67, 253, 254, 277, 350, 387, 414**

**THE MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:**

**Christine E. Kozak – National Secretary**

-----  
District Committee:

Ihor E. Hyda, District Chairman  
Stephan Tarasiuk, Secretary  
Taras Slevinsky, Treasurer

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

*announces that the*

**ALBANY DISTRICT  
FALL ORGANIZING MEETING**

will be held on

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2002, at 2:00 PM  
at the Ukrainian American Citizens Club  
402 25th St., Watervliet, NY**

Obligated to attend the meeting are: District Committee Officers, Branch Officers,  
Convention Delegates and  
two delegates from each of the following Branches:

**13, 57, 88, 200, 266**

**THE MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:**

**Roma Lisovich – UNA Treasurer**

-----  
District Committee:

Nicholas Fil, District Chairman  
Walter Litynsky, Secretary  
Walter Krywulych, Treasurer  
Paul Shewchuk, Honorary District Chairman

**U.S. authenticates...**

*(Continued from page 2)*

Ukraine while we carry out this review," she explained.

Asked on September 26 whether he believes the timing of the American announcement was designed to influence the current political situation in Ukraine or aid the anti-Kuchma opposition, Yuriy Serhegev, state secretary at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, told RFE/RL: "We would not like to think that it is linked to the present domestic political situation. What we are really worried about in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are the outright errors made in the accusations. We are especially worried by this because it is serious – it not only reflects badly on our image, but these accusations of impropriety cast a shadow on the long-standing relations between two serious partners."

Reuters reported that the official said the \$54 million that was set aside for the central Ukrainian government as part of the "Freedom Support Act" in fiscal year 2002, which ended in September, has been put on hold. He added that further measures are being considered in a review that should last a week or two, according to the news agency.

The New York Times on September 24 wrote that: "The finding follows a judgment by experts at the Justice Department and elsewhere in the government that a clandestine tape recording – in which a voice that the United States has concluded is Mr. Kuchma's is heard discussing smuggling the radar system to Iraq – is authentic and

unaltered." In the recording, the head of UkrSpetzExport is seemingly heard telling Mr. Kuchma that the operation to smuggle the Kolchuha into Iraq will be handled by Leonid Derkach, the head of the Ukrainian Secret Service. Mr. Derkach was eventually relieved of his post and is presently a member of the Ukrainian Parliament.

When asked about other parts of the Melnychenko recordings, in particular those where President Kuchma is heard ordering the disappearance of Heorhii Gongadze, an independent journalist who was found murdered in September 2000, the official told Reuters that the United States has not authenticated that section of the recordings. "Certainly our assessment that this Kolchuha recording is authentic colors the way that we look at the other recordings," he said, according to Reuters.

Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Anatolii Zlenko told AP on September 25 that his country's president may have authorized selling an advanced radar system to Iraq but insisted the sale – which would have contravened U.N. sanctions – never took place. Speaking to reporters in the Dominican Republic the day after the State Department announcement, Mr. Zlenko said the tape could have been made during one of the president's discussions, but that it is "impossible to sell arms in this manner."

The deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, Marie Yovanovitch, told a press conference in Kyiv on September 25 that the "tapes are reason enough to review our policy toward Ukraine. They show that the president personally approved the illegal sale of arms to Iraq."

**Yarymovych awarded...**

*(Continued from page 9)*

number of initiatives were started to develop business with Ukraine. The first visit to the Yuzhnoye (now known as Pivdenne) facilities in Dnipropetrovsk took place in early 1992. It was especially interesting to meet its (then) general director (and current president of Ukraine) Leonid Kuchma and to see the plant where the large intercontinental ballistic missiles were built, against which Rockwell had been proposing missile defenses.

In spite of the fact that the engineering was superb, at first it was very difficult to start business relations because of widely differing concepts of business and financing. All of the large projects were conducted there on the basis of government decree, without much understanding of cost accounting.

In the end the conversion of the ballistic

missiles to space launchers became less attractive. Although they can carry potent nuclear warheads, their ability to place satellites into orbit is limited. There are now some multinational initiatives to enter the space launch vehicle market using the converted missiles but, in the meantime, the need for commercial space launch has greatly diminished.

However, this facility also built a rocket that was many times larger than any ICBM. It was the space launcher Zenit, which was designed to launch large Soviet spy satellites from Baikonur in Kazakhstan. This eventually became the basis of the very successful international Sea Launch project to place large commercial communications satellites into geostationary orbit from the equator. This was a major billion-dollar venture between companies from Russia, Ukraine, Norway and Boeing, where Pivdenmash finally had the opportunity to work with Western counterparts and finally earn some profits.

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

*announces that the*

**PITTSBURGH DISTRICT  
FALL ORGANIZING MEETING**

will be held on

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2002, at 12:00 noon  
at the UNA Branch 161 Meeting Hall  
600 Glenwood Ave., Ambridge, PA 15003**

Obligated to attend the meeting are: District Committee Officers, Branch Officers,  
Convention Delegates and  
two delegates from each of the following Branches:

**53, 56, 63, 96, 113, 120, 161, 264, 296, 338, 481**

**THE MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:**

**Stefan Kaczaraj – UNA President**

-----  
District Committee:

Nicholas Diakiwsky, District Chairman  
Osyp Polatajko, Vice-President  
Slava Komichak, District Secretary  
Elias Matiash, Treasurer



## COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

### Rhode Island's Ukrainians are subject of exhibit



WOONSOCKET, R.I. – The Museum of Work and Culture affiliated with the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Society presented an exhibit titled "Ukrainians of Rhode Island" for the month of August. On Friday, August 16, 50 people attended a flag-raising ceremony to commemorate the 11th anniversary of the independence of Ukraine and to acknowledge August as Ukrainian Heritage Awareness Month. The exhibit was coordinated by Irene Sarachmon, Alice Kogut and Eleanor Kogut, members of the Ukrainian Heritage Subcommittee of Rhode Island. All items were on loan or donated by members of the local Ukrainian communities of Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. The exhibit consisted of a background history of Ukraine and Ukrainian immigration to Rhode Island. Historical images, ceramics, wood-carved objects, pysanky and embroidered rushnyky (ritual cloths) were just a few of the items that comprised this exhibit. Seen above (from left) are: Eleanor Kogut, Alice Kogut and Ms. Sarachmon.

### Ukrainian Independence Day marked in Ambridge



AMBRIDGE, Pa. – On Saturday, August 24, the Ukrainian community of the Beaver Valley (west suburban Pittsburgh) gathered to celebrate the 11th anniversary of the independence of Ukraine with a moleben of thanksgiving and reception at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Ambridge, Pa. The moleben was served by host pastor, the Rev. Michael Kochis, the Rev. Canon Walter Wysochansky, assistant pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Ambridge, and the Rev. Deacon Michael Levy of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Parish of South Side Pittsburgh, who gave the homily. The moleben concluded with the singing of "Bozhe Velykyi Yedynyi" and "Sche ne Vmerla Ukraina." Guests then gathered in St. Vladimir Social Hall for refreshments provided by the ladies of both St. Vladimir and Ss. Peter and Paul parishes. This annual celebration began last year with the Ukrainian Independence Day observance hosted at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish. Seen above (from left) are the Revs. Kochis and Wysochansky, and Deacon Levy intoning "Mnohaya Lita."

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## THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

*announces that the*

### MONTREAL DISTRICT FALL ORGANIZING MEETING

will be held on

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2002, at 2:00 PM**  
at the **Ukrainian Canadian Congress**  
3244 Beaubien E. Rsmt., Montreal, Quebec

Obligated to attend the meeting are: District Committee Officers, Branch Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from each of the following Branches:

**434, 465, 473**

**THE MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:**  
**TEKLA MOROZ – Honorary member of the UNA General Assembly**

District Committee:  
Tekla Moroz, District Chairman  
Yaroslawa Bachynsky, Secretary  
Serguei Djoula, Treasurer  
Alexandra Dolnycky, Referent

## THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

*announces that the*

### BUFFALO AND NIAGARA DISTRICTS FALL ORGANIZING MEETING

will be held on

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2002, at 4:30 PM**  
at the **St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall**  
308 Fillmore Ave., Buffalo, NY

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

**127, 304, 360**  
**412, 416, 427, 458, 461, 462**

**THE MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:**  
**UNA Executive Committee**  
**Christine E. Kozak – National Secretary**  
**Myron Groch – UNA Advisor**  
**Joseph Hawryluk – UNA Advisor**

District Committee:  
Joseph Hawryluk – Buffalo District Chairman  
Ben Doliszny – Niagara District Chairman

## THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

*announces that the*

### BALTIMORE DISTRICT FALL ORGANIZING MEETING

will be held on

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2002, at 3:00 PM**  
at the **St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church**  
2401 Eastern Ave., Baltimore, MD 21224

Obligated to attend the meeting are: District Committee Officers, Branch Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from each of the following Branches:

**15, 55, 290, 320**

**THE MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:**  
**Martha Lysko – UNA Vice-President**

District Committee:  
Paul G. Fenchak, Secretary  
Paul Fenchak, Treasurer



## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

companies dominated by the Russian gas giant Gazprom will gain control of Ukraine's gas pipelines, the Associated Press reported. Later that same day Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin said he is sure the Ukrainian opposition is unable to block the creation of the gas-transport consortium. "I don't think this is a question for the opposition. Let the opposition take care of its own business," the Associated Press quoted Ambassador Chernomyrdin as saying. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Warsaw concerned about developments

WARSAW – "We've been watching what is happening in Ukraine not only with interest, but also with concern, since there is a growing risk of political instability there," Foreign Minister Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz said on Polish Radio on September 27. Commenting on the U.S. claims that Ukraine may have sold radar

systems to Iraq, Mr. Cimoszewicz said that he has advised his Ukrainian counterpart to "treat this situation with utmost seriousness." Meanwhile, President Aleksander Kwasniewski said the same day that Kyiv's decision to invite United Nations inspectors to clarify the allegations regarding the radar sale was appropriate. Mr. Kwasniewski also said he is in favor of dialogue between President Leonid Kuchma and the opposition in the current political crisis in Ukraine. "The worst scenario for Ukraine would be murky water and tensions that last for a long time and which in the end mean a waste of time," the Polish president noted. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Kuchma refuses to step down ...

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma addressed the nation on the ICTV television channel on September 28 and accused the opposition of resorting to violence to unseat him. "It is one thing to express one's dissatisfaction, but another thing to [try to] force a violent change of the power and social system," the president said. Mr. Kuchma called

for an end to opposition protests, saying that previous demonstrations have damaged Ukraine's image and stall social progress. "[Opposition leaders] must think about whether to discharge the responsibilities for which they were elected by some 50 million citizens during the elections, or to execute the demands of close to 50,000 people who participated in nationwide demonstrations," he noted, adding that "I refuse categorically to resign ... because I was elected by the people as the head of state and I feel fully responsible for all that happens in the country." President Kuchma did not mention the allegations that Ukraine may have illegally sold a Kolchuha radar system to Iraq. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### ... says opposition sabotages Rada ...

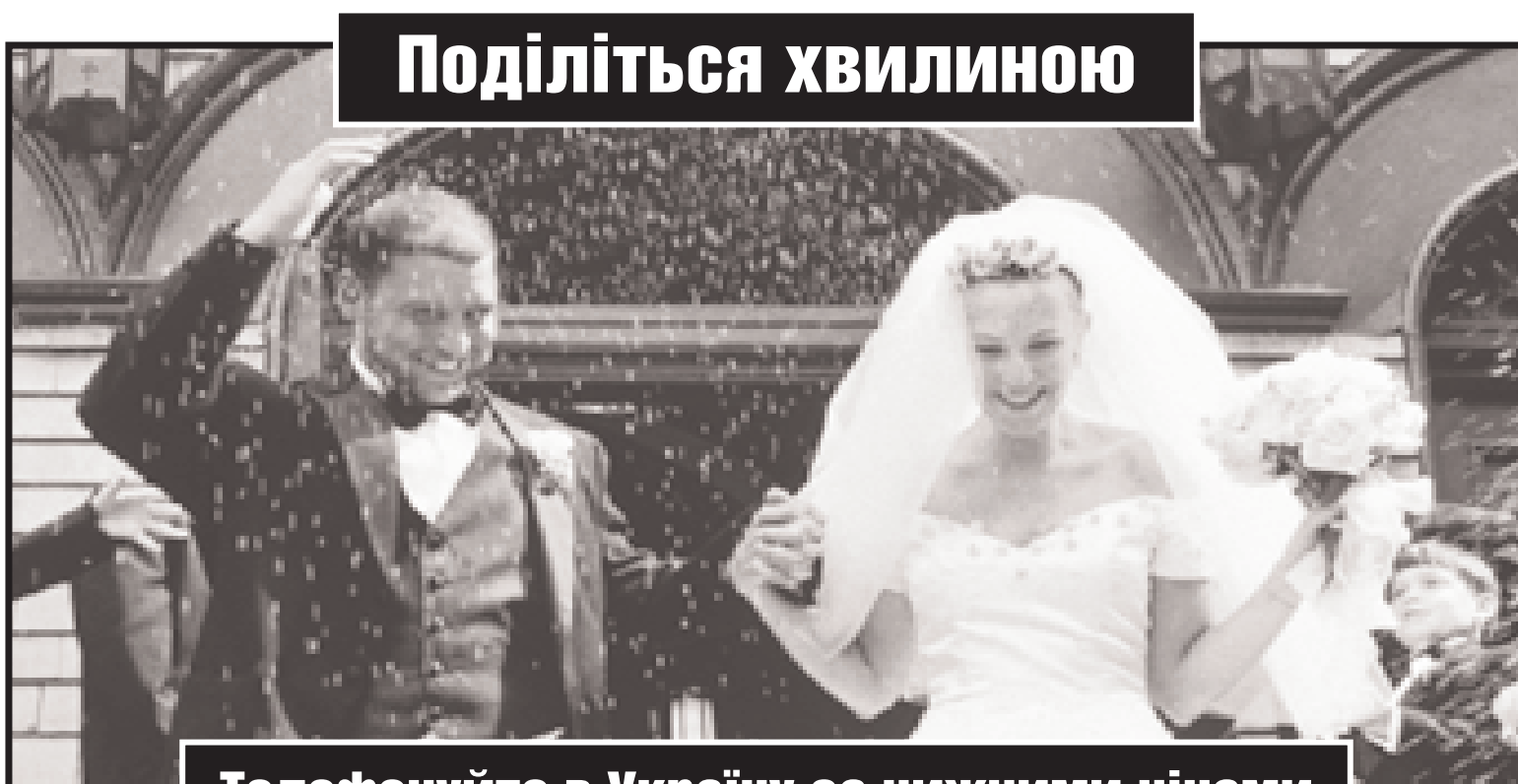
KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma charged on September 28 that opposition lawmakers are sabotaging the ongoing parliamentary session by refusing to participate in voting. He castigated them for failing last week to support a law on money laundering, and suggested that Ukraine's international

image may be severely damaged and international organizations may impose sanctions against Ukraine because of this failure. He also lashed out at opposition legislators for not voting on a bill that would provide assistance to the families of handicapped persons. Mr. Kuchma praised the recent effort of nine pro-presidential groups to create a parliamentary majority numbering 226 deputies. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### ... and undermines the economy

CHERNIHIV – Speaking in Chernihiv on September 28, President Leonid Kuchma said the recent opposition protests have negatively affected the economy, the UNIAN news service reported. "[Only] 15,000 people took to the streets in Kyiv and the same amount in other cities, but this has already caused enterprises to work worse. We have seen [the consequences] in tax [collection]," Mr. Kuchma noted. "Every ... entrepreneur asks himself: What will happen tomorrow? It is natural that entrepreneurs are afraid that [Communist Party leader Petro]

(Continued on page 19)



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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 18)

Symonenko or [Socialist Party leader Oleksander] Moroz will come [to power] and abolish private ownership," the president added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Pro-presidential majority proclaimed ...

KYIV – Lawmaker Volodymyr Pekhotka read a statement in the Verkhovna Rada on September 27 saying that the nine pro-presidential groups – the Party of Entrepreneurs-Labor Ukraine, Ukraine's Regions, Social Democratic Party-United, European Choice, Democratic Initiatives, National Democratic Party, Power of the People, Ukraine's Agrarians, and People's Choice – and independent deputies have set up a parliamentary majority that "will assume the responsibility for legislative activities and the creation of a coalition government in accordance with the president's proposals regarding the implementation of political reform." The statement threatens that if the opposition continues to disrupt the work of the Parliament, the newly created majority will reappoint parliamentary committees. Presidential representative Oleksander Zadorozhnyi said the majority currently consists of 226 deputies (the minimum amount required to adopt laws) and is open to other lawmakers. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### ... but its practicality may be dubious

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on September 26 passed several resolutions and bills with votes of 226-228 from the pro-presidential groups and some other deputies, but Parliament Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn has not sent any of them to the president for approval, UNIAN reported on September 27. The parliamentary Regulations Committee, headed by Communist lawmaker Valentyn Matveyev, protested that some deputies illegally voted for 14 colleagues (using their magnetic voting cards) who are currently either in official trips or on sick leave. According to Mr. Matveyev, the voting in the Parliament on September 26 was invalid. The opposition Communist Party, Socialist Party, and Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc caucuses, as well as Our Ukraine, continue to boycott voting, demanding that the Parliament immediately address the current political crisis in its debate. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Kyiv continues to deny Iraq deal

KYIV – Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma assured British Defense Minister Geoffrey Hoon in Kyiv on September 26 that Ukraine has never supplied any weapons to Iraq, reported the UNIAN news service, quoting presidential spokeswoman Olena Hromnytska. Mr. Kuchma made his

comment in connection with Washington's publicized suspicions that Ukraine might have sold a Kolchuha radar system to Iraq in contravention of U.N. sanctions. Foreign Affairs Minister Anatolii Zlenko told journalists on September 25 that President Kuchma might have authorized selling a Kolchuha system to Iraq – as suggested by Mykola Melnychenko's secret recording – but insisted that the sale never took place, the Associated Press reported. Mr. Zlenko interrupted his visit to the Dominican Republic to meet United Nations officials in New York in order to rebut the U.S. allegations, Reuters reported on September 26. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Pressure mounts for clear explanation

WARSAW – NATO Secretary-General George Robertson called on Ukraine in Warsaw on September 25 to explain allegations that it sold a Kolchuha early warning system to Iraq. Mr. Robertson added that relations between NATO and Kyiv have hit a "tricky moment," Reuters reported. "I can tell you that there is a very serious atmosphere on this subject, and some very serious questions still remain to be answered," Mr. Robertson noted. Ukrainian National Deputy Heorhii Kriuchkov (Communist Party), the chairman of the parliamentary Commission for National Security and Defense, told UNIAN on September 26 that the U.S. allegations are "unfair and insulting" to Ukraine, adding that their primary intention is to give a boost to the ongoing anti-presidential protest in Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Opposition appeals to world community

KYIV – In a joint statement, the parliamentary caucuses of the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and Our Ukraine have appealed to the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, and the governments of the United States and Canada not to impose economic sanctions on Ukraine and "to draw a clear dividing line between the people of Ukraine and criminal actions by [Ukrainian] officials," UNIAN reported on September 26. The caucuses recalled that the previous Parliament made several attempts to launch an investigation regarding Ukraine's alleged illegal arms deals, but was prevented from doing this by President Leonid Kuchma and "deputies who were dependent on" Mr. Kuchma. "We are ready, without waiting for more exposing steps on the part of international community, to carry out a full and comprehensive investigation and to apply all necessary procedures as regards the responsibility of specific officials for illegal arms trading in contravention of United Nations resolutions," the statement read. (RFE/RL Newsline)

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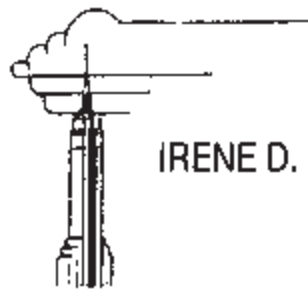
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## Senior scouts of Chornomortsi prepare for fraternity's 75th anniversary

by Damian Handzy

GLEN SPEY, N.Y. – The senior scouting fraternity of Chornomortsi held its biennial conference on June 22-23 at the Verkhovyna resort in Glen Spey, N.Y. Senior scouts of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization typically are scoutmasters over the age of 35. The meeting was attended by 39 members and candidates who operate in crews located in the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Ohio, Michigan and Ontario.

The main topic of discussion was the 75th anniversary of the founding of Chornomortsi in Ukraine by such legendary figures as Roman Shukhevych and Yaro Hladkyj in 1927. Fraternity members are planning several commemorations in each of their operating locations, including those in Ukraine and Australia.

In addition to celebrations such as evening sailing cruises for members and families in numerous cities, Chornomortsi plan to also issue 75th anniversary memorabilia, such as photographic chronicles in print and electronic media. The yearlong celebration was inaugurated at a special campfire at Verkhovyna during which members recounted their own experiences, especially the early years in Ukraine.

Chornomortsi hold their "Velyka Rada" (Grand Council) on even-numbered years during which major planning decisions are made and new officers elected. This year they initiated the transfer of the leadership to the senior fraternity's younger generation with three



Senior scouts of the Chornomortsi fraternity during their biennial conference at the Verkhovyna resort.

recently admitted members taking positions as officers. In odd-numbered years, Chornomortsi traditionally gather in June in social settings. The year 2001 saw two such gatherings, one in the United States and another in Ukraine, each with about 35 participants.

The senior Chornomortsi are one of

Plast's four sea scout fraternity/sorority groups (known as "kureni"). The Chornomortsi are divided into senior and young adult (age 18-35) units, as is the Chornomorski Khvyli sorority. These four sea scout units coordinate their efforts through the "Chornomorska Rada" (Black Sea Council), their govern-

ing body, which is made up of the leaders of the four units and is headed by the "Morskyi Vovk" (Sea Wolf).

The goal of these four Plast units is to promote sea scouting as a means for Ukrainian youth to develop a strong sense of civic duty to their Ukrainian communities.

### 4th Annual Golf Tournament

## Plast Open – Chicago

Pobratymy Foundation wishes to express thanks to all volunteers, prize donors, and the following individuals and corporate sponsors for their generous contributions to the 4th Annual Plast Golf Tournament in Chicago on September 7, 2002.

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# Andrij Babytsch

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# Dateline...

(Continued from page 13)

Gerello as Marcello. Contralto Elena Zarembo, identified by a British newspaper as Ukrainian when she performed at Covent Garden, will sing the role of Anna in "Les Troyens" in February and March. Kirov Opera singers Victor Lutsiuk, Mikhaïl Kit and Mr. Gerello (there may be other Ukrainians in the roster, as well) will appear in Kirov productions at the Met in July 2003, singing in "Macbeth," "Eugene Onegin" and "Semyon Kotko," an opera originally set in Ukraine but reportedly changed to another locale by Kirov.

Maria Guleghina, who has made frequent appearances at the Met, is not among its stars this season. But she will perform in New York in January with the Collegiate Chorale, co-starring with tenor Salvatore Licitra in a concert performance of "La Forza del Destino."

It's surprising and sad to report that the New York City Opera, gifted in past years by the voices of Mary Lesawyer and George Bohachevsky, and more recently by Oksana Kroyvtska, Michael Didyk and Anna Shafajnskaia, has no

Ukrainian singers in its roster this season. The Ukrainian Institute of America, which is holding its official season opener this very evening and has scheduled an exhibit of art by Andriy Babytsch for October 11 to December 1 and the season's first Music at the Institute concert for October 12, has designated 2003 as the Year of the Renaissance of Kyiv. The program will open this December with the man of the year banquet at the Plaza Hotel and a monthlong photo exhibit portraying the transformation of Kyiv into one of the most beautiful and exciting cities in Eastern Europe.

The Ukrainian Museum, anticipating the completion of new quarters on East Sixth Street next year, has begun to make plans and preparations for its inaugural exhibit in the new building in 2004. In the meantime, workshops in embroidery, bead-stringing, Christmas bread-baking and Christmas tree ornaments are in session as usual, and museum officials are finalizing plans for the annual Malanka celebration at New York's famous Tavern on the Green on January 25.

Helen Smindak's e-mail address is [HaliaSmindak@aol.com](mailto:HaliaSmindak@aol.com).



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# 'Kuchmagate'...

(Continued from page 2)

hoping it would go away.

Time, however, was working against them. One of the first reasons for doubting the sincerity of the authorities was the fiasco surrounding FBI experts invited to Ukraine in April of this year to investigate the Gongadze murder. The FBI agents went home empty-handed, as they were denied access to evidence.

Most of the Ukrainian elites accept that the tapes are genuine. Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko claims he never doubted their authenticity from the time they were first offered to him on November 11, 2000. Nevertheless, the Communists think along similar lines as do the oligarchs and Mr. Kuchma: that the taping was part of a U.S.-backed plot.

The Ukrainian position on the tapes did not budge when BEK TEK, a specialists firm that provides authentication services to the FBI and the U.S. Supreme Court, began to authenticate sections of the tapes provided by Mr. Melnychenko. BEK TEK confirmed that no sections had been spliced together, as President Kuchma claimed. BEK TEK's authentication was insufficient for the Ukrainian authorities, as it was undertaken by a private company. In a similar manner, a test of the tapes made by the Vienna Press Institute early on in the Kuchmagate crisis also was ignored.

Over the course of this year, Ukrainian authorities have been forced gradually to change their attitude toward the tapes. In August, the newly appointed procurator general, Sviatoslav Piskun, ordered a test abroad of the tape dealing with Mr. Gongadze. This was coupled with new autopsies of Mr. Gongadze's decapitated body and an admission that his murder was political – something the authorities had always denied.

Ukraine's authorities have been mainly forced to change their attitudes toward the tapes mainly through international pressure. For example, they have continued to deny that Kolchuha radar systems were ever dispatched to Iraq in contravention of the United Nations arms embargo. After the United States undertook its own official tests and officially announced their results on September 24, Ukrainian authorities could no longer deny that the portion of the tapes where Kuchma is heard authorizing the sale is not genuine. Whether the Kolchuhas are in Iraq is still to be determined. Nevertheless, all sides

now agree that Mr. Kuchma authorized their sale.

Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Anatolii Zlenko has now admitted that the president's office could have been bugged after all. What will Ukraine's next retreat be?

The United States has admitted that its authentication of the tape dealing with Iraq will color its views of other portions of the tapes, e.g., one portion relates to Mr. Kuchma apparently lying to the United States about former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko. Mr. Melnychenko is to be a witness in the Lazarenko trial, and the United States therefore, will, be conducting further official tests of other portions. Will Ukraine backtrack each time an official result is announced by the United States?

Since the Kuchmagate crisis began in November 2000, the authorities have not been honest or forthright regarding the tapes and have refused to investigate the serious allegations arising from them. Only international pressure has forced them to shift begrudgingly from total denial to selective denial (the tapes are genuine but spliced together) and now acceptance that some of them have not been tampered with.

Instead of dealing with the issues raised on the taped conversations, the authorities' gut reaction was to initiate legal action against Melnychenko and to accuse him of "treason" and "espionage." The tapes allegedly include state secrets, which Melnychenko accepts, but the Ukrainian authorities argue that none of them should be released. Mr. Melnychenko and the authorities disagree over the definition of "state secrets." Mr. Melnychenko sticks to the traditional definition of "state secrets," which deals with foreign countries (issues pertaining to Russia, Britain, Germany, Israel, Spain and Turkey are on the tapes), while Ukrainian authorities have a broader definition that includes all of the activities undertaken by President Kuchma that were taped, including corrupt ones.

The sharp reaction of the authorities to the tape scandal reflects their incredulity that they could be caught red-handed. The lack of transparency in the executive, the sense of infallibility and belief that the authorities would never be caught, and the unclear dividing line between the authorities and the state all were severely damaged by the tapes. Thus, the authorities are demonstrating an unwillingness to come clean and initiate an impartial investigation.

The public is cordially invited and encouraged to attend the next meeting of the



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# Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

Chief of Staff Volodymyr Lytvyn and Minister of Internal Affairs Yurii Kravchenko, based on conversations on a tape recording in which voices allegedly belonging to them are heard to be planning the journalist's abduction. In that letter, according to an Interfax-Ukraine report of September 28, Mr. Bahanets explained that his office had found all allegations against the three to be false.

Now, two years later, portions of the Melnychenko tapes dealing with the sale of a Kolchuha early warning system to Iraq have been found to be authentic. A determination has yet to be made on the rest of the recordings, and the Gongadze case has yet to be solved.

Source: "Ukraine's chief prosecutor clears Kuchma of complicity in Gongadze case," by Roman Woronowycz, Kyiv Press Bureau, and "Committee to Protect Journalists seeks international investigation into Gongadze case," both in *The Ukrainian Weekly*, October 7, 2001, Vol. LXIX, No. 40.

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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

### Tuesday, October 8

**WASHINGTON:** The Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a gala reception to be held at the Ronald Reagan Building, International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. in the Pavilion Room. Invited guests include Vice-President Richard Cheney and several members of Congress. Ukrainian folk singer Marika Burmaka will provide the entertainment. Formal evening wear is requested. For tickets and information call UNIS, (202) 547-0018.

### Saturday, October 12

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society is sponsoring a presentation by Dr. Taras Kuzio, resident fellow and adjunct professor at the Center for Russian and East European Studies (CREES), University of Toronto, on the topic "Can the Communists and Socialists Come to Power in Ukraine?" Dr. Kuzio is former senior research fellow, CREES, University of Birmingham; post-doctoral fellow, Yale University; and visiting fellow at Brown University. He was also head of the NATO Information Office in Kyiv. The presentation will be held at the Shevchenko Scientific Society, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets), at 5 p.m. For additional information call (212) 254-5130.

**SOUTHPORT, Conn.:** The second annual pig roast will be held at the Ukrainian American Club at 2 p.m. We invite all Ukrainian Americans and their friends in Connecticut and nearby areas to come join us in celebrating the re-establishment of the oldest Ukrainian club in Connecticut. For further information call Irene Kelemen, (203) 255-4717; the club phone is (203) 259-2913.

### Sunday, October 13

**HORSHAM, Pa.:** The Tryzub Ukrainian American Sports Center and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Philadelphia Branch, invite all to "Sviato Kozatstva," a celebration of our Kozak heritage to be held at the Tryzub Sports Center, Lower State and County Line roads, beginning at 1 p.m. The day's activities will include dancing, performances, traditional food and drink, as well as Majors Division Soccer – Tryzub vs. United German Hungarians. Admission: \$3 per person; free for children up to age 16. (Anyone attending in full Kozak dress, i.e., men: embroidered shirt, shavary and boots; women: embroidered blouse, traditional skirt and boots – will not be charged admission.

**MANALAPAN, N.J.:** Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 98 of Holmdel Middletown, N.J. will host a conference to be held at the main branch of the Monmouth County Library, 125 Symmes Drive at 7 p.m. Speakers will address the topic "Trafficking in Women 2002: Update on What Has Happened." Keynote speaker Walter Zalisko's presentation will be on "Trafficking in Women and Children and the Government's Response." For further information contact the library, (732) 431-7220, or M. Orysia Jacus, (732) 264-8820.

### Thursday, October 17

**COLUMBUS, Ohio:** The Ukrainian Cultural Association of Ohio and the Center for Slavic and Eastern European Studies at the Ohio State University invite everyone to the UCAO fall lecture by Andrew Fedynsky, director of the Ukrainian Museum-Archives in Cleveland and columnist for The Ukrainian Weekly. Mr. Fedynsky will speak about various aspects of Ukrainian immigrant society in the United States and its relationship to an independent Ukraine. The lecture will be held at 7:30 p.m. at 122 Oxley Hall, 1712 Neil Avenue, on the OSU campus on Columbus. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. For more information call (614) 267-4600.

### Saturday, October 19

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Engineers'

Society of America (UESA), the Ukrainian Institute of America (UIA) and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) invite everyone to the "Fall Zabava in New York City" which will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St. Music to be provided by Chornozem. Admission: \$30, students; \$40, members; \$50, non-members; cash bar; hors d'oeuvres, coffee and dessert included; Black-tie optional. Please make checks payable to the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America. For more information visit [www.uesa.org](http://www.uesa.org), e-mail [nyc@uesa.org](mailto:nyc@uesa.org), or call (212) 719-9700.

### Sunday, October 20

**SILVER SPRING, Md.:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society, Washington branch, and the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences group, present Darian Diachok, energy specialist and a former USAID energy representative to Ukraine, speaking on "Can Ukraine Become Energy-Independent of Russia?" (in Ukrainian). The lecture will be held at 1 p.m. at the Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Andrew. Admission is free; donations are accepted. For further information contact Andrew Sorokowski, (301) 230-2149.

**CHICAGO:** The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art presents the opening concert of its 2002-2003 classical music series (12th season), featuring bass Stefan Szkafarowsky. The program will include works by Mozart, Verdi, Rossini, Sonevtsky, Kossenko, Stetsenko and Barvinsky. The concert will take place at the institute, 2320 W. Chicago Ave., at 2 p.m.

**TORONTO:** The Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies is holding a book launch of Volume 8 of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's "History of Ukraine-Rus'," titled "The Cossack Age, 1626-1650." The launch and reception will be held at the Croft Chapter House, University College, University of Toronto, at 4 p.m. For additional information call (416) 946-7326.

### ADVANCE NOTICE

### Saturday, October 26

**NEW YORK:** Members of the youth (yunatsvo) and counselor (vykhovnyky) divisions of Plast, New York City Branch, who attended the Plast Jamboree (YuMPZ) in Ukraine this past summer will hold a YuMPZ evening at the Plast Building, 144 Second Ave., at 5:30 p.m. The evening will feature a slide presentation, as well as individual stories recounted by jamboree participants. A reception and meeting with the participants will follow. Admission: \$5 per person; proceeds to benefit the YuMPZ Fund.

**WASHINGTON:** The Washington Group invites you to join members and friends for a memorable dinner cruise along the scenic Potomac River, in Washington on October 26. The ship Dandy boards at 6 p.m. and sails at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$75 per person; \$140 for a couple. Raffles, prizes, full-course dinner, cash bar, music and more! Send checks payable to The Washington Group to: The Washington Group, Dandy River Cruise, P.O. Box 11248, Washington, DC 20008. For information, e-mail [TheWashingtonGroup@yahoo.com](mailto:TheWashingtonGroup@yahoo.com) or call Ihor Kotlarchuk, (703) 548-8534.

### Saturday, November 16

**HARTFORD, Conn.:** The Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM), Hartford Branch, invites you and your family to its 50th anniversary celebration, to be held at the Ukrainian National Home, 961 Wethersfield Ave., starting at 6 p.m. The program includes a keynote address, cultural performances by SUM youth, dinner and a dance to the tunes of Zorepad. Donation: adults, \$40; youth up to age 21, \$20. (Dinner: choice of prime rib or chicken.) Tickets may be reserved by calling the SUM Cooperative Ukrainian Gift Shop, (860) 296-6955.