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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

FATF representative tells Kyiv international sanctions will be lifted

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Germany's Ambassador to Ukraine Dietmar Steudemann told journalists in Kyiv on February 12 that restrictions imposed against Ukraine's banking sector for not meeting international anti-money-laundering requirements would be lifted very shortly.

"Ukraine has successfully implemented FATF requirements and will have restrictions that were imposed against it removed," said Mr. Steudemann.

The German ambassador spoke as representatives of 27 countries of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an international agency that monitors financial transactions

Muted reaction in Kyiv to cuts in U.S. assistance

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukrainian lawmakers, reacting to a reduction in U.S. foreign aid proposed by the Bush administration, said they did not believe the proposed cuts would adversely affect Ukraine in general, although they could hinder the further development of democratic institutions in the country.

The White House announced on February 3 that it would reduce foreign aid to Ukraine in fiscal year 2004 from \$155 million this year to \$94 million next year, part of a 24 percent decrease in U.S. government assistance to the 12 former Soviet republics. Some of the reductions have been ascribed to a shifting of strategic policy away from Ukraine and Russia, which also suffered a large reduction, to the Central Asian countries near Afghanistan's border.

However, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual said on February 6 that the reduced aid, primarily in FREEDOM Support Act funds, would be a result of success in the transformation of Ukrainian social institutions and the country's move towards a market economy. Mr. Pascual explained that Ukraine had reached "a certain level of financial independence," which allowed for the reduction of U.S. funding. He added that some of the lost aid would be picked up by existing State Department programs, while others, such as efforts to promote civil society, an independent mass media and small business development, would continue, as would an HIV-AIDS prevention program and an effort to stop trafficking in humans.

Kyiv's reaction was even-keeled. Ukrainian experts and lawmakers said the reduced U.S. funding, which comes at a time when relations between Washington

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and money-laundering schemes, met at a Paris summit. Part of the summit's agenda was dedicated to considering whether Ukraine had met standards developed by the West to make international currency transactions more transparent and thus less prone to illegal laundering. Germany currently chairs the FATF.

Most of the 27 member-states (and two international organizations) of the FATF placed sanctions on Ukraine in mid-January after the Verkhovna Rada failed to meet deadlines to pass legislation on additional banking laws and criminal penalties specifically aimed at stemming money-laundering operations in Ukraine. The FATF wanted legislation to force Ukrainian banks to reveal the names of all clients who made international transactions and to level specific criminal penalties for money-laundering infractions.

The FATF sanctions limited the amount of money that a Ukrainian bank could send to a financial institution of an FATF member-state to 15,000 euros (\$16,000) per transaction. Great Britain, however, announced that it would impose harsher measures and block all financial transactions with Ukrainian banks. In December

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Ukrainian lawmakers call on government to build Famine memorial complex in Kyiv

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Various members of Ukraine's Parliament called on the Ukrainian government on February 12 to build an extensive memorial complex in the center of Kyiv to the millions of victims of the artificially induced Great Famine of 1932-1933.

The lawmakers also demanded that the government turn to the United Nations to officially acknowledge the Ukrainian famine of 1932-1933 as genocide. The comments came at a public hearing held in the Verkhovna Rada as part of commemorations of the 70th anniversary of the Great Famine.

"The first thing that Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich needs to do is to have the Famine recognized as genocide at the international level," said National Deputy Levko Lukianenko, a lawmaker and head of the Association of Famine Researchers. Mr. Lukianenko, along with several other politicians present, called for construction of a famine memorial center in downtown Kyiv to include a memorial to the victims, a museum, a library and a research center. The idea has recently gained enthusiasm within the Ukrainian diaspora, which has

already begun a fund-raising drive.

The participants of the hearing also issued several resolutions, including a demand that the Cabinet of Ministers turn to the United Nations with a call that it recognize as genocide the murder by hunger of between 7 million and 10 million Ukrainians in its central and eastern lands during 1932-1933 through a deliberate and planned Soviet policy of forced starvation.

First Vice Prime Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk, who spoke first at the hearing, called the Great Famine of 1932-1933 "the greatest tragedy of the Ukrainian nation," "a crime against humanity" and "genocide." He indicated that the current government was considering the proposal to build a famine memorial center as envisioned by Ukrainian leaders here and abroad.

Mr. Tabachnyk spoke before a series of politicians and academics who acknowledged that the 1932-1933 famine was indeed masterminded by Stalin and carried out by his henchmen in Kyiv with the intent to wipe out Ukrainians who were opposed to being ruled by Moscow and to force agricultural collectivization on the largely peasant citizenry. The first vice prime minister

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Yushchenko urges Washington to keep engaged in Ukraine

by Yaro Bihun
Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON – The former prime minister of Ukraine who now leads the Our Ukraine forces in the Verkhovna Rada, Viktor Yushchenko, spent three days here seeking U.S. support for strengthening democracy in Ukraine and keeping Washington engaged in his country despite the recently deteriorating official relationship.

"Only democracy can save Ukraine from the current crisis," he told a gathering at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on February 7, the last day of his visit.

Without a true democracy and open and fair elections, Mr. Yushchenko said, the "regime of the clans," whose policies he blames for the current crisis, will remain in power, using its control of the mass media and repressive measures, as well as intimidation of political opponents to achieve that end.

Mr. Yushchenko began his meetings with senior administration officials on February 5 with Vice-President Richard Cheney and concluded them on February 7 with Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage.

His objective in these and other meetings here, as Mr. Yushchenko reiterated in his public remarks and statements to the press, was to report on the situation in Ukraine as he saw it, listen to the U.S. officials' assessment and try to help raise the bilateral relationship from the depths to which it sank over the past year.

One of the most serious unresolved bilateral issues between Washington and Kyiv in recent months was the allegation that President Leonid Kuchma approved the sale of the Kolchuha air-defense system to Iraq. That issue, however, was not discussed with U.S. officials, Mr. Yushchenko said. The Kolchuha problem, he explained, should more appropri-



Viktor Yushchenko speaks at the International Republican Institute in Washington.

ately be discussed with Ukrainian government officials.

Joining Mr. Yushchenko at many of his meetings here were three deputies from Our Ukraine: Roman Bessmertny, Yevhen Chervonenko and Oleh Rybachuk.

Their tight schedule also included meetings with members of the U.S. Congress – Sens. John McCain, Charles Hagel and Carl Levin, and members of the Congressional Ukrainian

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ANALYSIS

Kyiv hit by international sanctions for being soft on money laundering

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

In December 2002, a normally inconspicuous organization named the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) hit the headlines of news agencies reporting on Ukraine. The FATF recommended that its members apply "countermeasures" to Ukraine in response to the country's failure "to enact anti-money-laundering legislation that meets international standards." This was yet another mighty blow to Ukraine's tarnished international image, following the much publicized and unsolved case of the killing of independent journalist Heorhii Gongadze (in 2000) and the U.S. allegations (in 2002) that Kyiv might have sold early-warning radar systems to Baghdad in contravention of United Nations sanctions.

The FATF is an independent international body with headquarters based in Paris. It has 29 member-countries and governments – including the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, China and Japan – and two international organizations, the European Commission and the Gulf Cooperation Council. South Africa and Russia have the status of observers in the FATF.

After reviewing Ukraine's anti-money-laundering regime in June 2001, the FATF placed Ukraine on its blacklist of "non-cooperative countries and territories" that fail to adopt and/or apply efficient legal measures to combat money laundering. Formerly, the FATF blacklisted only two other states – Nauru and Nigeria – for their failure to deal efficiently with money laundering.

The FATF also applied Recommendation 21 out of its set of 40 recommendations constituting the "basic framework for anti-money-laundering efforts." Recommendation 21 advises that financial institutions of the FATF members "give special attention to business relations and transactions" of persons and companies

from blacklisted ("non-cooperative") countries. It also calls for the examination and recording of transactions that "have no apparent economic or visible lawful purpose" in order to make the findings available to auditing and law-enforcement bodies.

On December 20, 2002, the FATF recommended that its members apply additional "countermeasures" against Ukraine, finding the "Law of Ukraine on the Prevention and Counteraction of the Legalization (Laundering) of Proceeds from Crime" enacted on December 7, 2002, to be insufficient. In particular, these additional countermeasures call on FATF members to apply "stringent requirements" for identifying clients before establishing business relationships with individuals and companies from Ukraine; to enhance reporting mechanisms regarding financial transactions with Ukrainian clients; to be more considerate in establishing subsidiaries branches, and representative offices of Ukrainian banks in FATF countries; and to warn non-financial-sector businesses that transactions with Ukrainian entities may run the risk of money laundering.

According to media reports, the United States and Canada in mid-January were the first countries to heed the FATF recommendations with regard to Ukraine. Other FATF members reportedly followed suit.

It still remains to be seen what impact the FATF sanctions have on Ukraine's financial and business sector. According to an estimate by the Kyiv-based weekly Zerkalo Nedeli on January 25, foreign banks have suspended some \$300 million worth of transactions with Ukrainian clients, while checking to see who is paying with what money.

However, apart from such immediate barriers erected by the FATF to Ukrainian businesses, it seems that the FATF recommendations will also have long-term consequences by gravely eroding the trustworthiness of world financial circles in Ukrainian

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Poland proposes EU's new Eastern policy

Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

Polish and international media reported last week that Poland, following a commission from the Danish EU presidency last year, has proposed a paper outlining the expanded European Union's new policy with regard to its eastern neighbors: Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and Russia. Polish Foreign Ministry official Pawel Swieboda told journalists that the document was sent in early January to the foreign ministries of the 15 EU member-states, the 10 EU candidate countries, and to the four future EU neighbors. The European Commission is expected to publish the document in mid-March.

"We postulate the intensification of political dialogue [with the four future neighbors] in the context of security and foreign policy," Mr. Swieboda told PAP. "Such states as Ukraine have a lot to contribute, for instance in the resolution of conflicts in neighboring regions of the world, including the Transdnister area."

Jan Maksymiuk is the Belarus, Ukraine and Poland specialist on the staff of RFE/RL Newsline.

Mr. Swieboda said the document also includes a proposal for a gradual liberalization of trade between the enlarged EU and its eastern neighbors, but makes this proposal conditional on economic and political reforms in the four countries. Other inducements in the paper include the "long-term perspective" of EU membership and the establishment of a "European democracy fund," which would work through local non-governmental organizations to promote democratic values in the region.

Poland also proposes the creation of a European Peace Corps, modeled on the American Peace Corps. Warsaw believes that these initiatives will help eradicate "divisions between the enlarged EU and its eastern neighbors."

Ukraine's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Oleksander Chalyi said last week that Ukraine was satisfied with the Polish plan for the EU's new eastern policy. According to Mr. Chalyi, the plan assumes, first, that Ukraine will have an open road toward integration with the EU; second, that Ukraine may sign an accord on association with the EU in the future; and third, the document does not preclude Ukrainian membership in the European Union.

NEWSBRIEFS

Kuchma urges peaceful settlement

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma said at a meeting with foreign diplomats in Kyiv on February 6 that he hopes the U.N. Security Council finds adequate measures to settle the Iraqi crisis, Interfax reported. "We are still speaking for the settlement of the [Iraqi] situation by political-diplomatic means," Mr. Kuchma said. At the same time, he said, "Ukraine fully shares the concern of the world community about the possibility of the spread of weapons of mass destruction." President Kuchma also said Ukraine will remain devoted to the ideals of strategic partnership with the United States despite the current bilateral problems. "I would like to emphasize with full responsibility that we have never intended and are not going to revise our policy regarding the U.S.," the Ukrainian president said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv evacuates diplomats from Baghdad

KYIV – All diplomats of the Ukrainian Embassy in Baghdad, except Charge d'Affaires Valentyn Novikov, have been evacuated, Interfax reported on February 11, quoting Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Serhii Borodenkov. Mr. Borodenkov added that Mr. Novikov is currently in Kyiv for consultations, after which he will fly back to Iraq. "The temporary charge d'affaires himself will decide when he has to leave that country," Mr. Borodenkov added with regard to when the Ukrainian mission might be closed entirely. He disclosed that there are currently 231 Ukrainian citizens in Iraq. The spokesman noted that the Foreign Affairs Ministry has not yet released a statement recommending that Ukrainian citizens leave Iraq. (RFE/RL Newsline)

President in favor of a tax amnesty

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma is in favor of applying a tax amnesty to legalize hidden revenues that were "not [obtained] in a criminal way," Interfax reported on February 12, quoting presidential administration deputy head Pavlo Haidutskyi. Mr. Haidutskyi said such revenues in Ukraine are estimated at 35 billion hrv (\$6.5 billion). He said a tax amnesty does not contradict the "basic principles" of combating money laundering and would not be opposed by the FATF. He added that President Kuchma ordered the government and the National Bank of Ukraine to work out by March 1 a plan for implementing such an amnesty. (RFE/RL Newsline)

U.S. cites conditions for lifting sanctions

KYIV – The absolute political independence of Ukraine's State Financial Monitoring Department is a key condition for the removal of anti-money-laundering sanctions imposed on Ukraine by some Western countries following recommendations by the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF), Interfax reported on January 30, quoting Ukraine's Ministry of the Economy. This condition was reportedly communicated by the U.S. side to its Ukrainian partners at ongoing deliberations of the Ukraine-U.S. Economic Cooperation Committee in Washington. The other conditions mentioned by the U.S. side include amendments to Ukraine's Criminal Code and the law on banking, as well as a reduction of the maximum transaction sum that is not subject to monitoring. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada amends laws on money laundering

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on February 6 passed a bill introducing amendments to a number of laws intended to curb money laundering, the UNIAN news agency reported. In particular, the legislature reduced the minimum sum subject to financial monitoring to 80,000 hrv (\$15,000). Another major legislative change prohibits banks from opening anonymous bank accounts and obliges them to identify customers who perform banking operations exceeding 50,000 hrv and not involving bank accounts. (RFE/RL Newsline)

NBU seeks to curb money laundering

KYIV – Newly installed National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Serhii Tyhypko told journalists on February 10 that his institution will pass a resolution this week to combat money laundering and stem illegal flows of capital from Ukraine, UNIAN reported. Last week, the central bank resolved that Ukrainian companies will have to obtain NBU licenses before buying shares in other domestic companies from non-residents. Mr. Tyhypko said the purchase of domestic shares by local companies from offshore entities leads to capital outflows. According to NBU figures, capital outflows amounted to \$385 million in 2000, \$898 million in 2001 and \$2.2 billion in 2002. (RFE/RL Newsline)

NBU: sanctions' impact 'insignificant'

KYIV – National Bank of Ukraine

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European Union delegation says it will maintain political dialogue with Ukraine

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Signaling that it would maintain a political dialogue with Ukraine at the highest levels, a delegation of European Union officials led by Secretary General of the EU Council Javier Solana met with Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma during a one-day visit to Kyiv on February 7.

The EU "troika," composed of Mr. Solana, Greek First Deputy Foreign Minister Tassos Giannitsis and Italian Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs Roberto Antonioni told Ukrainian leaders, including Mr. Kuchma, that an artificial border with Ukraine would not arise as Poland becomes the European Union's most eastern member-state in 2004.

"Our goal is not to create a new wall and divide our continent. On the contrary, it is the integration and rapprochement of Europe," explained Mr. Giannitsis, whose country holds the revolving presidency of the EU, which Italy will assume in July.

Mr. Giannitsis invited President Kuchma to a meeting of EU leaders called the European Conference and Council for Cooperation, scheduled for April 16-17 in Athens.

The delegation visit came as the United States indicated that it would continue to politically isolate the Ukrainian head of state in the aftermath of the Kolchuhha scandal, in which Ukraine's head of state is accused of authorizing the sale of an air defense system to Iraq in contravention of United Nations sanctions.

During a press conference on U.S.-Ukraine relations held the same day as the EU visit, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual said that the U.S. would not plan any meetings with President Kuchma in the future. However, he said that

Washington strongly supports continuing a dialogue with Ukraine through members of the presidential administration and the Ukrainian government.

Earlier in the week Mr. Kuchma told journalists during one of his infrequent press conferences that his effort to rekindle a dialogue with Washington in the aftermath of the Kolchuhha crisis had proved fruitless thus far.

In a meeting with the three EU leaders, President Kuchma said Ukraine would

Council's secretary general said the country must develop and strictly adhere to basic requirements of democracy, including an independent media, if it is serious about EU membership.

"European membership demands upholding the most fundamental element of a democratic society – freedom of the press," explained Mr. Solana, who also mentioned the need to improve relations between the Ukrainian government and the opposition and to further court reform.

countries without the advantage. Ukrainians, who currently do not need a visa to enter Poland, will have to obtain one beginning next year.

Mr. Zlenko also noted that Ukraine understands that it must show that it is a solid partner of the European Union and noted that "the threads that bind us must be strengthened" before full membership is a plausible option.

Commentators in Ukraine's press observed, however, that the EU representatives avoided using the term "EU membership" during their visit, sticking to words such as "rapprochement" and "integration." The newspaper "Den" (Day) pointed out in a February 8 article that there is a growing awareness that EU membership may not be in store for Ukraine. It stated that "Representatives of EU structures and individual EU member-states noted that there is a need to look realistically at the perspectives, that the idea here is not for political integration of Ukraine, but for tight cooperation."

First Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Oleksander Chalyi indicated that Ukraine is well aware of the current outlook for Ukraine. In remarks to the EU delegation, Mr. Chalyi stated that Ukraine supports an initiative by Poland to offer a "neighbor plan" to Ukraine, which would include specific details on a timetable for "associate" status, as well as some recognition of Ukraine's prospects for full EU membership in the future.

"We welcome the idea as it meets our main concern that after EU enlargement there must be a new formula of relations between Ukraine and the enlarged EU," said Mr. Chalyi.

European membership demands upholding the most fundamental element of a democratic society – freedom of the press.

– Secretary General of the EU Council Javier Solana

move to full EU membership in practical, concrete steps.

"Our goal is to make less declarations, but to complete the maximum implementation of the tasks required for achieving European standards," Mr. Kuchma told the EU delegation.

While Ukraine has reconciled itself to a decadelong process before it will be ready to enter the EU, it is still pursuing associate membership, possibly by 2005. The EU troika said it would continue to help Ukraine to enter the World Trade Organization as a first step in that process.

Meanwhile Mr. Solana emphasized that the EU wants more constructive relations with Ukraine and urged Kyiv to move forward with political reforms. The EU

Mr. Giannitsis said the EU's policy was not to lay down a broad standard for a prospective member to meet, but a "differentiated approach," which presents the possibility for specific membership requirements according to each country and its situation.

Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs Anatolii Zlenko warned that a new wall, which he called the "Schengen Wall" could separate Ukraine from Europe after Poland enters the EU next year. Mr. Zlenko's allusion was to the Schengen Treaty passed by the EU several years ago, which opened up borders and visa-free travel among EU members but left citizens of neighboring

UGCC's Permanent Synod of Bishops discusses beatification of Sheptytsky, Slipyj

Religious Information Service of Ukraine

LVIV – A meeting of the Permanent Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) was held on February 3-6 in Rome. The UGCC hierarchs gathered to discuss the problems of the beatification of Ukrainian confessors of the faith, as well as the religious situation in Ukraine.

On February 5, Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, head of the UGCC, and members of the Synod met with Cardinal José Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, and Archbishop Edward Nowak, secretary of the congregation. During this meeting, the UGCC bishops discussed the problems that arise in the process of beatification and canonization.

Special attention was focused on the beatification of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, which has now entered its final stage. In addition, the Ukrainian hierarchs presented a list of new martyrs of the UGCC whose beatification processes will be started shortly. All necessary documents for the beatification of Cardinal Josyf Slipyj were also submitted to the congregation's officers.

Also on February 5, members of the UGCC Permanent Synod of Bishops met with Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, and other representatives of the council. Both sides stressed the uniqueness of the religious situation in Ukraine, which is home to many different religions. According to the participants of the meeting, the Ukrainian Churches need to overcome obstacles on their way to unity in order to prevent further splits and divisions.

Finally, the Ukrainian hierarchs also considered some organizational issues connected with a new synod in September of this year, in which all the UGCC bishops from Ukraine and the diaspora are expected to participate.

On the morning of February 3, Pope John Paul welcomed members of the Permanent Synod of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, in particular their major archbishop, Cardinal Husar, and told them that their meeting in Rome "is a happy occasion to reaffirm your communion with the Successor of Peter."

He remarked that their Church, "reborn after the tragic events of the last century, proceeds on the path of rebuilding with the awareness of its great spiritual legacy, of the fecund testimony of her martyrs and of the need to maintain at all levels a demeanor of dialogue, collaboration and communion."

Pope John Paul encouraged them to pursue this path and he underscored their recent meetings with bishops of the Latin rite which allowed everyone "to consider ... the pastoral questions that interest both communities. Such encounters are a practical application of that effective and affective communion that must guide the pastors of Christ's flock."

"Such communion," the holy father affirmed, "is all the more necessary if we reflect on the challenges that today's situation places before us: from the spiritual needs of broad segments of the population to the serious dilemma of emigration; from the pain of the least fortunate to problems in families; from the need for ecumenical dialogue to the desire for a greater integration in the European context."

Religious statistics for 2002 are released

Religious Information Service of Ukraine

LVIV – Ukraine's National Committee on Religious Matters at a press conference on February 4 released official information on the development of religious institutions in Ukraine in 2002 and presented statistics on religious organizations in Ukraine as of January 1 of this year.

According to the report, Ukraine is currently home to 28,567 religious organizations, including 27,480 religious communities that profess 54 different religions. More than 1,000 religious communities of the total number are unregistered.

During 2002 the number of religious organizations increased by 5.7 percent, constituting 1,423 organizations, 726 (52.4 percent) of which are Orthodox communities. Among these Orthodox communities, 525 (72.3 percent) belong to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP). The total number of UOC-MP communities in Ukraine is 10,040.

The Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church ranks second with its 3,334 communities.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate has 3,196 communities; the Baptist Church – 2,272; the Pentecostal Church of Evangelical Faith – 1,366; the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church – 1,110; the Seventh-Day Adventist Church – 928; the Roman Catholic Church – 847; and the Charismatic Church – 790.

There are also 262 Jewish communities and 462 Muslim communities in Ukraine, 320 of which are in Crimea. New religious organizations in Ukraine constitute 4.5 percent of the total number.

The number of religious buildings in Ukraine has increased by 478 and currently constitutes 19,112. Most religious communities, however, are not fully provided with church buildings. The Subcarpathian Reformed Church is the only religious organization whose needs in church buildings are completely satisfied, according to the report.

Today, 2,232 religious buildings are being built in Ukraine, among which 439 are funded by the state. Ukraine is also home to 26,000 religious ministers, 704 of whom are foreigners.

Quotable notes

"Lazarenko was a natural phenomenon in the chaos that followed the creation of the independent [Ukrainian] state, [the chaos characterized by] the total absence of the understanding that national interests should be a priority, the domination of private interests, the uncontrollability and corruptibility of the entire power system, and the immaturity of society itself. Without a doubt, he was a gifted man. I would have never hit upon [the ideas he had]."

– Opposition Sobor Party leader Anatolii Matvienko on former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, who is in a U.S. prison awaiting trial on charges of laundering \$114 million through private U.S. financial establishments as quoted by the *Ukrainska Pravda* website on January 23 and reported by RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report. When Mr. Lazarenko was prime minister (May 1996-July 1997), Mr. Matvienko was chairman of the Vinnytsia Oblast administration and headed the pro-presidential National Democratic Party.

"Eternal prisoner" Danylo Shumuk returns to Ukraine



Oksana Zakydalsky

Danylo Shumuk in Toronto on the eve of his departure for Ukraine.

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – Danylo Shumuk, who served 42 years in various prisons and camps of Poland and the USSR – the longest serving Ukrainian prisoner of conscience, who was once referred to as “the eternal prisoner” – returned to Ukraine in November.

Allowed to leave Ukraine in 1987 – thanks primarily to the efforts on his behalf by the Canadian government, the Ukrainian community in Canada and Amnesty International – he lived in Canada for 15 years, at first in Vancouver but mostly in Toronto. Although several good-byes were organized for him by various groups in Toronto in the weeks before he left, he left without fanfare, which he disliked, in the company of his daughter Vera Kalach with whom he will live near Donetsk.

At 88 years of age and still suffering the effects of a serious car accident in

1997, he needs constant care and, as his daughter was denied an extension of her visa to stay in Canada, he decided to leave with her.

Mr. Shumuk was a man of principle who always said what he thought and constantly found himself in opposition to the authorities of the time. A Communist in pre-war Volyn under Polish rule, a Soviet soldier at the time of the German invasion of Ukraine, a member of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) at the time of the Soviet re-occupation of western Ukraine and a Ukrainian patriot under the new Soviet regime – Mr. Shumuk was always out of sync with the powers in charge. For this he paid dearly – with 42 years of incarceration – in a Polish prison, as a POW of the Germans and with many years in the Soviet gulag.

He chronicled his life in several books: “Za Skhidnym Obriyem” (Beyond the Eastern Horizon) published in the United States by Smoloskyp in 1974; his memoirs “Perezhyte i Peredumane,” published in Detroit in 1983, with the English version, “Life Sentence,” edited by Ivan Jaworsky, published by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies in 1984; and “Z Gulagu u Vilnyi Svit” (From the Gulag into the Free World) published by New Pathway Publishers in Toronto in 1991, which contained, in addition to various articles on his travels around North America, two chapters that were omitted from his memoirs because they were lost on the way.

Mr. Shumuk was born on December 30, 1914, in the village of Boremschna in the Volyn Oblast. He joined the Communist Party of Western Ukraine at age 17 and was arrested in 1934 and sentenced to eight years by the Polish regime. Thanks to an amnesty, he was released in 1939 and returned home to Ukraine, which had become part of the USSR.

With the German invasion of the USSR, he was conscripted into the Soviet

army but taken prisoner by the Germans. He escaped a German POW camp and in 1943 joined the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and was appointed a political instructor in an officer training school.

In 1945 he was captured by the NKVD and sentenced to death. The sentence was commuted to 20 years of hard labor in Norilsk, where he was one of the leaders of the Norilsk prisoners’ strike in 1953. He was released in 1956 during the so-called “thaw,” but rearrested the following year and sentenced to 10 years, which he served in Vorkuta.

After his release in 1967, Mr. Shumuk lived in the Kyiv Oblast and became acquainted with some of the “Shestydesiatnyky,” particularly Ivan Svitlychny, Nadia Svitlychna and Yevhen Sverstiuk. This time he was swept up in the wave of arrests of dissidents in 1972. His memoirs were confiscated, and he was sentenced to 10 years of strict-regime camp and five years’ exile. He served his sentence in a Mordovian concentration camp and his exile in the Perm Oblast. During his incarceration he joined the Ukrainian Helsinki Group, and participated in numerous protest actions and hunger strikes even though he was in ill health.

On November 3, 1978, the Parliament of Canada passed a resolution to ask the government of the USSR to release Mr. Shumuk and permit him to emigrate and join his nephew in Canada. While he was secretary of state for external affairs, Joe Clark made numerous requests to the Soviet government for permission for Mr. Shumuk to join his family in Canada. But Mr. Shumuk was allowed to leave only upon the completion of his sentence of 15 years.

During his years in the West, Mr. Shumuk did not abandon his outspokenness; he voiced strong opinions about the behavior of both other dissidents and about the diaspora. At the same time, he was generous with his affections, made a lot of friends and never forgot a kindness.



Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark welcomes Danylo Shumuk to the House of Commons in 1987 (with translator).

Ukraine's ambassador addresses Northern Virginia Technology Council

by Luba Cehelska

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Ambassador Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, Ukraine’s envoy to the United States, appeared as guest speaker at a meeting of the International Committee of the Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTC), discussing Information Technology opportunities with Ukraine.

This annual program and holiday social event of the NVTC International Committee always includes a brief meeting, guest speakers and an opportunity for members to network while enjoying holiday goodies. On this occasion there were two sponsors for the event: the Embassy of Ukraine, which contributed varenyky, holubtsi, and Ukrainian horilka and champagne, and SoftServe, a custom software development firm based in Lviv, Ukraine.

The event, held on December 17, 2002, was of special significance because of the prominence of the NVTC and its president, Bobbie Kilberg, in the information technology community, and also because of the strong participation of Michael Considine, Ukraine Country Desk manager at the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The Northern Virginia Technology Council is the membership association for the area’s technology community, with more than 1,600 member-companies representing over 180,000 employees from all sectors of the technology industry. Ms. Kilberg, NVTC president since 1998,

served President George Bush in the White House as deputy assistant to the president for public liaison from 1989 to 1992. In December 2001 President George W. Bush appointed her to serve as a member of the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST).

Appearing on the program prior to Ambassador Gryshchenko was Mr. Considine, business trade specialist for Ukraine at the U.S. Department of Commerce/BISNIS, who spoke about the current business climate in Ukraine. He indicated that, despite unfavorable press regarding Ukraine’s political climate, the Ukrainian economy is growing and improving. For example, real wages for Ukrainian citizens are up; consumer spending power is up; there are positive growth trends, for example, in retail; and progress has been made from a legislative standpoint, including improvements in tax and customs legislation. Mr. Considine also pointed to positive trends on the part of U.S. companies in their interest in Ukraine.

Ms. Kilberg then introduced Ukraine’s ambassador to the United States, citing his impressive background and experience. Ambassador Gryshchenko presented solid information about continually improving economic indicators in Ukraine. Focusing on the high-tech industry, he said that the hi-tech field in Ukraine includes space and aircraft design and production, shipbuilding, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, information technology and telecommunications,

as well as the design of new materials, welding technologies and super-hard tools.

Important growth in Ukraine includes telecommunications revenues, Microsoft sales, desktop and server sales, and highly developed Internet banking systems sales. The internal software market has demonstrated steady growth and is projected to make even steeper climbs in the next two to three years, he said. Ambassador Gryshchenko indicated that, according to the Intel Corp., Ukraine is the fastest growing market in the world for Intel products, exceeding even Russia.

Software development outsourced to Ukraine has gone from \$32 million in 2000 to \$47 million in 2002. Ukraine has immense intellectual potential based on its 98 percent literacy rate, plus the fact that 87 percent of high school graduates go on to higher education and 37 percent of those in higher education select information technology as their focus.

Other salient data include: 400 universities are educating 1.5 million students; 180,000 specialists in the research and development sector work in 1,500 R&D institutions; there are 23,000 certified information technology specialists in Ukraine – a significantly higher per capita certification rate than in India.

In addition, 2 million Internet users in Ukraine provide a significant business opportunity. The Hughes Network and PARADYNE Networks provide established satellite communications for direct

Internet access and DSL. Ukraine is home to 1,400 software development companies, 260 Internet providers, and 490 PC manufacturing companies. American companies are pleased to outsource software development to Ukraine and to receive low-cost high-quality service, Ambassador Gryshchenko stated.

Major recent technological achievements include the Antonov Design Bureau’s new AN-70 aircraft and Sea Launch, the U.S.-Ukraine-Russia-Norway consortium.

Following Ambassador Gryshchenko’s talk, Luba Cehelska provided information about SoftServe (www.SoftServe.com), which was mentioned by Ambassador Gryshchenko. Ms. Cehelska, account executive for Softserve, talked about the firm, its nine-year history, its capabilities and its clients. She has been active in the NVTC International Committee, held the chairmanship of the European/NIS Subcommittee, and organized a very successful NVTC symposium on the subject of software outsourcing.

About 100 attendees were present at the event – an important step in familiarizing the U.S. information technology community with the amazing IT talent available in Ukraine. In addition to NVTC members, attendees included guests, among them U.S.-Ukraine Foundation President Nadia McConnell; Vera Andrushkiw and Chrystia Sonevytsky, also of the USUF, and Ihor Kotlarchuk, president of The Washington Group, an organization of Ukrainian American professionals.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

UNA Almanac off the presses

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The 2003 Almanac of the Ukrainian National Association, released by Svoboda Press, is off the presses and in the mail to subscribers of Svoboda.

The almanac is dedicated primarily to the 110th anniversary of Svoboda, the Ukrainian-language newspaper of the UNA, which began publication as a biweekly on September 15, 1893. In its issue dated November 1, 1893, Svoboda called for the establishment of a national organization that would unite Ukrainians in America – today's Ukrainian National Association.

The Ukrainian-language volume also contains a special section devoted to the 70th anniversary of the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, as well as sections titled "History – Our Teacher," "Names, Dates," "The World After September 11," "Fathoming the Unfathomable," "Traditions of Other Nations," and "Meditations."

The 2003 UNA Almanac also features an introductory article by UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj titled "We Have Earned These Great Jubilees" – a reference to the 110th anniversaries of Svoboda in 2003 and the UNA in 2004.

Among the authors whose articles appear in the almanac are Svoboda Editor-in-Chief Irene Jarosewich, whose lead article about the Svoboda jubilee is titled "Svoboda: The Legacy of Generations," and editorial staff members Petro Chasto, Chrystyna Ferencevych and Olha Kuzmowycz.

Mr. Chasto is the editor of the almanac; cover design is by Stepan Slutsky.

As is customary, the almanac opens with a religious calendar according to both the Julian and Gregorian styles. Brief humor sections interspersed throughout the almanac feature materials published in the unparalleled magazine of satire and humor Lys Mykyta.

The book may be purchased for \$15 (postage included) from: Svoboda, 2200 Route 10, P. O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

For the record, this is the 93rd almanac published by Svoboda Press.



Upstate New Yorkers continue tradition of fraternalism

WATERVLIET, N.Y. – Ukrainian National Association Branch 13 of Watervliet, N.Y., as well as the Albany District Committee of the UNA continue the proud tradition of fraternalism in their area of upstate New York.

Every year in December the branch, also known as the St. Nicholas Society, holds a liturgy in memory of deceased members. The names of all deceased members – dating back to 1895 – are read during the service, which is attended by branch members.

After the liturgy and panakhyda (requiem service), branch members and their families go to the local Ukrainian Club, where they are hosted at a breakfast. Among those who were present at the most recent event was the pastor, the Rev. Michael Myshchuk.

Before Christmas, branch members, led by the president and secretary of Branch 13, visit ailing members at their homes or in nursing homes.

In addition, during Christmas 2002 the Albany District Committee sponsored its first Christmas party. It was a very suc-



Branch 13 members visit an ailing member before Christmastime.

cessful evening with food, Christmas carols ("koliady"), raffles and good cheer. Among the prizes was a \$25 gift certificate redeemable at Soyuzivka, the UNA

resort in Kerhonkson, N.Y.

– Nicholas Fil, chairman, Albany District Committee; president, UNA Branch 13.



Watervliet UNA'ers at a breakfast following the traditional liturgy in memory of deceased members.

Buffalo District promotes UNA newspapers

BUFFALO, N.Y. – At the annual bazaar of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, the Ukrainian National Association's Buffalo District Committee held a raffle for one annual subscription to each of the UNA's two official publications, The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda.

The winner of both subscriptions, whose cost was sponsored by the UNA, was Dora Horbachewsky. The purpose of the raffle was to promote the UNA's publications and to expand the circle of its subscribers.

The UNA Buffalo District Committee was happy to donate prizes to St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church because its pastor, the Very Rev. Marijan Procyk, allows the district to exhibit UNA materials in the church hall, and permits use of the hall for UNA meetings and other events.

– Joseph Hawryluk, chairperson, UNA Buffalo District Committee, and UNA advisor.



Dora Horbachewsky with the winning raffle ticket after it was announced by the Rev. Marijan Procyk.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

One hundred nine

February 22 marks the 109th anniversary of the establishment of the Ukrainian National Association, a fraternal society that uses the profits from its insurance business for the benefit of its members and the Ukrainian community.

It is probably no exaggeration to state that most people know about the UNA from the two newspapers it publishes, the Ukrainian-language Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly. However, what many among us may not realize is that it was Svoboda that gave birth to the UNA, and not vice versa. Truly a demonstration of the power of the press.

It was Svoboda – which this year marks the 110th anniversary of its founding – that less than two months after it began publication called for the establishment of a national organization. In an editorial in the November 1, 1893, issue, Svoboda wrote:

“...we all Ukrainians [editor’s note: Ukrainians at that time were referred to as “Rusyny”] scattered across this land need a national organization, namely such a brotherhood, such a national union that would embrace each and every Ukrainian no matter where he lives. One man cannot lift a heavy stone, but when three or four men put their strength to it, the stone will soon be lifted. ... It is clear then that in unity there is strength, and it is not easily defeated. Therefore, let us unite brothers, voluntary exiles from our native land, our fatherland, let us come closer together and get to know each other better, and take a closer look at our poverty, our want, our shortcomings, our needs. Let us exchange ideas, let us open our hearts to each other and see how we can solve our problems together, and rid ourselves of our common ills!”

Less than four months later, the UNA was founded.

In later years the UNA assumed the role of publisher of Svoboda. It also became “Batko Soyuz,” a father to Ukrainians, becoming involved in the education of immigrants to America; aid to the homeland; support of cultural endeavors; sponsorship of community organizations and youth groups; assistance to the aged, the infirm and the needy; lobbying for political causes; and defending the Ukrainian name. The list of the UNA’s involvement in all aspects of our community life is virtually endless.

Just as the histories of the UNA and Svoboda are intimately intertwined, so too are the histories of the UNA and The Ukrainian Weekly. The fraternal organization began publishing this newspaper in 1933 in an effort to reach the non-Ukrainian world and report the truth about what was happening in Soviet-dominated Ukraine. At the same time the UNA sought to reach non-Ukrainian-speaking Ukrainian Americans and Ukrainian Canadians, primarily youths born and reared in North America, and keep them engaged in our community life. In later years it was the UNA that decided a Kyiv Press Bureau should be opened to allow The Ukrainian Weekly to better report on the historic developments in our ancestral homeland. That bureau has been reporting the news from Ukraine since January 1991. Just think of all the epochal events that have occurred in Ukraine between then and now. And our bureau has been on the scene to report the news as no one else can – uncensored, unfiltered, unbiased.

One hundred nine years ago on November 1, Svoboda wrote: “... our people will raise their mighty voice and Ukrainians everywhere will say: We need the Ukrainian National Association, we must get to know each other better, we must unite, we must work together to improve our lot in this new land!” And unite they did. The result was a proud legacy of activism. The UNA became a mover, a facilitator and a leader of our myriad community causes.

Today, as always, the UNA stands ready to perform those roles. But the key to continuing such good works is membership. Therefore, the UNA is reaching out to potential new members among the younger generations and new immigrants in order to sustain its mission. Generations of Ukrainians have seen the value of this great organization and have expressed their faith in the common good it engenders by joining the ranks of the Ukrainian National Association. We are certain that new generations and new waves of immigration also see that value and will become members of the UNA.

Feb.
17
2002

Turning the pages back...

Ukraine’s third Winter Olympiad as an independent state was marked by its Olympic debut in ice hockey, and a finish that was the highlight of the Team Ukraine’s performance in Utah in 2002.

With two wins and one loss in Group B of the hockey competition’s preliminary round, Ukraine’s record equalled that of the Belarusian team that emerged atop the group. In the end, the deciding match-up was Team Ukraine’s first game, played against Belarus, which Ukraine lost 1-0. The one-goal difference turned out to be the key factor in Belarus’ advancement to the next round and Ukraine’s relegation to play for ninth place against Latvia.

Ukraine won its next two games against Switzerland (5-2) and France (4-2) to tie Belarus with four points at the conclusion of Group B preliminary round competition, which is played in a round robin. Belarus won its game against France (3-1), but lost to Switzerland (2-1). Thus, Belarus’ victory over Ukraine allowed the Belarusians to move on to play the Russian Federation in the next round.

Ukraine determined its final standing in its first Olympic hockey competition by meeting Latvia. It turned out to be a crushing 9-2 defeat for Ukraine, and Team Ukraine completed its Olympic hockey debut in 10th place – a finish that was above expectations.

Joining Ukraine’s Olympic hockey team in Utah for some of the matches were: Dmitri Khristich of the Washington Capitals, Ruslan Fedotenko of the Philadelphia Flyers and Sergei Varlamov of the St. Louis Blues. The NHL’ers were joined by Toronto minor leaguer Alex Ponikarovskiy. Speaking afterwards with Andrew Nynka, The Weekly’s correspondent on the scene, Mr. Khristich emphasized that he was elated just to play with Team Ukraine.

“In Olympic debut, hockey team is highlight of Ukraine’s effort,” by Andrew Nynka, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, February 17, 2002, Vol. LXX, No. 7.; and “Ukraine at Salt Lake City Games: no medals, but some surprises,” by Andrew Nynka, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, February 24, 2002, Vol. LXX, No. 8.

IN THE PRESS

Washington Times on Yushchenko

WASHINGTON – “Ukrainian opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko has warned the United States against abandoning his country even as the Bush administration prepares to cut financial aid to Ukraine,” wrote The Washington Times in its February 11 issue.

An article by Olga Kryzhanovska of that newspaper reported that Mr. Yushchenko told the news media during his visit to Washington last week that undemocratic forces might turn to fraud and repression to try to win presidential elections scheduled for next year.

Describing Mr. Yushchenko as “Ukraine’s most popular politician and the head of the reform-minded Our Ukraine party,” the article said he is “regarded by some analysts as the most pro-American candidate in the race.”

“Yushchenko is the only hope for Ukraine,” Anders Aslund of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace told the Washington Times. “It’s not even a matter of U.S. policy; it’s pretty obvi-

ous.”

“The United States is interested in a sober and democratic Ukraine,” Stephen Nix, director for Eurasia at the International Republican Institute, which helped organize Mr. Yushchenko’s visit, was quoted as saying. “And [Mr. Yushchenko] does represent the largest political bloc in the Rada,” having received about 25 percent of the vote.

Mr. Yushchenko also told reporters in Washington that Ukraine is undergoing its deepest political crisis since independence and that it needs the help of democratic partners.

“We need to work together to make sure that elections in Ukraine are fair and democratic. It’s the only thing that democratic forces in Ukraine really need,” said the opposition leader. He added that the Ukrainian opposition does need help from the West to get its message to Ukrainian voters because most mass media organizations are controlled by pro-government clans.

Baltic Times on Ukraine, Belarus

RIGA – The Baltic Times, based in Riga, capital of Latvia, published an editorial on February 6 about the “bizarre performance” of Ukraine and Belarus in terms of foreign relations.

“Those Eastern Slavs just don’t know what to do. One week they’re flirting with the West, the next they’re chumming it up among themselves, declaring eternal friendships and establishing monetary unions. In all truthfulness, it all looks like a grand farce, and one can’t help but wonder how long the self-delusional circus will go on,” The Baltic Times wrote.

The editorial went on to state:

“Cold-shouldered at NATO’s Prague summit, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, who so earnestly wants to befriend the West, now finds himself an outcast. What does he do? He runs to [Russian President] Vladimir Putin and declares undying loyalty, when in the back of his mind he fantasizes about an alliance with Western powers.

“Banned by more than a dozen Western countries and the United States just weeks after he was eschewed by the Kremlin, Belarus’ Alyaksandr Lukashenka was forced to grovel on his knees in Moscow lest he become a complete international pariah. The result? Belarus will become part of the ruble zone on January 1, 2005, completing the Eastern union about which so much ink has been uselessly spilled.”

“Putin, for his part, is soaking up all the attention the union is getting from Lukashenka and Kuchma and, like a master ventriloquist, he will manipulate them for all they are worth,” the newspaper noted.

The editorial concludes with: “It is all a joke. Then there will come a time when Belarus and Ukraine will tire of this arrangement, and they will once again cozy up to the West and the Eastern Slavs will be back to Act I. It is a bizarre performance to watch.”

FOR THE RECORD

Memorandum on combating money laundering

Following is the the full text of the “Memorandum on the Establishment of the National System of Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing in Ukraine.” The text was released by Ukraine’s Mission to the United Nations.

After the tragic events of September 11, 2001, that took place in the United States of America, which hit the whole world, the problem of combating the legalization of proceeds from crime and terrorism financing has become especially real. In this regard, the increased requirements of the Financial Action Task Force, the World Bank and the International monetary Fund represent quite a rightful response to this problem and demonstrate the consolidation of efforts of the world community towards preventing and counteracting those socially dangerous phenomena.

Despite the fact that Ukraine’s financial system is only being established and the fact that Ukraine lacked sufficient experience and relevant laws to combat money laundering, we clearly realize the harm caused to the financial and economic system by this phenomenon. That is why

Ukraine’s government fully supports international measures aimed at actively combating money laundering and terrorism financing, demonstrating its openness and readiness for cooperation.

Until recently, Ukraine’s efforts had not been fully effective in the fight against the said phenomenon. However, with the new government coming to power, a real evaluation of the situation took place at the end of 2002 and at the beginning of 2003. Positive and cardinal changes, in terms of the approach to the solution of the problem, came about. Today Ukraine meets almost all the requirements of the international organizations that are generally recognized lawmakers in the sphere of combating money laundering and terrorism financing, thereby reaffirming its intention to create a completely transparent financial system and to prove to the world community the irreversibility of the course toward integration set forth by the president and the government of Ukraine.

In this context, we thank the European countries and the United States for their expert assistance in the establishment of the

(Continued on page 10)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

St. John's School can have bright future

Dear Editor:

To paraphrase Mark Twain: "Rumors of the demise of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School have been greatly exaggerated." Rather, the St. John's Parish clarion call for raising \$250,000 is seen as a chance to revitalize, restructure and develop the school to meet the changing educational needs of both American-born and immigrant Ukrainian children in Newark and its surrounding suburbs.

As stated in your February 3 editorial, St. John's must now be reviewed as a magnet school serving surrounding parishes without schools, some of whose parishioners send their children to St. John's. As a magnet school, St. John's School must reach out beyond the immediate St. John's Parish community to fulfill its long-range plans.

The Committee for the Development of St. John's School has been created to fulfill the desire of the greater Ukrainian American community to have St. John's educate its children in the tradition of academic excellence established over 63 years. Even before kicking off its official fund drive, the committee has already received generous donations from families with children who do not attend the school but who understand the benefits that a core Ukrainian Catholic school brings to the community. Their children and grandchildren can attend concerts, dance instruction, religious education and other school events and receive tangential benefits from St. John's School, even if not enrolled.

Without a central core of organized youth and the lively activities that result therefrom, our community will be empty and short-lived. Where else can one find two children's choirs, dressed in embroidered shirts and blouses, playing 50 sopilkas and singing Ukrainian carols for parishes in Whippany, Jersey City and Elizabeth, as well as their own in Newark?

Considering that tuition alone never covers the cost of operating a Catholic grammar school, the financial condition of the school is not as dire as depicted. In the past, income from the sale of varenyky and from Bingo more than made up for any tuition deficit and no attempts were even made to break out the school's budget from that of the church. However, these two sources of income are no longer available and have not been replaced. The challenge for the future is to obtain new sources of funding from corporate sponsorships, foundation grants, scholarship bequests, institutionalized support from the surrounding communities and creative fund-raisers in order to lessen the parish's contribution.

Positive discussions are taking place with Pastor Bohdan Lukie to create a board to oversee the operations of the school. An updated mission statement, a business plan and strategic plan for long-range goals have been presented. In anticipation of a new beginning, the committee has started a recruitment drive, a budget oversight group, an alumni relations program and a fund-raising committee.

Already an additional 14 new students may enroll next year. St. John's Pre-School, with 25 youngsters enrolled, will supply a steady stream of kindergartners. An Open House program timed to coincide with the annual Valentine's Day Dance, Catholic Schools Week and the Shevchenko Concert should interest new

parents to consider St. John's. Young couples, some without children and some not yet married, are joining the committee to help support the school into the future.

It is time now for alumni and parents of alumni who reaped the benefits of a St. John's education to give back to St. John's and place St. John's in a position to succeed based on a new format. Request for donations are going out this week, followed by a phone-a-thon. St. John's must be in a financial posture to withstand a temporary dip in enrollment. With the parish's and Pastor Lukie's blessings, the committee foresees turning over \$250,000 on April 15 for a newly created board to run the school, still linked with the parish, but also drawing on a broader base of community support and involvement.

A hearty thank you to The Ukrainian Weekly for supporting these efforts.

Myron Martynetz
South Orange, N.J.

The letter writer, an attorney, is chairman of the Committee for the Development of St. John's School.

Our Catholic schools deserve another look

Dear Editor:

Thank you for the stories on St. John's School in Newark, N.J. St. John's certainly has a special place in many hearts. As a graduate of St. John's, I am very grateful for the education and lifelong friends it has given me. Now I live in Clifton, N.J., and send my children to St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School in Passaic.

Sadly, it appears that all Ukrainian Catholic schools are financially challenged. There are many struggles – managing costs, retaining quality educators, fund-raising and enrollment. I wonder if our community recognizes these treasures in our midst.

In some cases, distance makes enrollment impossible. But over the years I have heard two typical reasons for not enrolling children into our schools. The first one is that "I already pay local taxes, which pay for a good public school." Absolutely true. But there is another side to the equation. Daily classes of Ukrainian give your children an opportunity to not only maintain contact with their Ukrainian core but also get a head start in life being bilingual. You typically have smaller classes giving your children more attention. In a society that is so fond of pop culture and consumption, sprinkling a little morality on your child is a good thing. In a day when apparel companies proudly flaunt marketing provocative clothing to pre-teens, a Catholic School uniform looks great. Finally in a day and age when there are more and more reports of drugs entering the public school system in Grades 7 and 8, seeing parents you know in the parking lot is reassuring.

The second comment often heard questions the quality of the schools. It is easy to question, but I would suggest that parents take a closer look. For example, at St. Nick's we have Internet access, computers, TVs and VCRs in every classroom. We also have a science lab. All that is made possible through donations from members of our community. At St. Nick's we have a music program, a school choir and an after school program. But if you did not stop in and look, you would not know this.

Our children, like St. John's children, get into the best high schools in New Jersey. If we roll up our sleeves, financially and physically, we can help make these schools even better. Get involved. Our parents and grandparents built these schools. Maintaining them is a much easier task. There is a beautiful thing that happens when you come together as a community to build or save something. You feel better about yourself and you take pride in being Ukrainian.

As registration approaches for the 2003-2004 school year, please take another look and see if you can be part of the solution. A Ukrainian Catholic education will make a difference in your child's life.

Orest Temnycky
Clifton, N.J.

Why Russian tickets for Ukrainian show?

Dear Editor:

My family and I were very much looking forward to the Oksana Bilozir concert on Saturday, February 8, at the NYC Millennium Theatre in Brooklyn, N.Y. It is truly exciting to have such a great Ukrainian pop sensation touring the United States and Canada.

For as many years as her music has been available in the United States, we have been avid fans not just of the repertoire, but more importantly, of what her repertoire represents; that is, the heart of Ukraine and its people. This plus the fact that Ms. Bilozir is an official representative of the Our Ukraine bloc brings me to the following questions. Why is it that Meest, the major sponsor of the Bilozir tour, allowed the New York concert tickets to be printed in Russian? Was this really necessary? Was Meest afraid that its target audiences would ask for a refund once they saw that the tickets were printed in, dare I say, Ukrainian?

I find it appalling that this has happened. It is enough that officials in Ukraine still squabble over the official

language! It is enough that the Ukrainian language is still looked upon as a "peasant language" rather than the one, true, original, glorious language of the oldest Slavic culture on earth.

Russification should have been put to rest 12 years ago when Ukraine was freed from bondage. Here was an opportunity for Ukrainian to be in the spotlight. Shame on Meest for being so insensitive to all Ukrainians and for helping to perpetuate one of the biggest problems we Ukrainians have – lack of respect for our heritage put upon us by foreigners, and now by our own.

The Russian-language tickets were all the more out of place as the entire concert program – the songs and the introductions to them – was in the Ukrainian language.

Lillianna Chudolij
Clifton, N.J.

Artist's first exhibit: at Ukrainian Museum

Dear Editor:

I was delighted by Helen Smindak's mention of my daughter Inka Essenhigh's Ukrainian background in the "Dateline New York" column of January 12, ("Highbrow Cartooning"). To this, I would like to add a further tidbit that has a pride of place connotation: Inka's first exhibit in New York was held at The Ukrainian Museum while she was still attending the New York School of Visual Arts (SVA).

That exhibit featured a group of Ukrainian art students from the United States and Canada. This included Tamara Zahaikevitch, also a graduate of SVA, and she will be presenting her new work at the Bellwether gallery in Brooklyn this coming March. I think that may be of interest to your readers in the New York city area.

Anna Kobrynska
Columbus, Ohio

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

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

Author's query: materials about Stephan Woroch needed

PHILADELPHIA – January 2 marked the first anniversary of the passing of Dr. Stephan Woroch, a prominent Ukrainian community activist and leader and dentist by profession, who resided in Maplewood, N.J. (see obituary, *The Weekly*, April 21, 2002).

A lifelong activist for various Ukrainian causes, encompassing the full gamut of professional, religious, civic as well as cultural and academic endeavors, Dr. Woroch was a well-known and highly esteemed figure in the Ukrainian community.

An in-depth biography of Dr. Woroch is planned by his wife, Oksana Wanchycka-Woroch. Oleksander Vivcharyk, a Ukrainian journalist for *Vilna Dumka* in Smila, Cherkasy

Oblast, Ukraine, who shared a particular bond with Dr. Woroch, has been engaged to compile information and write the book.

Personal accounts and reminiscences of Dr. Woroch, both in Ukraine and in the diaspora – especially with reference to his work in the Ukrainian community in North America – are currently being solicited with the aim of realizing the project. All who knew and worked with Dr. Woroch are kindly invited to respond and send their recollections and accounts to Mrs. Wanchycka-Woroch at the following address: Oksana Wanchycka-Woroch, 1914 Pine St., Philadelphia, PA 19103. Telephone contact: (215) 732-3732 or 1 (800) 487-5324.

Дебютантки

ВЕЧОРНИЦЬ ЧЕРВОНОЇ КАЛИНИ



Гана Целох



Адріана
Рокисей



Лєся
Тейнор



Ксеня Юристина
Тентіуш



Роксана Єлизавета
Кобзар



Оля
Кузицька



Адріана Стефанія
Кузиуш



Ляриса Софія
Літенко



Наталія
Лусецька



Ліда Анна
Мушик



Марта
Халущик



Фуля Марія
Окон



Юристя Ляриса
Шупар

Роксолана
Богданна
Ростислава
Винар



грають: "Темпо" і "Луна"
Коктейл 6-7-ма вечора
Ренкет 7-9-та
Презентація дебютанток 7-ма вечора
Вечірницю від 9-тої до 2-ої ранку
Вечірній одяг


Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel
East Rutherford, NJ
v subotu, 1 bereznya, 2003
Запрошення і інформації: Ihor Sochan
tel./fax (201) 391-2581

Pittsburgh's Ukrainians hold community meeting

by Michael Jula

PITTSBURGH – A meeting of the Pittsburgh Ukrainian American Community occurred on Sunday, January 19, at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning. The brisk afternoon brought representatives of 17 organizations together to report on their goals for 2003 and achievements of 2002 to an assembly of 35 individuals.

Pittsburgh is one of the oldest Ukrainian communities in the United States, balancing the existence of four major immigrations and their descendants. Over two decades ago, Bohdan Konecky supported an event to showcase the collective experiences of the Ukrainian organizations of the Pittsburgh community. The Pittsburgh Ukrainian Festival Committee was developed and it took the reins of an annual event promoting the activities of these Ukrainian organizations, encouraging them to network and socialize.

True to its mission, the Pittsburgh Ukrainian Festival Committee called for an annual community meeting. Representatives from the Diocesan Resource Committee – Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma, Kyiv Ukrainian Dance School and Ensemble, League of Ukrainian Catholics of Western Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh Ukrainian Festival Committee, Pittsburgh-Donetsk Sister Cities, Poltava Ukrainian Dance Company, the School of Ukrainian Studies, Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 27, Ukrainian Cultural and Humanitarian Institute, Ukrainian Cultural Trust Choir of Western Pennsylvania, Ukrainian Nationality Room Committee at Pittsburgh, Ukrainian Fourth Wave of Pittsburgh, Ukrainian Orthodox Church Departmental Agencies, Ukrainian Radio Program, Ukrainian Self-Reliance Federal Credit Union, Ukrainian Student Club at the University of Pittsburgh and the Ukrainian Technological Society reported.

Monitored by Kristina Kincak Szmul of the Pittsburgh Ukrainian Festival Committee, the meeting

(Continued on page 19)

UPDATE: St. John's School Fund raises \$65,000

by Kristina Rak Brown

NEWARK, N.J. – As previously reported, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School in Newark, N.J., is raising funds to avoid closure this June. A group of concerned parents, parishioners and friends of St. John's School have formed the Committee for the Development of St. John's School. The committee's goal is to raise the necessary money, increase enrollment, and commission a permanent management board for the school.

The committee's immediate goal is to raise \$250,000 by April 15. The Rev. Bohdan Lukie, pastor of St. John's Church, decided on January 23 that unless this amount is raised by the deadline, the school will be closed in June. Since Father Lukie made his decision, the Committee has raised approximately \$65,000 in donations, including a \$25,000 donation from an institution that is a long-time supporter of the school, Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union. All donations are being deposited into an account specially created for this effort and are being held in escrow pending the outcome of the fund-raising and decision-making processes regarding the school's future.

The committee's plans to raise the additional funds include: sending letters to the school's alumni and groups beyond St. John's community; speaking directly to individuals through a phone-a-thon; soliciting financial institutions and organizations for substantial donations; utilizing corporate matching donation programs and others. Each of those programs is under way. As an enticement for individual donors to donate \$1,000 or more, the committee is crafting a recognition program to acknowledge donors through a permanent public display and annual gala event.

Beyond the financial goal, the committee has identified increasing enrollment for next year as an equally critical matter. Members of the committee will be call-

Kristina Rak Brown, a corporate attorney who resides in South Orange, N.J., is an alumna of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School and a member of the executive committee of the Committee for the Development of St. John's School.

ing and meeting with the parents of children currently enrolled in the school to confirm that their children will be returning for academic year 2003-2004. Other members have been recruiting potential students, including those presently in Ukrainian pre-schools, children from surrounding parishes and recent immigrants from Ukraine. In furtherance of the recruitment effort, the committee, together with the school, will be hosting an Open House on Saturday, February 22, followed by a Valentine's Dance for all children of elementary school age.

The committee is updating the school's website and brochure and is planning to offer musical and choral performances by St. John's students, all aimed at showing the public what the students and the school are capable of in terms of academic, spiritual and cultural achievements.

The committee has concluded, however, that plans for the school cannot simply focus on fund-raising. At the same time, the committee, with the blessing of Father Lukie, is laying the foundation for the implementation of a long-term "state of the art" strategic agenda for the school. These plans focus on creating a permanent school board that will work in conjunction with Father Lukie to govern the school which, until now, has been run solely by Father Lukie and the school's principal.

The permanent board will evaluate and enhance academic programs and extracurricular activities, develop a financial aid program and continue fund-raising in a systematic fashion. In this manner, the committee hopes to ensure that St. John's remains at the academic forefront of parochial schools in New Jersey, continues to improve and enjoys support from the community.

St. John's inescapable needs at this time, however, are money and students. In order to realize the long-term goals for St. John's School, the committee must raise the sum of \$250,000 and increase enrollment. Donations may be made out to: St. John's School Fund (Account No. 310511-000), c/o Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, 734 Sandford Ave., Newark, NJ 07106. For further information, readers may call Volodymyr Kovbasniuk at the credit union at (973) 373-7839.

DEBUTANTES

OF THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION TO AID UKRAINE CHARITY BALL

Saturday, February 22, 2003

Cocktails at 6:30 p.m.

Presentation of Debutantes, Dinner and Dancing, 7:15 p.m.

Music by KARI OCHI of Toronto

Evening Attire



Natalya Brinker Newberg, Oregon



Slavomira Haywas Oceanside, California

The Glendale Hilton
100 West Glenoaks Boulevard
Glendale, CA 91202



Mary Micevych Tarzana, California



Renia Soluk Los Angeles, California



Nicole Swartzlander Diamond Bar, California

The California Association to Aid Ukraine (CAAU) is a non-profit organization. All proceeds from the ball are designated for orphanages and the Meals for Seniors Program in Ukraine.

For reservations, information, or to send donations please contact:
Ms. Christina Shymkovich
500 Locke Haven Street
Pasadena, CA 91105
(626) 793-0292

Memorandum...

(Continued from page 6)

system of financial monitoring in Ukraine. This assistance seriously influenced the formation of a legal base of combating illegal proceeds and terrorism financing based on the national legal system in force.

We are actively introducing the complex national system of combating money laundering and terrorism financing. Paramount attention is being paid to the establishment of the system nationwide. Ukraine's government considers it a priority, and recent steps Ukraine has taken testify to this end.

Thus, on November 28, 2002, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (Parliament) passed the Law of Ukraine on Prevention and Counteraction of Legalization (Laundering) of the Proceeds from Crime No. 249-IV.

After adoption of the basic law aimed at the regulation of relations in the field of combating money laundering and terrorism financing, it was analyzed by FATF experts in December 2002. FATF made several comments, recommending that Ukraine introduce amendments into the newly passed law and regulate several other legislative issues.

Upon the government's initiative, proposals were urgently drafted and approved on December 24, 2002, by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in the form of the Law of Ukraine on Prevention and Counteraction to Legalization (Laundering) of the Proceeds from Crime. The amendments and supplements meet the recent recommendations of FATF experts. The said law introduced amendments into Articles 5-8, 12 and 14 of the basic law. In particular, Article 6 of the law, which determines the procedure for identification of individuals performing financial transactions, has been supplemented with provisions regarding the obligation of a subject of initial financial monitoring also to identify the individual on whose behalf such transaction is performed or who is the real beneficiary. Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 7, that enabled the subject of initial financial monitoring to avoid the procedure of providing information to the State Financial Monitoring Unit, have been excluded. The amendments introduced into Article 8 of the basic law obligate the staff of subjects of financial monitoring to unconditionally disclose all transactions that give rise to suspicions that they may have sought to launder proceeds from crime or finance terrorism. According to Paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the law, the authorized agency submits relevant materials to law-enforcement bodies for investigation and prosecution, in accordance with their com-

petence, given the profit that a financial transaction may involve the legalization (laundering) of the proceeds and financing of terrorism. According to the Criminal Code of Ukraine and the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine, these provisions settle the issue of seizures and confiscation of proceeds from crime. Now the law provides an "illustrative" list of transactions subject to financial monitoring, instead of an obligatory one. This means that broader authority is granted to subjects that perform financial monitoring for the purposes of monitoring financial transactions.

On January 16, 2003, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine passed the Law of Ukraine on Introduction of Amendments into the Criminal Code of Ukraine and the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine. This law stipulates a new edition of Article 209 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine named "Legalization (laundering) of Money and other Property Obtained from Crime." The proposed edition of the article not only broadens the objective side of corpus delicti of this crime (FATF experts focused attention on this fact), but also removes all obstacles to prosecution of individuals who launder the proceeds of crime. The new article, 209, of the Criminal Code of Ukraine established culpability for violating the legislation on prevention and counteraction to the legalization (laundering) of proceeds from crime with regard to the intentional failure to submit information on transactions, late submission or submission of deliberately false information regarding transactions subject to internal or compulsory financial monitoring to the financial intelligence unit and to the intentional disclosure of the above-mentioned information to the client or any third party. The amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine established that the offenses under Article 209 are subject to prosecution.

On the same plenary day, the Verkhovna Rada approved in the first reading the draft Law of Ukraine on Introduction of Amendments into Certain Laws of Ukraine Regarding Prevention of Use of Banks and Other Financial Institutions for Legalization (Laundering) of Proceeds from Crime. The law brings the provisions of the Law of Ukraine on Banks and Banking Activities and the Law of Ukraine on Financial Services and State Regulation of Makers of Financial Services into compliance with the provisions of the new law. A stricter definition of "bank secrecy" is established, and greater possibilities for information exchange among the subjects of financial monitoring are provided. These subjects have the right and obligation to completely identify the real beneficiary. During the drafting of the law, scheduled for approval

at the beginning of February, amendments were introduced to envisage that the entities of initial financial monitoring, their officials and other personnel shall not be disciplinarily, administratively and criminally liable or subject to civil penalties for submission of information about a financial transaction to the authorized agency if they acted pursuant to and within the limits of the basic law. The reporting threshold for cash and cashless transactions is established at 100,000 hrv (about 14,540 euros), if the transaction is carried out in Ukrainian hryvni, or its equivalent if the transaction is carried out in foreign currency. Such an approval meets generally recognized international standards, including the directive of the Council of Europe on prevention of the use of the financial system for money laundering purposes (June 10, 1991, No. 91/308/EEC) and FATF recommendations.

According to the requirements of the basic law, on December 12, 2002, the National Bank of Ukraine enacted a resolution that stipulates that all foreign currency exchange operations exceeding \$10,000 must be carried out through bank cash registers only with obligatory client identification.

On September 12, 2002, Ukraine ratified the International Convention on Fighting Terrorism Financing. Supplements to the draft Law on Combating Terrorism were drafted on its basis, taking into account eight special recommendations of the FATF. The draft was approved by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in the first reading. Supplements to the Criminal Code were also drafted to include criminal penalties for terrorism financing. These supplements are scheduled for parliamentary approval in March 2003.

The government of Ukraine has approved the Program of Counteraction to Legalization (Laundering) of Proceeds from Crime for 2003. It has also approved a relevant complex of legal, organizational, methodical and material/technical measures, contained in a separate plan, which are necessary for the basic law to enter into force.

It should be noted that the work of the financial intelligence unit (the State Department of Financial Monitoring) was activated. The department is a governmental authority under the Finance Ministry of Ukraine and functions are clearly defined by the basic law and the statute as the specially authorized body in this sphere. It is a legal entity with its independent balance, registered at the State Treasury, and has its own seal. The department is absolutely independent of political processes; it is subordinate and accountable to the first vice prime minister. No political parties or groups can influence the appointment of the head of the

department or his/her deputies, as well as its day-to-day work in general.

Due to the specific character of the work of the financial intelligence unit, selection of highly qualified personnel for the key activities are now proceeding on a competition basis. Moreover, it was decided to considerably increase the number of its staff, especially to strengthen the analytical unit. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has decided to relocate the department into the newly equipped building of the Ministry of Finance. Proceeding from the tasks laid down upon the financial intelligence unit at this stage, the department's needs will be funded accordingly.

Fruitful cooperation between Ukraine and the Council of Europe was confirmed by signing the Declaration of Intent and final approval of performance specifications for the Project of Technical Assistance for Combating Proceeds from Crime in Ukraine. The project is planned for launch in the nearest future, before coming into force of the basic law. The funding available under the project will be around 1 million Euros. The project includes training the department's specialists in financial intelligence units in such countries as Switzerland, Italy and others.

We take full responsibility to state that Ukraine makes use of a complex of urgent legislative and organizational actions, aimed at creating a working system to combat money laundering and terrorism financing. At the same time, we realize that there is no criterion of sufficiency of such measures, according to formal indications. The assessment of such actions is always subjective in character. In order to obtain a positive result, Ukraine exerts every effort to exceed the standards set by the medium level of the countries, corresponding systems of which do not give rise to claims of the FATF. The government of Ukraine is determined to increase the active nature of this process and make it irreversible.

We are confident that the actions taken by Ukraine within such a short period will be highly appraised by the global community and will serve as real evidence of the aspiration of our state to create a transparent financial system that will work and change in the format of international cooperation and leading global experience. These actions should contribute to a positive decision by the FATF regarding the withdrawal of the above-mentioned countermeasures against Ukraine at the next plenary meeting of this institution, scheduled for the middle of February 2003. In this context, Ukraine intends to prepare for accession to the Egmont Group and to take further steps required for removal from the FATF's list of Non-Cooperative countries and territories (NCCT).

The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: January 2003

Amount	Name	City	Name	City	Name	City
\$100.00	Zenon and Helen Ivanonko	Vestal, N.Y.	Roman Voronka	Maplewood, N.J.	H. Relkin	Scotch Plains, N.J.
	Neonila Sochan	Jersey City, N.J.	Gregory Woloszyn	Forest Hills, N.Y.	Myron Saldyt	Carrara, N.M.
\$58.08	Roma Hadzewycz	Morristown, N.J.	Dorothy Wylder	Vacaville, Calif.	Lana Tarasenko	Chicago, Ill.
\$55.00	Volodymyr Baranetsky	Maplewood, N.J.	Michael Bilynsky	Hollywood, Fla.	Ihor Tomkiw	Toronto, Ontario
	Yuri and Irena		Ihor Chorneyko	Dundas, Ontario	Michael Turianski	Monroe, N.C.
	Deychakiwsky	North Potomac, Mass.	D. Chromowsky	Howell, N.J.	John Wynohradnyk	Stony Point, N.Y.
	M. Hrycelak	Park Ridge, Ill.	Steve Ilkiw	Montreal, Quebec	Leo Wysochansky	Brunswick, Maine
	Jaroslav and Vera		Alexander Kalinowski	Fredericksburg, Va.	Yaro Zajac	East Hanover, N.J.
	Kryshtalsky	Forest Hills, N.Y.	Natalia Kassaraba	Peabody, Mass.	Ihor Czuczuk	Hamilton Square, N.J.
	Julian Kulas	Park Ridge, Ill.	Oleh Mahlay	Hinckley, Ohio	Alexandra Hrycak	Portland, Ore.
	Z. Majuk	Capitola, Calif.	Jean Ochrym	Etobicoke, Ontario	Olga Karmazyn	Aliquippa, Pa.
\$50.00	Hans Hawrysa	Cambridge, Mass.	William Roberts	Lakeland, Fla.	John Kost	St. Petersburg, Fla.
	Ihor Hron	Lewis Center, Ohio	Sophia Andrushkiw	Maplewood, N.J.	Bohdan Kwasowsky	Taberg, N.Y.
	Olga Moroz	Kerhonkson, N.Y.	Max Barbelka	Chandler, Ariz.	Andrij Leshchyslyn	Columbia, Md.
\$45.00	Myron Nowosad	Elgin, Ill.	M. Chepesiuk	Toronto, Ontario	M. Lapichak-Kocylowska	Alpine, N.J.
	O. Rybak	Berlin, Md.	George Chomyn	Weston, Ontario	Stefan Peleschuk	Stamford, Conn.
\$30.00	Adrian Cyhan	Chicago, Ill.	Larissa Dolinsky	Westfield, N.J.	Myroslawa Pryjmak	Rochester, N.Y.
	Mark Hadzewycz	Morristown, N.J.	Martha Hordinsky	Oklahoma City, Okla.	Eugene Repeta	Warren, Mich.
	Mykola Hoshovsky	Sunnyside, N.Y.	Wolodymyr Kostiuk	Woodside, N.Y.	Victor Rosynsky	Ewing Township, N.J.
	Helen Jensen	Forest Hills, N.Y.	Stanislawa Kovach	Stratford, Conn.	Peter Rudy	Toms River, N.J.
\$25.00	Sviatoslav Bozhenko	San Francisco, Calif.	Adrian Krawczeniuk	Old Greenwich, Conn.	Walter Swyrydenko	Cleveland, Ohio
	John Cherniawsky	Astoria, N.Y.	Eustachius Krawczuk	North Port, Fla.	Monica Trendowski	Detroit, Mich.
	Andrew Czorniak	Glastonbury, Conn.	Mykola and Nadia Lawrin	Sterling Heights, Mich.		
	Tom Hawrylko	Clifton, N.J.	John Martyniuk	Eynon, Pa.		
	Yarko Krupa	San Jose, Calif.	Christine Matiash	Las Vegas, Nev.		
	Peter Myskiw	Phoenix, Ariz.	Walter Metrovsky	Union, N.J.		
	Richard W. and K. Ludmilla		Oksana Murskyj	Mokena, Ill.		
	Murphy	Bethesda, Md.	Nadia Myketey	Woodbridge, Conn.		
	Adrian Shepelavey	San Francisco, Calif.	Markian Onuferko	Philadelphia, Pa.		
			Myron Pawlowsky	Winnipeg, Manitoba		

TOTAL: \$1,913.08

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"Regal Fantasy" showcases wearable art and paintings



Fashion program designed by Andrei Poteryaylo.

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – A fashion show aptly titled "Regal Fantasy," comprising knitted wearable art created by the designer Tamara Massalska, was held under the auspices of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 4 of Piscataway on November 3, 2002, in the grand reception hall of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Showcased as part of the overall program were the works of Andrei Poteryaylo, a graphic artist and painter, and son of the designer.

For inspiration for her work, Ms. Massalska, who works with knitted fabric at Hampshire Design, draws on Ukrainian



"Oranta," inspired by the mosaic in Kyiv's St. Sophia Cathedral, with auburn, gold and blue bands interwoven with metallic threads; the same color scheme is woven into a geometric design in the v-shaped plastron collar and vertical center band. The piece also has a cap woven of gold metallic wool, evocative of a halo. The piece is modeled by Renata Bokalo of Brooklyn, N.Y.

themes of historic period and folk dress, as well as such areas further afield as architecture, music and poetry. The collection of 14 pieces of apparel was brought by the artist upon emigrating to the United States in 1991.

Among Ms. Massalska's creations, whose titles belie the subtlety of their design, are such pieces as "Chervona Kalyna," a recreation of a traditional Ukrainian costume in a machined-knit



"The Tavern," mixed media, 1999, by Andrei Poteryaylo.

design; a knitted dress with blue and gold yarn incorporating the trident design down the front and back with large full sleeves and a headdress resembling a crown; and a slim tube of a dress, with red and gold flames woven into the bodice with dark bat wing sleeves.

"Oranta," inspired by the mosaic in Kyiv's St. Sophia Cathedral, has auburn, gold and blue bands interwoven with metallic threads, with the same color scheme woven into a geometric design in the v-shaped plastron collar and vertical center band. The piece also has a headdress woven of gold metallic wool, evocative of a halo.

The fashion show was accompanied by a luncheon prepared by the Sisterhood of St. Andrew's Orthodox Church. The hall was decorated by UNWLA branch members to reflect the deep, rich colors of fall foliage, set off dramatically with large bouquets of chrysanthemums.

Modelling the extravagant and dramatic apparel were Renata Bokalo, Christine D'Agostino, Solomiya Fedyna, Kelly Goodwin, Natalka Hutsul, Natalie Lyszyk, Aleksa Milanytch, Christina Ratycz,

Marina Shapovalenko and Deanna Stawnychy.

The fashion program and flyer were designed by Ms. Massalska's son, Mr. Poteryaylo.

A graphic artist and painter, Mr. Poteryaylo began his studies in Kyiv at the Taras Shevchenko Republican School of Art, and at the Studio of Analytical Drawing where he studied with Nikolai

Book Review and illustrative work for The New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. He has also worked as an animator at Jumbo Pictures (Disney TV Channel) and made a short animated opening for MTV.

Among projects in which he was engaged as a student was a painting for the annual event "Jaarverslag 95," commissioned by Casa Architecten in Amsterdam and the drawing of two maps for the New



"Shadow in a Summer House 1 and 2," 1993-1994, watercolor, India ink, by Andrei Poteryaylo.

Shkaraputa.

Mr. Poteryaylo earned a BFA degree from the Pratt Institute in New York in 1997, graduating with honors. As part of Pratt Institute's study abroad program, he studied at the Reitveld Academy in Amsterdam and at the International School of Graphic Arts in Venice. He is a recipient of the Society of Illustrators Award (1994).

The artist's experience includes illustrating fiction briefs for The New York Times

Nederland Museum in Liberty State Park in Jersey City, N.J.

Mr. Poteryaylo offered the following statement as his art credo. "The sense of discovery and the spiritualization of an artwork constitute the essence of creativity... When the artwork exceeds the artist's expectations, when the brush or pen move spontaneously, and are at one with the artist, the feeling is one of unexpected excitement which translates into a feeling of incomparable happiness."



Designer Tamara Massalska



Artist Andrei Poteryaylo

Muted reaction...

(Continued from page 1)

and Kyiv have only begun to rise from their lowest point in a decade, would have little impact on budgetary programs or the economy's development, but could hamper other areas.

Volodymyr Sydenko, economic expert for the Razumkov Center for Economic and Political Studies, pointed to the possibility that institution-building efforts, funded to a large part by United States, could be hampered by the aid cuts.

"For the most part, this will affect the development of institutions, first of all those associated with government, and in this context will lead to a search for new alternatives," explained Mr. Sydenko.

The economist added that reduced funding could even be healthy for Ukraine and rouse government organizations that had become too dependent on annual U.S. handouts they had come to consider as a fait accompli.

Viktor Kapustin, an aide to the Verkhovna Rada's chairman of the Committee on Finance and Banking, Serhii Buriak, said neither the economy, which was growing for a fourth consecutive year, nor the budget relied as they once did on foreign funding and would not feel the affects of the cut in aid. Mr. Kapustin explained that the funding in question was outside the budgetary process and legislators did not consider it when approving an annual budget.

Mr. Kapustin also said that he did not

consider the funding reduction a reflection of U.S.-Ukraine relations inasmuch as Russia and Kazakstan also would receive reduced amounts of aid.

"Ukraine was one of the major recipients of U.S. aid in the course of the last 10 years," explained Mr. Kapustin. "Today, when the economy is more or less working well and the hryvnia remains stable and our democratic institutions are developing, we do not need as much aid. It is all very normal."

But not all opinions were as optimistic. National Deputy Petro Poroshenko, chairman of the Verkhovna Rada's Budget Committee, voiced reservations on the timing of the reduced U.S. foreign funding.

"First of all, we do not welcome the reduction of financial aid to Ukraine at a

time when the country is in a situation where the restructuring of the financial and budgetary system is not complete and as economic restructuring continues," explained Mr. Poroshenko.

However, the lawmaker added that he was satisfied that at least most of the funding cutback was directed at government sector reforms and not NGO programs. He even expressed hope that the reduction of aid to government structures would force reforms that would finally lead to more streamlined and efficient functioning, as well as less corruption in the government bureaucracy.

On the other hand, explained Mr. Poroshenko, the possibility remained that reduction of reform programs could lead to a contrary result and an increase in inefficiency and corruption.

Alexander Slobodyanik to perform with Pittsburgh Symphony

PITTSBURGH – Alexander Slobodyanik will appear with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in the American premiere of Alexander Tchaikovsky's Concerto for Two Pianos, with Mariss Jansons conducting and pianist Yefim Bronfman. The weekend concerts, titled "Triple Tchaikovsky," will take place at Heinz Hall for the Performing Arts on Friday, February 21, and Saturday, February 22, at 8 p.m.

The concerto by the contemporary composer was written and dedicated to Mr. Slobodyanik and premiered in St. Petersburg in April 2001, with the composer at the second piano. At the "Triple Tchaikovsky" concerts, Mr. Bronfman will join Mr. Slobodyanik at the second piano.

Mr. Tchaikovsky, who resides in St. Petersburg and is head of the Composers' Union, will attend the concerts. One of Mr. Tchaikovsky's symphonies was recently performed in Lviv at the initiative of his colleague, Ukrainian composer Myroslav Skoryk.

The all-Tchaikovsky program, by three unrelated Tchaikovskys, will include Boris Chiakovsky's "Eight Variations on a Theme" and Peter Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1.

To order tickets by phone call (412) 392-4900; to order on line, go to www.pittsburghsymphony.org. The Heinz Hall Box Office, 600 Penn Ave., is open seven days a week, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Mr. Slobodyanik, known to audiences around the world as one of the great pianists from the former Soviet Union, has enjoyed a prodigious international career spanning over three decades in solo recitals and performances with leading orchestras and in the great concert halls of Europe, North America, the Far East and Australia.

His acclaimed debut at Carnegie Hall in 1968, as part of his first concert tour of the United States, gained him praise and recognition as a leader of his generation. Mr. Slobodyanik returned regularly for concert tours of North America until 1979. After a nine-year hiatus, due to the breakdown of U.S.-Soviet cultural agreements, he returned to the American concert stage in 1988.

Born in Kyiv, Mr. Slobodyanik began music studies at the Special Music School in Lviv with Lidia Golemba. At age 15 he moved to Moscow to study with the legendary Heinrich Neuhaus at the Moscow Central Special Music School and subsequently at the Moscow Conservatory, where he completed his doctorate with Vera Gornostayeva. Mr. Slobodyanik is a laureate of the International Chopin Competition in Warsaw and the Tchaikovsky Competition



Alexander Slobodyanik

in Moscow.

Since emigrating to the United States, Mr. Slobodyanik has performed with the world's great orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, National Symphony and Montreal Symphony in North America, and abroad with the London Symphony, the Royal Philharmonic, the Gewandhaus Orchestra, the Kirov Orchestra and others.

He has collaborated with renowned conductors, including Leonard Bernstein, Sir John Barbirolli, Yuri Bashmet, Christoph von Dohnanyi, Valery Gergiev, Maestro Jansons, Neeme Jarvi, Dmitri Vitaenko, Kiril Kondrashin, Kurt Masur, Mstislav Rostropovich, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Thomas Sanderling, Maxim Shostakovich and Yuri

Temirkanov.

Mr. Slobodyanik continues to concertize, mostly in Europe, and is visiting professor of the St. Petersburg Conservatory in Russia. In addition to giving concerts and master classes in New Jersey, New York and Los Angeles, every summer he is a guest teacher at Piano Summer at the State University of New York at New Paltz.

Just this week, Mr. Slobodyanik's student Danylo Shleyenkov, 18, originally from Minsk, who has been studying with the Ukrainian pianist for three years, won the Young Artists' Competition, qualifying him to play with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

In addition to solo engagements, Mr. Slobodyanik frequently performs chamber music and two piano programs and concertos with distinguished colleagues.

Recognized as among the most talented pianists performing today, Mr. Bronfman has won critical acclaim for his solo recitals, orchestral engagements and recordings.

Born in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan, in 1958, he immigrated to Israel with his family in 1973. He made his international debut in 1975 with Zubin Mehta and the Montreal Symphony. In 1978 he appeared with the New York Philharmonic and had his Washington recital debut at the Kennedy Center in 1981 and his New York recital debut in 1982 at the 92nd Street Y.

In Israel he studied with pianist Arie Vardi at Tel Aviv University. In the United States he studied at the Juilliard School, Marlboro and the Curtis Institute, and with Rudolf Firkusny, Leon Fleisher and Rudolf Serkin.

The music director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra since 1997, Maestro Jansons is recognized as one of the most distinguished musicians of his generation. He was music director of the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra (1979-2000); associate principal conductor of the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra and principal guest conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Maestro Jansons was recently named music director of the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and principal conductor of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam (beginning in 2004).

Maestro Jansons, son of the renowned conductor Arvid Jansons, was born in Riga, Latvia, in 1943. He studied at the Leningrad Conservatory, and continued his training in Vienna with Hans Swarowsky and in Salzburg with Herbert von Karajan. In 1971 he won the International Herbert von Karajan Foundation Competition in Berlin.

Oleh Chmyr to appear with New Jersey State Opera in "Pagliacci"

NEWARK, N.J. – Baritone Oleh Chmyr will appear with the New Jersey State Opera in Leoncavallo's one-act opera "Pagliacci" in the role of Silvio, in two performances to be held at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Prudential Hall, on Friday, February 21, at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, February 23, at 3 p.m. Also on the bill is Mascagni's "Cavalleria Rusticana."

A principal artist with the Ekaterinburg Opera in Russia since 1984, as well as with the Lviv and Wroclaw (Poland) opera companies, Mr. Chmyr has performed lead roles in the opera houses of Ukraine, Russia and Poland. His opera and concert tours had taken him to France, Spain, Germany, Denmark and Norway.

Mr. Chmyr has also established himself as a talented chamber singer with an extensive repertoire. His solo concert "European Vocal Miniatures," held at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in May 2000, featured a repertoire of Western European as well as Ukrainian, Polish and Russian composers. An eponymous CD was released that same year. Prior to emigrating to the United States in 1994, Mr. Chmyr's interpretation of German Lieder earned him recognition at such fora as the Glinka International Vocal Competition in Russia.

Among select performances of Mr. Chmyr's singing career were appearances with the Berlin Rundfunk Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Robert Hannel, at the Berliner Music Festival gala concert (1984); as soloist performing the "Vesna" (Spring) cantata with mixed choir and orchestra, under the direction of Alexander Lazarev, principal conductor of the Bolshoi Opera, at the first Rachmaninoff festival held in the composer's hometown of Ivanovka in Russia; and with the Poznan and Ekaterinburg symphonies, under the direction of Andrei Borejko, where he sang and recorded "Lieder eines Fahrenden Gesellen."

Select American performances included appear-

ances at the Newport International Star Festival (1996) as well as at Carnegie Hall in the New York Grand Opera Gala "Stars of Tomorrow" concert (1995) and at New York's Merkin Hall (1997).

Mr. Chmyr has been referred to by critics as a "baritone, [who] with his outstanding artistic ability, stands at the threshold of an international career," (Joe McLellan, The Washington Post, 1994) and as "a noble baritone with a beautiful, warm voice enhanced by a deep soul" (Unsere Zeit, Berlin).

Last summer Mr. Chmyr completed a successful concert tour in Ukraine which included performances at the Independence Day gala concert with the National Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Volodymyr Sirenko, at the Ukraina Palace of Culture, and, as part of the Kyiv Music Fest, where he appeared with the National Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Mykola Diadura in a concert dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the birth of Ukrainian tenor Anatolii Solovianenko.

While in Kyiv, Mr. Chmyr was the subject of several interviews and was featured as a special guest artist on Ukrainian National Radio and Television.

A native of Lviv, Mr. Chmyr studied at the Lviv Conservatory, with Profs. Pavlo Karmeluk and Tetiana Karpatska, and, later at the Moscow Conservatory, with the renowned Hugo Tietz and Petro Skusnichenko. After preparing his doctoral degree in voice, he taught at the Lysenko and Mussorgsky conservatories in Lviv and Ekaterinburg, respectively.

Mr. Chmyr's professional consultants have included the Russian diva, mezzo-soprano Irina Archipova and, in the United States, renowned soprano Licia Albanese.

Apart from his performing schedule, Mr. Chmyr is professor of voice at the County College of Morris in Randolph, N.J.

Featured in lead roles in "Pagliacci" are tenor Manrico Tadeschi of Canada as Canio, and Russian soprano Olga Romanko as Nedda; with native New Yorker Sigmund Cowen, baritone, as Tonio. Conducting the New Jersey State Opera in the two passion-filled verismo opera masterpieces is its artistic director and conductor, Alfredo Silipigni.

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Baritone Oleh Chmyr

CONCERT NOTES: Oksana Bilozir at Brooklyn's Millennium Theater



Oksana Bilozir at the Millennium Theater.



Viktor Yushchenko on stage with the pop diva from Ukraine.

by Lillianna and Alexander Chudolij
Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

BROOKLYN, N.Y. – Those who missed the debut concert of Oksana Bilozir's U.S.-Canada tour this past Saturday, February 8, held at the NYC Millennium Theater, in Brooklyn, N.Y., missed one of the most inspiring, most professional and greatest concerts ever.

In all of our combined years of attending various concerts, we had never seen anything like this one. Oksana Bilozir was electrifying!

As if it wasn't enough to see and hear a performer of this caliber, a surprise to all in attendance was the appearance of Viktor Yushchenko, the leader of the Our Ukraine bloc – or, as Ms. Bilozir put it, "Ukraine's best hope for the 21st century." If elected, Mr. Yushchenko would become the first Ukrainian president of true Kozak descent. He kicked off the event and gave all a prelude to the evening's entertainment, as well as a quick summary of his patriotic ideology.

Accompanied by his colleague Yevhen Chervonenko, Mr. Yushchenko took center stage and declared this night a 100 percent Ukrainian night and nothing less. Mr. Yushchenko spoke of how wonderful it was to be here in America among Ukrainians, how he and the people of Ukraine appreciate all that the diaspora has done and continues to do for Ukraine, and especially how grand it is to have an angel like "Oksanochka" Bilozir, as a national deputy of the Our Ukraine bloc. Mr. Yushchenko said that at this time there is no one better to represent all that is good about Ukraine than Oksana Bilozir. With this, the band began to play and Ms. Bilozir came on stage to rousing applause from the full auditorium.

The opening number, "Pshenychne Pereveslo," a fast-paced, tradition-filled lyrical piece, got everyone rocking in their

seats. It was followed by "Niby Vchora," "Batkivske Zhyto" and "Rospytayu Pro Lubov" – all beautifully lyrical, melodic and moving pieces. This opening segment was dedicated to the singer's beloved collaborator and late husband, Ihor Bilozir, who was the composer of all of these pieces as well as "Laskavo Prosymo," which was sung later in the program. Ms. Bilozir took a moment to pay homage to the late composer who met a tragic, brutal death all too soon in his creative life.

Ms. Bilozir continued to enchant the audience as she made references to numerous periods in Ukraine's history as well as in her own life. Her version of "Dva Kolory" left not a dry eye in the theater. As she continued and spoke of Ukraine's many "Povstantsi" and how a mother would always yearn for the return of her son from battle, she reminded us of the tradition of our soldiers pleading with their mothers to plant a "klen" (maple tree) near the house as a reminder of their life. "So

many of our sons were lost fighting for our Batkivshchyna – that is why our Ukraine has such an abundance of glorious kleny," she spoke softly as she began the ballad "Klenova Ballada" dedicated to Ukraine's freedom fighters.

At one point, Ms. Bilozir had promised the audience that she had brought only the very best of her collection – and that she did. Her back-up band, "Fest," and her back-up dancers, also called "Fest," per-

(Continued on page 17)



Children from the audience become part of the show with Oksana Bilozir when they were invited on stage.

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Ukrainian lawmakers...

(Continued from page 1)

noted that at the time peasants were not allowed to leave their villages to seek food after their own stores were confiscated and were turned back to their barren homes when they fled to the cities.

"Ukraine reflected a military reservation at the time," explained Mr. Tabachnyk, who also referred to documented incidents of cannibalism in the countryside. He said that 70 percent of the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast was starved.

Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn, who directed the proceedings, called for an effort to identify by name all the victims in order to properly memorialize them. Prof. James Mace, whose seminal research was central to U.S. congressional hearings in the 1980s that recognized the Great Famine as genocide, also spoke in support of a proper memorial, as did Prof. Stanislav Kulchytsky, Prof. Ivan Kuras and National Deputies Viktor Yushchenko, Hennadii Udovenko, Ivan Pliusch and Levko Lukianenko.

Yet unanimity of feeling and intent did not rein at the hearing. National Deputy Petro Symonenko, chairman of the Communist Party of Ukraine, raised a ruckus when he asserted, while giving his take on the Great Famine, that it came as the result of a severe drought and was part of a cycle of starvation, albeit worse than previous ones, that Ukraine had regularly experienced every 10-11 years since the latter part of the previous century. Mr. Symonenko blamed the famine not on Soviet leaders, but on the remnants of the capitalist system, which he said was responsible for the earlier famines and which still had not been fully excised by the first part of the 1930s.

National Deputy Pliusch, former chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, spoke after Mr. Symonenko and immediately fired a sharp response to the remarks. His voice filling with emotion, Mr. Pliusch looked sternly at the Communist leader and retorted: "It was godless Bolshevism that destroyed a whole generation of our best sons and daughters. And it cannot be forgiven for this."

In a milder tone, former Soviet political prisoner and current National Deputy Lukianenko, speaking earlier in the hearing, referred to several dozen Communist adherents who stood outside the Verkhovna Rada building as the hearing took place and said they must be understood as unfortunate people, misguided by Soviet policies and still twisted by its revanchist history. He added that they should be invited inside the Rada chambers to listen to the truth.

Mr. Lukianenko underscored that the Communists must seek repentance and ask for forgiveness for their transgressions, many of which they still fail to understand.

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Yushchenko urges...

(Continued from page 1)

Caucus – with former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright; two former U.S. ambassadors to Ukraine, Steven Pifer, who now serves as deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs, and his predecessor, William Green Miller; as well as with Zbigniew Brzezinski, who was national security advisor to President Jimmy Carter.

Despite the fact that the level of trust between the United States and Ukraine is at an all-time low and there is a lack of bilateral contact at the higher levels, Mr. Yushchenko told *The Ukrainian Weekly*, he found a great interest on the part of official Washington in helping get Ukraine back on track to building a viable democratic state.

Looking at the problem domestically, "Ukraine today is far from being a democracy," he said. "With every passing day it sinks deeper into corruption, freedom of expression is curtailed, the media cannot do its job without interference, there are problems with the shadow economy, and the like."

Externally, he added, "there is the serious loss of image and reputation, and the resulting international isolation."

Mr. Yushchenko suggested that, at present, U.S.-Ukrainian relations could be improved with the proactive help of the U.S. Congress and the Verkhovna Rada. "I am convinced that the problems can be resolved if we tackle their root causes rather than by reacting to results," he said.

Responding to questions on Ukrainian-Russian relations following his address at the Carnegie Institute breakfast meeting on February 7, one of which was posed by former U.S. Ambassador to Russia Jack Matlock, Mr. Yushchenko said that recent policies governing that relationship have been disappointing and destabilizing. These ties, he said, should be based on equal treatment of each other's interests.

As for the alarming increase of Russian investment in Ukraine, Mr. Yushchenko said that the problem was not so much the origin of the capital as the absence of transparency in the privatization process. "Western capital is not used to working in such an atmosphere," he said, "and certain political cliques take advantage of this."

The economic relationship between Ukraine and Russia has not been a healthy one in recent years, Mr. Yushchenko said. It is being driven by a "dynamic" that is not in the economic interest of either country, he said. There has been a downturn in trade and economic

relations, and the trade and tax regimes have been pushing the two economies apart, he added.

On more than one occasion during his visit, Mr. Yushchenko expressed apprehension that the present administration – he never referred to President Leonid Kuchma by name in any of his criticism – may be planning some "surprises" next year in an attempt to retain power after the next presidential election.

One such attempt may have already been launched with the announcement of a governmental reform proposal to shift the governing power from the presidency to the Parliament. Our Ukraine and other political groups, he said, see this as an attempt to pass power from one branch of the government to another while retaining power in the same political hands.

Oleksander Yeliashkevych, a former Verkhovna Rada deputy seeking asylum in the United States because of a threat on his life for criticizing President Kuchma, chided Mr. Yushchenko for not once mentioning the president by name in his remarks. Also attending, but not participating in the discussion, at the Carnegie Institute breakfast was Mykola Melnychenko, President Kuchma's former security officer whose secret recordings of his conversations gave rise to many of the administration's problems, both domestically and abroad.

During his visit, Mr. Yushchenko also had the occasion to meet with another U.S. asylum seeker related to the so-called Kuchmagate tape scandal, the widow of the murdered journalist Heorhii Gongadze, Myroslava Gongadze, who now reports for Radio Liberty in Washington.

He arrived in Washington one day after the Bush administration announced major cutbacks in U.S. assistance for Ukraine and in its international broadcasting operations through the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. The 2004 budget proposal would reduce VOA's daily Ukrainian programming schedule from two hours to one and would eliminate three staff positions.

Mr. Yushchenko characterized the broadcasting cutbacks as premature. "Cutting back programming of these radio stations at this time is a mistake," he said, explaining that they provide equal media access to all political players in the country, be they pro-government or in opposition to it.

The visiting Our Ukraine deputies were the guests of honor at two evening receptions. One was hosted by three organizations involved in democracy-building efforts in Ukraine – the National Endowment for Democracy, the National Democratic Institute and the International

Republican Institute, which assisted in setting up the group's Washington visit schedule. The other, hosted by U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge Bohdan Futey and his wife, was an opportunity for them to meet with representatives of the Ukrainian American community.

Halfway through the reception, Messrs. Yushchenko and Chervonenko left for New York to attend a concert by the popular Ukrainian singer and Our Ukraine National Deputy Oksana Bilozir. The other two deputies remained, and flew back to Kyiv the following morning.



Viktor Yushchenko and fellow Our Ukraine National Deputy Yevhen Chervonenko (left) pause to confer with their colleagues about the next meeting of their Washington schedule.



Raising a toast, Viktor Yushchenko describes his vision of the future for Ukraine to representatives of the Ukrainian American community gathered at a reception hosted by Judge Bohdan Futey and his wife, Myroslava (standing beside Mr. Yushchenko).



Viktor Yushchenko and fellow Our Ukraine deputy Oleh Rybachuk (center) confer with Richard Murphy (right), senior associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, during a reception in their honor.

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Singer Oksana Bilozir addresses community in her role as national deputy



Roma Hadzewycz

Oksana Bilozir addresses members of the Ukrainian American community.

by Roma Hadzewycz

EAST HANOVER, N.J. – Ukraine's top pop diva, Oksana Bilozir, appeared here at a public meeting with Ukrainian American community members on Monday, February 10, to share her thoughts as a member of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada.

As she was fresh from the debut concert of her North American tour, performed on Saturday, February 8, in Brooklyn, N.Y. (see concert notes on page 13 of this issue), Ms. Bilozir's appearance here at the Ramada Hotel was eagerly awaited by fans and community members who wanted to hear more from a person who is both a national artist of Ukraine and a national deputy from Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc.

Ms. Bilozir underlined that Our Ukraine was in fact the major victor in the most recent parliamentary elections as it gained 25 percent of the vote. "This was our first victory," she stated, promising that there would be more to follow. "Viktor Yushchenko is our chance" for a better future for Ukraine, she noted, referring to Ukraine's presidential elections in 2002.

The next few months, she continued, "will determine the future of Ukraine ... and we will elect our own true president in our Ukraine."

She spoke of Mr. Yushchenko's recent visit to Washington, where he was engaged in a series of high-level meetings with Bush administration officials, policymakers and members of Congress, and noted that the Our Ukraine leader's message was to underscore the distinction between the largely discredited current government of Ukraine and the people of Ukraine, who are deserving of the

support of the United States.

Ms. Bilozir referred also to the fact that Ukraine is now controlled by three clans – those from Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and Kyiv – whose oligarchs are in leading positions in the government, the presidential administration and the Parliament. "Today there is a crisis in Ukraine that stems from its utterly corrupted leadership," she stated, adding that what is most needed in the next elections is a thorough housecleaning of Ukraine's authorities.

On the bright side, however, there are developments that indicate a beneficial merger of national democratic factions in Ukraine, as several political groupings are currently negotiating for a union with Our Ukraine, Ms. Bilozir explained.

Responding to a question about why certain members of Our Ukraine had defected to pro-Kuchma forces in Parliament, Ms. Bilozir explained that these were due no doubt to pressure and blackmail. Nonetheless, she said, Our Ukraine remains a powerful force.

The open format of the community meeting allowed audience members to pose questions on a variety of subjects, all of which Ms. Bilozir answered in a forthright and personable manner. Afterwards, many lined up to speak in person with the performer/national deputy and to get her autograph on CDs of her music.

Ms. Bilozir was introduced to the audience of well over 100 people by Ivan Burtyk, chairman of the New Jersey Coordinating Council of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, which organized the event. Sponsors of the evening were the Self Reliance New Jersey Federal Credit Union and the Ramada Hotel.

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Oksana Bilozir...

(Continued from page 13)

formed in the background of many numbers. Ms. Bilozir's intertwining of Ukrainian background history prior to virtually every song made for an unforgettable, often tearful experience both for the audience and the performer. Her symbolic, patriotic and heartfelt recounting of the natural beauty of the land of our ancestors tempered by the political tragedies that have marked the fabric of Ukraine's existence built a bond between Ms. Bilozir and the audience. The intensity of her 100 percent pure Ukrainian performance, as well as her numerous references to Mr. Yushchenko, was like nothing any audience here had ever before experienced.

Ms. Bilozir presented the audience with yet another bonus: one of her supposed band members stepped forward and was introduced as one of Ukraine's top male performers. None other than Vitalii Sachok took center stage and sang three of his finest hits, "Adrianna," "Koliada" and "Sontse Moye." Mr. Sachok also spoke in between each piece and interacted with the audience.

Other than this brief period which essentially allowed for a costume change, Ms. Bilozir took no breaks. The concert, which began at 7:20 p.m. (that's 7 p.m. Ukrainian time) ended at 9:30 p.m. There was no intermission – just energy, song.

During the second half of the performance, as Ms. Bilozir announced that this night was truly a celebration, she then began singing "Sviatkova." The unexpected continued to unfold as Oksana's interaction with the crowd led her into the audience.

This writer (Alex) was surprised to have her approach me with her microphone to "help" lead the crowd in singing the song, "Oi Zelene Zhyto, Zelene." (I'm still arguing with my wife as to whether it was her Ukrainian blouse – surprisingly, Lilia was just about the only adult wearing a Ukrainian embroidered blouse – that attracted Oksana to our seats, or if it was my Ukrainian Kozak charisma.) So I "led the crowd" for several seconds in singing a song (to which I did not know the lyrics (but that never stopped me); my wife couldn't contain herself and thankfully helped me through the song.

Our son, Petrus, sitting on the end seat of the row was in complete and utter awe of Ms. Bilozir. Also dressed in a Ukrainian embroidered shirt, he could not believe that Oksana Bilozir was standing right next to him throughout much of the second half of her performance. He had wished that he had something to give her.

As she moved up the aisle, Ms. Bilozir was presented with two huge Ukrainian

flags being held by members of the audience. Not to forget the older folks, Oksana dedicated a song to our parents and proceeded to sing "Batkivska Pisnia" while dancing this sentimental anniversary number with a Ukrainian senior citizen in the back of the hall.

Before she could return to the stage to enchant the audience further, Mr. Chervonenko got up from his seat and proclaimed her one of Ukraine's national treasures. He said that Ms. Bilozir is such a positive and necessary force for the betterment of Ukraine and that she, as a person, as an intellectual and as a performer has no equal. At this point he stated that he kneels before her – and then did so right then and there. As he rose, Mr. Chervonenko presented Ms. Bilozir with an enormous bouquet, which she graciously and emotionally accepted.

After returning to the stage, Ms. Bilozir proceeded to perform one hit after another – "Dum-dum," "Charivna Boikivchanka," "Cafe," "Prolitaly Leleky," "Lystopad," "Horobyna Nich" – all sung perfectly, with feeling and enthusiasm. Plus, there was the added theatrical touch provided by



Vitalii Sachok takes the stage at the Millennium Theater.

the Fest dance ensemble with whom Oksana even strutted a few perfectly choreographed steps as the stories within the songs unfolded.

As the singer could not put off her signature song any longer, "Ukrainochka" began to ring out throughout the hall. Ms. Bilozir invited all of the children in the audience to come up on stage to sing along.

Each received a furry little present from the performer. We counted almost 40 youngsters on stage. Our son was in his

glory as he ended up in the center of the stage holding hands with Ms. Bilozir. While the finale was being sung, all the children joined the performer and swayed like the waves of the Black Sea as Ms. Bilozir dedicated the final song to the future of Ukraine and her loving people.

As it was in the beginning, so it was to be in the end. Mr. Yushchenko came on stage to thank and congratulate Ms. Bilozir for providing such an unforgettable evening of 100 percent Ukrainian song. Mr. Yushchenko mentioned that Ukraine could not survive now without Oksana Bilozir and that she is truly a remarkable ambassador for our great nation.

As we looked around the packed nearly 1,000-seat theater, we couldn't help but notice that the usual attendees of Ukrainian events in our community were largely absent. It was also a shame that there was not a larger number of youths in attendance. We can only venture a guess that today's Ukrainian American youths (as well as their parents) may not know about Ms. Bilozir and her music, and may not be aware that she is the premier pop artist in Ukraine.

CONCERT NOTES: Syzokryli and Cheres at Town Hall in NYC

by Chris Cuming

NEW YORK – Being of a non-Ukrainian background and having no formal dance experience, walking into New York City Town Hall to watch the Syzokryli ensemble was definitely sure to be a new experience.

Besides pictures of previous performances, I had little to go on except what my imagination could help me predict. What I predicted was classic entertainment: music and dance. What I got was a sense of exhilaration that I will not soon forget, a feeling that brought the audience out of their seats.

The opening number, meant to greet the audience with the traditional Ukrainian welcome of bread and salt, did exactly that, feeling like the warm handshake of a new friend. Perhaps one of my favorite first-impressions was the smiles on the faces of the dancers – a genuine grin of goodwill and good times.

This spirit carried through each dance, with particular highlights during the "battle of the sexes" dance, the Kozachok, where the women gained a tambourine or two, and during the dance that provided the men a chance to show off.

The time between each dance did not fall to waste, as it gave me the opportunity to tune my ear into the lively Ukrainian sound provided by Cheres, a very skilled and entertaining band of folk musicians. Being a musician myself, I can assure you that the music they played pushed the limits of tempo, which added to the vibrant pride on exhibition that night.

Still, the focus of the night was the dancing, which was highly skilled, well executed, and beautiful to watch. The movements were precise; the performance was fluid from dance to dance, especially in the finale, Hopak. This seemed to be what everyone was waiting for. This seemed to be Ukrainian dance at its best.

The audience was definitely appreciative, cheering and clapping the whole way through the song, almost to the point where I am sure the dancers must have had a hard time hearing the music themselves.

Chris Cuming is a student at Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J.

To The Weekly Contributors:

We greatly appreciate the materials – feature articles, news stories, press clippings, letters to the editor, etc. – we receive from our readers. In order to facilitate preparation of The Ukrainian Weekly, we ask that the guidelines listed below be followed.

- ✦ News stories should be sent in **not later than 10 days** after the occurrence of a given event.
- ✦ All materials must be typed (or legibly hand-printed) and double-spaced.
- ✦ Photographs (originals only, **no photocopies or computer printouts**) submitted for publication must be accompanied by captions. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.
- ✦ Full names (i.e., no initials) and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- ✦ Newspaper and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.
- ✦ Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date of The Weekly edition in which the information is to be published.
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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Community leader in Connecticut Post

EASTON, Conn. – Roma Hayda was the subject of the Connecticut Post's November 12, 2002, "Woman Wise" feature, a spotlight on women who make a difference in their community.

The question and answer article focused on Mrs. Hayda's role in the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, as well as the role that organization plays in the United States.

Mrs. Hayda also spoke about the numerous other activities she is a part of that sup-

port an awareness of Ukrainian community. Among those many roles and activities, the newspaper talked with Mrs. Hayda about her involvement in collecting sacred music by Ukrainian composers for a local National Public Radio station in Fairfield, Conn., her teaching Sunday school and mentoring students in Ukraine, and her role as a member of the planning committee of the Taste of Ukraine Holiday Boutique.

"I have long days, but I enjoy what I do," Mrs. Hayda told the Connecticut Post. "I like doing the business that I do, because it goes back to a core belief I have. It is about celebrating the past and the family."

Roma Hayda is a member of Ukrainian National Association Branch 59.

New Haven activist cited in city newsletter

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – Wasyll Gina was recently featured by New Haven Connects, a community newsletter published by the city of New Haven, for his dedication and effort in making St. Michael's Ukrainian Heritage Center in that city one of two centers that keep "the flames of history and tradition burning for their respective cultures."

In his post as librarian at the center Mr. Gina oversees seven exhibit rooms that serve as a repository for art, historic documents and literary resources that reflect Ukrainians' strong national identi-

ty, the city newspaper said.

"Perhaps the most notable feature of the center," the newspaper wrote, "is its collection of Ukrainian folk art, including embroidery, woodcarving, ceramics and pysanky – the famous Ukrainian Easter eggs – made by members of the St. Michael's Parish community.

"St. Michael's Ukrainian Heritage Center also works to pass Ukrainian culture on to future generations by sponsoring a Ukrainian school on Saturdays, holding arts and crafts exhibitions, supplying speakers to local organization functions and holding annual workshops on creating Ukrainian Easter eggs," the article noted.

Mr. Gina is a member of Ukrainian National Association Branch 414.

Kyiv hit...

(Continued from page 2)

financial and business partners even beyond the date when the FATF decides to strike Ukraine off its blacklist.

It is noteworthy that Kyiv, knowing for more than a year that it is considered internationally to be "non-cooperative" in combating money laundering, reacted to this disgraceful categorization only after the FATF called for harsher international sanctions. In January and February the Verkhovna Rada hastily passed a number of bills introducing amendments to the Criminal Code and banking laws intended to curb money laundering in line with FATF requirements.

In particular, the legislature reduced the minimum sum subject to financial monitoring to 80,000 hrv (\$15,000). Another major legislative change prohibited banks from opening anonymous bank accounts and obliged them to identify customers who perform banking operations exceeding 50,000 hrv and not involving bank accounts. In addition, Interfax reported on February 7 that President Leonid Kuchma recently signed a decree on "strengthening the fight against organized crime and corruption."

According to some Ukrainian commen-

tators, the international focus on financial transactions involving Ukrainian individuals and financial institutions may influence the presidential campaign in Ukraine in 2004 to the extent that it will be much more difficult to use election slush funds – which are purportedly used on an increasingly extensive scale in every election campaign – from offshore banks. Therefore, those observers argue, the role of covert funds from Russia will become dominant in the 2004 election. Some have even implied that the ruling regime may use the newly adopted anti-money-laundering legislation as a convenient tool to harass those businessmen who support a challenger to the presidential candidate proposed by the "party of power."

This week, the FATF is going to hold a conference where its experts are expected to discuss the compliance of Ukraine's fresh anti-money-laundering legislation with international standards. Although some Ukrainian government officials have declared that the country's legislature did everything necessary to meet the FATF requirements, it is rather unlikely that the organization will automatically withdraw its recommendations of a tougher course toward Ukraine by international financial institutions. Ukraine has repeatedly proved to the world community in the past that writing laws is one thing and obeying them is another.

Pittsburgh's...

(Continued from page 9)

started on time and concluded ahead of schedule. English was the working language.

In a five-minute report, each group was able to touch upon its mission, contributions and upcoming activities. The presentations were informative and provoking; they gave an insight into which organizations were ready to tackle the challenges of the 21st century. Immediately after the reports an informal reception followed to

encourage networking.

In the beginning of its existence Pittsburgh's émigré community split into Ukrainian and Rusyn factions. As this Ukrainian community escaped the Depression, it soon faced new arrivals and new perspectives. As history repeats itself with the arrival of another wave of immigrants it is hoped that, in showcasing the resources of Pittsburgh, cooperative alliances will be forged as needed. Inclusivity, not exclusivity, will be the approach in Pittsburgh in promoting all combined assets and sharing experiences.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Chairman Serhii Tyhypko told journalists on February 11 that recent sanctions recommended by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on money laundering have had an "insignificant" effect on Ukraine's banking system, the UNIAN news service reported. Mr. Tyhypko added that the sanctions affected "only" 40 of the country's 153 banks. He did not elaborate. Referring to an FATF conference expected to begin on February 12 in Paris, the NBU chairman said a decision not to expand FATF sanctions against Ukraine would be perceived by Kyiv as "positive." (RFE/RL Newline)

Pascual: sanctions should be lifted

KYIV – U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual said on February 10 that Ukraine has made all the necessary legislative amendments to justify removing sanctions recommended by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Money Laundering, Interfax reported. "It was clear as early as at the start of 2001 which steps needed to be taken by the Ukrainian side [to combat money laundering]. I am pleased to note that all of these major steps have been taken in the past few weeks. Amendments were made to anti-money-laundering legislation, the Criminal Code, and laws on banking," Mr. Pascual said. At the same time, the ambassador said the international community needs "solid guarantees" from the Ukrainian government that the newly created body for fighting money laundering, the State Financial Monitoring Department, will act within the limits of its jurisdiction and will not be used for political purposes. The FATF will hold a conference on February 12-14 to consider Ukraine's new anti-money-laundering legislation in light of international standards. (RFE/RL Newline)

Pascual explains aid reduction to Ukraine

KYIV – U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual told journalists in Kyiv on February 6 that the planned reduction of U.S. assistance to Ukraine under the Freedom Support Act to \$94 million in 2004 is due to the fact that Ukraine has reached a "certain level of financial independence," Interfax reported. The diplomat said the U.S. government now needs to focus on financing priority projects in Ukraine, including support for civil society, the independent media, and small and medium-sized private businesses. (RFE/RL Newline)

Solana urges Kyiv to adopt EU standards

KYIV – Javier Solana, secretary-general of the European Union Council and high representative for the common foreign and security policy, urged Ukraine to enact judicial reform, guarantee the freedom of independent media, and improve relations between the government and the opposition on the country's path toward the EU, Interfax reported on February 7. Mr. Solana was briefing journalists following a Ukraine-EU meeting in Kyiv the same day. (RFE/RL Newline)

Yushchenko: support independent media

KYIV – The West should support independent Ukrainian media because protecting freedom of expression is among that country's most serious issues, Interfax quoted Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko as saying to journalists in Washington on February 8. According to Mr. Yushchenko, Ukrainian authorities "keep the electronic media on a short leash" by their approach to distributing licenses. "This is why the electronic

media are most dependent among the Ukrainian media on the authorities," said Mr. Yushchenko, a former prime minister of Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newline)

Ukraine to launch satellite radio

KYIV – Satellite-radio channel Ukraina-Svit (World Ukraine) will be inaugurated in March, UNIAN reported on February 10, quoting State Committee for Broadcasting Chairman Ivan Chyzh. The channel is to broadcast five hours a day – primarily to Eurasia and, in the future, to North America. "[The channel will make it possible] for Ukraine to speak in its own language to the world, while bypassing interpretations by competitors," Mr. Chyzh said, adding that the government has allocated 8 million hryv (\$1.5 million) to develop the channel. (RFE/RL Newline)

Kuchma seeks end to free economic zones

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma said at a meeting with the State Customs Service leadership on February 5 that "it is necessary to put an end to the [free economic] zones [and] liquidate them completely," UNIAN reported. "[These zones] have become semi-criminal zones, and this refers not only to the Donetsk zone," Mr. Kuchma noted in a reference to the eastern coal-mining center that is home to some of the country's mightiest oligarchs. "You pull the meat that Europe doesn't want to eat into these zones and sell it there without [paying] taxes," the president said, singling out customs officers, law enforcement officers and the Security Service of Ukraine. Ukraine's 11 free economic zones, which offer tax and customs benefits, have failed to attract foreign investors or boost economic development, the president said. The closure of free economic zones in Ukraine is among the demands voiced by the International Monetary Fund. (RFE/RL Newline)

Minimum-wage hike will require \$2 B

KYIV – Parliamentary Budget Committee Chairman Petro Poroshenko told journalists on February 5 that the country needs to find an additional 10.6 billion hryv (\$2 billion) if it wants to comply with an increase in the minimum wage that was passed by the Verkhovna Rada in December 2002, UNIAN reported. According to that law, the minimum monthly wage should equal 185 hryv in January-June and 237 hryv in the second half of 2003. Mr. Poroshenko said the 2003 budget assumed a minimum wage of 165 hryv throughout the year. He added that the Budget Committee will have to draft a "new budget" for 2003 if parliament fails to find a legislative solution. (RFE/RL Newline)

Rules for prisoners are eased

KYIV – The Ukrainian Parliament on February 6 passed a bill amending a number of laws to ease rules for prisons and their inmates, UNIAN and Interfax reported. In particular, the bill revokes the right of the Security Service of Ukraine to run its own detention facilities (isolation wards) independent of the Internal Affairs Ministry. Another measure removes a rule limiting the size of packages that may be received by prisoners from family or friends to 8 kilograms once a month. Prisoners will now be allowed two packages of unlimited weight twice a month. The bill also extends the monthly maximum visiting time for prisoners to four hours from the current two hours. (RFE/RL Newline)

Azerbaijan denies buying Kolchuha

BAKU – Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry issued a statement on February 5

denying that Baku purchased one or more Kolchuha air-defense systems from Ukraine and sold them to Iraq, Turan reported on February 6, quoting the independent Russian-language daily Ekho. Speaking at a press conference in Kyiv on February 4, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said that prior to the collapse of the USSR, Ukraine produced 76 Kolchuhas, some of which were provided to Germany, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Belarus and the Russian Federation, the Ukrainska Pravda website reported. (RFE/RL Newline)

Kyiv sees no change in foreign policy

KYIV – The Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry on January 30 issued a statement saying the recent election of President Leonid Kuchma as head of the CIS Council of Heads of State will not change Ukraine's strategic priorities in foreign policy, UNIAN reported. The expansion of Ukrainian ties with the CIS in general and the Russian Federation in particular guarantees the country's successful integration into Europe and NATO, the statement asserts. The ministry also said President Kuchma's CIS appointment testifies to the fact that the post-Soviet commonwealth has given priority to developing its "economic vector." Mr. Kuchma is the first non-Russian leader to head the council. (RFE/RL Newline)

Council to promote European integration

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma has set up a State Council for Issues of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, UNIAN reported on January 30. According to the presidential decree, the council is to coordinate efforts toward implementing the country's strategic

political goals. Those goals include "ensuring Ukraine's entry into the European political, economic, security and legal area [and] creating preconditions for Ukraine's admission to the EU and NATO." The council is to be headed by the president and will include the prime minister, the head of the presidential administration, the secretary of the National Defense and Security Council, the foreign affairs minister, the chairman of the Verkhovna Rada (whose participation is optional), and several other government officials. (RFE/RL Newline)

Ukraine's defense minister visits Georgia

TBILISI – Ukraine's Defense Minister Volodymyr Shkidchenko held talks in Tbilisi on January 31 with his Georgian counterpart David Tevzadze, Minister of State Avtandil Djorbenadze and President Eduard Shevardnadze, Caucasus Press reported. Mr. Shkidchenko said he and Mr. Tevzadze discussed mutual cooperation, including continued help in the training of Georgian military personnel, but added that they did not discuss either the possible replacement of the Russian peacekeepers in Abkhazia by a Ukrainian contingent or the purchase by Georgia of Ukrainian air-defense missiles. Mr. Shkidchenko also denied Azerbaijani press reports that Ukraine has offered to make forces available to guard the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil-export pipeline. On February 1, Caucasus Press quoted Georgian National Security Council Secretary Tedo Djaparidze as saying that Tbilisi is negotiating with Ukraine and the Czech Republic the possible purchase of air-defense missiles, but that the issue was not raised during Mr. Shkidchenko's visit. (RFE/RL Newline)

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

(Continued from page 24)

tact CIUS: telephone, (780) 492-2972; fax, (780) 492-4967; e-mail, cius@ualberta.ca.

Tuesday, February 25

NEWARK, N.J.: St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School is having an Open House at 2-5 p.m. If you have any school-age children who will be attending grades K-8 or know of anyone in this category, please come and explore the rich quality in education, culture and character that the school can provide. The school is located at 746 Sandford Ave. If you have any questions or inquiries call Sister Evelyn, (973) 373-9359; Michael Jablonskyj, (732) 494-8967; or Volodymyr Stashchyshyn, (973) 371-8552. You can also e-mail Mr. Jablonskyj at JBPLUS3C@aol.com, or view the website at www.StJohn2000.com.

Friday, February 28

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Art and Literary Club and the New York Bandura Ensemble present the second concert in the 2003 season of the Bandura Downtown series, "The Bandurist's Tunebook," featuring re-creations and reinterpretations of traditional bandura classics by Mike Andrec and Julian Kytasty (bandura), Paul Brantley

(cello), Matt Hannafin (percussion). Donation: \$10; reception with the artists to follow. The concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Mayana Gallery, 136 Second Ave., fourth floor. On view in the gallery: the exhibit "Transformations." For more information call (212) 995-2640, visit the website <http://www.brama.com/mayana>, or e-mail nybandura@aol.com. Bandura performances are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts.

Saturday, March 1

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J.: The Committee for Aid to Ukraine, Central New Jersey branch, invites everyone to a Carnival Ball dinner/dance starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Ukrainian Cultural Center and featuring music by Fata Morgana. The evening includes cocktails: (cash bar), dinner (Ukrainian kitchen), a buffet and raffle. Tickets in advance for the dinner/dance: \$35 per person; \$25, students; tickets at the door are \$40 per person; \$25, students. Proceeds will benefit students in Ukraine. For further information and reservations call: Damian Gecha, (908) 755-8156, Michael Shulha, (908) 534-6683, or Olexandr Klecor (732) 828-3206.

FATF representative...

(Continued from page 1)

Washington had said it would limit banking transactions with Ukraine to \$50,000 and would scrutinize the accounts of all Ukrainian account holders in U.S. banks.

The limits curtailed the business activities of many Ukrainian companies that rely on Western goods. Kyiv feared that sanctions, if imposed for a lengthy period, could have damaged the economic growth the country has experienced in the last few years. It made a major public relations stir after additional money-laundering legislation was finally enacted and then sent First Vice Prime Minister Mykola Azarov to Paris at the head of a delegation to press Kyiv's claim that it had done all that had been required.

Speaking to journalists on February 4, President Leonid Kuchma admitted that in the case of the FATF sanctions, Ukraine could not claim that the sanctions were simply more anti-Ukrainian discrimination on the part of the West, as the country has been prone to do when it has found itself the object of Western scorn in the past. Mr. Kuchma admitted that the Verkhovna Rada had plenty of time to avert the banking crisis.

"We are at fault because we did not pass the required legislation," acknowledged President Kuchma. "We turned an economic and financial problem into a political crisis."

FATF had warned Kyiv that it needed to change its banking laws and develop money-laundering legislation in September 2001 and gave the country a year to do so, during which it placed Ukraine on a watch list of countries that did not meet FATF requirements. A year later the Ukrainian legislature still had not fulfilled FATF demands. The Verkhovna Rada then asked for an extension and promised that it would have the required laws on the books by mid-December.

Legislators passed an initial anti-money-laundering bill on November 29, 2002 which President Kuchma signed into law on December 7, but the FATF decided that the legislation did not meet Western standards. On January 16, as the FATF announced it had lost patience with Ukraine for failing to live up to its promise, Kyiv officials scrambled to avert the imposition of limits on financial transactions with FATF members.

By February 6 the Verkhovna Rada

finally passed the last piece of legislation, which outlawed anonymous bank accounts, forced banks to identify all clients who performed banking transactions exceeding 50,000 hryv (approximately \$9,400) and required monitoring of any accounts of more than \$15,000 euros.

Yet, even after the FATF lifts the sanctions, (the official decision was scheduled to be announced on February 14) Ukraine will remain on the watch list of countries for sometime. How long remains a matter of debate. While U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual stated that FATF would monitor Ukraine for a year, recently appointed National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Serhii Tyhypko said he expected the country to be off the "black list" by June.

While Mr. Stuedemann, the German ambassador, did not offer his own timetable, he said it would depend on how Ukraine implements the legislation it had passed.

"I want and hope that the last step would be taken, and Ukraine will be removed from the so-called black list," said Mr. Stuedemann. "However, more steps are needed for this and Ukraine should understand very well that monitoring will continue because laws are one thing and actions are another."

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, February 21

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Art and Literary Club and Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 127 present "Three Ukrainian Traditional Rituals" as part of the "Archetypes of Ukrainian Culture" series. The program, to be held at the Mayana Gallery, 136 Second Ave., fourth floor, will include a videofilm of ritual enactments (Ukrainian summer solstice, harvest and wedding customs) as performed by the Kyiv Dyvotsvit Folk Ensemble. Soloist Claudia Kaninska will provide commentary and song demonstration. Time: 7 p.m.; donation: \$7; students, \$5. Simultaneously, the gallery presents "Transformations," a group exhibit of paintings, drawings and sculpture interpreting mythological themes. For more information call (212) 260-4490 or (212) 777-8144; or visit the websites <http://www.unwla.org> or <http://www.brama.com/mayana>.

Saturday, February 22

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society is sponsoring a lecture titled "Archduke Wilhelm Habsburg-Lothringen (Vasyl Vyshyvany) in the Ukrainian National Movement (1918-1923)," by Dr. Ivan Bazhynov, Institute of the Ukrainian Literature, Kyiv and currently a Fulbright Scholar at Columbia University. The presentations will be held at the society building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and

10th streets), at 5 p.m. For more information call (212) 254-5130.

NEWARK, N.J.: The Mothers' Club of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School is hosting its annual Valentine's Dance in the school gymnasium located at 746 Sanford Ave. between Ivy and West Allen streets. This "Family Night of Valentine Fun" will take place at 5-9 p.m. and will include arts and crafts for all ages, games, music, door prizes, dinner, dessert plus more surprises. Donations: adults, \$10; children, \$5. For more information, advance ticket purchases or directions to this fund-raising event, call the school at (973) 373-9359, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Additionally, an open house at the school will take place that same day at 4-6 p.m. for all those interested.

Thursday, February 24

EDMONTON: The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) is sponsoring a lecture by Dr. Andriy Bolianovskyy, senior research scholar, Lviv National University, titled "Ukrainian Military Formations in the German Armed Forces (1939-1945)." The lecture, which begins at 3:30 p.m., will be given in Ukrainian and will be followed by a presentation of the author's book on the same topic. The lecture will be held in the Heritage Lounge, Athabasca Hall, University of Alberta. For information con-

(Continued on page 23)

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community.

Listings of **no more than 100 words** (written in Preview format) plus payment should be sent a week prior to desired date of publication to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, (973) 644-9510.

Being Ukrainian means:

- Malanka in January.
- Deb in February.
- KLK Ski Races in March.
- Sviato Vesny in May.
- Wedding of your roommate in June.
- Tabir in July.
- Volleyball at Wildwood in August.
- Labor Day at Soyuzivka in September.
- Morskyi Bal in November.
- Koliada in December.

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Attention Debutante Ball Organizers!

As in the past two years, The Ukrainian Weekly is planning to publish a special section devoted to the Ukrainian community's 2003 debutantes in its March 30 issue. The deadline for submission of materials – photos and stories – is March 17.



KLK Ukrainian Ski Club

invites its members, friends and their guests to their

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Races to be held at Ski Windham

on Saturday, March 8, 2003

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- Race with lift ticket: \$50 (adults); \$40 (juniors). Race only: \$10. Discounted lift tickets will also be available at the KLK registration table.
- Banquet (buffet dinner): \$35 (adults); \$15 (children under 12).
- You may register in advance. Payment should be received by Feb. 21. Send checks to Severin Palydowycz, P.O. Box 698, Hunter, NY 12442.
- For additional information please contact Orest Fedash at (973) 386-5622

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