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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Gryshchenko to replace Zlenko as Ukraine's foreign affairs minister

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma announced on September 2 that he had replaced Minister of Foreign Affairs Anatolii Zlenko with Ukraine's current ambassador to the United States, Kostyantyn Gryshchenko. Mr. Zlenko reached the age of 65 in June, the legally mandated age of retirement for government workers.

In departing remarks during a final press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the day after the move was announced, Mr. Zlenko gave no sense that he was dissatisfied with being forced into retirement and offered only thanks that he was given the opportunity to serve.

"I am thankful that I had the unique opportunity to be a part of the formation and development of my county and its diplomatic corps," explained Mr. Zlenko.

Mr. Zlenko was appointed Ukraine's minister of foreign affairs in July 1990 and continued to serve in the administration of Leonid Kravchuk, the country's first elected president, after Ukraine declared independence in August 1991.



Anatolii Zlenko

Removed from the post in 1994, he was reappointed by President Leonid Kuchma in October 2000.

Mr. Zlenko began his diplomatic service in the diplomatic corps of the Soviet

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Ukraine's Famine researchers say Duranty's Pulitzer should be revoked

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The actions of Walter Duranty — The New York Times journalist who glossed over and even repudiated the fact that famine and genocide were raging in Ukraine in 1932-1933 as he sat in Moscow living a life of leisure at Stalin's side — are not widely known among the Ukrainian populace. Ukrainian scholars, as well, are not fully aware of Mr. Duranty's role in keeping the horrid details from the West, even while Stalin worked to eliminate the Ukrainian agricultural class.

To some degree, the ignorance is due to a lack of information and a state-controlled cover-up: the artificially induced Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 was never acknowledged by the Soviet Union — although it admitted officially in the late 1980s that a famine of some sort had occurred — and therefore, it was not a subject covered in schools. In addition, until very recently few if any publications existed documenting the details.

Only in the last several years has some token effort been made by the Ukrainian government to research and document for posterity the facts of those years, and only since the beginning of this year's official commemorations of the 70th anniversary of the horrendous event has it put forward a serious proposal for construction of a proper memorial.

Today, after the Pulitzer Prize Committee has said that it will review the award it gave Mr. Duranty in 1931, it is notable that Ukrainian experts on the Soviet Union and the Stalinist era familiar with the persona of Walter Duranty generally condemn his work and hold the viewpoint that the Pulitzer Prize he was awarded for his reporting on the "successful" completion of the first Five-Year Plan in the Soviet Union should be revoked even posthumously.

The Weekly contacted four such respected academics and experts on the Great Famine who reside in Ukraine: Dr. James Mace of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, Dr. Yurii Shapoval of the Institute of Political and Ethno-national Research, Dr. Stanislav Kulchytskyi, assistant director of the Institute of History of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, and Arkadii Sydoruk, member of the board of directors of the Association of Famine Researchers.

Mr. Sydoruk said he was taken aback by how little is known about the Great Famine in general and Mr. Duranty's role in particular. He blamed it to some extent on the preponderance of history scholars in Ukraine who still hold and teach Soviet views.

"I bet that if you asked 100 journalists who Duranty was one would know," said Mr. Sydoruk of the degree to which the Soviet Union was successful in stifling any knowledge of what was certainly one of the top five man-made horrors of

the 20th century. Mr. Sydoruk noted that he had only encountered one major study dealing directly with the Great Famine during research last year at the Vernadsky National Library in Kyiv.

The four scholars, with whom our Kyiv Bureau spoke separately, were of the opinion that Mr. Duranty had helped to cover up and perhaps deepen the effects of the Great Famine by failing to report on its existence.

Dr. Shapoval noted that the area in which the forced hunger occurred was home to 77 million people in the early 1930s, 10 percent of whom were starved to death and many of whom could have been saved if the Soviet regime had faced international pressure at least to abandon a policy of grain confiscation.

They also said that there should be no doubt that the Pulitzer Prize awarded to Mr. Duranty for his accounts of life in the

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Rada chairman opens session by calling for a new national development program

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn called for the development of a national program for the country's development during remarks before the legislative body on the first day of its session on September 2.

In a somewhat meandering platitude-charged state of the nation address, the Parliament leader said that Ukraine must stop running on the treadmill of state-building and finally develop a clear path for progress, including political reform in the form of Constitutional changes.

"Clear-cut guidelines and objectives will ensure that the country does not pursue experiments of a doubtful nature with their accompanying reverberations," explained Mr. Lytvyn to a full session hall, which included most lawmakers, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and members of his government, as well as court officials, but not President Leonid Kuchma, who was on a visit to Moscow.

Mr. Lytvyn said such an "all-Ukrainian social agreement" would "re-energize and strengthen social impulses from 1991, renew the hope and expectations of people and finally answer their demands."

The former chief of staff to President

Kuchma said it was time to stop looking to copy models of country development but to develop one that worked for Ukraine.

He said it was time also to bring order to the country, complete an inventory of government wealth, stop systemic theft of government property, destroy the shadow economy once and for all, and increase law and order.

Mr. Lytvyn called for bridging the gap between the words spoken by politicians and their deeds, and cited the need to stem "the terrible disease that has metastasized in the political system — the lies and falsehoods that have become the norms of political life, the norms of relations among parties, the state and the person."

Mr. Lytvyn stressed the need to pass a political reform bill to make the constitutional changes needed to turn Ukraine into a true parliamentary-presidential system.

"It should be considered a necessary and effective instrument for the realization of the development of Ukraine, and not as a means to fulfill individual or combined political interest and ambitions, which we must admit is the way it is viewed today," said Mr. Lytvyn.

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Chernomyrdin says Moscow won't apologize for Soviet-era Famine

KYIV — Russia's Ambassador to Ukraine, Viktor Chernomyrdin, said that Moscow doesn't intend to apologize for the Stalin-era famine that killed millions of people in Ukraine and that was denied by Soviet officials for decades, reported the Associated Press.

While Mr. Chernomyrdin acknowledged that Russia had assumed the Soviet Union's obligations as successor to the collapsed regime, he denied that its responsibilities included apologizing for the Famine-Genocide that occurred during the regime of Joseph Stalin.

"We're not going to apologize ... there is nobody to apologize to," the Interfax news agency quoted the envoy as saying on August 6. He added that Russia deserved praise for taking on Soviet-era debts and other obligations but would not "bear the cross" of the famine, Interfax reported.

The Ukrainski Novyny news agency reported that Ambassador Chernomyrdin, referring to the fact that Joseph Stalin was a Georgian, said, "Why not ask Georgia to apologize?"

Mr. Chernomyrdin's statements came on the heels of the Ukrainian government's public acknowledgment of the famine that killed some 10 million people in 1932-1933. In June Ukraine declassified more than 1,000 files documenting the famine.

ANALYSIS

Kuchma's Independence Day speech presents new political reform plan

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

Speaking to the nation on August 23, the eve of Ukraine's Independence Day, President Leonid Kuchma said he is ready to support a new constitutional reform plan that was agreed upon with the opposition during consultations earlier this month.

"Despite certain drawbacks, I believe this draft law has to be approved by the Verkhovna Rada, as I think it will almost certainly be supported by a constitutional majority [300 votes in the 450-seat Verkhovna Rada]," he said.

The previous day, Ukrainian media reported that Mr. Kuchma withdrew the political reform draft bill he submitted to the parliament in June.

The Ukrainian president did not reveal any details regarding the new plan for overhauling the constitutional system in the country. He asserted only that "a parliamentary-presidential form of rule is best suited to the political psychology and the political archetype of our people." And he noted that future presidents should "guarantee civil rights and represent the state on the international arena."

But some details were supplied last week by Socialist Party leader

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

Oleksander Moroz and Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko, who reportedly held several meetings with presidential administration chief Viktor Medvedchuk in August to discuss the new political-reform draft.

Mr. Moroz said the new plan suggests that Parliament confirm the prime minister and all Cabinet ministers. The prime minister will propose all Cabinet members, except for the defense minister and the foreign affairs minister, both of whom are to be nominated by the president. The president is to appoint the procurator-general, who must subsequently be approved by the Verkhovna Rada. The president and the Parliament are to appoint the Constitutional Court and the National Council for Broadcasting on a parity basis. The president is to have the right to veto parliamentary bills.

Mr. Moroz also divulged that a key innovation is the presidential administration's proposal that the Verkhovna Rada elect the president. He said he opposes this scheme and opts for a direct presidential ballot.

Meanwhile, Mr. Symonenko said the Communists want the current election law to apply to the 2004 presidential election, but are in favor of reducing the president's mandate from five to two years. Mr. Symonenko added that a new

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Fear drives political reform

by Taras Kuzio

RFE/RL Newsline

Pro-presidential blocs and parties fought the 2002 Ukrainian parliamentary elections in support of strengthening the executive. This tallied with President Leonid Kuchma's own preference since his first election in 1994 for a Russian- and CIS-style "super-presidential" constitution. This was also the aim of the flawed and internationally unrecognized April 2000 referendum.

However, Mr. Kuchma, failed to obtain his desired "super-presidential" constitution and had to compromise with the Parliament. The result was a "semi-presidential" regime that has meant conflict between the legislature and executive with neither side dominant over the other.

In Ukraine, as in the Commonwealth of Independent States, election programs rarely translate into policy after the elections. The pro-presidential For a United Ukraine bloc disintegrated into eight parliamentary factions only a month after the elections. None of these successor factions is willing to accept the bloc's responsibility to voters for its election promises.

This would be impossible in one key area, political reform, because the successor factions to For a United Ukraine and its allied Social Democratic Party-United (SDPU) have radically changed their policies since the elections. The election program of For a United Ukraine called for the strengthening of executive power (i.e., a move toward a "super-presidential" system).

identical" system).

Yet, in August 2002, President Kuchma announced a program of political reform with the ostensible purpose of changing Ukraine from a "semi-presidential" to a parliamentary-presidential regime. This would ostensibly signal a move away from the typical CIS "super-presidential" system that For a United Ukraine had supported, to an East-Central European and Baltic constitution. As Freedom House's annual "Nations in Transit" survey of 27 post-Communist states has shown, parliamentary-presidential (or pure parliamentary) systems have been more conducive to democratization.

This then begs the question as to whether President Kuchma, when he announced his political reform proposals in draft form in March, had as his ultimate purpose to advance Ukraine's democratization after its regression since the late 1990s.

The answer to this question is "no," as it is fear that drives President Kuchma's political reform and the support given to it by his centrist oligarchic parliamentary allies. These reform proposals aim to undertake two steps. First, to strip all power away from the executive as an insurance policy in case the opposition wins the 2004 presidential elections. At all costs an opposition president must not be allowed to possess the same degree of power as Mr. Kuchma currently possesses.

Second, to prolong Mr. Kuchma's term in office by two years by changing the Constitution of Ukraine so that all elections would be held in the same year (i.e., postponing the 2004 elections to 2006 when parliamentary and local elec-

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NEWSBRIEFS

Opposition mulls reform plan

KYIV – The leaders of Our Ukraine (Viktor Yushchenko), the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (Yulia Tymoshenko), the Socialist Party (Oleksander Moroz) and the Communist Party (Petro Symonenko) met in Kyiv on September 1 to discuss cooperation regarding the recent political-reform plan proposed by President Leonid Kuchma, Interfax reported. Ms. Tymoshenko told journalists the four want to pursue two tasks simultaneously: implement a constitutional reform, and "remove the clans from power." She said the constitutional changes proposed by Messrs. Moroz and Symonenko have been "accepted in general" by the four, adding that there is a possibility of compromise on a "number of controversial issues." In particular, Ms. Tymoshenko said there is no agreement among them on whether the constitutional changes should be introduced in 2004 or 2006, or on whether the president should be elected by direct ballot or by the Parliament. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Verkhovna Rada reconvenes

KYIV – Ukrainian lawmakers gathered in Kyiv on September 2 for a new session following their summer recess, Interfax reported. They are expected to consider nearly 900 bills during the session, including one on amending the Constitution of Ukraine in order to reform the country's political system. This week lawmakers will work in parliamentary committees, while their plenary sitting is scheduled to begin on September 9. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko against Kuchma reforms

KYIV – Viktor Yushchenko, leader of the Our Ukraine bloc, told regional journalists in Ternopil on August 28 that "only a change of the authorities, not constitutional reform, can create harmony in Ukraine," UNIAN reported. "We will not allow any encroachment on the people's right to elect authorities by direct ballot," Mr. Yushchenko said, referring to the political reform plan proposed by President Leonid Kuchma last week. In particular, Mr. Kuchma's plan calls for the election of the president by the Parliament. "The authorities realize very well that, given their record, they are unable to win presidential elections," Interfax quoted Mr. Yushchenko as saying. "Therefore, they need to modify the constitution and the current political system to prolong their powers or [even] abolish elections altogether," he added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

UWC ready to defend Transdnier

KYIV – The Ukrainian World Congress recently held in Kyiv declared its readiness to protect Transdnier's right to independence, Infotag reported on August 28, citing Vladimir Bodnar, chairman of the Union of Transdnierian Ukrainians. Mr. Bodnar said the forum has expressed concern over the situation in Transdnier and readiness to render all possible assistance to the Ukrainian community and other ethnic groups living in the region in order to "protect them from the Romanian nationalists in Moldova." Mr. Bodnar said participants in the forum pledged to lobby their countries' governments to defend Transdnier's right to self-determination and independence. Mr. Bodnar, a former deputy chairman of the Transdnier Supreme Soviet, is currently co-chairman of the JCC and chairman of the organization of ethnic Ukrainians in Transdnier. There are more than 180,000 Ukrainians living in the separatist region. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine presents modernized Kalashnikov

KYIV – The National Space Agency of Ukraine presented a new model of submachine gun, the AK-74 Vepr, at UNIAN's headquarters in Kyiv on August 28, the UNIAN and Interfax news agencies reported. The AK-74 Vepr is a modernized version of the Russian AK-74 Kalashnikov submachine gun, but is 200 grams lighter and reportedly is twice as accurate as the Russian model. According to designers, the Defense Ministry is planning to buy tens of thousands of the guns, primarily to arm Ukrainian border troops and peacekeepers. They also expect to find buyers for the AK-74 Vepr in Uzbekistan, Africa and Latin America. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv notifies Berlin over illegal flight

KYIV – The Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry sent a message to Germany's Embassy in Kyiv saying the three German citizens detained in Dnipropetrovsk in mid-August after their flight over Ukraine entered Ukrainian airspace without permission and threatened the safety of other flights, Interfax reported. The message calls on Germany to take measures that will prevent such incidents in the future. The Ukrainian Security Service's regional branch in Dnipropetrovsk has opened a criminal case against the three Germans, who are charged with violating rules that govern international flight. (RFE/RL Newsline)

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PHOTO FOLLOW-UP: Ukrainian World Congress in Kyiv



Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate and Cardinal Lubomyr Husar of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church officiate at the panakhyda offered in St. Michael's Square in memory of the 7 million to 10 million victims of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine.



Ukrainian World Congress officials and special guests at the foot of the Shevchenko monument on the opening day of the world gathering.



The scene at the entrance to the Teacher's Building in Kyiv, where the Ukrainian World Congress met on August 18-21 during the first UWC conclave ever held in Ukraine.



Oleksander Rudenko-Desniak reports on the activities of the Union of Ukrainians in Russia during a working session of the Ukrainian World Congress.



A display of artwork shows children's depictions of the grisly events that took place in 1932-1933 during Joseph Stalin's reign of terror.



The banner carried at the head of the Ukrainian World Congress march commemorating the solemn 70th anniversary of the Great Famine.

Photos in this series by Roman Woronowycz

NBU chairman announces Ukraine will repay IMF debt by end of year

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's National Bank Chairman Serhii Tyhytko unexpectedly announced on August 29 that the country's central bank was ready to repay its \$1.84 billion debt to the International Monetary Fund in full by the end of this year.

Mr. Tyhytko said that by returning the full outstanding amount early, the country would see savings of \$40 million. He said the NBU's hard currency reserves, which have reached \$7 billion this year, the largest ever, allowed for such a pre-term repayment and would not affect the hryvnia's stability. The move was merely another sign that Ukraine's financial situation was stable and improving.

"People must understand that prices will not be jumping and the market will remain stable," said Mr. Tyhytko.

Mr. Tyhytko emphasized that the move was not intended to break-off cooperation with the IMF, but to foster more confidence. The terms of the two IMF programs with Ukraine – the stand-by program and the EFF (Extended Fund Facility) program – which were in effect between 1997 and 2001, allow for pre-term payment, however the IMF Board of Directors must first approve the conditions. Mr. Tyhytko said the IMF was already aware that Ukraine might pursue a pre-term payment.

The NBU chairman also downplayed suggestions by reporters that the decision to repay the IMF in full, which had been suggested by President Leonid Kuchma during his Ukrainian Independence Day address, was a political move as the country prepared for the beginning of political campaigns this fall in advance of the November 2004 presidential elections.

Mr. Tyhytko said the primary purpose

was the continuation of fiscal reform and the suppression of inflationary tendencies.

"We must achieve 5 percent to 6 percent inflation, 7 percent maximum," explained Mr. Tyhytko, so that people have faith in the stability of the economy. Ukraine's rate of inflation seven months into the current year stands at 4.5 percent.

Whether Ukraine's government would agree with the NBU chairman's assertions remained in doubt, however, as late as four days after the announcement. Originally Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich responded to the unexpected news by stating that while political will existed to go for early repayment, it would be "a difficult task" to do so, reported Interfax-Ukraine.

"I cannot say for sure that such a decision will be made [by the Cabinet of Ministers]," explained Mr. Yanukovich.

Three days later First Vice Prime Minister Mykola Azarov continued to refrain from giving government endorsement for the move. On September 1 he said that a lump sum repayment of such a large amount could have "possible consequences on the country's financial system." He said that the government had to study the effect of the repayment on its ability to service its other debts, including Eurobond obligations.

The next day, commenting after the opening of the fall session of the Verkhovna Rada, Prime Minister Yanukovich expressed outright skepticism that the plan could receive government approval.

"The government and the National Bank of Ukraine will jointly consider possible pre-term redemption of Ukraine's debt to the International Monetary Fund, but I am not sure the decision will be positive," explained Mr. Yanukovich.

Ukrainian Library in Moscow hampered by lack of space

by Maryna Makhnonos
Special to the Ukrainian Weekly

MOSCOW – I am packed in a room approximately 216 square feet in size; countless Ukrainian books wait for their new library premises in Moscow. Their move has been dragged out by bureaucrats who cannot solve repairs problem needed in the new facility. The problems have kept 4.5 tons of other volumes packed in boxes in damp conditions in another building. This is the only library of Ukrainian literature in Russia and it continues to lose readers, its officials said earlier this summer, because operations remain paralyzed.

Librarians said Moscow authorities have supported the Ukrainian Library's creation since the Ukrainian Youth Club of Moscow suggested the idea in 1988, however, efforts to provide an appropriate facility have lagged.

"We have dealt with such things for 15 years and they always respond, 'it's just about to be solved,' Mr. Kononenko stated.

The library's director, Valentyna Sliusarchuk, said some 2,500 readers annually show interest in Ukrainian books and periodicals, but that number has fallen dramatically since the library found itself in a period of transition that has lasted for months.

Facilities became a cornerstone issue as the library's archives grew from several thousand items after its opening in late 1989 to their present 21,000 books and some 29,000 other items, including periodicals, music CDs, records and tapes, as well as video recordings of Ukrainian movies, TV programs and animated films. The library subscribes to 100 Ukrainian newspapers and 150 magazines. Eighty percent of the items are in the Ukrainian language, some 11 percent are in Russian. Other literature is mostly

in English and Polish.

At first, the library existed as a Ukrainian department of a Moscow district library. The Ukrainian community has worked for the library's independent status in recent years as its holdings grew, and the issue of adequate space became a priority during bilateral discussions between Ukrainian and Russian officials.

Finally, on December 19, 2000, the Moscow city administration approved the establishment of a "library of Ukrainian literature." Since then workers have moved the books several times to various sites. Finally, in January of this year, Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov ordered that the library be given a space of some 600 square meters in a prestigious area of Moscow.

"We come closer and closer to the Kremlin, but get no benefit," Mr. Kononenko exclaimed ironically.

He said they cannot move into the new building because a landmark shoe repair shop, there since pre-Revolutionary times, cannot be displaced. Authorities must first find new quarters for the historic workshop and then must do costly repairs at the library's newly designated facility. This delays the library's move for an uncertain time period, Mr. Kononenko told *The Weekly*.

Mr. Kononenko said the largest collection of Ukrainian books – some 250,000 volumes – is located in Moscow's Lenin Library, which collected all newly published Ukrainian literature and periodicals from 1862 up until Ukraine's independence in 1991.

"The collection of contemporary Ukrainian books in Russia is, practically speaking, to be found only here," Mr. Kononenko said, adding that his library also has more than 1,000 rare publications with the oldest one, "Ukrainian Anecdotes" by Pavlo Ilyin, dating back to 1842.

The history of the Ukrainian Library can be traced to the early 1920s, when the Ukrainian Labor Club organized a book collection for public use and made it available to workers at factories in several mobile facilities. The anti-Ukrainian policies of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin eliminated the library in 1937 during a so-called reorganization. The archives were sent to various libraries across Moscow and Ukraine; hundreds of then-banned publications were eliminated.

None of the organizers of the contemporary Ukrainian library knew the story until April 1991, when they received a pack of books from the Scientific Library of Lviv University. Nine of those books had stamps dated 1922 that read "Central Ukrainian Library at the Labor Club in Moscow." Historical research revealed that 6,408 books were sent to Ukraine, including 1,500 items that found their way into the university's collection. The university's library recently returned all the books that it found to Moscow, more than 1,200 in all.

Mr. Kononenko noted that the Ukrainian Library has played an important role in the lives of some 300,000 ethnic Ukrainians who live in Moscow; it is significant also to students, historians, diplomats, politicians and scientists of other backgrounds who are interested in Ukraine by virtue of their fields. According to a book about the library published by its staff in 2002, 25 percent of visitors state they require access to publications for educational purposes.

However, developing further access to Ukrainian literature in Moscow is in question as the library cannot satisfy all its reader's needs. It is currently able to host a maximum of 40 visitors at one time in its reading hall.

U.S. lists exchange program competitions for 2004-2005

U.S. Embassy

KYIV – The U.S. Embassy in Ukraine is pleased to announce the beginning of the annual competitions for Ukrainians interested in taking part in U.S.-Ukraine academic exchange programs. These programs offer educational and scholarly opportunities for Ukrainians in the humanities and social sciences at the high school, undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate levels and professional enhancement in selected fields.

These programs are sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State. The bureau fosters mutual understanding between the United States and other countries through education and training programs. These programs also support the economic and democratic development of the emerging democracies of Eurasia.

Competition for the programs is merit-based, and selection will be made on the basis of academic excellence, leadership potential, knowledge of English and the designated fields of study, and preparedness for study in the United States.

Applications are available at no charge at participating recruitment organizations, educational advising centers, and the U.S. Embassy's website.

Recruitment of Ukrainian participants and administration of these exchanges is carried out by American Councils, the

International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), and the U.S. Embassy's Fulbright/JFDP Office. The U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Section works closely with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine in carrying out these programs.

Listing of programs

The following programs are being announced:

- Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX) – secondary school students of the 9th and 10th grades, administered by American Councils, provides an academic year at a U.S. high school.

- U.S.-Ukrainian Awards for Excellence in Teaching Secondary School – teachers of English and American studies, administered by American Councils, provides awards for schools and teachers, and six weeks of training in the United States.

- Partners in Education Program – for instructors and administrators of regional pedagogical universities, secondary school teachers, administered by American Councils, provides six-week reciprocal working visits of Ukrainian and American participants to their respective schools.

- Partners in Education Program – for directors of regional secondary schools, (English is not required), administered by American Councils, provides three-

week civic education observation and workshops in the United States.

- Eurasia Undergraduate Exchange Program – university students in first through third year of study between the ages of 17 and 23, administered by IREX, provides an academic year at a U.S. college or university.

- Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program – for university graduates under age 40, administered by American Councils, provides degree or non-degree one- or two-year study at U.S. graduate schools.

- Fulbright Graduate Student Program – for university graduates under age 35, administered by the Fulbright Office, provides degree or non-degree one- or two-year study at U.S. graduate schools.

- Fellowship in Contemporary Issues Program – for university graduates with a minimum three years of experience between the ages of 24 and 54, administered by IREX, provides four months of research in the humanities and social sciences at U.S. institutions.

- Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program – for university graduates with a minimum of five years of management/policy-making experience in drug abuse prevention, public health, agricultural development; and natural resources and environmental protection, administered by the Public Affairs

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Roundtable to discuss TWG re-elects president, honors officers past and present Ukraine's transition to market economy

by Michael Drabyk

WASHINGTON – Experts from the United States, Ukraine, Poland, Russia, the European Union and the International Monetary Fund will gather in Washington on October 7-8 to assess one of the fastest growing economies in Europe.

More than 70 representatives from government, business, think-tanks and policy advisors – including U.S. Undersecretary of State Paula Dobriansky, two former prime ministers of Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko and Anatolii Kinakh, former Deputy Prime Minister of Poland Janusz Steinhof, National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Serhii Tyhypko, and members of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada, the Office of the U.S. Chief Trade Representative and the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine – will spend two days evaluating the Ukrainian marketplace, from both macro and micro-economic perspectives, as a competitor on the global economic arena.

“Ukraine’s Quest for Mature Nation Statehood – Roundtable IV: Ukraine’s Transition to a Developed Market Economy” is the fourth in a series of annual conferences designed to monitor Ukraine’s progress towards fuller integration into the Euro-Atlantic community and stronger bilateral relations with the United States.

This year’s gathering will feature 12 panels, held during the course of four regular sessions, four focus sessions, two working lunches, two receptions and nine business-to-business networking sessions.

The roundtable will be open to the media and high-level officials and international business executives will attend. Additional information is also available at <http://www.fourfreedoms.net>.

Program overview

The roundtable will begin on Tuesday, October 7. Twenty-four speakers will discuss the macro-and micro-economic trends affecting the business environment in Ukraine; 12 speakers will assess the pace of macroeconomic reforms in the banking, agricultural and small- and medium-size business sectors. Topics will include currency stability, banking sector restructuring, anti-money laundering legislation, land privatization, land resource management policy, establishment of commodities futures trading and regulatory policy.

Next, 12 speakers will examine the market readiness of Ukraine’s energy, industrial and hi-tech sectors. Microeconomic trends in the following areas will be discussed: coal, electricity (both nuclear and non-nuclear), oil and gas, machine-building, fast-moving consumer goods, aerospace, electronics, biotech and information technologies.

Wednesday, October 8, will begin with an examination of Ukraine in the global marketplace. Three panels will be devoted to taking measure of U.S.-Ukraine bilateral economic relations, Ukraine’s regional economic ties and Ukraine’s international economic priorities.

The roundtable will then challenge invited experts to speak to the correlation between market economics and Ukraine’s “quest for mature nation statehood.” The first panel will explore the nexus between market economic and a

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WASHINGTON – The Washington Group has re-elected its president, Ihor Kotlarchuk, to a fourth one-year term. At their annual meeting held on June 26 in Washington, TWG members also approved a slate combined of returning officers – some of whom moved to different posts on the board – along with some new faces. TWG also presented achievement awards to two of its past and present officers for distinguished service.

Honoree Roman Stelmach served as TWG treasurer for nearly 10 years, and currently resides in New Jersey. The second award recipient, Laryssa Courtney, continues on the board as TWG Cultural Fund Director. Mr. Stelmach accepted his achievement award at the annual meeting, while Ms. Courtney will be honored at an upcoming TWG Cultural Fund event.

Changes on the TWG board include the following: Adrian Pidlusky takes on the combined role of vice-president and membership director. Marta Mostovych joins the board as member-at-large; Daria Stec and Jaroslav Dutkewych join Michael Kowalysko on the Auditing Committee; and George Masiuk moves from vice-president to member-at-large and will be spearheading the organization of next year’s Leadership Conference celebrating TWG’s 20th anniversary.

Several former TWG presidents hold positions on this year’s board. They include Orest Deychakiwsky as immediate past president; Nick Babiak, George Masiuk and Natalie Sluzar as board members-at-large; and Ms. Stec as Auditing Committee member. In addition, Yaro Bihun continues to participate in both TWG and the TWG Cultural Fund.

President’s report

Members heard a series of reports, starting with that of TWG President Kotlarchuk, describing the activities of The Washington Group since the previous annual meeting in June 2002.

These included a presentation by Ambassador Kostyantyn Gryshchenko of Ukraine, titled “United States-Ukraine Relations.” Another event was a talk, co-sponsored with the Shevchenko Scientific Society, by Dr. Taras Kuzio of the University of Toronto, who spoke on the topic “Ukraine: Quo Vadis after Kuchma.” “To Catch a Spy” was the title of a presentation about espionage given by TWG President Kotlarchuk. Also, a “Meet Muskie Fellows from Ukraine” social event at Washington’s Wardman Park Hotel enabled TWG members to meet more than 40 Muskie fellows from all parts of Ukraine.

Other TWG events described by Mr. Kotlarchuk included a Potomac River Dinner Dance Cruise on the Dandy, an “Evening of Jazz” with Ukrainian Canadian jazz pianist John Stetch at the Blues Alley nightclub in Georgetown, and the regularly scheduled TWG happy hours usually held the first Friday evening of each month.

Other reports

TWG Treasurer Steve Boyduy reported assets at the time of the annual meeting of more than \$42,000.

Membership Director Adrian Pidlusky reported that TWG membership had dipped to 184, but was rebounding. He attrib-



TWG President Ihor Kotlarchuk (left) presents a TWG Achievement Award to Roman Stelmach, former treasurer of the organization.

uted the boost to stepped-up recruitment and retention efforts, including a positive response to membership renewal letters sent out prior to the annual meeting.

The TWG Cultural Fund reported on numerous successful events during the year. These included a fashion show dubbed “Because Life is Beautiful” held at the Embassy of Ukraine to benefit breast cancer awareness and detection in Ukraine. The Cultural Fund also continued its popular music series during the 2002-2003 season, with five concerts at the Lyceum in Old Towne Alexandria, Va. These included appearances by the musical ensemble Harmonia, as well as the Leontovych String Quartet led by violinist Oleh Krysa. Other Music Series performers included bass Stefan Szkarowski, and pianist Lydia Artymiw.

TWG Fellowship Fund Chair Michael Drabyk reported that as of the annual meeting on June 26, selection of the 2003 TWG Ukrainian Embassy student intern from a total of 22 applicants was nearly completed. He also indicated that the Fellowship Fund would be conducting a fund drive in the coming year.

(Continued on page 14)

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The eighth world congress

The recent eighth Ukrainian World Congress was a milestone event – not least of all because it was the first such worldwide conclave held in Ukraine. Some 300 delegates from more than 20 countries and 200 guests attended the congress of what is the worldwide umbrella organization of Ukrainians. The UWC encompasses over 230 organizations (of which 100 were present at the conclave), whose combined membership is over 3 million, but which actually represent a diaspora of nearly 20 million.

As noted by the UWC President Askold Lozynskyj, who was re-elected to his second five-year term at the helm of the worldwide body, “this congress is a turning point ... because, whereas we had one delegate from the eastern diaspora at the Toronto convention [1998], this time there are more than 100.” And, as a result of this congress, for the first time in its history the world body’s board includes two representatives each for Russia, Georgia, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Kazakstan and Poland. “Finally, the Ukrainian World Congress is becoming representative of the distribution within the diaspora as a whole,” commented Ukrainian National Association President Stefan Kaczaraj, who was among those elected to the board.

At a press conference at the conclusion of the congress, Mr. Lozynskyj said the UWC is undergoing “cardinal changes” and explained that “we want the UWC to become a truly global organization,” adding that the body is trying to establish ties in Azerbaijan and Vietnam, for example. Echoing those words was the UNA’s chief, who said he feels the new leadership should help nurture new communities of émigré Ukrainians. “We need to help them organize their communities so that they will grow and Ukrainianize,” he noted, adding quite aptly that “there are so many Ukrainians out there [dispersed around the world] who do not know who they are.”

Despite troubles with the congress venue – originally to be held at the expansive Ukrainian Home Exposition Center and then moved to the much smaller Teacher’s Building – the congress succeeded in tackling myriad concerns of Ukrainians around the globe, including such pressing matters as Ukrainian schools for Ukrainians in the Russian Federation and the hardships encountered by Ukrainians who travel abroad, temporarily or not, in search of work and wages. What is also noteworthy is that during the congress delegates learned much about each other and their diverse communities.

We must note with dismay, however, the Ukrainian government’s treatment of the conclave and the UWC as a whole. The lofty words in the official greeting to the congress from President Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich (neither of whom chose to attend), read by Vice Prime Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Dmytro Tabachnyk, did not square with the reality on the ground.

The official greeting noted how Ukraine “highly values the work of this institution, under whose aegis function many authoritative community organizations and structures of the Ukrainian diaspora,” how the “diaspora’s contribution to the achievement of Ukrainian independence truly is not properly valued” and about how the UWC “unites Ukrainians from around the world and helps them strengthen ties.” Meanwhile, in the capital of our common ancestral homeland, there was no room for the UWC at the Ukrainian Home, which is controlled by the presidential administration. Only two weeks later, after the exposition center had purportedly been closed for remodeling, the Home hosted a trade exhibit. The Kuchma administration’s lack of respect or concern for its organized diaspora was felt also in the absence of high-level officials from the world congress. Is it good policy to snub the largest body of the world’s Ukrainians?

To conclude, we must underscore that the eighth Ukrainian World Congress went a long way toward uniting Ukrainians of the diaspora no matter where they reside. The hope is that such contacts continue on a regular basis, leading to better understanding, communication and joint efforts among all who constitute the Ukrainian people. Hopefully, Kyiv will take notice.

Sept.
10
2001

Turning the pages back...

Two years ago in Yalta, Crimea, leaders of the European Union and Ukraine met on September 10-11 for their third annual summit – the first in Ukraine – which was seen to be a turning point during which relations would move from plans and ideas to practical cooperation.

Our Kyiv Press Bureau chief, Roman Woronowycz, reported on the results of the meeting, noting that the final document stated that Kyiv and Brussels would now work more closely together to develop energy relations, to speed Ukraine’s membership in the World Trade Organization and to resolve issues associated with illegal international migration, as well as visa and border issues involved in the EU’s planned expansion.

In the summit statement the EU called on Ukraine to provide for fully open and transparent democratic elections to Parliament in 2002, which would “demonstrate democratic progress in Ukraine.” The final memorandum included language on the need for an improved legal basis for a truly free press, as well as support for deepening economic and administrative reforms and privatization, and seeing those processes through to completion.

EU Chairman Guy Verhofstadt stressed that the EU welcomes Ukraine’s “European choice” and noted that it would be to Ukraine’s benefit in its attempt to draw closer to the EU to ensure that the March 2002 parliamentary elections are free, fair and open, “to dispel all doubts that recently appeared in the EU” regarding whether Ukraine is moving towards democracy. “These elections are Ukraine’s chance to show that freedom of the press is a reality and journalists have the possibility to work freely,” he commented.

Beyond the talk on both sides about deepening and more fruitful relations in various spheres, the summit did generate some controversy, however. An EU official, Timo Summa, was quoted by Reuters as saying that the EU “troika” would have a tough message for President Kuchma at Yalta. “If President Kuchma is serious about Ukraine’s European choice and putting the Gongadze affair and the other scandals behind him, he must clarify relations between the state and the media, and ensure safety for foreign investors.”

Source: “EU and Ukraine meet in Yalta for third summit,” by Roman Woronowycz, Kyiv Press Bureau, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, September 16, 2001, Vol. LXIX, No. 37.

FOR THE RECORD

Embassy of Ukraine statement on 12 years of independence

Following is the text of a statement issued on August 25 by the Embassy of Ukraine in the United States.

On August 24, 2003, Ukraine celebrates the 12th anniversary of its independence. A young member of the European family of nations, Ukraine has been dealing with many challenges on the path towards becoming a country with deeply entrenched rules of democratic governance, a globally competitive business sector and a vibrant civil society.

The past year was marked by formation of the first coalition government and continued economic growth at home, as well as further steps to strengthen Ukraine’s positions abroad and deepen its friendly relations with strategic partners, including the United States.

One of the most important accomplishments in domestic politics over the past 12 months is creation of the first coalition government in Ukraine’s history. The new government was formed in November 2002 reflecting the current political majority in the Verkhovna Rada, the Ukrainian Parliament. This has created conditions for much more effective cooperation between the legislative and the executive branches of power. The recent approval of the Cabinet of Ministers Work Program by an overwhelming majority of the parliamentary groups and factions is an indicator of the new positive dynamics in Ukraine’s domestic politics. Another one is the fact that over 170 laws – of which more than one-half were initiated by the government – have been passed by the Parliament since the formation of the new Cabinet. The presence of a viable coalition government backed by the parliamentary majority has already resulted in the progress with the reform of tax and pension systems, the adoption of the civil and economic codes and will facilitate a faster pace of socio-economic development of Ukraine.

Since the moment of obtaining its independence, Ukraine has been pursuing the policy of integration into European and Euro-Atlantic structures while developing friendly relations with all neighbors. A founding member of the United Nations, Ukraine has always stood for upholding the norms of international law and for strengthening the role of the U.N. in the issues of global security. Ukraine believes that the role of the U.N. is crucial in establishing worldwide socio-economic preconditions for peaceful and harmonious development.

As the global community faces many deadly threats, including international terrorism, Ukraine recognizes the need to commit even stronger to the values of peace, liberty and free markets. The formal declaration of Ukraine’s intention to join NATO and the country’s participation in shaping continental security structures are among the important developments of the recent months. Ukraine has also made progress towards membership in the European Union. The country has achieved stable rates of economic growth and is working to harmonize the Ukrainian legislation with that of the EU in key areas.

The participation of the Ukrainian troops in peacekeeping operations is tangible evidence of the country’s readiness to play a role in ensuring peace and stability in the world’s troubled areas. Beginning this month a brigade of 1,800 Ukrainian servicemen will serve shoulder-to-shoulder with troops from the United States, the United Kingdom, Poland and

other countries promoting peace, security and stability in Iraq. This deployment culmination of the ongoing process of establishing viable partnership ties between the Ukrainian military and counterparts from the U.S., NATO and partner countries. Other examples of cooperation include decisions to open Ukrainian air space for overflights by coalition air forces during the campaign in Afghanistan and dispatching a Ukrainian radiochemical and biological defense battalion to Kuwait during the campaign in Iraq, as well as Ukraine’s participation in a series of multinational military exercises.

Besides playing a role in the international peacekeeping missions, Ukraine has a lot to offer to the world. Every year, thousands of specialists from different countries receive higher education diplomas in Ukraine. The country’s scientific prowess is successfully applied in international projects like Sea Launch, a commercial satellite launch service. For several decades, Ukrainian companies have been among major suppliers of equipment and technical assistance in infrastructure-enhancing projects in dozens of countries in Central and Southeastern Asia, Africa and the Middle East. In the past few years, Ukrainian producers, especially in the machine-building industry, have managed to increase their presence in these markets. Today, no one is surprised when Ukrainian companies win contracts in India, Turkey, Turkmenistan or Brazil. Ukraine has expertise in the construction of railroads, bridges, plants, oil- and gas-pipelines, refineries, as well as water and electric power supply networks. Ukrainian Antonov cargo airplanes are known to be the best in the world. This extensive potential is now receiving a boost from domestic economic growth, and Ukraine is looking to increase participation in international business projects.

Over the past three years, Ukraine has been reporting positive rates of real output growth. This is an unmistakable sign of the rebirth of the national economy which suffered a protracted fallback in the early and mid-1990s. The GDP grew by 7.5 percent year-on-year by the results of the first six months of 2003. Industrial output went up by 12 percent, exports by 27 percent, bank credits by 17 percent, and personal income by 11 percent during the same period. Meanwhile, the rate of inflation – which amounted to 4.6 percent during the first six months of this year – remains under prudent control of the National Bank of Ukraine. Ukraine is on the verge of becoming a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) – there are reasons to expect this by the end of 2004. The Ukrainian government is actively working towards establishing free-trade zones with the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and, in the longer run, with the EU. Reciprocal opening of markets to trade will provide a further positive impulse to the growing Ukrainian economy. The sound economic policy of the Ukrainian government and the growing dynamism of the economy have been noted by the world’s leading rating agencies which recently upgraded Ukraine’s credit rating from a “negative” to a “stable” outlook.

The United States has been one of the most valuable economic partners of Ukraine. As of January 2003, there were over 1,000 companies with a share of

(Continued on page 13)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Giving credit where it's due

Dear Editor:

When I read the occasional letter blasting Myron Kuropas for one or another of his supposed sins, I find it hard to suppress my own derision, not for him but rather for those whiners who, insofar as I know, have made no significant contribution themselves in defense of Ukrainian interests. We have more than a few of similar ilk up here in Canada – those who know how to bitch but never pitch.

Dr. Kuropas, in contrast to his critics, just labors away, week after week, in defense of the Ukrainian cause, calling the shots as he sees them, taking a stand, then taking his licks as need be. I'd say he is a perfect example of "Be a Luciuk!" but that would probably only embarrass both of us, and, having had the privilege of meeting his father, I'd say a better slogan would be "Be a Kuropas!" – which I am also sure would be more to his liking.

Having now praised and thanked Dr. Kuropas I will, however, register one quibble with him in public over his commentary on what I have tried to do, and that refers to the subtitle, "giving credit where credit is due." I do what I can, but, always, always, I have peered "over my shoulder" at the people whom I was honored to meet, and who inspired me to commit myself to the chores I've taken on. There were a lot of them, men like the Rev. Jules C.E. Riotte, Bohdan Panchuk, Stanley Frolick, Andrij Bandera and, more recently, John B. Gregorovich, and all of my colleagues in that loose coalition of sometimes cantankerous yet always cutting edge activists who have gathered together under the banner of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

And then there are those, in Canada, in the United States and as far away as Australia, the United Kingdom and Ukraine, who do what they can to succor us. Collectively we act because some one has to. Sometimes we, and mostly I, make mistakes when we move forward instead of waiting to see which way the winds will blow. But we have learned that it is better to act than to always just react, more effective to plan and proceed than to just temporize and talk, more useful to boast less about whom one represents and do more to ensure that our people indeed have advocates and defenders and doers in all those arenas that we have to enter, like it or not, as long as we wish to remain members of an organized community.

So, thanks for the kudos, Myron, and thanks to The Ukrainian Weekly for continuing to be the best Ukrainian English-language newspaper on the continent, but, even more importantly, thanks to all those who have supported the UCCLA and its work. Without them we, and I, would long have since been swept away, as those ranged against us have always been and still remain more powerful than we can ever hope to be. Still, we have truth on our side, and that is probably why we keep winning. That and because we follow Panchuk's simple gospel – "Do Something!" We have and we will.

Lubomyr Luciuk, Ph.D.
Kingston, Ontario

The letter writer is director of research for the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

Yes, there are alternatives for kids

Dear Editor:

In response to the question posed by Khristina Lew in her column titled "Double Exposure" – Are there alternatives to these organizations? A place where children of Ukrainian descent can get together and not have language be an issue? – I say the answer is yes.

One of the best places for children to get together is the Ukrainian National Association's resort, Soyuzivka. For over 30 years there have been camps and programs for children where speaking Ukrainian is not required. This facility offers children age 4 to 17 many choices. There is Tennis Camp, Children's Camp, Sports Camp, Chemney Camp, Scuba Camp and Dance Camp. None of these camps require the children to speak Ukrainian, yet all of them do encourage the Ukrainian language to be used. Each of these camps offers everyone the opportunity to meet children of Ukrainian descent, and to build and foster relationships that can span a lifetime.

It is very commendable that there are many families where Ukrainian is spoken at home, families whose children growing up in America are fluent in Ukrainian. However, I believe we should not look only at how well our children speak Ukrainian but how proud they are to be Ukrainian.

We as a community should and must do everything we can to raise our children to be proud Ukrainians who know their heritage and will speak up every time there is a slur against Ukraine, who are familiar with the history of Ukraine, the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933, who know why Walter Duranty's Pulitzer Prize must be revoked and will use this knowledge to educate others about Ukraine in any language.

Bohdanka Puzyk
Darien, Conn.

Thank you, Lubomyr Luciuk

Dear Editor:

Dr. Myron Kuropas's "Honoring Lubomyr Luciuk: giving credit where credit is due" (August 3) is particularly well taken. We usually wait until people are dead before we realize their value and only then begin to honor them and their work. Dr. Luciuk is everything that Dr. Kuropas describes him as being: smart, intrepid, tireless and effective.

May God bless him and keep him for many, many more years. And on behalf of myself as a member of the southern half of the North American Ukrainian community, thank you, Dr. Luciuk.

Bohdan Vitvitsky
Summit, N.J.

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

NEWS AND VIEWS

A nation running out of time

by Damian Olesnycky

Ukrainians have a saying, "somehow it will be," that some use in discussing their country's future and its prospects for prosperity. But as it stands today, Ukraine must execute real reforms and become a desirable place in which to do business before the next major upturn in the world economy. Should it not, and should its passive course of policy continue, looming crises will converge and push the struggling country into a period of painful decay.

Since its independence in 1991, Ukraine has not integrated itself into the world economy with any real success. Its trade policies have kept its economy stuck in its region and moving in lockstep with Russia, while its business environment – opaque, intrusive and anti-competitive – has kept investors from rich countries away. Consequently, the people of Ukraine are poor and live short lives. But this is only the start of the country's problems.

Ukraine's population is shrinking fast; it experiences nearly two deaths to every birth and its fertility rate (the average number of children per woman) is tied for lowest in the world. This trend will only accelerate as the post-war generation nears life expectancy, which is 62.7 years for men, 73.5 for women. The United Nations recently projected that by 2050, Ukraine's population will have fallen to 30 million people from its current level of nearly 50 million.

A bigger concern than population shrinkage, however, is the country's long-term demographic make-up. As the projected population thins out over time, so does the proportion of working age people to society's dependents: pensioners and children. The World Bank estimates that by 2050 there will be about two pensioners and three dependents to every four workers. Given that the pension system is already broken, issuing paltry payouts and running major deficits, at a ratio of less than one pensioner to four workers, the status quo is plainly unsustainable. Ukraine is not the only country facing demographic disaster; the rest of Europe and Russia have this problem, too.

Sadly, there is more to fret about. There is an AIDS epidemic brewing – UNAIDS estimates that 1 percent of Ukrainian adults age 15-49 were living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2001 – and other diseases are on the rise as well. The country's infrastructure is old and falling apart, public services have disappeared, and utilities are in need of refurbishment. Food prices have risen dramatically this summer and are projected to remain high due to fears of a poor agricultural harvest. And, although Ukraine currently boasts a budget surplus, that could change fairly soon with increased government spending and the proportion of pensioners growing.

These coming crises, as daunting as they may sound, can be remedied through greater economic liberalism. In the post-Soviet era, countries that successfully integrated themselves into the world economy have seen the lives of their citizens improve markedly. The World Bank's 2002 report "Globalization, Growth and Poverty," points out that "globalized" countries, meaning the ones that opened their economies to trade and foreign investment, experienced much faster GDP (gross domestic product) and income growth per

Damian Olesnycky, a Ukrainian American, is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University and is currently employed as an analyst for a major global management consultancy. He has studied abroad in both Ukraine and Russia, and plans to study international business and finance in graduate school.

head than both "unglobalized" and even existing rich countries in the period from 1990 to 2001. The study also shows that in the globalized countries, among them India, China and Hungary, there have been great improvements in life expectancy, infant mortality rates and schooling.

The world economy remains in a lull right now, with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows to developing countries at their lowest levels since 1996. When the world economy picks up, however, businesses of the rich world will resume investing in countries of opportunity to boost profits, gain labor force flexibility and foster creativity. One can expect FDI to continue spouting the enduring springs of prosperity as it has so often in the past. The examples are everywhere: the software and service empires of India, the biotechnology research institutes of Southeast Asia and the countless manufacturing centers of China, just to name a few.

Many good things start happening for a country when it attracts healthy levels of FDI, and Ukraine – one of the lowest FDI recipients in Central and Eastern Europe – is certainly in need of good things. The workforce could use the better jobs, skills and wages ushered in by globalized workplaces. Non-oligarchic entrepreneurship could take off, as it tends to from friendlier, globalized business environments. As corrupt and ineffectual as the government is, all would likely benefit if its budgets on the federal, regional and local levels were significantly bigger. One could even argue that closer economic ties lead to closer political ones, as is the case now with China standing clear of America's Iraq policy and actually assisting in the North Korean crisis.

Ukraine undoubtedly has the potential to be a globalization success story. Loaded with intellectual capital, the country boasts a literacy rate higher than those of the United States and the European Union, a workforce rich in technical expertise, and a strong proportion of people with post-secondary degrees. Its low price levels and cost of living make it a true bargain. It is also a land of many natural resources, a sizable population and excellent geographical position (on the doorstep of the EU to-be). And unlike countries like Israel, India and South Korea, Ukraine's geopolitical situation is stable, with no terrorism problem or hostile armies massed on its borders.

Ukraine can globalize its economy and address its problems only through major reforms, of which several stand out as the most necessary. Firstly, the many legal channels of government intrusion into business activities need to be closed, and contracts, not least those of international investors, must be honored in all cases. New versions of the civil and commercial codes that go into effect on January 1, 2004, are meant to address these concerns. This legislation could improve Ukraine's business environment, but it is not without flaws and loopholes. According to Edilberto L. Segura, chief economist and director of the Kyiv Office at the SigmaBleyzer investment bank, "On a number of topics, the Civil Code and Commercial Code are inconsistent between themselves as they provide for regulations in different ways. ... These inconsistencies should be resolved before the codes become effective."

Enforcement of such legislation is another issue. Will the courts step up to ensure property and minority shareholder rights, as well as laws against strong-arming and other anti-competitive practices? Too often in the past, Ukrainian courts have handed out verdicts to the highest bidder.

Another reform critical to Ukraine is an

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KammerFest 2003 to celebrate 50th jubilee of Lysenko Music Institute



Ivan Kovaliw



Orest Kovaliw

by Roman Sawycky

TORONTO – The Lysenko Music Institute of Toronto is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a festival of classical music billed as “KammerFest 2003.” The festival, which serves as a showcase for Ukraine’s musical heritage, features performances by the Lysenko Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of its present director, Orest Kovaliw, and guest artists from Canada, the United States and Ukraine. Among the featured performers are pianists Katya Lebedyeva and Nayida Magomedbekova.

The festival offers a wide range of classical repertoire – works by Mozart, Schubert, Ravel, and Bartok – and includes premieres of rare Ukrainian works by Dmytro Bortniansky, Myroslav Skoryk, Levko Kolodub, Ivan Karabyts, Yevhen Stankovych and Valentyn Silvestrov. Forming part of the festival is a separate “Pops” concert.

The festival, which opened on September 4 and runs through September 14, is being held at St. Anne’s, 270 Gladstone Ave.

Since its founding in 1953 by the distinguished conductor, violinist and accomplished poet Ivan Kovaliw, the institute has established itself as a premiere institution known for the excellence of its music education program and performances. The institute’s Lysenko Chamber Orchestra has been critically acclaimed during its North American concert tours and has been featured on WQXR, the classical music radio station

(Continued on page 14)

Skoryk and Chmyr to appear in presentation based on the opera “Moisei”

by Ika Kozmarska Casanova

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Myroslav Skoryk, one of Ukraine’s prominent contemporary composers, and baritone Oleh Chmyr, formerly principal artist with opera houses in Ukraine, Russia and Poland and currently professor of voice in New Jersey – will present a program featuring arias from Maestro Skoryk’s opera “Moisei” (Moses) as well as piano works and songs by the composer.

After their first appearance held as part of Music and Art Center of Greene County’s “Music at the Grazhda” summer concert series in Jewett, N.Y., on August 30, Messrs. Skoryk and Chmyr will appear at the following venues: Monday, September 8 – Embassy of Ukraine, 3350 M. St. N.W., Washington, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, September 13 – Swedenborg Chapel, 50 Quincy St., Cambridge, Mass., 8 p.m., in a concert sponsored jointly by the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute and St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Jamiaca Plain, Mass.; Saturday, September 20 – St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Sanford Avenue, Newark, N.J., 6:30 p.m.

Maestro Skoryk’s opera, which had its premiere at the Solomiya Krushelnyska Opera and Ballet State Academic Theater in Lviv on June 23, 2001, constituted an important event in the cultural life of Ukraine. The work was written to celebrate the centenary of the Lviv Opera House and was performed as part of the festivities held in conjunction with the June visit of Pope John Paul II to Ukraine. The work was subsequently staged in Kyiv and Ivano-Frankivsk. This June the opera was staged in Poland at the National Opera Theater in Warsaw to critical acclaim.

In the United States, “Moisei” was introduced to the American public by Joe McLellan, classical music critic emeritus of The Washington Post, in a review titled “A New Opera for A Nation in Search of Itself” (July 20, 2001).

Maestro Skoryk’s opera is based on a well-known eponymous poem by the early 20th century Ukrainian writer Ivan Franko who draws on the biblical narrative of Moses, the Hebrew lawgiver and prophet, and the travails of leading his people, the Israelites, out of bondage in Egypt to the edge of Canaan, himself not living to enter the Promised Land. Franko draws on the universal theme of the liberation of a people to evoke Ukraine’s struggle for national liberation.

Maestro Skoryk’s work, the first opera to be written after Ukraine’s independence, revisits the eternal themes inherent in the biblical story, illuminating the work’s relevance to Ukraine’s contemporary situation.

Maestro Skoryk is the author of a diverse and impressive oeuvre. Known primarily for his orchestral and chamber music written in the contemporary mode of expression, his music often draws from the rich wellspring of Ukrainian folklore. In addition to symphonic and instrumental music, Maestro Skoryk has written a musical ballet based on Franko’s poem – “Kameniar” (Stonecutters), cantatas for choir and orchestra, numerous vocal art songs and romances. He also writes jazz and popular music and has written the score for some 40 films and 30 stage productions.

A professor at both the Lviv and Kyiv conservatories, Maestro Skoryk has helped nurture an entire generation of composers in Ukraine, among them Yevhen Stankovych, Ivan Karabyts, Oleh Kyva, Vadym Ilyin, Hanna Havrylets, Volodymyr

Zubyskyi, and Volodymyr Stepurko. A native of Lviv, Maestro Skoryk studied at the Lviv Conservatory with the renowned Ukrainian composer Stanyslav Liudkevych, and with Roman Simovych and Adam Soltys. He holds a doctoral degree from the Moscow Conservatory, where he studied with the celebrated Dmitri Kabalevsky.

Maestro Skoryk is recipient of Ukraine’s Taras Shevchenko National Award (1987).

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 in opera and concert tours in France, Spain, Germany, Denmark and Norway.

He studied at the Lviv and Moscow conservatories and was professor at the Lviv and Mussorgsky (Ekaterinburg) conservatories.

Since coming to the United States, his performances have included appearances at New York’s Merkin Hall (1997), the Newport International Stars Festival (1996), as well as at Carnegie Hall in the New York Grand Opera Gala “Stars of Tomorrow” concert (1995).

A talented chamber singer with an extensive repertoire, his solo concert “European Vocal Miniatures,” held at Carnegie’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.

Last summer, Mr. Chmyr completed a successful concert tour in Ukraine which included performances with the National Symphony and the National Philharmonic orchestras.

(Continued on page 14)



Myroslav Skoryk



Oleh Chmyr

NEW RELEASE: world premier recording of Hryhory Kytasty’s “Holy Liturgy”

SAN DIEGO – The Kytasty Foundation has recently produced and released an exquisite recording of the profoundly beautiful composition of Hryhory Kytasty’s “Holy Liturgy.” This piece was composed in 1956 but, due to its rigorous performance requirements, has never been fully performed and recorded until now.

It is to the credit of the talents of Taras Myroniuk and the virtuosity of the Bells of Podil Choir that this piece has come to glorious life.

This CD is currently available directly from the Kytasty Foundation either by ordering online at www.kytastyfoundation.org (click Donations/PayPal) or by sending a check to the Kytasty Foundation, 4264 Biona Place, San Diego, CA 92116. The cost per CD is \$19.95 (U.S.) plus \$1.50 postage for United States or Canada.

All proceeds from the sales of the CD will help fund future projects that include producing another CD of Maestro Kytasty’s previously unrecorded epic compositions for soloists, choir and symphony orchestra: “Duma about Kempton” (the forced repatriation of refugees after World War II), and “Battle at Konotop” (the victory of the Kozaks over the invading Russians in 1658).

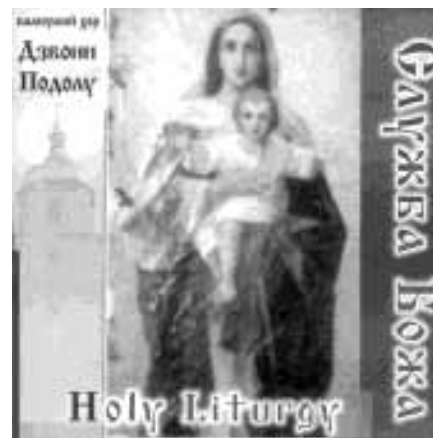
Established in 2001, the Kytasty Foundation is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to provide an educational resource of Ukrainian culture by creating and maintaining a free library on the Internet of literature, music and history. Its projects include the funding

of writers and musical artists to create new works and recordings for publication on the site.

The foundation has also established an annual fellowship to honor academic excellence at the Economics Education and Research Consortium’s master’s degree program at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

The Kytasty Foundation’s website has detailed information on current projects, and presently provides over eight gigabytes of data (books, sheet music and recorded music) to the World Wide Web. A special section features the entire collection of works by Hryhory Kytasty that includes all of his original sheet music, books about him, and complete audio recordings of him conducting the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, as well as his solo performances.

Andriy Kytasty, Maestro Kytasty’s son, is the foundation’s founder and current chief executive officer.





FOCUS ON PHILATELY

by Inger Kuzych

Folk costumes issue crowned Ukraine's best

The wide variety of subjects depicted on Ukraine's 2002 stamps was reflected in the balloting for this year's Narbut Prize for best stamp design. Almost every one of last year's stamps or souvenir sheets appealed to someone and subsequently received some votes. However, as the August 15 deadline approached, it became clear that a winner would emerge from among three quite different issues.

In the end, the "Ukrainian Folk Costumes" release, which garnered 14 percent of the vote (Figure 1), edged out the "Military History of Ukraine" issue stamps featuring ancient Scythian warriors, 12 percent of the vote; Figure 2) and the "Kyiv Through Artist's Eyes" stamp set (stamps depicting cityscapes by Taras Shevchenko; 11 percent; Figure 3). Also receiving substantial support was Ukraine's first chess stamp commemorating Ruslan Ponomarev becoming the 16th World Chess Champion (8 percent), a new four-stamp set honoring Ukrainian space scientists (8 percent), and the latest three stamps of the ongoing "Hetmans of Ukraine" series (7 percent).

Once more this year, participants were able to submit their choices electronically. Just over 80 percent of the hundreds of participants were from Ukraine, while the rest were from North America.

The Narbut Prize continues to be recognized as the premier philatelic art award in Ukraine. Past winners of the prize have been depicted in *Filatelia Ukrainy*, Ukraine's leading philatelic periodical.

Readers wishing to examine all of last year's stamps (or the issues from any year) in full color, may do so online at the Ukrainian Electronic Stamp Album (www.ukrainianphilately.info). Click on 2002 or on any other year's issues you may wish to check out.

The winner and his designs

This year's winning artist is Mykola Kochubei, who will receive a certificate and a \$250 honorarium for his colorful and fetching images highlighting regional costumes and holy days. The six designs of the set were released separately as stamps and together on a souvenir sheet. The first two stamps feature characters from the Vinnytsia region dressed for the

holidays of Pokrova (Protection of the Mother of God) and Spas (The Savior). The former falls on October 1 and signals the beginning of the fall cycle of folk holidays. Weddings are frequently held following this festival. Spas falls on August 6 and marks the end of the harvest season. At this time a harvest wreath, grain, fruits and honey are traditionally blessed at the church. (See sidebar on page 16).

The next two designs show the traditional clothing of the Cherkasy region worn during the vernal songs (termed *vesnianky* or *haivky*) performed at Eastertime, as well as the summer feast of Makovii (Maccabeus, August 1), when women and girls have the last flowers of summer blessed in church. The final stamps depict Christmas and Easter in the Ternopil region.

The stamp images on the souvenir sheet version of this issue are identical to the regular stamp issues but, in addition, they are surrounded by a variety of embroidery motifs along the top and sides, and by a village scene across the bottom (Figure 1).

Souvenir sheets remain very popular philatelic items in Ukraine. This was the sixth year in a row that such a sheet – alone or in combination with stamps as this year – finished first in the competition.

This folk costume issue is the second created by Mr. Kochubei in as many years. His first set of six designs in 2001 ended up as runner-up in the Narbut Prize balloting for that year. Mr. Kochubei is scheduled to continue his folk costume series this year with six further stamps and a matching souvenir sheet.

A list of past winners

The Narbut Prize has been awarded annually since 1993 for the best-designed stamp of the previous year (Ukraine only resumed stamp production in 1992). Below are the winners of the Narbut Prize since its inception:

- 1993 – Larysa Koren, "150th Anniversary of the Birth of Mykola Lysenko"; and Oleh Snarsky, "National Flag and Trident Emblem of Ukraine" (Note: there was a tie in voting in 1993).
- 1994 – Yuri Lohvyn, "75th Anniversary of Ukraine's First Postage Stamps."



Figure 2. Second in the balloting was the first set of a new stamp series on the "Military History of Ukraine." Depicted are various types of Scythian warriors.



Figure 1. The winning designs for 2002 showed folk costumes from three of Ukraine's regions. Shown here in a souvenir sheet format, the stamps were also issued individually on separate sheets.

- 1995 – Serhii Bieliaiev, "160th Anniversary of Kyiv University."
- 1996 – Yuri Lohvyn, "Hetmans of Ukraine" series.
- 1997 – Serhii Bieliaiev, "150th Anniversary of the Kyiv University Astronomical Observatory" (stamp triptych).
- 1998 – V. Taran and O. Kharuk, "The Founding of Kyiv" (Europa souvenir sheet).
- 1999 – V. Taran, O. Kharuk, S. Kharuk and V. Kozachenko; "350th Anniversary of the Beginning of the Ukrainian Struggle for Freedom Under Bohdan Khmelnytsky" (souvenir sheet).
- 2000 – Oleksii Shtanko, "Yaroslav the Wise" (souvenir sheet).
- 2001 – Kateryna Shtanko, "Wildflowers of Ukraine" (souvenir sheet).
- 2002 – Oleksii Shtanko, "Korol Danylo" (souvenir sheet).
- 2003 – Mykola Kochubei, "Ukrainian Folk Costumes" (stamps and souvenir sheet)

Inger Kuzych may be contacted at P.O. Box 3, Springfield, VA 22150 or at his e-mail address: ingert@starpower.net.



Figure 3. Another new stamp series inaugurated last year was "Kyiv Through Artist's Eyes." Featured were three Kyiv-area landscapes painted by Taras Shevchenko in the 19th century.

Ukraine's rich folk culture

Ukraine is truly blessed with a very rich folk culture. I have been fortunate to be in Ukraine to witness the beautiful and colorful festival of Spas which, in many ways, may be thought of as the Ukrainian Thanksgiving.

The celebration starts out with all of the residents of a village or town gathering on the church grounds and forming a huge oval which allows for processing along the inside. Every family brings a basket decorated with flowers and candles and laden with fruits of the harvest. Led by a small procession carrying church banners, the priest first makes his rounds in front of the crowd with his censer. Afterwards, he makes a second pass blessing all who are gathered with holy water. The families subsequently disperse and enjoy their blessed foods over the next several days.

— Inger Kuzych



Scenes of a Spas celebration in the village of Nyzhni Bereziv, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, Ukraine.

Gryshchenko...

(Continued from page 1)

Union in 1967 and spent 14 years in various capacities as part of the diplomatic team from the Ukrainian SSR to UNESCO in Paris and later as Ambassador to France. He was also Ukraine's permanent representative to the United Nations from September 1994 to September 1997.

In his final remarks as foreign minister, Mr. Zlenko listed his achievements during his first round in office: the resolution of problems associated with Ukraine's decision to denuclearize; the peaceful splitting of the Soviet Black Sea Fleet between Russia and Ukraine; and resolution of problems involving Crimea's autonomy.

He noted successes during his second appointment in bringing Ukraine closer to NATO and achieving the country's participation in the Prague Summit of NATO last year. He also emphasized his successful efforts to repair frayed relations with the United States after the Kolchuha scandal.

"We kept the rudder tightly in the direction of European and Euro-Atlantic integration. To some degree this is a guarantee that a new Berlin Wall will not divide us from Europe," Mr. Zlenko emphasized.

Mr. Zlenko also stated that: "We resolved relations with Russia – and in a sense we put them on a positive systemic track and on equal footing, which was earlier absent."

Mr. Zlenko's retirement was not without some controversy. The press had closely tracked the approach of his 65th birthday in June because another prominent political figure in Ukraine, Kyiv

Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko, who is elected as head of the City Council but appointed as mayor, was approaching retirement age as well. While Mr. Zlenko remained in President Kuchma's good favor, the president's relations with Mr. Omelchenko were not good, especially since Viktor Medvedchuk, Mr. Omelchenko's political arch-nemesis, became chief of staff of the presidential administration.

The question reporters wanted answered was whether Mr. Kuchma would force out Mr. Omelchenko in a political move under the pretext of his retirement age, while keeping Mr. Zlenko, whose work the president had praised. In June Mr. Kuchma had said he would not pressure his foreign affairs minister to stand aside.

Mr. Zlenko's replacement, U.S. Ambassador Gryshchenko, will become Ukraine's fourth minister of foreign affairs after having served in Washington since January 2000.

According to the Director of the Razumkov Center for Economic and Political Studies, Anatolii Hrytsenko, the career diplomat, who turns 50 in October, will have his work cut out for him in continuing a seemingly conflicted foreign policy, in which Kyiv officially has declared its intention to become both a part of all European structures as well as the nascent Eastward-looking "common economic space" that President Kuchma is pursuing.

"He will try to add some logic to the adoption of political decisions, which are too often resolved by a single person," explained Mr. Hrytsenko.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on August 4 that it had no information on whom the president would appoint to replace Mr. Gryshchenko in Washington.

Rada chairman...

(Continued from page 1)

In a rather telling moment he also noted, "This should be done also so that we can rationalize why we spent so much time in debate on the matter and so as not to make us a laughingstock."

In the last days, the presidential administration and pro-presidential members of the Verkhovna Rada have appeared close to agreeing on a new set of political reform initiatives that could find sufficient votes to receive parliamentary approval.

A previous draft law that President Kuchma submitted in the spring was rejected by the Verkhovna Rada in July and sent off to the Constitutional Court for commentary. President Kuchma withdrew that bill on August 23 and the Parliament returned it to him on September 3.

In the new set of proposed reforms, Mr. Kuchma has enticed the Communist faction into a serious dialogue by suggesting that he could consider a president appointed by the legislative body.

Socialist faction leader Oleksander Moroz also has expressed interest in the

proposal explaining that it incorporates many of the demands that the Verkhovna Rada had made previously. However, he has rejected the idea of a president appointed by the Verkhovna Rada. If the two factions were to jump on the president's political reform band wagon, Mr. Kuchma could be all but assured of receiving the 300 parliamentary votes needed to make constitutional changes.

The two other opposition leaders, Viktor Yushchenko of Our Ukraine and Yulia Tymoshenko of the eponymous bloc, have rejected the new dialogue on political reform as another attempt by the president to assure that either he or one of his designates takes the reigns of power after the November 2004 presidential elections.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Yanukovich, speaking after Mr. Lytvyn's presentation, said the first thing the Verkhovna Rada needed to do was pass a 2004 government budget on time, which he said had to be done with a view to developing revenues under a new tax plan.

He said his government would submit the new plan and the budget together, and expressed hope that the Parliament could review and approve both simultaneously.

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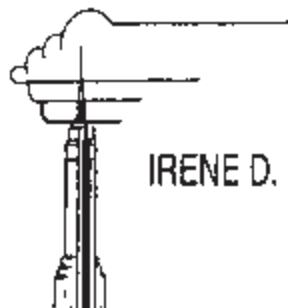
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Fear drives...

(Continued from page 2)

tions are due). A third term for President Kuchma is not seriously being discussed because even his allies know he would have colossal problems in winning an extra term because of his constantly low ratings of 5 percent.

Despite cosmetic attempts at improving the executive's and government's standing in public eyes and more sinister black operations against the opposition in the media and against their business supporters, public opinion polls continue to show the same results.

Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko continues to obtain 21 percent to 30 percent support, followed by Communist leader Petro Symonenko. Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's rating continues to rise but still remains far lower and less than 10 percent. Mr. Yanukovich, who represents the Donetsk clan, is not a candidate that some other oligarchic groups would like to see elected president. The presidential administration still has not found a neutral candidate acceptable to all clans who is able to take on and win against Mr. Yushchenko.

Former presidential adviser Oleksander Volkov indirectly admitted that fear drives Mr. Kuchma's political reform. Mr. Volkov, like President Kuchma, resents the passivity of the pro-presidential majority, not all of whom are threatened by a Yushchenko victory in 2004. The subset of this is the fear that some pro-presidential groups will reach separate deals with Mr. Yushchenko, a process that has already started.

President Kuchma is fearful that once he is no longer in power he will have less control over his parliamentary supporters who are not allied through ideology but by fear of their businesses being closed and corruption charges leveled against them. As Mr. Volkov admitted, "the largest component [of the pro-presidential majority] has not even a clue as to what is going on. And it does not want to have a clue."

Mr. Volkov was less critical of Mr. Yushchenko than Mr. Kuchma. Nevertheless, he admitted that Mr. Yushchenko's allies were those "who we all fear" if he became president. As president under the current constitution, Mr. Yushchenko would, Mr. Volkov warned, be in charge of the security forces, and he was fearful that this would lead to people being imprisoned. Interviewed by the newspaper Zerkalo Nedeli, Mr. Volkov called upon President Kuchma to seek guarantees for himself and his "team, which has faithfully served him over 10 years."

In effect, Mr. Volkov admitting that President Yushchenko would be too weak to prevent his allies from changing Ukraine's virtual program against corruption into a real one and that the main victims of this would be oligarchs. Extending President Kuchma's term in office through postponing elections, which Mr. Volkov supports, would also defer the question of Mr. Kuchma's fate and whether he should be granted immunity from prosecution.

On July 7, when the Verkhovna Rada was stalemated over President Kuchma's political reform, the president launched a vicious attack on Mr. Yushchenko for blocking the reforms. Mr. Yushchenko replied that the president was attempting a "constitutional coup" to prolong his term in office, which showed a "complete degradation of Ukrainian politics." This was the first occasion when Mr. Kuchma had openly showed that he perceived Mr. Yushchenko to be his main threat in the transition to the post-Kuchma era.

Roundtable...

(Continued from page 5)

stable democratic polity in Ukraine, the second panel will address the interdependency of market economics and independent civil society in Ukraine; and the third panel will ask the speakers to help provide an answer to the question "To what extent can a market economy help Ukraine establish a mature national identity?"

On both days, keynote remarks by U.S. and Ukrainian officials will be delivered in four separate focus sessions. The first will ask the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers to deal with the fundamental question "Does Ukraine Have a Market Economy?" The final focus session will ask the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to address the question "Will the U.S. Support Ukraine's WTO Accession Process?"

Two additional focus sessions will

evaluate the contributions of Ukraine's fiscal policies and legal infrastructure towards sustaining a developed market economy in the country.

During two working lunches, Ukrainian, American, Polish and Russian participants will endeavor to answer the questions: "Can Ukrainian-Russian Economic Ties Move Beyond a 'Metropole-Province' Relationship?" and "How Will the Schengen 'Divide' Impact on Polish-Ukrainian Economic Ties?"

In addition, nine business-to-business networking sessions will be held parallel to the regular conference proceedings on Wednesday, October 8. These one-and-a-half hour sessions will encourage frank and open discussions between U.S. and Ukrainian businesspersons and regulators with experience in the following areas: agriculture, industry, media and entertainment, energy, hi-tech, import and export, business infrastructure, defense technology and tourism.

Embassy...

(Continued from page 6)

U.S. capital registered in Ukraine.

Flagship names of U.S. business, including Cargill, Boeing, John Deere, Procter & Gamble, Kraft Foods, AIG and Coca-Cola, are among the most successful foreign companies that operate in Ukraine. The U.S. accounts for the largest share (17.5 percent) in the cumulative foreign direct investment (FDI) in Ukraine which stood at \$5.6 billion (U.S.) as of April 2003. The U.S. is also a leading source of portfolio investment in Ukraine (24 percent of the total). As capital flowing from the U.S. to Ukraine grows, the Ukrainian government intends to deepen bilateral economic cooperation through a number of initiatives to improve the conditions for investment and entrepreneur-

ship, including special investment regimes and product-sharing agreements.

Ukraine has been consistently working to strengthen cultural and humanitarian ties with other countries. In addition to the embassy in Washington, there are two other representative offices – in New York and Chicago – working to facilitate travel of persons between Ukraine and the United States. Soon, the office in San Francisco will join in this work. Thanks to the reciprocal bilateral agreement of December 2002, citizens of the U.S. and Ukraine are now eligible to obtain multiple-entry visas for the term of up to five years. U.S. citizens of Ukrainian descent are eligible for the waiver of the visa-processing fee. In 2002 over 45,000 U.S. citizens were issued Ukrainian visas, while the results of the first six months of this year allow expecting an even greater total number of visitors in 2003.



With deep sorrow, we inform family, friends and colleagues that our dearest wife, daughter, sister, aunt and niece

Olena W. Stercho, Esq.

passed away on the morning of Tuesday, September 2, 2003.

The parastas was offered on Friday, September 5, at the Nasevich Funeral Home, Tabor Road, in Philadelphia. The funeral liturgy was on Saturday, September 6, at Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Bridgeport, Pa., with interment following at the church cemetery.

She will be missed by:

Husband: Peter Choma

Mother: Irena Stercho

Brother: Yuriy Stercho, with his wife, Diane, and son, Peter

Sister: Maria Stercho, with her husband, Paul Gillespie

Mother-in-law: Olga Choma

Uncle: Mychaylo Urbhan

Godmother: Oresta Fedyniak

and family in diaspora and Ukraine.

Olena's husband and family ask for prayers for the repose of her soul.

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U.S. lists...

(Continued from page 4)

Section of the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, provides a 10-month, non-degree university program to enhance professional capabilities focusing on coursework and independent projects.

- Junior Faculty Development Program – for university faculty under age 40 with a minimum of two years of professional experience, administered by the Fulbright Office, provides one-year of professional study and training at U.S. universities.

- Fulbright Senior Scholar Program – candidates and doctors of sciences with no age limit, administered by the Fulbright Office, provides one or two academic semesters to lecture or research

TWG re-elects...

(Continued from page 5)

List of candidates

The following slate of candidates was presented and approved: Mr. Kotlarchuk, president; Mr. Pidlusky, vice-president and membership director; Mr. Boyduy, treasurer; Andy C. Szul, public relations and TWG News editor; Ms. Courtney, TWG Cultural Fund; Mr. Drabyk, TWG Fellowship Fund, Andrew Bihun, Business Development Forum; Olena Gaponenko, events; Irene Jarosewich community liaison; Mr. Deychakiwsky, immediate past president; Nick Babiak, Arthur Belendiuk, Oles Berezhny, John Hewko, Oleg Jerschkowski, George Masiuk, Jurij Mojsiak, Marta Mostovych, Natalie Sluzar, Andrew Sorokowski and Marta Zielyk, Daria Stec, Jaroslav Dutkewych and Michael Kowalysko, members at large; auditing committee; Messrs. Kotlarchuk and Drabyk, TWG News assistant editors.

at U.S. universities.

More information on these programs is available via the Internet at: http://usembassy.kiev.ua/educult_acexchanges_eng.html; via e-mail, exchange@usembassy.kiev.ua; and by calling the of specific administering organization: American Councils, (044) 213-7757, 213-9138; IREX, (044) 537-0604; Fulbright Office, (044) 229-2324;

Skoryk and Chmyr...

(Continued from page 9)

Mr. Chmyr's most recent appearance was with the New Jersey State Opera in Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci," in a production held this winter at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, N.J.

For additional information concerning the concerts please call the following: in Washington, (202) 399-2977; in Boston, (617) 522-9858; in Newark, (973) 993-8090.

The opera "Moisei" is available as a two-set compact disc. It will be available for purchase at the concerts for the price of \$25; orders may also be placed by calling (973) 509-9453.

Kammerfest...

(Continued from page 9)

of The New York Times, hosted by Robert Sherman.

With the passing of Maestro Kovaliiv in the 1980s, his son, Orest Kovaliiv, himself a noted conductor, became the director of the Lysenko Music Institute. The institute's 10-day anniversary celebration has been staged by Orest Kovaliiv on a scale that is usually found only in Kyiv and Lviv.

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Ukraine's Famine...

(Continued from page 1)

Soviet Union published in The New York Times, should be revoked – even though the award was given for articles not directly related to the Great Famine.

"I don't understand even how he could have been awarded a prize for his reporting on the first Five-Year Plan [for economic development]. It was this Five-Year Plan that introduced collectivization. It was this policy that laid the groundwork for the famine," explained Mr. Sydoruk.

Dr. Mace pointed out that no one took the time to analyze and understand that, while Mr. Duranty had praised the merits of the first Five-Year Plan, it was a failure and only led to a drastic drop in living standards.

"Yes, he was inaccurate even in those reports," said Dr. Mace, who is considered the foremost global expert on the Great Famine and was the lead scholar on the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine established by the United States Congress in the 1980s. In 1988, as a result of the Famine commission's work, the U.S. Congress approved a resolution in which it verified that state-sponsored, artificially induced starvation had occurred in Ukraine in 1932-1933 as a result of which 7 million to 10 million people had perished. Today Dr. Mace resides in Kyiv, where he teaches

at one of the country's most prestigious universities and consults on political matters for the Kyiv daily newspaper Den.

Dr. Mace noted that in 1931, when Mr. Duranty had traveled to Berlin to renew his passport at the U.S. Embassy there, he told the ambassador that in agreement with the management of the New York Times and the Soviet Union his stories should reflect the viewpoint of the Soviet government and not his own.

"At the time he was given the Pulitzer he was already an admitted spokesman for the Soviet Union," explained Dr. Mace.

Mr. Sydoruk said that few also realize that in his reports Mr. Duranty often plagiarized Bolshevik party documents. Mr. Sydoruk noted that the Soviet Union utilized Mr. Duranty to squelch rumors that were floating across the empire that indeed a Famine of mass proportions was occurring in the Ukrainian countryside.

"Duranty was quoted in the Soviet press to confirm that no famine was taking place," explained Mr. Sydoruk.

The four academics also were in agreement that the first traces of the Famine had appeared already with the poor harvest of 1931, which means that Duranty was aware of what was going on in the Ukrainian countryside.

Dr. Mace said he has long been certain that the Great Famine began in 1931 as a result of forced collectivization and the

arrest of the most prosperous kurkuls (private farmers).

"If you look at the All-Ukrainian Party Conference of the summer of 1932, it is clear that people were already going hungry in 1931; that there was starvation," explained Dr. Mace. "It was not as generalized and was not as intensive, but it already existed."

Both Dr. Kulchytskyi and Dr. Shapoval said their individual research has indicated that up to 150,000 people had perished in the winter of 1931-1932 as a result of forced collectivization and arrests.

Dr. Shapoval explained that the deaths "were not due to bad harvests or improper collectivization," but because of policies that had horrific results.

Dr. Kulchytskyi said that the Famine turned into outright genocide after November 1932, when the government implemented a policy of grain appropriation to meet quotas that many farms would not or could not meet. He said that the daily death rate peaked in June-July 1933.

Dr. Shapoval, who is most noted for his extensive research in the KGB archives of Moscow and Kyiv and his books on the dirty deeds of the intelligence agency, said that it is not only desirable but imperative that Mr. Duranty's name be removed from the list of Pulitzer Prize winners.

"It is needed for the memory of all those millions who perished, to show our respect

for them. In Ukraine we cannot seem to find a way to do this," explained Dr. Shapoval, who added that it was a tragic shame that while the Great Famine is generally recognized in the West, it is virtually ignored in the country where it occurred.

"In the U.S. and other countries they are honored, memorials have been built, resolutions passed," Dr. Shapoval said.

Mr. Sydoruk, for his part, said he does not agree with those in the United States who have said it is too late to withdraw the Pulitzer given Mr. Duranty – in effect, a mind set that holds: what is done, is done and so be it.

"You can respect people who hold a point of view sincerely – John Reed [(a United States citizen who moved to Moscow after the Communist Revolution, immortalized in the movie, 'Reds')] comes to mind," stated Mr. Sydoruk. "He was an honest, although misguided, Communist who believed in the cause. Duranty was not."

The head of the Association of Great Famine Researchers then added that it would be best if the Pulitzer Prize Committee would take the award it gave Mr. Duranty and give it to Gareth Jones, the British journalist who secretly traveled through Ukraine east of the Dnipro River in 1933 and reported in the British press on the horror he witnessed first-hand – reports that were not taken seriously at the time.

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Kuchma's...

(Continued from page 2)

Parliament, if elected under a fully proportional system, could elect a new president for a full term in 2006.

What is also important, is that the new constitutional reform draft reportedly drops President Kuchma's previous proposal that presidential, parliamentary and local elections be held in the same year. This proposal was widely seen by the opposition and political analysts as a legalistic ruse intended to prolong Mr. Kuchma's remaining time in power by two or three years.

The new plan seemingly does not provide a political role for Mr. Kuchma after his second presidential term ends in November 2004. But some Ukrainian analysts suggest that if President Kuchma rejects the future of a political pensioner, he can try to seek the post of prime minister, whom the new plan makes the central political figure in the country. And some speculate that he even could seek the post of president in 2006, following a two-year break.

The Constitution of Ukraine in its current wording prohibits one person from serving more than two consecutive presidential terms, but it does not restrict the number of presidential terms for the same person.

It is apparent that the new political reform plan – at least in the intention of the presidential administration – aims at preventing Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko, the country's most popular politician, from becoming the president in 2004. Jointly, the pro-presidential majority, the Socialists, and the Communists can muster the 300 votes required to push constitutional reform through Parliament. If the Verkhovna Rada approves the plan with the stipulation that the president is to be elected by Parliament, Mr. Yushchenko seems to have no chance of being elected.

On the other hand, if the "Symonenko option" – electing the president in a direct ballot in 2004 for two years – prevails, Yushchenko might become an "interim" president, but with essentially curtailed prerogatives, if compared with those of Mr. Kuchma.

Even if this new plan eventually collapses, as have several former attempts on the part of President Kuchma to revamp the constitutional system, its launching nonetheless seems to be a political master stroke on the part of the authorities. Some Ukrainian commentators suggest that Medvedchuk is the originator of this plan and the main driving force behind it.

First, the plan placed in the same "working team" presidential aide Mr. Medvedchuk with Messrs. Moroz and Symonenko, both of whom not so long ago were involved in a fierce campaign intended to oust President Kuchma. The presidential administration seems to have managed to drive a significant wedge between Mr. Yushchenko on one side and Messrs. Moroz and Symonenko on the other, thus creating additional obstacles to any future alliance of these three.

Second, the unexpected alliance of the pro-presidential centrists with the not-so-long-ago anti-presidential leftists creates brighter prospects for Mr. Kuchma himself to avoid political and/or legal responsibility for his deeds after the end of his political career.

Third, the plan also seems to play into the hands of Medvedchuk, who stands no real chance of being elected president either by direct ballot or by Parliament, but may well apply after the end of Mr. Kuchma's tenure for other important political jobs – for instance, as leader of a parliamentary majority or Parliament chairman.

No doubt, this new plan also presents

a serious dilemma to Mr. Yushchenko about what to do now. Mr. Yushchenko said last week that a presidential model of government for today's Ukraine is more efficient than a parliamentary-presidential one – which is no surprise, given his presidential ambitions. The real problem, however, is whether he will now be able to convince other important political players that he is right. One such player is Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich who, according to Ukrainian observers, is harboring strong presidential ambitions and, therefore, is not likely to seek the post of a figurehead in 2004.

On top of everything else, President Kuchma's latest constitutional reform proposal is set to dominate the political agenda in Ukraine after the summer vacation, involving both the pro-presidential and opposition forces in the Verkhovna Rada in a predictably ferocious battle over the redistribution of political power. "Almost half of [Ukraine's] GDP is produced in the shadows," Mr. Kuchma lamented in his Independence Day speech. But his political-reform plan will hardly contribute to changing this lamentable situation. As many times in the past, during the upcoming political season the problem of socioeconomic power in Ukraine will almost certainly be left in the shadows.

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Oksana Trytjak UNA Special Projects
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In publishing the Christmas cards the UNA wishes to promote traditional Ukrainian art and encourage and popularize Ukrainian artists. This year again the UNA will publish over 120,000 cards that will be distributed throughout the U.S.A., Canada and Ukraine.

All proceeds from the UNA Christmas Card Project will be donated to support the Renaissance of Soyuzivka and to assist the Ukrainian National Foundation, created by the UNA in 1992 to help promote humanitarian, cultural and educational programs in the U.S.A., Canada and Ukraine. The Ukrainian National Foundation maintains a 501 (c) (3) status making all donations tax-exempt.

The UNA looks forward to this year's Christmas Card Project and welcomes all participants. Please submit either a slide, photo or original work that can be reproduced and mail to the UNA Home Office no later than September 30, 2003. Please make all inquiries to my attention: Oksana Trytjak, Special Projects.

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A nation...

(Continued from page 7)

overhaul of the tax code. For a country with such a large shadow economy, more sensible tax laws (featuring lower rates) mean not only more money in taxpayers' pockets, but increased government revenues as well. Russia has proven this since its tax modernization two years ago. Ukraine has made some progress on this front, having cleaned up and reduced corporate taxation earlier this year, as well as enacting a low, flat income tax that goes into effect next year. To keep the progress going, Ukraine must fully enact the comprehensive set of tax reforms the Parliament was crafting before taking summer break.

Ukraine also needs more progress on the international trade front. It must pursue more free trade agreements and under no circumstances allow its planned common economic space with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan to derail its EU integration efforts. WTO membership should be Ukraine's economic focus internationally.

There is much work to be done in other equally important areas. Pensions must migrate to a pay-as-you-go system. Privatizations need to keep boosting government revenues. Politicians have to spend more in areas like health care and infrastructure. Increased aid is not the answer to Ukraine's problems; according to The Economist, it is already the world's 24th biggest recipient of bilateral and multilateral aid.

Yet the picture hasn't been so bleak lately. Ukraine has posted robust GDP and FDI growth so far this year. The World Bank and IMF have praised the country's efforts and initiatives to reform. Credit rating agencies and other financial institutions have upgraded Ukraine's credit rating to favorable statuses. The hryvnia, the national currency, has remained relatively stable for the last few years.

So where to now? Look no further than the presidential election scheduled for next year. The current regime is looking to retain its grip on power by canceling the election and turning the presidency into a position elected by Parliament, where the president's allies hold a slim majority. It is crucial that these constitutional changes be defeated in Parliament and that a proven reformer like Viktor Yushchenko, who brought the country hope and progress as prime minister, carries the day in 2004.

Ukraine is running out of time; will the next half-decade be a time of change and betterment? Somehow it has to be.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Minister comments on economic space

KYIV – Ukrainian Minister of Economy and European Integration Valerii Khoroshkovskyi said on August 19 that the draft accord on the creation of a common economic space comprising Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan, which was approved in Astana, Kazakhstan, on August 15, does not contradict Ukraine's plans to integrate with the European Union, Interfax reported. "If we view the common economic space as a free-trade zone, it will not harm our rapprochement with the European community," Mr. Khoroshkovskyi said. He noted that the draft is of a "contradictory character," adding that it is impossible to say right now what the final document will be like. Meanwhile, European Commission spokesman Michael Mann told RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service on August 18 that Kyiv's plan to sign an accord on a common economic space with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan casts doubt on the sincerity of Ukraine's desire to integrate further into the European Union. (RFE/RL Newswire)



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Saskatchewan activists organize third annual Adult Ukrainian Language Immersion Camp



Students in class during the Adult Ukrainian Language Immersion Camp.

CRYSTAL LAKE, Saskatchewan – The third annual Adult Ukrainian Language Immersion Camp (AULIC) was held on August 7-10 at Trident Camp, Crystal Lake, Saskatchewan. So positive was the response that the next AULIC, which has already been tentatively set for August 5-8, 2004, will no doubt continue a most enjoyable and worthwhile annual tradition.

The continuing high level of interest in the AULIC has been gratifying. What was notable about this year's attendees was that many were from outside of Regina, the home of the sponsoring organizations. Specifically, there were six from Saskatoon, one from Ottawa, one from Preeceville, Saskatchewan, one from California and the remaining 15 from Regina. This is the second year in a row that people from the United States have seen this program as being worth their time and expense to travel to Canada.

This year, as in 2002, the AULIC program offered three levels of instruction: beginners, intermediate and advanced. The instructor for the beginners level was Anita Drebot, a teacher with many years of experience from Regina, while Lilia Kompritchevska, the coordinator of the Mohyla Institute's Summer Ukrainian Language Immersion Camp in Saskatoon, coached the intermediates. Iryna Pyvovar, a teacher of Ukrainian from Lviv, directed the advanced class.

The program was not all class work. The evenings included singing sessions, learning the finer points of making such things as holubtsi and varenyky, campfire singing, traditional dancing, jogging, swimming and playing cards. During the entire four days Ukrainian was the "official" language, but English was used when necessary.

The above activities were complemented with a trip to the Ukrainian Orthodox Heritage Church and the Ukrainian Museum in Canora, where the AULIC students were treated to a thorough, entertaining and enlightening tour of both facilities.

Those interested in learning more about the AULIC program should phone any member of the organizing committee: Ed Lysyk, (306) 789-6622; Wayne Hydeman, (306) 545-2003; Ken Mazur (306) 789-4062; or Tony Harras (306) 586-6805. Mr. Haras may also be reached via fax, (306) 585-7945; e-mail, harras@sasktel.net; or mail, 455 Habkirk Drive, Regina, SK S4S 6B2.

The AULIC is a joint project of the Ukrainian Orthodox Men's Association of Regina and the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Regina. Financial support was received

from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Saskatchewan Provincial Council and UCC Regina Branch, Saskatchewan Lotteries and the Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages.



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Soyuzivka's Datebook

September 8-11
Regensburg Reunion

September 12-14
KLK Weekend and Annual Meeting
Bayreuth Gymnasium Reunion

September 18-21
Reunion of Salzburg Gymnasium

September 26-28
Conference of Spartanky
Plast Sorority

September 28-30
Reunion of Mittenwald Schools

October 17-19
Plast-KPS Convention

October 31-November 2
Halloween Weekend
costume party for youth and
costume zabava for all

November 7-9
Plast Orlykiada

November 15-16
UACC

November 21-23
UNA General Assembly



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Website: www.Soyuzivka.com

Lesia Ukrainka School of Ukrainian Studies in Morris County, NJ

announces

the beginning of the school year
for children from pre-kindergarten (age 5) through 12th grade

on September 6, 2003

In Morris Catholic High School, 200 Denville Ave, Denville, NJ,
immediately following registration at 8:30 AM.

The first day of classes will be on September 6, 2003,
at Morris Catholic High School.

Lubodar Olesnycky, President of the Parents' Committee
Website: www.ridna.org

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

**Tuesday, September 9,
and Thursday, September 11**

IRVINGTON, N.J./NEW YORK: "Muzychne Doshkillia – Music and Me," which celebrates its 32nd year, will hold its first session September 9 at the Ukrainian Center, 140 Proespect Ave., Irvington, N.J., and on Thursday, September 11 at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St. in New York City. For more information call Marta Sawycky, (908) 276-3134 or (973) 374-8079.

Saturday, September 13

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute and St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Boston present an evening of music with composer Myroslav Skoryk and baritone Oleh Chmyr. The program will be a presentation based on Maestro Skoryk's opera "Moisei" (Moses), as well as piano and vocal masterworks by the composer. The event will be held in Swedenborg Chapel, 50 Quincy St., starting at 8 p.m. General admission: \$15 students, \$10. For more information contact HURI, (617) 495-4053.

ROCHESTER, N.Y.: The fifth Annual Children of Chernobyl Golf Tournament will take place this year at Shadow Pines Golf Club, 600 Whalen Road, Penfield, N.Y. Registration will start at 11:30 a.m. The format of this year's tournament is a four-person scramble with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. A donation of \$85 includes 18 holes of golf with cart, practice range balls, lunch, beverages, dinner and prizes. Players may register as an entire team or sign up individually and you will be matched with a team. Checks made payable to CCRF Rochester – Golf, should be sent to CCRF Golf, P.O. Box 150, Webster, NY 14580. This year there will be a CCRF - Golf Pub Night at 8 p.m. on Friday, September 12, at the Ukrainian Home of Rochester, 1970 Empire Blvd., Penfield, N.Y., with prizes, drink specials and snacks. This will be a great opportunity to meet other players and help support CCRF. For more

information contact Bo Skrobach, (585) 872-7260 or John Adamczuk (585) 265-3394.

Sunday, September 14

NEW YORK: A gala concert celebrating Ukrainian Independence Day will be held at the Fashion Institute of Technology, Seventh Avenue and 27th Street, beginning at 2:30 p.m. The concert is co-sponsored by the United Ukrainian Americans Organizations of Greater New York and the newly formed Ukrainian Studio of Drama in New York, Ivan Bernatsky, director. Performers include the Dumka Chorus under the direction of Vasyl Hrechinsky; Syzokryli Dance Ensemble under the director of Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky's concert pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky; sopranos Lyubov Shchypchik and Anna Bachynska and tenor Roman Tymbala; violinist Adrian Bryttan; and member of the Ukrainian Studio of Drama, Volodymyr Kurylo and Lyudmila Hrabovska.

Saturday-Sunday, September 27-28

PALATINE, Ill.: The Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) will hold their 56th National Convention and the Ukrainian American Military Association (UAMA) will convene its 8th annual conference at the Doubletree Club Hotel [(847) 359-6900] in Palatine. On Saturday, the installation banquet will have Brig. Gen. David L. Grange (ret) as the keynote speaker. Gen. Grange is the former commander of the 1st Infantry Division and a former special operations commander. He is also a national security analyst for CNN and WGN-TV. Banquet tickets are \$45 per person. Reservations can be made by contacting Michael Kuropas, kuropas@msn.com, or Andrij Karasejczuk, (847) 528-5612. On Sunday, the UAV and UAMA will convene at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Bloomingdale, Ill. followed by a visit to the military cemetery; note (the Yuri Shukhevych visit has been postponed). Veterans are urged to attend and/or join. Members of the community are invited to attend. For more information call Roman Golash, (847) 910-3532.

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

at

The UNA resort, SOYUZIVKA

The Ukrainian National Association General Assembly Special Meeting began with the traditional laying of a wreath, by all members of the General Assembly, at the Taras Shevchenko monument. All members present sang the American, Canadian and Ukrainian anthems. Vice President Martha Lysko had a reading in honor of UNA's patron and Ukrainian bard Taras Shevchenko. The members sang the Zaporvit.

The following members were present at the General Assembly meeting:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Stefan Kaczaraj, President
Martha Lysko, Vice-President
Al Kachkowski, Director for Canada
Christine E. Kozak, National Secretary
Roma Lisovich, Treasurer

AUDITING COMMITTEE:

Zenon Holubec
Yaroslav Zaviysky
Alexander Serafyn

ADVISORS:

Eugene Oscislawski
Joseph Hawryluk
Stefan Hawrysz
Vasyl Luchkiw

Myron Pylypiak
Wasyl Liscynesky
Pawlo Prinko
Myron Groch

Invited to the meeting:

Editor-in-Chief – Svoboda
Irena Jarosewich

Editor-in-Chief
– **The Ukrainian Weekly**
Roma Hadzewycz
Soyuzivka – John A. Flis

Vice President Eugene Iwanciw, Advisors Barbara Bachynsky, Andrij Skyba and Michael Kuropas were unable to attend the meeting.

Newly elected President, Stefan Kaczaraj requested that Stefan Hawrysz open this first special meeting of the newly elected General Assembly with a prayer.

A moment of silence was dedicated to the memory of all secretaries, UNA members and General Assembly members who passed away since the last General Assembly Meeting.

1. OPENING

Stefan Kaczaraj, UNA President

S. Kaczaraj called the meeting to order, welcoming every General Assembly Member including both editors of the UNA publications. He also congratulated every member especially the newly elected members on winning the election. Each member was individually introduced. The following agenda was presented:

1. Opening
2. Review of UNA operations for 2002
3. Review of organizing results for 2002 and plans for 2003
4. Reports of:
 - a. National Secretary Christine Kozak
 - b. Director for Canada Al Kachkowski
 - c. Vice President Martha Lysko
 - d. President Stefan Kaczaraj
5. Approval of UNA Budget for 2003
6. Status of Soyuzivka
7. Miscellaneous

2. REVIEW OF UNA OPERATIONS FOR 2002 – nine months ending September 31, 2003

Roma Lisovich, UNA Treasurer

• R. Lisovich distributed and discussed all the reports in detail. In general she remarked that the current economy influences our financial report very negatively. Our investment portfolio has also been affected. The general report on the UNURC reflects a positive note. There has been an increase since last year. The building is almost fully occupied. Unfortunately, UNA publications, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly figures are not positive. The largest component of the publications deficit is a fall-off of advertising revenue. Past due un-collectable accounts over \$70,000.

• We hold a conservative position in our investment portfolio which still consists primarily of highest grade bonds.

- Report 1 – UNA Statement of Operations Comparative
Report 2 – UNURC Comparative
Report 3 – Svoboda and the Ukrainian Weekly Publications Revenue and Expenses Comparative
Report 4 – UNA Summary of Investments

The following members took part in the discussion: Alexander Serafyn, Wasyl Liscynesky, Joseph Hawryluk, Myron Groch, Martha Lysko

• Regarding the delinquent accounts not collected for advertising with our publications, the administration of the publications created a new data base to define the number of days of delinquency. A system of mailing delinquency notices, telephone

collection and ultimately collection agency will be utilized.

• At present we do not charge interest on delinquent accounts, which we may consider in the future.

• The Ukrainian Weekly has raised the rates for Preview of Events to \$20.00.

• Suggestion was made that since The Ukrainian Weekly has less paid advertisement, to consider giving people who advertise in Preview of Events a special discount to purchase additional advertising.

Martha Lysko

MOTION: To accept the treasurer's report as presented.

2nd the motion – Alexander Serafyn

Motion passed unanimously

4. a. REPORT OF NATIONAL SECRETARY CHRISTINE KOZAK

Christine Kozak – UNA National Secretary

• C. Kozak summarized her report. In the first nine months of 2002, 285 new insurance policies were sold in the amount of \$6,282,998 with premiums totaling \$101,746. This total included 13 policies sold in Canada for \$195,000 with premiums totaling \$2,170.

• By giving an exceptional rate of 6% on UNA Annuities we have increased the Annuity portfolio. In the first nine months of this year we opened 48 new annuity accounts, a total of \$906,369. Our total annuity portfolio consists of 701 annuities with a cash value of \$13,541,182. UNA's annuities are absolutely guaranteed with UNA cash reserves.

• As of November 1, 2002 UNA signed a contract with Western Catholic Union to manage a direct marketing and agent recruitment project. Western Catholic Union will be responsible for mailing programs, seminar selling, advertising and other general marketing services.

• It is imperative that District Meetings be well planned with the participation of the local members. These meetings could be combined with a particular program therefore enticing more participation. In order for executives or any other guest speaker to participate in a District Meeting there must be good attendance. Lately, there have been District meetings with five to ten members present. It is definitely not cost effective to send executives, representatives or guests if only a handful of members show up.

• UNA must continue to increase its presence in the community. We must exude a strong, positive and above all a professional presence. Participation in local community activities and festivals will demonstrate our willingness to be available to the community as a fraternal organization. It will also give UNA another venue to expose our organization, familiarizing the community with our products, benefits and fraternalism.

• The Secretarial Courses which were held at Soyuzivka in August 2002 were very successful with 25 participants. Former President Ulana Diachuk and former National Secretary Martha Lysko were special guest speakers. Between them they had over 66 years of collective expertise on subjects like the UNA Charter, UNA By-Laws, and contract law. Special guest speaker during the seminar was Robert Mitchell from Western Catholic Union. He concentrated on sales techniques, practical aspect of selling annuities, IRA's, whole life and paid up additions. Other speakers were Oksana Trytjak, Special Projects Coordinator, Stefan Kaczaraj, UNA President and Christine Kozak UNA National Secretary the moderator and organizer of the UNA Secretarial Courses.

The following members took part in the discussion:

Osyp Hawryluk, Myron Pylypiak, Myron Groch, Alexander Serafyn, Pawlo Prinko, Martha Lysko, Christine Kozak

• A suggestion was made that at festivals where UNA participates UNA distribute prizes; one of which could be subscriptions to either of our publications or a weekend at Soyuzivka.

• For prospective members who are older, who do not have family members it may be suggested to think of a 3rd party who could be named as beneficiary, who will eventually take care of making funeral arrangements.

• UNA Branch 496 member Mychajlo Kihiczak died this summer and his name did not appear on the deceased UNA list.

• All General Assembly members were reminded that in the past every member of the General Assembly who came to a Meeting brought new policies. Encouragement to bring in a new policy to the next General Assembly Meeting was made by the National Secretary, Christine Kozak, She used as an example Myron Groch from Canada who brought in 2 new policies to this meeting. Bravo!

• Christine Kozak reminded everyone present that there was a By-Laws Resolution made at the last Convention which stipulated that every General Assembly member bring at least one new policy to every meeting.

• Western Catholic Union is a large successful Fraternal Organization who is engaged in finding professional sales agents for The Ukrainian National Association. Bob Mitchell who works for Western Catholic Union will be working with UNA and will control the agents who will be working on commissions only. UNA signed a contract with Western Catholic for one year. At the moment UNA does not have a strong enough sales force of professional agents. Western Catholic Union comes highly recommended, they have been successful in helping Slovak Catholics and Catholic Workman Fraternal.

Alexander Serafyn

MOTION:

To accept Christine Kozak, the National Secretary's report as presented.

2nd motion – Osyp Hawryluk

Motion passed unanimously.

4. b. REPORT OF AL KACHKOWSKI – Director for Canada

Al Kachkowski- Director for Canada

A. Kachkowski reported that in Canada they are trying to get the community more involved in UNA. The first attempt at keeping closer ties with the community is by having closer ties with UNA Canadian secretaries. The Director of Canada mailed out letters to all the district heads and secretaries in Canada. Letters were personalized and mailed in both languages. This mailing included a letter from the UNA president, and a questionnaire to be completed and forwarded back to the Director for Canada. In the questionnaire other than UNA information the question was asked whether they are willing to continue to work for the benefit of UNA and obtain new UNA members. Though not all questionnaires were returned of those that came back it is obvious that the Canadian secretaries are willing to continue to work. There have been older secretaries that have stated that they are willing to give up their branches. In those cases Christine Kozak and Al Kachkowski will work on obtaining new secretaries to replace them.

4. c. REPORT OF MARTHA LYSKO – Vice President

Martha Lysko – UNA Vice President

M. Lysko reported on her activities as National Secretary from Jan. 2002 to June 2002. One of the duties as National Secretary was to visit the various Districts and meet with the Ukrainian community. Unfortunately, these visits of late have not been very successful. The reason being that the person from the local district who organizes the event does not always check the calendar of events prior to establishing a UNA district meeting. Sometimes it conflicts with other local activities. It is not cost effective for a member from the Home Office to travel with a presentation to a district only to be greeted by 5-10 members. In the future when a member from the Home Office travels to a District Meeting it should be pre-arranged that the guest also participate in other local community events if possible. This would give UNA much more community visibility. We should consider changing from semiannual visits by the Executives to the District to annual meetings in combination with other activities in the given District.

Martha Lysko agreed to work on new brochures that the National Secretary Christine Kozak may wish to implement. In the very near future a new table of life expectancy will be announced, and UNA will have to adjust the Rate Books and all UNA insurance products will have to reflect this new mortality table. UNA will be partnering with four other fraternal in preparing a new insurance portfolio. The object of the joint project with the other fraternal is to reduce costs. All the fraternal use the same actuary. Each of these fraternal have a specific market and do not compete with each other. The new life expectancy table, will be increased from 100 years to 120.

Vasyl Luchkiw:

MOTION:

To accept Martha Lysko, UNA Vice-President's report as presented.

2nd motion -Osyp Hawryluk

Motion accepted unanimously.

4. d. REPORT OF STEFAN KACZARAJ – UNA President

Stefan Kaczaraj – UNA President

• S. Kaczaraj held two executive meetings, September 9 and November 21, 2002.
 • Stefan Kaczaraj commented on the overview of the financial statement. UNA has lost almost \$900,000 IN THE NINE MONTHS ENDING September 30, 2002. Even though this is not a realized loss it still reflects poorly on our overall financial statement. A decrease of \$547,000 was due to change in unrealized capital loss, \$257,000 due to decrease in value of Canadian dollar, decline in surplus due to loss generated by Soyuzivka of \$480,000 and a loss realized by our publications totaling \$176,000. There are some means by which to curtail these losses. Within the last 9 months UNA has spent \$740,000 on Fraternal Benefits. Interest income declined by \$179,000 in the nine month period ending September 30, 2002 as compared to 2001.

• The home office building generated a profit of \$171,000
 • Premium income was \$308,000 it was higher in the nine month period ending September 30, 2002 as compared to 2001.

• At the previous Executive Meeting it was agreed to change the status of Soyuzivka to a limited liability corporation. The name of the new entity will be Soyuzivka UNA Estate L.L.C. UNA attorneys are presently drawing up the papers to facilitate the change. This will mean that Soyuzivka will be a subsidiary completely owned by UNA. The attorneys are also preparing briefs to have the UNA Foundation be capable of accepting funds which would benefit Soyuzivka.

• We must be mindful of the decision made at the last Convention, that UNA will subsidize Soyuzivka only to a total of \$600,000. The Executives have no plans to sell Soyuzivka and will make every effort to change the financial status of Soyuzivka.

• The overall investment portfolio, considering the market, is ok, however, our equities and mutual funds in the amount of 3.5 million have declined in value.

• The low standing of the Canadian dollar impacts negatively on our overall financial statement.

• We will be forced again to explain to our regulators why we are losing reserves by subsidizing fraternal benefits.

• Comparison of sale of insurance for nine months ending September 30, 2002 compared to 2001:

2001	2002
326 members	285 members
\$5,823,000 total insurance	\$6,283,000 total insurance

In the last 9 months in total we have lost 1,429 UNA members.

• However, the UNA annuity program is doing very well. At the moment we are offering 6% on annuities and therefore we have been able to solicit many new members. Unfortunately, we will see the financial gain from these sales only after a few years.

• The NJ Treasury Department has been auditing our books for the past 5 months.

The law requires old unclaimed checks to be transferred to the state treasury. UNA By-Laws permitted us to redeposit these un-cashed checks into our Fraternal Benefits Account to benefit our members. But recently the state has changed the law and we are therefore forced to try to find the payee so we could reissue the check to them. However, if we cannot find the payee, or their beneficiary we must give those funds to the state.

• Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly lost 561 subscribers in the past nine months, ending September 30, 2002.

• Urban Renewal, our home office building had a profit of approximately \$250,000. We do however, still have 4,200 sq. feet available for rent and there are tenants who hopefully will be renewing their leases next year. Since the commercial rental market is weak, we may have to settle for lower rents when we negotiate with our tenants.

• Western Catholic Union signed a contract with UNA agreeing to perform direct marketing services including advertising, mailing programs, seminar selling, consulting, direct selling without agents. They also agreed to perform services for general marketing, recruiting, training, monitoring of agents and brokers. The contract begins November 1, 2002 through October 31, 2003.

• There was extensive discussion on UNA working with the NJ Fraud Department in terms of developing a prevention program. The NJ Fraud department claims that over \$90 billion is lost due to fraud in the US. UNA is a fraternal organization that has a great sense of responsibility to each of its members.

The following members took part in a discussion:

Stefan Kaczaraj, Stefan Hawrysz, Eugene Oscislawski, Myron Groch, Osyp Hawryluk, Wasyl Lyscynsky, Zenon Holubec.

• Regarding unclaimed checks other than listing them in our publications, we should also list them on our web page.

• The head of the Chicago Convention Committee, Myron Kuropas, sent in the convention final financial report. The auditing committee chairman Zenon Holubec requested further detailed information from the Chicago Convention Committee and at that time will reconcile their report.

• The Chicago Self Reliance representative who was invited for this meeting could not attend. It was planned to discuss the possibility of working with them in issuing credit cards and affinity cards. This meeting will be rescheduled.

Meeting was adjourned for lunch.

2:25 PM Stefan Kaczaraj brought the meeting to order.

6. STATUS OF SOYUZIVKA

Roma Lisovich:

• As of July 1, 2002 when this Executive Committee came to office the executives immediately realized the importance of trying to resolve the problems of Soyuzivka as soon as possible.

• The mandate of the 2002 Convention was to keep Soyuzivka.

• Every weekend one of the executives spent time at Soyuzivka, getting better acquainted, listening to the guests and members as to how they felt about Soyuzivka, what they felt were the problems, etc.

• Overwhelmingly the complaints were about the up keep of Soyuzivka, cleanliness, and service.

• Small renovations and upkeep were not done on a regular basis, therefore after many years the general appearance became drab and unwelcoming.

• David Schwartz from the consulting firm, that appeared during the Convention, in his presentation suggested an investment of 8 million dollars. This proposal is much too costly for UNA. Such an investment is impossible at this time UNA does not feel that either UNA or the community is ready to invest such funds especially if there are no guarantees that the investment would be profitable.

• UNA felt that David Schwartz' firm did not fully complete all the items in his contract. His contract expires January 2003, @ \$4,000 month. He is charged with finding investors to take a majority share and UNA would hold a minority share in the \$8 million dollar project. One of the other suggestions made by the consulting firm was to manage Soyuzivka, this shall not be considered by UNA.

• The possibility of opening up Soyuzivka to the general public with some restrictions would be the best way to approach some of the problems of occupancy. In the summer season Soyuzivka could cater to the Ukrainian community, but off season cater to the local communities.

• We have found many professional people who have agreed to help UNA in the restructuring and reinventing of Soyuzivka. This is a very positive reflection on our community. The community is aware of the problems and of the threat that Soyuzivka may be forever lost to our community. This problem has brought volunteers and experts who are willing to help. We thank each and everyone of them for their interest, work, recommendations and expertise.

• We spent much time looking for people, within the Ukrainian community and within our membership, who had experience and know how in the hospitality management service area. We hoped they would lend their expertise to the current Soyuzivka Redevelopment Committee. We were fortunate to find such volunteers whom we call the Blue Ribbon Committee. These members are: Petro Darmohraj, an architect; Orest Fedash, a hospitality manager – Ramada Hotel and Myron Kokorudza, a contractor from NJ. These three volunteers worked pro bono many hours while checking procedures, from establishing better inventory control to measuring each building and checking structural capability. Many valid recommendations were submitted by them.

• The Ukrainian Engineers Society found a volunteer structural engineer who at the moment is working pro bono and who immediately went to the local county office to find all the appropriate laws regulating building possibilities at Soyuzivka. He is presently working with the architect.

• It was established that Veselka Building structurally was very solid and that it would be a wise decision to upgrade the second floor; by adding bathrooms, building a game room, a small business center, reception rooms, including handicapped rooms. At a cost of approximately \$400,000 we could have Veselka Building renovated including adding an elevator at some time.

• A general revamping of the Main House to include renovating each floor would cost approximately \$500,000 a floor. This renovation would include redoing all the electricity and plumbing.

• If we want to have a full time resort, it would be wise to have a building where during the winter season guests do not have to leave their rooms in order to go to the restaurant.

- In order to tackle the immediate problems that could be resolved, such as small renovations and general cleanliness and upkeep of the area we sent two workers from the Home Office to work at Soyuzivka, Stefko Woch and Angel Alonzo. They power washed some of the buildings including the balconies. What a difference! They also went through every room and checked for minor repairs. All the carpeting was shampooed and cleaned. We already had some positive reactions from our guests.

- We were fortunate to have members in the community offer their services to help us. For example a gentlemen who visits Soyuzivka often, lent us a cherry-picker that was used in power washing the outside of the buildings.

- Orest Fedash sold us 3 year old televisions at \$25 a piece that will be installed in every room that is cable connected before the summer. We need to purchase remote controls at \$5 a piece.

- The Sitch building which has not been used for a few years, was cleaned, painted and renovated to be set up as a dorm, and could be rented out to the younger guests at \$25-\$35 per night especially during the summer months.

- Some general administration changes were established: Olesia Guran-front desk and reservations; Daria Nyzankiwsky – manager of housekeeping and maintenance; Sonia Semanyshyn – back office accounting and administration.

- We will need to install reservations software, which is not very expensive. This software will help in establishing a much needed data base.

- We need to market Soyuzivka as a Ukrainian Heritage Center implementing various programs that would encourage participation from everyone. From language immersion courses in English, or Ukrainian depending on who will be taking the courses. If we establish ourselves as such a center we have the opportunity to apply for various educational grants

- November 14, 2002 UNA applied for a grant from the government, to establish a walking trail, for \$26,000, This grant would help us clear paths through our land to Lake Minnewaska. It is usually very difficult to obtain funding on your first try, but we must start now. At the same time we must take every opportunity to lobby our politicians, for, with their help eventually we will receive funding. We recently joined the local chamber of commerce and have established a relationship with the local congressmen in the area.

- PLAST agreed to clear the walks and trails on the proposed walking trails that are on our property.

- There is a possibility of applying for government loans called Industrial Development Agency Loans. Our first step in order to qualify is to establish Soyuzivka a Limited Liability Corporation which should be done by year end at which time we will further examine the possibility of qualifying for such a loan.

- Another possibility is to change one of our existing buildings such as Halych into a time share concept.

- There is a possibility to build a 2 acre miniature golf course by the pond, with a Ukrainian theme. We found a Ukrainian architect, Vlotko Ponomarenko, who builds miniature golf courses. This would entertain children and families.

FUND RAISING

Taras Szmagala agreed to head the Fund Raising Committee.

A general plan will be worked on and advertised in the near future.

- Some basic ideas as to what type of fund raising could be established to involve the community immediately.

- Various levels of donations should be established.

For example Friends of SSQ – \$25 year, bumper stickers.

Memory path – bricks with names @ \$500

Benches with names @ \$1,000 or \$2,000

Outside Chess/Checkers tables @ \$?

Renovations of a room, @ \$5,000 your name is on a plaque

Exercise Room @ \$?

Gift a Room Campaign – Buy a week for a friend

- In the wings we should be looking for Ukrainian investors that may be interested in purchasing Soyuzivka should all of our plans not be successful. We would not sell Soyuzivka to outsiders.

- The 50th Anniversary Banquet this evening has been sold out to over 280 persons, which proves that even though this is a week prior to Thanksgiving Weekend the community is interested in Soyuzivka and are willing to be involved and to help.

The following members took part in the discussion:

Roma Lisovich, Osyp Hawryluk, Alexander Serafyn, Stefan Kaczaraj, Myron Pylypiak, Zenon Holubec, Myron Groch, Stefan Hawrysz, Pawlo Prinko, Wasyl Liscynsky, Christine Kozak

- It would be beneficial to have bus parking at Soyuzivka

- Soyuzivka staff should wear SSQ T-shirts which would identify them as staff

- The Convention gave a mandate to save Soyuzivka. But to do that we need community participation. It is imperative to give reports in both our publications to educate the community so they are aware as to the financial crises that faces the resort. We should have a weekly report, information, advertisements about Soyuzivka in both publications.

- Our limit of losses for Soyuzivka cannot be more than \$600,000. Our deadline is September 2003. By changing management, making small improvements, advertising to improve occupancy, we may be able to lower the deficit to \$300,000. This would delay the deadline and give us more time to develop most of our plans which will help to lower the deficit.

- The Standing Soyuzivka Committee should contact all the previous workers who now are sending their children and grandchildren to SSQ, for donations to save Soyuzivka.

- We should hire permanent marketing manager.

- There is a question as to the income from the bar, the standard industry results are 5X the cost, unfortunately, that is not what has been reported.

- Every week our publications should report on what is happening at Soyuzivka. We could use a thermometer to reflect our progress on a weekly basis showing what has been collected relative to what we need. The publications should have an active part in promoting Soyuzivka.

- We should include our advertisements and inform the community about SSQ on the web pages.

- We should also use Self Reliance and include our brochures in their mailings.

Zenon Holubec, UNA Auditor.

Z. Holubec was charged with auditing Soyuzivka.

- He recommends that some of the accounting procedures be changed. At present SSQ reports on a cash basis but it should be reported on accrual basis, this accounting should be implemented.

- Soyuzivka gets 3 X cost on the bar.

- 1/2 of all the income is paid to the workers.

3. REVIEW ORGANIZING RESULTS FOR 2002 AND PLANS FOR 2003

Christine Kozak – UNA National Secretary

C. Kozak congratulated Myron Groch on bringing 2 new policies and Stefan Hawrysz for bringing 13 new policies to the meeting. She encouraged the other members to do the same in the future.

Review of organizing results for 2002 were presented in Christine Kozak's report above.

C. Kozak reported on next year's organizational plans.

- Commissions for next year – 50% for the first year

- Quota 1,250 per year – USA 1,200 / CDA 50 members

- This equals to 4 new members a year per branch

- The executives are ready to help with personal visits, just arrange a format and they will gladly visit any branch, group and district.

- Encourage your secretaries to become licensed, the more knowledgeable people we have in the field the more professional we will become making it easier to organize new members.

- Western Catholic Union will be doing agent recruitment and do some direct mailing.

- We will start a new program called Educational IRA's, for students.

- We will make every effort to participate in all the festivals in the community. We will have to count on your information as to when and where special events are happening in your area so we could participate. Also, we will gladly supply you with various give-aways that you could utilize at your festivals.

- Restructure district meetings to include either special guests, talks or seminars to encourage participation. Also consider holding the district meetings with another organization.

- We are collecting names and addresses, e-mails of independent agents who may be interested in selling our products

- We are in need of your help, as General Assembly members you have a great responsibility and influence, we count on your help and that of each and every secretary and district head. Together we have a chance to increase our membership.

- UNA insurance is our breadwinner we must work together to increase our membership.

The following members participated in the discussion:

Christine Kozak, Alexander Serafyn, Martha Lysko, Vasyl Luchkiw, Roma Lisovich, Yaroslav Zaviysky, Pawlo Prinko, Al Kachkowski

- Regarding the quota, the same quotas have been used over the last few years, which seem to be unattainable, therefore they are useless. There should be a realistic quota.

- Quotas are set and calculated by # of members in each state.

- Other than the number of members, we should consider the amount of the policy and the amount of premium earned and that number should influence the quota

- We should change the quota system from number of members to amount earned in premiums. Our present sales force, who are our secretaries are not even close to fulfilling our quota. How will UNA survive on selling 300 to 400 policies a year.

- We do not want to discourage the secretary that is capable of only selling \$5,000 policies, but it is very important to find a sales force that will sell the over \$50,000 policies. We are an insurance company, that is our business. In order to survive we must start selling many insurance policies that have large premiums.

- We have many secretaries who have worked for a long time, who used to be producers, but who have not sold any policies in a few years. They must be contacted and given a quota. What is the purpose of having a secretary that has not sold a policy in 3-4 years? The billing is done in the office, they have little contact with the members. We must make room for new blood, new secretaries who will revive our sales of policies.

- Maybe we should approach the over 100 inactive secretaries and ask them what they feel their quota should be. By approaching these secretaries that have not sold anything in a few years, maybe they will realize that they should step down and make room for new secretaries.

Martha Lysko

MOTION:

All the District Chairmen be contacted by letter and each District Chairman make the decision for his District what the justifiable quota should be.

2nd the motion – Alexander Serafyn.

Discussion:

The following members took part in the discussion:

Eugene Oscislowski, Alexander Serafyn, Vasyl Luchkiw,

DISCUSSION:

- The District Chairman probably knows his community best, and should make a good judgment as to what a reasonable quota for his area should be.

- The District Chairman should call each of his secretaries and discuss what is feasible.

- Psychologically it is a better approach to discuss with the District Chairman and in turn with the secretaries as to what their quota should be. The idea of the Home Office delegating an unattainable quota may not be the best approach.

- We should try this approach, and if the results are reasonable then continue.

- By having each District and each secretary assign a quota for themselves, we ultimately may have a quota system for each branch, which we do not have at the moment.

MOTION PASSED with 1 abstention

Vasyl Luchkiw

MOTION:

There should be an annual meeting of all District Chairmen, preferably just before the General Assembly Meeting.

2nd the motion – Martha Lysko

DISCUSSION:

The Convention of 1998 passed a resolution that every two years there should be a meeting of all the District Chairmen.

Motion passed unanimously.

Roma Lisovich:

In order to finance capital improvements at Soyuzivka UNA may need to look for outside sources for financing. We can use Soyuzivka land as collateral (ie. a prerequisite for Industrial Development Agency Loans) it may be required. We must have a mandate and resolution passed from the General Assembly that would allow us to use Soyuzivka land as such collateral.

RESOLUTION:

Roma Lisovich:

The General Assembly authorizes the Executive Committee to offer all of Soyuzivka assets as collateral in any arrangement of financing for redevelopment of Soyuzivka property. The Executives will advise the General Assembly members prior to signing any contracts.

2nd by Alexander Serafyn

DISCUSSION:

- If we default on the loan the financing sources can seize our assets.
- In case we would be in financial difficulty to the point of defaulting on our loan we would never allow the financing source to seize our assets, we would have the option of selling the property and repaying the loan.
- The appraisal value based on land only of Soyuzivka is approximately 2.5 million (this is not a hotel appraisal which could be as high as 4 million).

RESOLUTION passed unanimously.

7. MISCELLANEOUS: GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS – RESOLUTIONS.

Stefan Kaczaraj – UNA President

The last Convention accepted a By-Laws proposal to have General Assembly members be active on various standing committees. Therefore, at the last Executive Committee meeting job descriptions were assigned to the Executives. The Executives will be chairmen of the Committees and the General Assembly members will join the assorted committees. The functions of the committees will vary depending on the work that is assigned or expected from the committee members. The committees can interact by telephone, e-mails and if necessary set meetings for themselves.

Fraternal Activities Committee – attempt to find fraternal activities for all branches that can be realized. Find meaningful activities that will suite the branches and districts

Eugene Iwanciw – Chairman

Eugene Oscislawski
Barbara Bachynsky
Wasył Liscynesky

Organizing Committee – help to work in the organizing department

Christine Kozak/Martha Lysko – Chairmen
Osyp Hawryluk
Stefan Hawrysz
Myron Pylypiak
Pawlo Prinko

Financial Committee – finances, UNA membership cards/credit cards

Roma Lisovich, Stefan Kaczaraj – Chairmen
Vasyl Luchkiw
Michael Kuropas

Canadian Committee – how to reactivate Canadian membership

Al Kachkowski – Chairman
Myron Groch
Andrij Skyba

Osyp Hawryluk:

MOTION:

To have the Executive Committee appoint the following members to serve on standing committees:

Fraternal Activities Committee – Eugene Iwanciw – Chairman, Eugene Oscislawski, Barbara Bachynsky, Wasył Liscynesky

Organizing Committee – Christine Kozak and Martha Lysko – Chairmen, Osyp Hawryluk, Stefan Hawrysz, Myron Pylypiak, Pawlo Prinko

Financial Committee – Roma Lisovich, Stefan Kaczaraj Chairmen, Vasy Luchkiw, Michael Kuropas

Canadian Committee – Al Kachkowski Chairman, Myron Groch, Andrij Skyba

2nd the motion - Vasyl Luchkiw

DISCUSSION: Exception – Pawlo Prinko will decide in which committee his talents would be best served and will advise the executives accordingly.

MOTION passed unanimously

S. Kaczaraj named the following members to the Budget Committee to meet Saturday morning prior to the General Assembly Meeting:

Stefan Kaczaraj
Roma Lisovich
Zenon Holubec
Alexander Serafyn
Pawlo Prinko

Osyp Hawryluk

Meeting was adjourned for the evening.

Saturday, November 23, 2002 9:30 AM

Stefan Kaczaraj brought the meeting to order.

Roma Lisovich, treasurer, presented the 2003 Budget as proposed by the Budget

Committee.

Vasyl Luchkiw

MOTION:

To accept the 2003 Budget as presented.

2nd the motion Martha Lysko

Motion passed unanimously

Stefan Kaczaraj introduced November 21-22, 2003 as the proposed date for the next General Assembly Meeting at Soyuzivka.

Martha Lysko

MOTION:

Proposed to hold the next General Assembly Meeting Nov. 21,22, 2003 at Soyuzivka.

2nd motion Myron Groch

DISCUSSION:

The following members took part in the discussion:

Zenon Holubec, Martha Lysko

- We should consider scheduling the next General Assembly Meeting for May 2004
 - The date of the General Assembly Meeting is always set at the previous meeting.
- Motion was passed unanimously

Martha Lysko

MOTION:

Proposes that each member of the General Assembly donate \$50.00 towards Soyuzivka.

2nd motion Vasyl Luchkiw

Motion passed unanimously

Stefan Kaczaraj:

• S. Kaczaraj suggested that the four Committees chaired by the Executives meet during lunch to propose a calendar as to when and where they will meet to set an agenda.

Roma Lisovich:

• R. Lisovich assures all members of the General Assembly that this Executive Committee will continuously share all information with the members.

Stefan Kaczaraj:

• S. Kaczaraj reiterates the treasurer's statement that all information will be shared with the General Assembly members either by mail or by e-mail. The Executives would like a constant interaction between them and the members. The Executives would like feed back from the members.

• S. Kaczaraj on behalf of the Executives thanked all the members of the General Assembly for attending and making this meeting productive and successful.

Stefan Hawrysz:

• S. Hawrysz proclaims that this meeting was uniquely successful. He reminds all the members that he is not only the oldest member of the General Assembly, but also has worked for UNA the longest period of time. He has worked for UNA Presidents beginning with: Dmytro Halychyn, Joseph Lesawyer, John Flis, Ulana Diachuk and now for Stefan Kaczaraj therefore he takes this opportunity to say a few parting words.

• He is encouraged by knowing that all the members want the best for UNA and Soyuzivka. He is very pleased to see that all the members present understand each other, respect each others opinion though at times they may differ. The atmosphere at the meeting was very productive and professional.

• In order for UNA to be successful it is imperative for secretaries and members to sell UNA products. Our products are competitive in the industry. It was a standing tradition for every member of the General Assembly to bring at least 1 new application to the General Assembly meeting. He suggested that we keep to this tradition in the future.

• This was a wonderful working meeting with a friendly atmosphere. He congratulates Stefan Kaczaraj, the newly elected president for setting the tone. He wishes all the Executives and the General Assembly Members continued success.

Stefan Kaczaraj:

S. Kaczaraj thanked everyone for their attendance. Wished everyone a pleasant evening at the 50th Anniversary of Soyuzivka. The meeting was adjourned with the Ukrainian National Anthem.

Secretary of the General Assembly Meeting taking minutes, Oksana Trytjak.

Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

- to promote the principles of fraternalism;
- to preserve the Ukrainian, Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian heritage and culture; and
- to provide quality financial services and products to its members.

As a fraternal insurance society, the Ukrainian National Association reinvests its earnings for the benefit of its members and the Ukrainian community.