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Sens. McCain and Clinton nominate presidents of Georgia and Ukraine for Nobel Peace Prize

WASHINGTON — Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz) and Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) on January 24 nominated Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili and Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko for the Nobel Peace Prize. In their letter to the Norwegian Nobel Institute, they praised the two presidents for their historic roles in the freedom movements in Georgia and Ukraine.

Sens. McCain and Clinton wrote: "In leading freedom movements in their respective countries, [these two presidents] have won popular support for the universal values of democracy, individual liberty and civil rights. ... "We believe that the actions of Presidents Saakashvili and Yushchenko testify to the power of peace and human rights in their battle against oppression. Recognizing these men with the Peace Prize would honor not only their historic roles in Georgia and Ukraine, but would also offer hope and inspiration to those seeking freedom in lands still denied it."

Following is the text of the letter sent to the Norwegian Nobel Institute.

Dear Nominating Committee:

We are writing to nominate for the Nobel Peace Prize two men who have exhibited an extraordinary commitment to peace: Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili and Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko. In leading freedom movements in their respective countries, they have won popular support for the universal values of democracy, individual liberty and civil rights. Because of their efforts, the people of Georgia and Ukraine are now constructing new societies based on the rule of law. At the same time, Ukrainians and Georgians are resolving peacefully the complex ethnic and social issues that have in the past threatened to divide their nations.

As a key leader in the "Rose Revolution," President Saakashvili guided Georgia to a peaceful change of power that ended a decade of endemic, government-supported corruption. His rejection of violence was critical to the success of Georgia's movement. In early 2004, President Saakashvili negotiated a peaceful resolution to the ethnic conflict in Ajaria, and his push for wider

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Verkhovna Rada postpones hearing on nomination of new prime minister

by Olga Nuzhinskaya

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV — The Verkhovna Rada ended its session on Thursday, February 3, without considering Yulia Tymoshenko's nomination as prime minister amid behind-the-scenes negotiations over who would fill the Cabinet of Ukraine's new president.

Adam Martyniuk, vice-chairman of the Rada, said lawmakers would reconvene the next day as all the issues on the day's agenda were considered by the Parliament, except the main one — approving Ms. Tymoshenko as prime minister of Ukraine.

"The president is not ready to decide it right now," he said as he adjourned the session. He added that there are "heated consultations."

The nomination vote had already been set back four hours after President Viktor Yushchenko said he wanted to be present for the session.

Many lawmakers speculated that the real reason was the intense jockeying for positions in the new Cabinet of Ministers among the diverse political parties that made up Mr. Yushchenko's campaign coalition.

Mykola Tomenko, a Yushchenko ally, blamed deputies from the Socialist Party for negotiating over some Cabinet posts and several oblast chair jobs, but said he is sure that "everything will be decided by Friday."

Mr. Tomenko added that the government was "95 percent" formed.

Socialist Party Chairman Oleksander Moroz backed Mr. Yushchenko in the runoff for the presidency in exchange for Mr. Yushchenko's acceptance of constitutional reforms that reduced presidential powers.

"There is a big conflict of interests between Yushchenko-Tymoshenko and the Socialist Party," said Raisa Bogatyreva, a top ally of losing presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich.

On the eve of the vote, Prime Minister-designate Tymoshenko dispatched a 63-page, five-year government program to lawmakers laying out her goals: to dismantle corruption, to raise living standards and to lead Ukraine into membership talks with the European Union.

"Our government work would be exclusively in the interests of the peo-

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Ukrainian Americans on U.S. delegation to Yushchenko inauguration comment on experience

by Andrew Nynka

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — Traveling to Ukraine for the inauguration of President Viktor Yushchenko, three Ukrainian Americans watched the historic ceremony from an exclusive vantage point. Led by outgoing Secretary of State Colin Powell, the official U.S. delegation watched from a balcony in the Verkhovna Rada as Mr. Yushchenko took the oath of office on January 23.

"It was just unbelievable," said Vera Andryczyk, a Ukrainian American member of the official U.S. delegation. "The whole place was just so energized when Mr. Yushchenko walked into the Verkhovna Rada," said Ms. Andryczyk, president of the Ukrainian Federation of America.

While the atmosphere inside the Parliament building moments before the ceremony was triumphant, said a second member of the delegation, the mood there changed.

"I was taken by the solemnity and seriousness once the ceremony began," said Nadia McConnell, president of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation. "Words are just inadequate, but there was a sense that generations had waited for this day."

Ms. Andryczyk also looked back on the moment when Mr. Yushchenko took the oath of office with a sense of awe. "Nadia and I both held hands and we just trembled. It was pride. I wish our ancestors who never saw this moment were there

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This photo of the crowds gathered in Kyiv on inauguration day was taken by Vera Andryczyk, who was a member of the official U.S. delegation attending the inauguration of President Viktor Yushchenko.

ANALYSIS

Yushchenko outlines desire of Ukraine to "return to Europe"

by **Taras Kuzio**
Eurasia Daily Monitor

This week the European Union finally came around to the conclusion that Viktor's Yushchenko's support for Ukraine "returning to Europe" is no hollow rhetoric.

Former President Leonid Kuchma also spoke of "returning to Europe" in 1998, when he first outlined plans for Ukraine to join the EU; four years later he added NATO membership to this goal. Unfortunately, neither the EU nor NATO ever took his declarations seriously.

Mr. Yushchenko's support for the same policies is noteworthy because he, unlike Mr. Kuchma, is believable. Speaking to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), President Yushchenko claimed that Ukraine's future lies inside Europe because, "We, along with the people of Europe, belong to one civilization" (Financial Times, January 25).

Mr. Yushchenko told PACE, "The realization of the strategy of our foreign policy aim is membership in the European Union." Domestic reforms in Ukraine to assist integration will "become a real, and not a declarative, reality," a clear jab at the empty rhetoric of the Kuchma era

(Ukrainska Pravda, January 25). To applause and laughter Mr. Yushchenko told PACE that, after his reforms, Ukraine will have changed so much that the EU itself will ask, "Why are you, such a fantastic place, not yet in the European Union?" (Ukrainska Pravda, January 25).

The seriousness of President Yushchenko's plans was detailed by his vice prime minister for European integration, Oleh Rybachuk, who threatened to "undertake an Orange Revolution in Brussels" if the EU continued to ignore Ukraine (Ukrainska Pravda, January 18). Mr. Rybachuk, with strong Polish backing, is eager to launch a two-year drive to fulfill the Copenhagen Criteria required for EU membership. "I can understand Ukraine's entry into Europe as my life's aim," Mr. Rybachuk admitted (Ukrainska Pravda, January 18).

Yet, Mr. Yushchenko's focus on the EU is causing consternation in Brussels, as the EU already has a full agenda: absorbing 10 new members, adopting a constitution and bringing in Turkey. As The Times of London wrote on January 25: "Whether Ukraine should be allowed to set foot on

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Tymoshenko to become Ukrainian prime minister



AP/Sergei Chuzavkov

Yulia Tymoshenko, tapped for the post of prime minister by Ukraine's new president, is greeted by her supporters in Kyiv on January 24.

by **Taras Kuzio**
Eurasia Daily Monitor

One day after he was inaugurated as Ukraine's third president, Viktor Yushchenko appointed a powerful and radical triumvirate. Yulia Tymoshenko, of the eponymous bloc, was named prime minister; businessman Petro Poroshenko as secretary of the National Security and Defense Council; and Oleksander Zinchenko, the head of the Yushchenko election campaign, as state secretary.

Mr. Zinchenko's position replaces that

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of head of the presidential administration. Of the three positions, only Ms. Tymoshenko's requires parliamentary approval, and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn said he expects her to obtain a large majority when she is proposed this coming week.

Why Tymoshenko? One reason is that a secret agreement between Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko stated that if Mr. Yushchenko won, then he would propose her as his prime minister. The Yushchenko camp denied that such a document existed (Ukrainska Pravda, January 20), but it was leaked to the anti-Yushchenko website temnik.com.ua (January 24) by the Viktor Yanukovich team.

Another reason for Ms. Tymoshenko's nomination was that alternative candidates were unpalatable. Mr. Poroshenko had angled for the position but, as a major busi-

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NEWSBRIEFS

PM-designate on new government

KYIV – Yulia Tymoshenko, whom President Viktor Yushchenko designated as acting prime minister last week, told the Ukrainska Pravda website on February 1 that she has already prepared a list of candidates for the posts of all Cabinet ministers and regional governors for Mr. Yushchenko's approval. Ms. Tymoshenko revealed that the list does not include any of the ministers or governors from former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's government. Ms. Tymoshenko has been meeting with different parliamentary groups for the past few days for consultations ahead of the expected parliamentary vote on her approval as prime minister on February 3. (RFE/RL Newsline)

New reform plan set with EU

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has told journalists from The Times of London that he is going to implement a three-year reform plan that was coordinated with the European Union, Interfax reported on February 2, citing the presidential press service. Mr. Yushchenko said he wants to launch talks with Brussels on Ukraine's EU membership as soon as the reform plan is implemented. "[It is very important] that the three-year action plan, worked out jointly by the EU and Ukraine, could lead to the inauguration of talks in 2007 on [Ukraine's EU] entry," Mr. Yushchenko reportedly told British journalists. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Deputies inquire about Kuchma's perks

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on February 2 voted to ask acting Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko about the circumstances surrounding the adoption of a Cabinet resolution that gave former President Leonid Kuchma some special benefits after his departure from office, Interfax reported. Some Ukrainian media have reported that the Cabinet led by Ms. Tymoshenko's predecessor, acting Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, decided to give Mr. Kuchma the right to continue drawing his presidential salary, use a state dacha and two cars, and have three assistants paid from the state budget for the rest of his life. The Parliament also supported a query to Procurator General Sviatoslav Piskun on whether he is going to investigate Mr. Kuchma's alleged involvement in the kidnapping and killing of Internet journalist Heorhii Gongadze in 2000. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Socialists propose deal with Tymoshenko

KYIV – Socialist Party of Ukraine (SPU) leader Oleksander Moroz told journalists on January 31 that his party

will vote in the Verkhovna Rada for Yulia Tymoshenko as Ukraine's new prime minister if President Viktor Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko guarantee that SPU representatives or nominees obtain one-sixth of the positions in the executive branch, Interfax reported. According to Mr. Moroz, such a quota of government posts for the SPU was promised in an accord he signed with Mr. Yushchenko in November, when the SPU pledged to support his presidential bid. Mr. Moroz added that the accord did not specify the number of ministerial portfolios for the SPU. Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc, Mr. Moroz's SPU and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc control 140 votes in the 450-seat legislature. Ms. Tymoshenko needs at least 226 votes to be approved as the head of a new Cabinet. Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn predicted on January 31 that the Parliament will confirm Ms. Tymoshenko as prime minister with a safety margin of 25 votes. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine lukewarm on EU plan

KYIV – Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Markian Lubkivskiy told journalists on February 1 that Kyiv's preliminary assessment of the recently upgraded EU-Ukraine Action Plan, which was approved by the European Union foreign ministers in Brussels on January 31, is "far from being euphoric," UNIAN reported. The upgraded plan offers Ukraine closer cooperation on trade, immigration and security. Under the plan the EU will also support Ukraine as it seeks membership in the World Trade Organization and make it easier for Kyiv to obtain loans from the European Investment Bank. The plan does not, however, mention any prospect of EU membership for Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko sets deadline for WTO

DAVOS, Switzerland – In Davos, Switzerland, at the World Economic Forum, Viktor Yushchenko said at a meeting with World Trade Organization (WTO) Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi on January 28 that Ukraine "hopes to meet all requirements necessary for joining the WTO by November," Interfax reported. Mr. Yushchenko also announced the creation of a new post of vice prime minister for European integration in the new government, which will be filled by Our Ukraine legislator Oleh Rybachuk. According to a report on the Ukrainska Pravda website on January 30, Mr. Rybachuk attended a lunch hosted by

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Sens. Levin and Lugar introduce legislation on permanent normal trade relations for Ukraine

U.S.-Ukraine Foundation

WASHINGTON – Sens. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) and Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) on January 24 introduced legislation to grant normal trade relations to Ukraine. The senators contend that the Cold War-era trade restrictions that deny “most favored nation” trade status to imports from Soviet Bloc countries, which were established as a tool to pressure Communist nations to allow their people to freely emigrate and adopt democratic institutions, are no longer applicable to Ukraine.

“Since re-establishing its independence in 1991, Ukraine has demonstrated a commitment to creating democratic institutions and a free-market economy,” Sen. Levin said. “Ukraine allows its citi-

zens the right and opportunity to emigrate; it has adopted laws protecting individual liberties and prohibiting discrimination; and it held a free and fair election in 2004 in which the Ukrainian people elected a new president. The United States can help advance this young democracy by repealing Cold War-era restrictions and welcoming them as a full trade partner in the international economic community.”

Sen. Lugar noted: “Extraordinary events have occurred in Ukraine over the last three months. A free press has revolted against government intimidation and reasserted itself. An emerging middle class has found its political footing. A new generation has embraced democracy

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Rep. Rothman, joined by 19 colleagues, calls for state visit by Yushchenko to U.S.

WASHINGTON – Encouraged and hopeful about the prospect of enhancing U.S.-Ukraine relations in the wake of the recent presidential election, Rep. Steve Rothman (D-N.J.) on January 31 led a bipartisan group of House members calling on President George W. Bush to invite newly elected Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko to come to the United States for an official state visit.

Rep. Rothman and his colleagues also congratulated Ukraine on following the democratic processes that ultimately led to the conduct of a free and fair election for the Ukrainian presidency and the peaceful swearing-in of President Yushchenko.

“We are writing to urge you to establish a relationship with Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and encourage him to schedule a state visit to the White House promptly,” Rep. Rothman wrote to President Bush in a

letter that 19 of his House colleagues also signed. “As you well know, the outcome of the recent Ukrainian elections provides the opportunity for Ukraine to become more closely integrated in Euro-Atlantic institutions, demonstrate true democratic governance under the rule of law, and operate a genuine free market economy. It is critical that at this time we recognize the importance of the relationship between the United States and Ukraine and reach out to President Yushchenko in an effort to enhance these relations.”

According to Rep. Rothman, with this recent election, the Ukrainian people have demonstrated their desire to become a true democracy. The first and second rounds of voting on October 31, 2004, and November 21, 2004, respectively, were fraught with corruption and fraud,

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Sen. Brownback chairs Helsinki Commission

WASHINGTON – Sen. Sam Brownback on January 19 became chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, commonly known as the Helsinki Commission, which monitors human rights and democracy in Europe.

“Now more than ever, it is important to ensure democracy and human rights are protected throughout the world,” Sen. Brownback said. “I am pleased to assume the chairmanship of this important commission. The Helsinki Commission was created to build cooperation between the U.S. and Europe on issues critical to both continents and to the world. I look forward to expanding that cooperation moving forward.”

Sen. Brownback, who currently serves on the Helsinki Commission, was appointed chairman by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, who made the announcement on January 19. The commission, an independent federal agency, monitors and encourages progress in implementing provisions of the Helsinki Accords.

Created in 1976, the commission is composed of nine senators, nine representatives and one official each from the Departments of State, Defense and Commerce, and was created to monitor and encourage compliance with the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE commitments.

The commission monitors violations of individual liberties in the 55 states belonging to the OSCE, encompassing

the United States, Canada, Europe and former Soviet republics. In addition, 10 Mediterranean and Asian countries serve as partners for cooperation in the OSCE.

As the new chairman, Sen. Brownback will help shape U.S. policy toward Ukraine and neighboring Russia and, by extension, take part in efforts to curb nuclear-weapons proliferation, global terrorism and arms and drug trafficking.

In the coming years, the Helsinki Commission – with the White House, the State Department and other foreign-policy-makers on Capitol Hill – will be involved in discussions surrounding Ukraine’s possible entry into NATO and the European Union.

Serving as the commission’s chief of staff will be Sean Woo, who currently is general counsel and foreign policy advisor to Sen. Brownback. Mr. Woo is a graduate of Harvard University and Widener University School of Law. Mr. Woo has worked as counsel to Sens. Peter Fitzgerald, Chuck Grassley and the late William V. Roth, Jr., as well as to Rep. Frank Wolf.

Sen. Brownback was first elected to the Senate to fill the unexpired term of Bob Dole in 1996. He was returned by the voters of Kansas for a full term in 1998, and re-elected this past November. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994-1996. Sen. Brownback serves on the Appropriations, Judiciary and Joint Economic committees.

FOR THE RECORD

House Concurrent Resolution 16

Following is the full text of House Concurrent Resolution 16, congratulating the Ukrainian people and President Viktor Yushchenko, which passed the House of Representatives on January 25 by a vote of 392 to one. The resolution was introduced by Rep. Henry Hyde, with the support of Reps. Tom Lantos, Jo Ann Davis, Dan Burton, Robert Wexler and Marcy Kaptur.

Concurrent Resolution

Congratulating the people of Ukraine for conducting a democratic, transparent, and fair run-off presidential election on December 26, 2004, and congratulating Viktor Yushchenko on his election as President of Ukraine and his commitment to democracy and reform.

Whereas the establishment of a democratic, transparent and fair election process for the 2004 presidential election in Ukraine and of a genuinely democratic

political system have been prerequisites for that country’s full integration into the international community of democracies;

Whereas the government of Ukraine has accepted numerous specific commitments governing the conduct of elections as a participating state of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE);

Whereas the election of Ukraine’s next president was seen as an unambiguous test of the extent of the Ukrainian authorities’ commitment to implement these standards and build a democratic society based on free elections and the rule of law;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires government and public authorities to ensure that candidates and political parties enjoy equal treatment before the law and that government

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Remarks by Cheney, Yushchenko

Following are the remarks of Vice-President Dick Cheney and President Viktor Yushchenko in Krakow at the Villa Decius on January 26. The text was provided by the White House, Office of the Vice-President

Vice-President Cheney: It’s a pleasure to be here tonight and to congratulate President Yushchenko on his election and inauguration as the leader of the proud sovereign nation of the [sic] Ukraine.

The world has been inspired by the remarkable images emanating from Ukraine in recent months. We have watched as Ukrainians by the hundreds of thousands converged on Kiev’s [sic] Independence Square to preserve their freedom and safeguard their right to determine the destiny of their nation.

Fifteen years after the democratic revolutions that swept Central and Eastern Europe, liberty continues its steady advance in this vital area of the world. With their courage, dedication and peaceful determination, the Ukrainian people have shown a watching world the unstoppable power of the popular will.

What President Yushchenko has accomplished is remarkable and inspiring and there are great tasks ahead. Free

nations stood with him as he made his just demands that the voice of the people be heard. The free world will stand with him once again as he works to consolidate Ukraine’s democratic gains and adds to the prosperity and justice of his country.

As President Yushchenko assumes his responsibilities, he and the people he serves can know this: the United States supports the sovereignty and independence of Ukraine and we support Ukraine’s aspirations to join the institutions that bind the free nations of the West.

President Yushchenko is an ally in freedom’s cause, and President Bush and the American people stand with him.

We look forward to working with President Yushchenko to strengthen a democratic Ukraine to enhance security, preserve peace, and build a better world.

Once again, Mr. President, my congratulations.

President Yushchenko: Dear Mr. Vice President, ladies and gentlemen, dear guests. The United States as well as Russia, as well as the European Union, and as well as Poland belong to the

(Continued on page 16)

Quotable notes

“The Orange Revolution also vindicates America’s long-standing support for Ukraine’s independence and democracy. Here, Washington pushed principles, not individuals. Too often in dealings with Russia, the reverse is true. Which policy pays better dividends should be clear by now.”

– *Wall Street Journal* in its December 28 editorial titled “The Orange Revolution.”

“I am happy that I lived to see the hour when the president of Ukraine was elected not in Moscow or Washington, but in Ukraine by the people of Ukraine.”

– *Ukrainian President-elect Viktor Yushchenko on January 23, during a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, as quoted by an RFE/RL correspondent and cited by RFE/RL Belarus and Ukraine Report.*

The election in Ukraine is a triumph of democracy and the rule of law over the forces of a bygone Soviet era. The people of Ukraine stood up for their democratic rights, and I look forward to working with the leaders they have chosen. This remarkable saga had many heroes: Poland and other newly democratic nations stood up for Ukrainian democracy, and Ukrainian Americans and other members of the Ukrainian diaspora rallied international support for the democratic rights of the people of Ukraine. I hope now that Ukraine’s democratic election will serve as an inspiration for those who seek freedom.

– *Statement issued on January 20 by Sen. Jon S. Corzine (D-N.J.).*

OBITUARY: Metropolitan Wasyly, primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

WINNIPEG – Metropolitan Wasyly, archbishop of Winnipeg and primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada (UOCC), died on January 10, at the age of 95, following a prolonged illness.

Metropolitan Wasyly was born Wasyly Fedak on November 1, 1909, in the village of Kadobivtsy, Bukovyna, Ukraine, into the family of Wasyly and Anastazia Fedak. He was brought to Canada by his parents in May of 1912 and settled in Sheho, Saskatchewan. Following completion of his secondary education he completed a course for teachers and assumed his teaching assignments in the Saskatchewan school system.

In 1932, he married Paraskeviya Tymoffee. He commenced theological studies in 1941 in the seminary of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, which he completed in 1944. He was ordained into the diaconate on September 27, 1944, and into the priesthood on October 1, 1944. Following ordination Father Wasyly Fedak served parishes in the area of Sandy Lake, Manitoba, and travelled to Menzie, Vista, Angusville, Glen Elmo, Oakburn and Rosburn, Manitoba. He organized new parishes at Oakburn, Sandy Lake, Sich and Angusville, Manitoba.

In 1948 he was assigned to Grimsby, Ontario, but also served parishes in Oshawa, Long Branch, Waterford and St.



Metropolitan Wasyly

Catharine's, Ontario. Due to his efforts, the parish in Welland joined the UOCC. He also travelled to Ottawa and Kirkland Lake in Ontario, and Rouin and Noranda in Quebec.

In September 1951 he was appointed to St. Vladimir's Parish in Hamilton, Ontario, where he served for 29 years. His pastoral dedication resulted in the parish growing from 47 to 500 families –

becoming one of the most developed parishes in the UOCC.

For his dedicated service, the Church awarded him all priestly honors, including the honor of protopresbyter in 1977. His activities went beyond his parish responsibilities. For 20 years he was the national chaplain of the Canadian Ukrainian Youth Association. For his tireless service he was inducted into the Hamilton Gallery of Distinction and received honors from the Province of Ontario.

Two years after the passing of his devoted wife, Dobrodiyika Paraskeviya, in April 1976, an Extraordinary Sobor of the UOCC in 1978 chose Father Wasyly as its candidate to the episcopacy.

On Sunday, July 16, 1978, at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Winnipeg Archimadrite Wasyly was consecrated into the episcopacy with the title of bishop of Saskatoon, vicar of the Central Eparchy, by Metropolitan Andrew of Winnipeg and All-Canada, Archbishop Boris of Edmonton and the Western Eparchy, and Bishop Mykolai of Toronto and the Eastern Eparchy.

Following the passing of Archbishop Mykolai in 1981, Bishop Wasyly became acting bishop of the Eastern Eparchy, and in November 1983 he was elevated to archbishop of Toronto and the Eastern Eparchy. The 17th Sobor of the UOCC in 1985 chose Archbishop Wasyly as its metropolitan and primate with the title "His Beatitude," and chancellor of St. Andrew's College.

During his service as metropolitan, Vladyka Wasyly led the Church in celebrating the Millennium of the Baptism of Ukraine, the centenary of Ukrainian Immigration to Canada and the 75th anniversary of the UOCC.

He established eucharistic union with the Patriarchate of Constantinople, in 1990, and oversaw the UOCC's membership in the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the Americas. During this time, the UOCC

also became a member of the Canadian Council of Churches. In 1995 he initiated the establishment of the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine. He participated in creating a Conference of Orthodox Bishops of Canada and an Orthodox-Roman Catholic Dialogue in Canada.

As metropolitan he worked closely with the World Congress of Free Ukrainians and the Canadian Ukrainian Congress.

In 1993 Metropolitan Wasyly led a delegation to visit Ukraine, which had proclaimed its independence and sovereignty in 1991. This was an opportunity to become better acquainted with the hierarchs and complex situation in Orthodoxy in Ukraine. He felt it his duty to contribute to the establishment of one, recognized, local Orthodox Church in his ancestral homeland and he was uplifted to see his brothers and sisters choosing an open and democratic form of government and society.

Among the many honors bestowed upon Metropolitan Wasyly were an honorary doctorate of divinity from St. Andrew's College, an honorary doctorate in canon law from the Ukrainian Free University in Munich, the Centenary Medal and the Shevchenko Medal from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, the Governor General's Medal in honor of Canada's 125th Anniversary, the Queen Elizabeth II 50th Anniversary Medal and the highest award of the Governor General of Canada, the Officer of the Order of Canada Medal.

The Orthodox rite of burial of a hierarch took place at the Holy Trinity All-Canada Metropolitan Cathedral in Winnipeg. The hierarchical funeral service commenced on Friday, January 21; the hierarchical divine liturgy and completion of the funeral rite were held Saturday, January 22, followed by the

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Kuropas's inclusion on U.S. delegation to Ukrainian inauguration is questioned

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – As reported last week, Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, a member of the official U.S. delegation to the inauguration of President Viktor Yushchenko, came under fire on January 26 when the Knight Ridder newspaper chain published a story by Warren P. Strobel and Jonathan S. Landay headlined "Activist critical of Jews was part of U.S. delegation to Ukraine."

Dr. Kuropas, an adjunct professor at Northern Illinois University's College of Education, was a member of the official U.S. delegation to the inauguration of President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine.

The Knight Ridder story, which included quotations taken out of context from two commentaries by Dr. Kuropas – one written in 1996 and the other in 2000 – and from a news report about a speech he delivered in Toronto in 1998, described the commentator as "a Ukrainian American activist who has accused Jews of manipulating the Holocaust for their gain and blamed them for Soviet-era atrocities in Ukraine." (See editorial on this topic on page 6.)

The story went on to quote "a White House official who refused to be identified by name," as saying: "We were not aware of his previous statements. Had we been aware of such comments beforehand, we would not have invited Dr. Kuropas to be a member of the delegation." [The Sun-Times of Chicago later attributed similar comments to White House spokesman Jim Morell, who told the paper on January 26 that Dr. Kuropas wouldn't have been part of the delegation if his writings had been known.]

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice-chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, told Knight Ridder: "It's disturbing to give him credibility and to put him on the delegation."

Knight Ridder reported that Dr. Kuropas said he was "dismayed" at the controversy and that he said in a telephone interview that he worked with Jewish leaders toward reconciliation for

12 years and received an award in 1979 from the American Jewish Committee.

Soon after the story broke, Lynn Sweet of the Chicago Sun-Times reported that Northern Illinois University "acknowledged that the school is reviewing its relationship with Myron Kuropas, a faculty member accused of making anti-Semitic statements." The action came in response to a January 27 letter from Reps. Rahm Emanuel (D-Ill.) and Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) that called on NIU President John Peters to "re-evaluate the university's association with Prof. Kuropas" and disavow any association with him.

The Daily Chronicle of DeKalb wrote on January 29 that, "in particular, they [the congressmen] pointed to a 2000 written remark by Kuropas that "Big money drives the Holocaust industry. To survive, the Holocaust industry is always searching for its next mark. Ukraine's turn is just around the corner."

Melanie Magara, NIU assistant vice-president for public affairs, told the Sun-Times on January 28 that "Certainly the university disavows any connection to any remarks by anyone that are prejudicial or in this case anti-Semitic."

On January 29, however, the Daily Chronicle reported that NIU President Peter "declined to acquiesce to a suggestion from two congressmen that the university formally renounce the allegedly anti-Semitic remarks made by part-time instructor Myron Kuropas." According to the Chronicle, Mr. Peters wrote to Reps. Emanuel and Waxman that the university "does not condone anti-Semitism or discrimination in any form," but pointed out that Dr. Kuropas does not teach "any courses related to Ukrainian history or that would require him to express any viewpoint related to Ukrainian history."

Ms. Magara told the Chronicle that there is not enough of a connection between Dr. Kuropas's private affairs and

(Continued on page 19)

Statement by Myron B. Kuropas

Below is the text of a January 29 statement by Myron B. Kuropas regarding allegations of anti-Semitism.

In light of the recent publication of news stories that grossly distort my integrity and malign my character, I wish to set the record straight.

I have spent all of my adult life working to bring America's ethnic groups together in a spirit of fraternity and understanding. I was a founding board member of the National Project on Ethnic America (a Ford Foundation-funded institute administered by the American Jewish Committee). I was also an active board member of the National Center for Ethnic/Urban Affairs.

When I was the Great Lakes Regional Director of ACTION, I developed Project Senior Ethnic Find, a federal, anti-poverty outreach program for ethnic seniors in Chicago, Gary, Detroit and Cleveland.

I was a special assistant for ethnic affairs to President Gerald R. Ford in the White House. It was during my tenure in the Ford administration that I organized White House conferences for American ethnics devoted to such topics as urban neighborhood revitalization, the 1980 census and the unique health needs of ethnic Americans. I was also instrumental in having President Ford issue a proclamation in 1976 – "An American Promise" – rec-

ognizing the injustice perpetrated against Japanese Americans during World War II.

In 1979 I received an award from the American Jewish Committee "for recognizing and respecting the diversity of all groups within our society; for helping to bring these groups together for the betterment of all mankind; for working together in responding to the needs of these diverse groups; for helping forge links among all groups, knowing that each group has an important place in a pluralistic society..."

I also received awards from the Japanese American Citizens League, UNICO, an Italian American organization, as well as letter of commendation from numerous ethnic leaders.

In 1985 I was a special guest of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) on a trip to Israel where I met with Jews from Ukraine who were working to improve relations between Ukrainians and Jews. One of them, Jakov Suslensky, came to the United States. I was involved with introducing him to our Ukrainian American community and working with him to improve relations between Ukrainians and Jews in the United States. Ukrainians here lauded his efforts. Jews here largely ignored him.

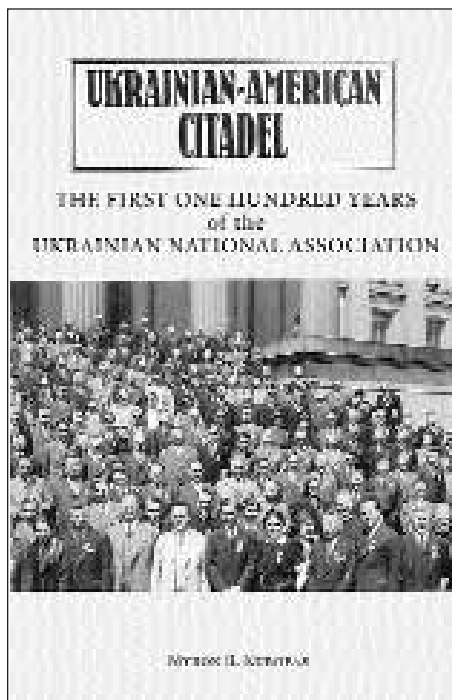
I was involved in a Ukrainian-Jewish dialogue group for five years.

(Continued on page 27)



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

“Ukrainian-American Citadel”: from the pages of UNA history



Following is part of a series of excerpts from “Ukrainian-American Citadel: The First 100 Years of the Ukrainian National Association,” by Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, published in 1996 by East European Monographs of Boulder, Colo. The excerpts are reprinted with the permission of the author.

The book is available from the author for \$25, plus \$2.50 shipping, by writing to: Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, 107 Ileshamwood Drive, DeKalb, IL 60115. Also available is a newly released Ukrainian edition of the book; price: \$25 (including shipping).

Chapter 12

The Best of Times, The Worst of Times

Trouble within the Ukrainian Congress Committee [of America], brewing for years, came to a head in 1980. There were two major causes, the growing insensitiv-

ty of Dr. Lev Dobriansky, who after more than two decades as UCCA president, had come to believe that he, and he alone, was the sole spokesman for Ukrainian Americans in Washington, and the emerging belief among the Liberation Front

leadership that since they were the most active segment of the community, they, and they alone, should lead the UCCA.

Wholly dependent on the Liberation Front for his support within the UCCA,

(Continued on page 21)

Soldier sends thank-you to UNA

Following is the text of a letter sent on January 17 to the Ukrainian National Association by PFC Nicholas Dubovici, one of the Ukrainian American soldiers who received packages during the holidays from the UNA.

My name is Private First Class Nicholas Dubovici, and I recently received a package from your organization. First and foremost, I would like to thank you all for taking time out to recognize the many Ukrainian American soldiers currently deployed overseas.

It was a heart-warming surprise to know that your organization put together a Christmas package understanding that the holidays are some of the hardest times to be away from home, family and friends.

I am a 19-year-old soldier from the New York National Guard, with the

1/69th Inf being my unit back home. I have just graduated high school this past June, where I attended a Ukrainian Catholic high school by the name of St. George Academy in Manhattan, N.Y. I have attended St. George School for 13 years, from kindergarten until 12th grade. During my high school years, I was an intern for the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, working under Tamara Gallo and alongside Elizabeth Szonyi. Miss Szonyi was also my history teacher during my high school years.

I am proud to call myself a Ukrainian American soldier trying to help the people of Iraq, especially knowing that I have support from so many people back in the states and around the world.

Thank you and God Bless.

PFC Dubovici, Nicholas
PS: Keep up the good work!

Young UNA'ers



Roman and Alexander Swiatkiwsky, sons of Stephan and Kelly Swiatkiwsky of North Tonawanda, N.Y., are new members of UNA Branch 360. They were enrolled by their grandparents Harry and Emilia Swiatkiwsky.



Alexander Daniel Deputat, son of Jurij and Kathy Deputat of Longmont, Colo., is a new member of UNA Branch 360. He was enrolled by his parents.

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.

УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ НАРОДНИЙ СОЮЗ, Інк.
THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Inc.
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tel: (800) 253-9862; fax: (973) 292-0900; website: www.unamember.com; e-mail: una@unamember.com

The Ukrainian National Association

cordially invites the parishioners of
St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church
and the community
to attend a UNA archival photo exhibit.



Sunday, February 13, 2005

After the first and second liturgies
9 and 10:30 a.m.

UNA representatives in attendance:
Christine Kozak - National Secretary
Oksana Trytjak - National Organizer

Other UNA representatives and secretaries will be present and will be happy to answer questions relating to the UNA.

We invite you to visit the photo exhibit and hope you take part in our raffle.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

A spurious attack on Kuropas

A little over a week ago, the Knight Ridder chain released a news story titled "Activist critical of Jews was part of U.S. delegation to Ukraine." The activist is Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, identified as an adjunct professor at Northern Illinois University, who also happens to be one of the columnists whose writings regularly appear in this newspaper. (See story on page 4 of this issue.) The recipe for an article like the one circulated by Knight Ridder is really quite simple: go online, do a search, piece together quotes – taking them out of context makes the writing easier – and voila!

Thus, the Knight Ridder reporters found (or were given) two articles by Dr. Kuropas, one from 1996 and the other from 2000 (both published in *The Weekly*), and one story about a speech he delivered in Toronto in 1998 (from *Ukrainian News of Edmonton*). Never mind that these are three pieces in a long and distinguished career, and that you can't judge a person's oeuvre by these few samples.

In the 1996 column, Dr. Kuropas writes about "the ethnocide perpetrated by the Bolsheviks against the Ukrainian people" and the crimes of Soviet Communists. Among the many topics that he mentions as "worthy of further exploration" – including the Famine-Genocide, the killing fields of Vinnytsia, the destruction of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church and the Ukrainian Catholic Church – is the "inordinate role played by Jews in bringing Bolshevism to power."

In the article from 2000, Dr. Kuropas reviews a book titled "The Holocaust Industry: Reflections on the Exploitation of Jewish Suffering" by Prof. Norman G. Finkelstein of the City University of New York. It is his citations of the author's writing that are now being presented as Dr. Kuropas's anti-Semitism.

And finally, there is the 1998 news story about a presentation by Dr. Kuropas. Once again, the quotations cited are taken totally out of context. Dr. Kuropas's speech centered on Ukrainophobia, but you wouldn't know that by reading the stories that have cited the talk. To be sure, Dr. Kuropas did criticize three specific Jewish groups for their consistent efforts to portray Ukrainians as anti-Semites and to discredit the Ukrainian community, but he did not address those comments to Jews as a whole. In fact, the focus of his talk was on defending the Ukrainian nation from defamation.

Since the original news story was published, the Kuropas "scandal" has been picked up by other news media, and members of Congress have stepped forward to voice their opinions. In the process, the descriptions of Dr. Kuropas have escalated from "critical of Jews" to "accused of anti-Semitism." Next, the accusations of anti-Semitism were transformed into statements of fact. Thus, Rep. Rahm Emanuel of Illinois referred to Dr. Kuropas as "a known anti-Semite," while Rep. Jerrold Nadler of New York called him "one of this country's most vocal anti-Semites." A letter writer in a local newspaper in DeKalb, Ill., went even farther, saying Dr. Kuropas was engaged in "anti-Semitic and Holocaust-denial activities."

As a result, Dr. Kuropas has found it necessary to issue a statement to the press in hopes of telling the truth about his background and his writing. As a sign of how far this smear campaign has gone, consider the fact that the first sentence in a story in the *Daily Chronicle of DeKalb, Ill.*, reads: "Myron Kuropas wants people to know that he is not a Holocaust denier or an anti-Semite."

The truth is, Dr. Kuropas's columns have always elicited strong reactions. There's nothing new about that. There are readers who don't like what he says, there are those who don't like how he says it, and there are those who love his column. In short, he's a columnist who is not afraid to express his opinion. And, just like the columnists in any major newspaper (when was the last time you read *The New York Times* or the *Washington Post* and agreed with every columnist's opinion?), he has his supporters and his detractors. He has written, and spoken, on a variety of topics – and he has criticized a range of people, organizations, institutions and governments, including Ukrainian leaders and groups (our own publisher, the Ukrainian National Association, among them). Dr. Kuropas has had plenty of time during his career as a polemicist to make many people angry.

The *Ukrainian Weekly* has a history of running letters and commentaries from all quarters – including representatives of the Jewish community. Many of these have been reactions, pro and con, to Dr. Kuropas's writing. Yet, we continue to publish them because we feel strongly about the need for a free press and the importance of freedom of speech. We believe our newspaper's pages demonstrate that.

We also know that Dr. Kuropas has been unfairly branded by the latest wave of attacks that has surfaced in the news media. We can only surmise that besmirching his reputation is an attempt by someone to silence him. We also wonder: why now? (Among the articles cited, the newest is nearly five years old!) There are many possible explanations and myriad interpretations. But, we'll leave that to the pundits.

Right here and right now, however, we must underscore that Dr. Myron B. Kuropas is no anti-Semite. The worst accusation one could reasonably make against him is that, like many other commentators, he's opinionated, acerbic and strident.

Feb.
6
2000

Turning the pages back...

Exactly five years ago, *The Ukrainian Weekly* published a news story by Interfax-Ukraine with the dateline of Stockholm that reported on the Ukrainian government's support of the initiative by the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine

to set up a Holocaust museum in Kyiv. The story also noted that Kyiv was counting on cooperation in that matter with the world's Jewish organizations.

The initiative was announced on January 27, 2000, in Stockholm, Sweden, by Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko in his speech at the International Forum on the Holocaust.

"The Ukrainian people strongly take to heart the suffering of the Jews for they also experienced such horrors as war, famine, fascism and Stalin's repressions. The very existence of our nation, its language and culture, were denied," the prime minister

(Continued on page 22)

COMMENTARY

Neo-McCarthyism is alive and well

by Dr. Bohdan Vitvitsky

It started with a newspaper article on January 25 by Warren Strobel and Jonathan Landay for the Knight Ridder chain of newspapers titled "Delegate's Remarks Embarrass White House." The first sentence of the article read: "A delegation sent by President Bush to Ukraine's presidential inauguration last weekend included a Ukrainian American activist who has accused Jews of manipulating the Holocaust for their gain and blamed them for Soviet-era atrocities in Ukraine."

The article identified the purported sinner as Myron B. Kuropas. It went on to explain that in 2000 Dr. Kuropas had written: "Big money drives the Holocaust industry." And that in 1996 and on other occasions, he wrote that Jews played a major role in the rise of Bolshevism in the Soviet Union. About this an "unnamed" White House official said: "We were not aware of his previous statements. Had we been aware of such comments beforehand, we would not have invited Dr. Kuropas to be a member of the delegation."

Malcolm Hoenlein, the executive vice-chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, was apparently one of the Jewish-American leaders who was "dismayed" by Dr. Kuropas's presence in the delegation to Ukraine. Mr. Hoenlein stated: "It's disturbing to give him credibility and to put him on the delegation." He added that Dr. Kuropas's argument that Jews played a prominent role in the Soviet Union during its first few decades "is one of the great anti-Semitic canards in Ukraine today."

The next day, at the daily State Department briefing, the index for the briefing listed a question about the Kuropas trip as "Reports of Anti-Semitic Member of U.S. Delegation to Inauguration." Two days later, the *Chicago Sun-Times* reported that two congressmen, Rahm Emanuel of Illinois and Henry Waxman of California, had written to the president of Northern Illinois University, where Dr. Kuropas has long taught in the College of Education, asking that this university "re-evaluate" its relationship with Dr. Kuropas. In their letter, the two congressmen wrote: "as a participant in that delegation, Mr. Kuropas refused to withdraw anti-Semitic remarks he made as recently as the year 2000, when he stated: 'Big money drives the Holocaust industry. To survive, the Holocaust industry is always searching for its next victim. Ukraine's turn is just around the corner.'"

Let me get this straight. A man has for many years served the Ukrainian American community in various leadership capacities. He has contributed time, effort and money to help Ukraine. He has been a long, vociferous and uncritical cheerleader for the Bush administration. The Bush White House understandably invites him as one of three representatives of the Ukrainian American community to attend the presidential inauguration in Ukraine. He attends and comports himself appropriately. There is not even a suggestion by anyone that this man did or said anything in the slightest that was inconsistent with his role as one of the community representatives at the Yushchenko inauguration. Then, someone "discovers" that this man has written

Bohdan Vitvitsky is an attorney, writer and lecturer who holds a Ph.D. in philosophy.

some things that some consider "controversial" and all of a sudden the White House is "embarrassed" and some Jewish leaders are "dismayed."

I have a confession to make. I have on many occasions found myself strongly disagreeing with various things Dr. Kuropas has written, mostly relating to the virtues he has imaginatively attributed to the current administration and to his misreading of what happened during the Vietnam War. What do I do when I encounter a view with which I passionately disagree? I do what any civilized person in American is expected to do, I write in response and rebuttal and do my best to explain why Dr. Kuropas is dead wrong.

Pray tell, since when is that not what we do in this democracy? Since when is it acceptable for someone who doesn't like what someone else says instead to smear that other person by suggesting anti-Semitism and, through innuendo and implication, try and turn him into a pariah? Since when are such intimidation tactics politically kosher? Are we back in the early 1950s? Are we living in an era of new McCarthyism?

What was objectionable about McCarthyism is not that Sen. Joseph McCarthy made Americans aware of the danger posed by Communist influence in the United States during and after World War II. The influence was real and dangerous enough. What was objectionable were the bullying tactics employed indiscriminately and the smear tactics used indiscriminately to destroy people's reputations. We are apparently seeing a revival.

What is simultaneously the most interesting and frightening part of the Kuropas saga is its genesis. Given that Dr. Kuropas neither did nor said anything prior, during or after his participation in the delegation to the Yushchenko inauguration, how is it that he suddenly found himself in the glaring spotlight? The only possible answer is that some organization or person has a dossier on Dr. Kuropas and then some people decided that his participation in the delegation was an opportune time to teach Dr. Kuropas a lesson. What's the lesson? If we don't like what you say, we can shut you up.

Few allegations have as devastating an effect as an allegation of anti-Semitism. It's the political analogue to an accusation of being a child molester. If someone is accused of anti-Semitism, our natural reaction is to cringe and move away from any association with that person. Anti-Semitism is moral leprosy. That's why a specious charge of anti-Semitism is such an effective tool of character assassination.

Life must be good at the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations if the good folks there spend their days worrying about whether Dr. Kuropas should have attended the inauguration in Ukraine. News flash: if you don't like what he writes, how about taking the trouble to explain how and why he's wrong? And, if new research has disclosed that Leon Trotsky, Lazar Kaganovich and some of their friends who helped run the Soviet secret police were really Irishmen in disguise, please, don't keep that a secret from us. (Of course, what relevance, if any, any of this has to do with our lives today is altogether another story.)

Various writers have expressed different views about how organized Jewry treats the Nazis' victimization of the Jews. They include leading historians such as, for example, Peter Novick in

(Continued on page 16)

NEWS AND VIEWS

Pope speaks about Auschwitz, but blunders on Soviet role

by Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk

He was not speaking ex cathedra. Catholics would be obliged to accept his statement as infallible if he had.

So, thank God, he wasn't. For the holy father was wrong.

His words were delivered on January 27, the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Underscoring the importance of historical accuracy, the pope remembered not only the horrors that befell Jews but recalled how the Roma, the Gypsies, were also singled out for extermination. Likewise, he paid attention to his own nation, the Poles. Despite their great sacrifices in the struggle against the Nazis he noted they were "sold into slavery to another destructive ideology ... Soviet communism." Indeed they were, although they were not the only nation so betrayed.

Then the pope blundered, badly, not once, but twice. He wrote that "the history of the Soviet Union's role in [the war] was complex" and that "it must not be forgotten that ... the Russians had the highest number of those who tragically lost their lives."

Complex? Has His Holiness truly forgotten that by the time Auschwitz's infamous aperture opened, in June 1940, Hitler's legions, in cahoots with the Red Army, had already dismembered Poland, that France had fallen, and that Norway, the Netherlands, and Belgium had, too? Indeed, the Battle of Britain was about to begin. Before it was over, mid-May 1941, 43,000 British civilians were killed, another 139,000 injured.

There are still veterans about, even some of the pontiff's fellow Poles, who can confirm the war began September 1, 1939, that the Soviet Union was allied to Nazi Germany then, and that, as the blitzkrieg unfolded, the Red Army backstabbed the collapsing republic, on September 17, 1939, intervening to supposedly protect the Ukrainians and Belarusians of eastern Poland. NVKD executioners soon butchered their Polish POWs, at Katyn, and began to liquidate the very peoples they had ostensibly arrived to free, continuing their bloody work in Bessarabia and then in the Baltic states. Even after the two dictators fell out, their killers continued killing. Understandably, many eastern Europeans welcomed the Wehrmacht as liberators, not realizing until too late that the Nazis were bent on the exploitation, enslavement and even extermination of many of those they subjugated.

During and after the war Soviet apologists downplayed Stalin's collaboration with Hitler, instead highlighting their losses in the struggle against fascism, "The Great Patriotic War." Once upon a time they claimed "20 million Soviet war dead." Soon after the USSR's disintegra-

tion, in 1991, Moscow's men changed their tune, chanting about "20 million Russian war dead." More recently those losses were inflated to "27 million Russian war dead" by the former KGB Colonel who rules Russia, Vladimir Putin.

Undeniably, the Soviet military suffered enormous casualties, for which Stalin was much to blame. He ignored credible evidence of Hitler's plans for invading the USSR. He had most of the Red Army's senior officers executed in 1937-1938. More telling is how, when Operation Barbarossa began, June 22, 1941, millions of Soviet soldiers surrendered or defected rather than fight for Stalin. Some even volunteered to serve alongside the Germans, to free their homelands from communism. They were remarkably naive. Most Soviet POWs were murdered. In Nazi eyes all Slavs were "untermenschen," subhumans. True, some were to be reserved from slaughter. Helots were needed to till the land and create a "lebensraum," living space, for the Aryan Master Race setting out to conquer, racially cleanse, then colonize the East, particularly Ukraine. The majority of the indigenes were not, however, scheduled to survive that project. They were regarded as just so many useless mouths.

In defense of historical accuracy, as championed by John Paul II, let us agree, evermore, that "Soviet" military losses will not be equated with "Russian" ones, for not every Soviet soldier was ethnically Russian. And, as the distinguished British historian, Prof. Norman Davies, recognized, let us remember that no nation suffered as many civilian losses in Nazi-occupied Europe as did Ukraine, a catastrophe added on to the many millions who perished during the genocidal Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Soviet Ukraine, the Holodomor.

I am sure the Pole who became pope always understood that Ukrainians were not Russians, not then, nor now. As for President Putin, he was certainly reminded of that by Ukraine's Orange Revolution. Perhaps he even thought of these things as he stood beside a democratically elected president, Viktor Yushchenko, a second-generation Holocaust survivor whose father, Andriy, was once a POW at Auschwitz. Bigots who have stereotyped Ukrainians as nothing more than collaborators or camp guards went dumb for a day at Auschwitz, although their handicap cannot be counted upon to last, unfortunately.

The holy father is probably thinking, even now, of other war-related dates he may be asked to mark this year. For example, 65 years ago, June 10, 1940, Mussolini's fascist Italy attacked Great Britain and France, just as the doors of hell opened at Auschwitz. On that day Adolf's other ally, "Uncle Joe" Stalin, cheered from the sidelines, witnessing Western Europe's great powers fall upon each other. How the bishop of Rome will celebrate that anniversary I cannot divine.

Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk is a professor of political geography at the Royal Military College of Canada.

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

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

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



My greatest orange moment

Like most Ukrainians I've had many orange moments during the past two months. They began with the orange tent city. Then there was the orange Supreme Court declaring the first election fraudulent. Next came the orange call for a new election. Finally there was the second election ending in the orange victory of Viktor Yushchenko.

My greatest orange moment, however, was in Kyiv. I sat in the parliament gallery as Mr. Yushchenko was sworn in as Ukraine's third president. Later, I was in a VIP section on the maidan listening to Ukraine's new president addressing the people of Ukraine, thanking "God who gave us faith, hope and love. We won a great victory with these gifts," he said, "I am praying that we will always treasure them in our hearts."

Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians stood in the square and listened as President Yushchenko thanked them for the great trust they had placed in him. It was a spiritual moment for all of us. We stood there, listening, barely moving. We were solemn, almost as if we were in church. Some of us were crying, tears of joy. Hope was in the air.

Earlier, as the American ambassador's car went by, one could hear shouts of "USA, USA." We were in the new Europe. Truly.

Much of the credit for the Orange Revolution, of course, belongs to the Bush administration. The United States pumped some \$58 million into Ukraine during the past two years. The money was well spent. Quietly and without a lot of fanfare, the money went to democracy-building organizations which spent it well. Enough said.

What happened in Independence Square was not a spontaneous event. It was planned and orchestrated long before the November election. Pora had worked out the logistics. The tents were ready to go. Everything fell into place like clockwork, surprising and throwing the old guard off balance. Before the bad guys could react, hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians were in the square.

Vladimir Putin fumed. Leonid Kuchma flew to Moscow for advice. Some thought was given to creating another Tiananmen Square, but that idea fizzled quickly when it became apparent that the Ukrainian police and military were not prepared to shoot their own people.

During the return flight I had an opportunity to talk with Secretary of State Colin Powell. He came to the front of the plane, all smiles, clapped me on the back and said, "Did we put on a show or what, professor?"

We chatted a while and then I asked, "Will the U.S. continue to support Ukraine?"

"Absolutely" was the answer. "But as I'm sure you know," he added, "there's only so much we can do. Success in the end will depend on the Ukrainian people themselves." Right.

"Ukraine will be a reliable partner in the fight against old and new threats: tyranny, war, poverty, natural disasters and terrorism," President Yushchenko declared during his remarks. "We set before us ambitious tasks. I am fully convinced in the very fiber of my being that soon they will be turned into glorious deeds ... This square is the symbol of a free nation that believes in its power and creates its future on its own." Amen.

Standing there on the maidan I was proud. Proud of being of Ukrainian descent. Proud of being an American, a citizen of the greatest nation in the world. Proud of President Bush who in his inaugural address re-committed our country to spreading democracy throughout the world. "The survival of liberty in our land," said President Bush, "increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands." Ukraine is on its way. Iraq's recent election suggests that Baghdad is as well.

As many Ukrainians know by now, some malcontents decided to rain on my orange moment. Ukrainophobes and their Ukrainian fellow-travelers attempted to smear my integrity and character. Shame on Bush for sending an "anti-Semite" to Kyiv, they said. The White House, they argued in effect, had not vetted the American delegation. This entire tawdry affair had one purpose: smear President Bush.

One Ukrainian, demonstrating "political brilliance" of a rare variety, wrote that according to his "grapevine," two Democrats were scheduled to go on the trip, not two Republicans. Wow! No grapevine here. Just sour grapes.

I was soaked by the downpour but not drowned. Many Ukrainians called or sent me e-mails, expressing their support. No words can adequately express my gratitude.

When two Jewish Democratic congressmen (one from California, for Pete's sake) went to the press and demanded that the president of Northern Illinois University fire me for being an anti-Semite, the president refused. That took incredible courage.

Am I wounded? Probably. Am I dead? No. Will the calumny stop? No. Bullies are still out there. Those who thrive on hate will continue their evil work, but they won't triumph.

Myron Kuropas's e-mail address is: kuropas@comcast.net.



Secretary of State Colin Powell and Dr. Myron B. Kuropas en route to Kyiv.

UCCA delegation meets Tymoshenko, participates in inaugural festivities

by Tamara Gallo Olexy

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

NEW YORK – On the invitation of the Organizational Committee of the Inauguration of the President of Ukraine, several leaders and members of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) arrived in Kyiv on January 21 to participate in the inauguration of President Viktor Yushchenko.

Among them were Michael Sawkiw Jr., president; Marie Duplak, executive secretary; and Roksolana Stojko-Lozynskyj, member of the UCCA Executive Board. Within the framework of inaugural festivities, the UCCA members took part in the inaugural ceremonies that took place on Sunday, January 23, on Independence Square along with approximately 1 million Ukrainian citizens.

While in Ukraine, members of the UCCA delegation on January 24 met and congratulated Yulia Tymoshenko on her appointment as the acting prime minister of Ukraine. "In her office, we were greeted by a smiling,

vibrant woman, on whose shoulders lies the immense responsibility of building the future of Ukraine, the country she loves so much. She embraced us as old friends," commented Ms. Duplak. The UCCA delegation discussed ways of strengthening U.S.-Ukraine cooperation in the near future, and the role of the Ukrainian American community in these relations.

"I was struck by Acting Prime Minister Tymoshenko's attention to transparency in government, as well as her stated commitment to developing and supporting small and medium businesses in Ukraine and of her recognition of the necessity of bringing Ukraine's legal structures up to European standards," said Ms. Stojko-Lozynskyj. "Further, I was heartened by the acting PM's support of the diaspora as critical to Ukraine's future success."

Ms. Tymoshenko underscored that the presence of a large number of international elections observers had played a significant role in ensuring free and democratic election and stated that Ukraine will conduct new parliamentary elections in March

2006, which will be critically important in terms of new democratic reforms.

The UCCA board members informed Ms. Tymoshenko about UCCA activities and its upcoming business forum in New York City in March, to which government officials of the new Ukrainian administration, as well as the business community in Ukraine, will be invited as participants. Ms. Tymoshenko expressed keen interest in the planned forum. "I want to thank you for your continuous work to benefit our Ukraine, our people," concluded the acting prime minister.

Earlier that day, the UCCA delegation also held a meeting with Borys Tarasyuk, a member of the Parliament of Ukraine and chairman of its Committee on European Integration. The discussion centered on issues of cooperation between the new Ukrainian administration with Ukrainian diaspora, and prospects for U.S.-Ukraine relations in the nearest future, especially regarding issues such as graduation from the Jackson-Vanik amendment, recognition of Ukraine as a market economy, and increased trade and

investment opportunities. At the end of the meeting, which lasted over an hour, Mr. Tarasyuk expressed profound gratitude to the international election observers who participated in the presidential election in Ukraine as part of the UCCA delegation in various regions of the country.

The UCCA delegation members were guests at the inaugural concert at the Ukraina Palace concert hall and the "Black Tie and Orange Ball" in honor of President Yushchenko and his wife, Kateryna, which was held at the Ukrainian Home. During the ceremony, the UCCA members had a chance to congratulate the new president, wishing him health, fortitude and success in his work for the benefit of independent Ukraine.

Witnessing the multitudes of people in Independence Square in Kyiv, Mr. Sawkiw reflected: "This is a new independence day for Ukraine as these people stood in this square for weeks on end, holding out hope for a true democratic electoral process. This inaugural day is about Viktor Yushchenko, the Ukrainian people and their resilient spirit to overcome adversity."

Journalists comment on role during Orange Revolution

WASHINGTON – A panel of four Ukrainian radio journalists told a recent RFE/RL audience in Washington that the refusal of many Ukrainian journalists to buckle under government pressure and lie to listeners was a key factor ensuring the victory of pro-Yushchenko forces during the recent Orange Revolution. This journalistic assertion of independence was a "mirror image" of the civil society that was created during the crisis.

Prior to the election campaign, the media was required to follow strict government guidelines in its reporting, said Olesya Sadova, program director of Nezalezhnist Radio in Lviv. These guidelines guaranteed favorable coverage for Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. Ms. Sadova said that these restrictions caused an information blockade in eastern Ukraine, which had little media access to independent sources of information.

Television contributed to challenger Viktor Yushchenko's victory, said Ms. Sadova. She said that Ukraine's Channel 5 reported "complete and honest" stories about the campaigns of both candidates. Every region of Ukraine, according to Ms. Sadova, showed Channel 5 during the Orange Revolution – either live or on distributed CDs, despite the fact that access to that station was prohibited in eastern Ukraine.

The few journalists who relinquished their fears of reporting the truth produced optimism among the Ukrainian population, according to Kyrylo Bulkin, chief editor of NART Radio in Kyiv. He said that the actions of a few journalists and the Ukrainian people helped save its independence and democracy, overturning decades of government corruption and repression.

According to Mr. Bulkin, the Ukrainian government underestimated the power of the Internet. The Internet, according to Mr. Bulkin, not only provided information, it allowed Ukrainians to organize resistance to government efforts to falsify the election results. Internet stories were reproduced in newspapers and were widely read. He said the Internet was especially important in western Ukraine, an area where more people, particularly youth, had access to the Internet.

Stanislav Zaychenko, the director of Radio Three in Zaporozhia said that, although Mr. Yushchenko currently enjoys the support of approximately one-half to two-thirds of the population, he personally remains concerned about two things: that the government will once again begin to give orders to journalists; and the possibility that the current economic situation may still allow journalists to be bought.

Sens. McCain and Clinton...

(Continued from page 1)

political freedoms has positioned Georgia as a stabilizing force in the Caucasus region.

During the presidential campaign in Ukraine, Mr. Yushchenko's calls for full democracy and an end to corruption met obstacles from the government, including the denial of media access, official discrimination and an alleged poisoning attempt. When Ukraine's Central Electoral Commission declared Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich [sic] the winner in the November run-off election – after massive and coordinated vote fraud – Mr. Yushchenko urged peaceful resistance. By channeling the people's aspirations for freedom and democracy into non-violent protest, Viktor Yushchenko sparked the Orange Revolution, and now

stands as his country's president.

Both presidents have displayed a commitment to peace and the rule of law in removing authoritarian governments. Their leadership has allowed millions in Georgia and Ukraine to reclaim their democratic system and to build a society based on law and individual rights.

We believe that the actions of Presidents Saakashvili and Yushchenko testify to the power of peace and human rights in their battle against oppression. Recognizing these men with the Peace Prize would honor not only their historic roles in Georgia and Ukraine, but would also offer hope and inspiration to those seeking freedom in lands still denied it.

Sincerely,
John McCain
Hillary Rodham Clinton
U.S. Senate

Verkhovna Rada...

(Continued from page 1)

ple," she wrote in the program, titled "Toward the People."

"New government policies would be constructed on a clear set of principles: honesty, openness, patriotism, professionalism and effectiveness," she wrote.

Ms. Tymoshenko said that if she is approved, President Yushchenko will immediately sign an order naming his Cabinet.

The goals laid out in Ms. Tymoshenko's program follow the campaign promises that helped propel Mr. Yushchenko to victory in this country's most disruptive election campaign ever. Ms. Tymoshenko pledged to separate business from government and said that if Ukraine's economy experiences growth – such as its tremendous 12.3 percent jump last year – the people should also notice a change in their pocketbooks.

The main tasks will be overcoming poverty, creating more jobs and ensuring "secure and comfortable conditions for life" for the nation of 48 million. Ms. Tymoshenko also said the government would strive to "realize the European choice" – a reference to President Yushchenko's pledge to find a place for Ukraine in the EU.

Among specific proposals in the program were: ensuring access to free medical care, protecting intellectual property rights, converting the military to full contract service by 2010, reforming Ukraine's corrupt judicial system and

changing the nation's image abroad.

Regarding Ukraine's relations with Russia, Ms. Tymoshenko's proposals call for "real and active dialogue" and deepening Ukraine's role as the main transit route for Russian gas to Western Europe.

Ukraine must "define the level of its cooperation" with the Single Economic Space that Russia is seeking to create among some ex-Soviet republics, the program says – a significant step back from former President Leonid Kuchma's pledge to link up with the group.

It notes that Ukraine should deepen its integration with Western organizations and continue to participate in NATO's Partnership for Peace program, but makes no mention of seeking membership in the military alliance.

Ms. Tymoshenko was the most visible of Mr. Yushchenko's allies during the Orange Revolution. Side-by-side with Mr. Yushchenko – and more than anyone else – Ms. Tymoshenko was the political face of the mass movement.

Ms. Tymoshenko will need to win a simple majority of 226 votes in the 450-seat legislature. Many lawmakers said she should easily get the necessary support and expressed regrets about the delay in her approval.

"I am embarrassed for the new authorities, I apologize to the Ukrainian people for it," said Yanukovich ally Nestor Shufrych. "I think that today the new government should have shown its unity, but they showed their greed for official positions and the country's resources," the national deputy added.

Yushchenko's mother dies

KYIV – Varvara Yushchenko, the mother of newly inaugurated Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, died on January 31 at the age of 86.

News reports said Mrs. Yushchenko passed away after "a long and serious illness." She had been hospitalized in Kyiv for the last few months, according to a statement from the president's press office.

After funeral rites in Kyiv, which included a liturgy at St. Volodymyr Cathedral, Mrs. Yushchenko was laid to rest at the village cemetery in her hometown of Khoruzhivka, in the Somy Oblast of northern Ukraine.

Mrs. Yushchenko was born on November 27, 1918. She survived the Famine-Genocide and World War II, and was a teacher of mathematics in Khoruzhivka. Widowed since 1992, she is survived by two sons, seven grandchildren and three great-grand-

children.

She was the subject of a documentary aired on January 31 on UT-1 television. The special was titled "Varvara Yushchenko of Khoruzhivka."

Messages of condolences were sent to President Yushchenko from around the world, including the United States and Russia.

In his inaugural address on January 23, President Yushchenko spoke of his mother: "I thank my mother, Varvara Tymofiyivna, for her love and her prayers, which have protected me. I beg her forgiveness for all the pain that her maternal heart has had to endure, especially in the past four months."

Mrs. Yushchenko was predeceased by her husband, Andriy, also a teacher in Khoruzhivka, who was a survivor of the Auschwitz, Dachau and Buchenwald Nazi camps, where he was held as a prisoner of war.

Former Canadian PM reflects on Ukraine's "crusade for democracy"

by Christopher Guly
Special to the Weekly

OTTAWA – Former Canadian Prime Minister John Turner still has many foreign elections to observe before he catches up to former U.S. President and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jimmy Carter, who regularly criss-crosses the globe to monitor voting.

But just weeks after heading the Canadian delegation that monitored the repeat second round of Ukraine's presidential election on December 26, the 75-year-old Mr. Turner is a man in demand for the role he played in what he dubbed "a crusade for democracy."

Over the past month, he addressed nearly 1,000 guests who attended a dinner, organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, at Toronto's Exhibition Place. Before that, in Winnipeg, he was asked to spend about 10 minutes talking about recent events in Ukraine at the Manitoba Historical Society's annual dinner, though the main focus of his speech was the 190th birthday celebration of one of his predecessors, Sir John A. Macdonald.

If he hadn't a previous commitment opening Christian Unity Week at the Anglican Cathedral Church of St. James in Toronto, Mr. Turner would likely have been back in Ukraine on January 23 to attend the newly elected Ukrainian president's inauguration in Kyiv. Mykola Maimeskul, Ukraine's ambassador to Canada, told *The Ukrainian Weekly* that President Viktor Yushchenko had invited Mr. Turner to be present for the historic moment.

The former Canadian prime minister and the future Ukrainian president know each other; they first met at a Ukrainian Canadian community event in Toronto in May 2003, when Mr. Yushchenko also visited Ottawa.

"I sat next to him at lunch and had a

good time with him – I was very impressed," Mr. Turner said recently in a telephone interview from his law office in Toronto.

He added that he hopes that Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin (like Mr. Turner, also a Liberal) will invite President Yushchenko to visit Canada soon, and Ambassador Maimeskul confirmed that such an invitation was in the works.

In Mr. Turner's view, the friendship between Canada and Ukraine was "enhanced in a remarkable way" through the interest shown by Canadians in "sponsoring democracy" in a country he hopes has now begun "a new era."

More than 4,000 Canadians were willing to spend Christmas in Ukraine. But only 463 were selected to be official observers by CANADEM, the Canadian government-funded, Ottawa-based international peace and security organization.

Mr. Turner said that before members of the Canadian mission left Ottawa to be deployed to monitor voting in 17 of Ukraine's 25 regions – or, in the case of 110 observers, dispatched to work with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe – he gave them some advice. "My caution to them was this was a Ukrainian election, not a Canadian election, and our invitation was to be observers only," he explained.

Mr. Turner said he asked that everyone remain "neutral and impartial and silent."

That message was especially relevant to those observers who felt that Mr. Yushchenko was the rightful victor in the second round of voting on November 21, 2004, when Ukraine's Central Election Commission declared that his opponent, now former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, had won despite reports of massive fraud.

Indeed, Mr. Turner was among the nearly 2,000 protesters who gathered out-

side Ukraine's Consulate General in Toronto on November 23 to condemn the results of that vote.

In the end, though, all of the members of the Canadian mission – 10 times larger in number than any previous Canadian contingent sent to monitor a foreign election – were paragons of impartiality, said Mr. Turner proudly. "They did a remarkably good job. We didn't have a single incident involving our delegation."

In his interim report, released the day after the final round of voting on December 26, Mr. Turner noted "a number of irregularities and infractions." Some complaints were minor: polling stations without ballots or voter lists, or both, the night before the election. Other issues raised were more serious, including the "most egregious example" of harassment in a poll in the mainly Russian-speaking, eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk, where voters were forced "to reveal how they had voted prior to depositing their ballots" while an election official stood by and did nothing.

However, Mr. Turner said that based on what he saw when he visited several polling stations in Kyiv, as well as in a town and a village in the Chernihiv Oblast, the mood was "positive, upbeat, disciplined and well-organized," and polling clerks were "very competent and knew what they were doing."

As he explained in his report: "These polling stations would have done credit to Elections Canada in any of the eight campaigns that I contested."

As it turned out, some Ukrainians were aware of Mr. Turner's place in history as Canada's 17th prime minister. "In some of the polling stations, there were people who had relatives in Canada and knew who I was," he explained. "I think they were pleased that we'd sent somebody of some prominence," he added.

Though he was glad to have been part

of "such a critical and, ultimately, successful moment" in the history of a country he first visited as an Oxford law student in the early 1950s, Mr. Turner admitted that it wasn't easy deciding to spend Christmas away from his family. "I talked it over with my wife and my four children, and they felt there was a good democratic purpose and that I ought to go."

On December 24 he met with Oleksander Zinchenko, manager of Mr. Yushchenko's campaign, and was supposed to also meet that day with Mr. Yanukovich's campaign manager, Taras Chornovil. "I showed up at his office, but he got called away to a meeting," said Mr. Turner.

The next day the former PM also had a 90-minute meeting with Yaroslav Davydovych, head of Ukraine's Central Election Commission to discuss election procedures and the Canadian mission's purpose and concerns.

But Mr. Turner didn't miss celebrating the Yuletide season. Canadian Ambassador Andrew Robinson and his wife, Regina, invited him to share Christmas dinner with them in Kyiv.

And, earlier in the day on December 25, Mr. Turner went to the English-speaking Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. Alexander to attend a "great English mass, with a great choir and a priest from Ireland – Father Paul Roche. How do you like that?"

Not ruling out making a fourth visit to Ukraine, Mr. Turner said he would also consider heading up another Canadian election observer mission. "It would depend where and under what circumstances," he explained.

"I was confident there was a reasonable chance for [the December 26 vote] working well as a free and open election in Ukraine. "That might not be the case in other parts of the world," he commented.

Ukrainian-Americans...

(Continued from page 1)

with us," Ms. Andryczyk said.

"It was an honor and a privilege. I wanted to remember the moment. I wanted to remember the atmosphere," Ms. Andryczyk said of the scene inside the Verkhovna Rada. Both outgoing President Leonid Kuchma and former President Leonid Kravchuk – present during Mr. Yushchenko's inauguration in the Verkhovna Rada – appeared "extremely uncomfortable" during the ceremony, she said.

"Kravchuk's applause was very meager and he looked very restrained," Ms. Andryczyk added.

Following the official ceremony inside the Parliament, the festivities moved outside to Independence Square, where Mr. Yushchenko addressed a crowd, estimated to be in the hundreds of thousands.

A third member of the delegation, Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, called it one of the highlights of his life. "Standing in Maidan [Independence Square] I felt it was a metaphor for a cathedral of hope because everyone was so still and reverent," said Dr. Kuropas, an adjunct professor at Northern Illinois University.

The professor also described being stirred emotionally during the event. "I was moved to tears," Dr. Kuropas said. "Seeing the joy on the faces of the people – it was a feeling that I know I'll never have again. I don't think the people have ever been so united as they were on that day."

The delegation left from Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland on January 22 and flew with all of the regalia accorded the secretary of state. Although the three Ukrainian American members of the U.S. delegation were seated in a separate area from Mr. Powell while on the flight, the retired diplomat did make his way to the delegation, where the four members of the delegation spoke about the situation in Ukraine.

Dr. Kuropas said he asked the secretary whether the United States would continue to support Ukraine. Mr. Powell said absolutely, but that the final decision on U.S. support for Ukraine rests with the Ukrainian people.

Ms. McConnell also acknowledged a difficult road



Secretary of State Colin Powell (second from right) with Ukrainian American members of the official U.S. delegation to the inauguration of President Viktor Yushchenko, (from left) Myron Kuropas, Vera Andryczyk and Nadia McConnell.

ahead for Ukrainians. "There is obviously so much work still ahead, but the sense there is that the shackles are off," she observed.

And much of that enthusiasm could be seen in the streets of downtown Kyiv just prior to Mr. Yushchenko's inaugural address on Independence Square, members of the U.S. delegation said.

"Everything clicked. It was like a big party," Ms. Andryczyk said. "The sun came out, the sea of orange, the people everywhere. It was incredibly friendly and very cordial. I never smiled so much in my life. There was so much pride."

The U.S. delegation landed at Kyiv's Boryspil airport on the night of Saturday, January 23, and was greeted at the airport by U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst. Following State Department protocol, the three Ukrainian Americans came off the plane just behind Mr. Powell and his wife, Alma, and Undersecretary of State

for Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky.

The delegates traveled by motorcade to the center of the city, where they attended a number of pre-inauguration functions and after the official ceremony traveled to Independence Square to listen to President Yushchenko's inaugural address.

"Secretary Powell and his wife stood through the cold and stayed for the entire address," said Ms. Andryczyk, who, together with Ms. McConnell, stayed for the inaugural ball later that night while the remainder of the delegation traveled back to the United States that night.

Members of the delegation said they were honored to have been chosen to represent the United States and said they learned of being selected only days before the January 23 inauguration.

"To have been given the privilege to participate when so many other people could have been there – I was really very touched," Ms. McConnell said.



FOCUS ON PHILATELY

by Inger Kuzych, Roman Dubyniak and Peter Cybaniak

Crimean conflict collectibles

Part II Stamps

Although Crimea and Sevastopol have been commemorated on many stamps (both Soviet and Ukrainian), only a few depict the Crimean War specifically. In 1954, on the centennial of the conflict, the USSR issued a three-stamp set

British cigarette manufacturers had an interesting custom in the past of including little collectible cards in their cigarette packages depicting topics that would be of interest to their (mostly male) customers. This practice was a clever scheme to encourage brand loyalty, as well as cigarette consumption. We have been able to locate five such cards



Figure 9. Set of Soviet stamps from 1954 issued on the centennial of the siege of Sevastopol.

(Figure 9) titled “Heroic Defense of Sevastopol.” The 40-kopek low value depicts the Monument to Sunken Ships that stands in the harbor to this day. The 60-kopek value presents five heroes from the yearlong siege. The figure in the center is Petro Kishka (1828-1882). Born a serf in the village of Ometytsi, Vinnytsia Oblast, he was forced to enter the Russian navy by his landlord. He displayed outstanding courage during the defense of the city. The two figures to his right have surnames of I. Dymchenko and F. Zaika, respectively, and are likely also Ukrainian, but we know nothing further about them. The high value 1-ruble stamp shows Admiral P.S. Nakhimov, who led the city’s defense.

Just last year Great Britain issued a set of six stamps showing six heroic individuals from the Crimean War (Figure 10). They were photographed by Joseph Cundall and Robert Howlett of the Photographic Institution of London. During June and July of 1856, as troops returning from Crimea congregated at Aldershot for a grand London parade, the photographers set up a temporary studio at Aldershot Camp, and it was here that most of their images were captured.

Ukraine released a 45-kopiyka Balaklava commemorative stamp in August of 2004, but it honored the 2,500th anniversary of the founding of the city and not the events of the Crimean War (Figure 11). A subsequent special cancellation from September 4, 2004, indirectly honored the fighting at Balaklava by showing ruined buildings from the siege (Figure 12).

Collectible cigarette cards

illustrating Crimean War action scenes. More such cards likely exist. Figure 13 shows the fierce fighting that took place at the Battle of Alma, 1854. The inscription on the back mentions that “A captured Russian general said he expected to fight brave men, but he found red devils ... The Russians were utterly routed and threw away arms and knapsacks in their headlong flight.”

Figures 14 and 15 show scenes from the Battle of Balaklava. In the first, Sgt. Major J. Grieve saves the life of an officer surrounded by Russian cavalry in the charge of the Heavy Brigade. In the other, Lt. A. R. Dunn saves the life of a comrade by cutting down three Russian lancers who were attacking him from the rear during the charge of the Light Brigade. For these actions both men won the Victoria Cross (V.C.), first awarded during the Crimean War.

The card in Figure 16 shows Sgt. G. Walters saving the life of a brigadier general surrounded by the enemy at the Battle of Inkerman. The final card (Figure 17) depicts Pvts. Hampston and Bradshaw, who in daylight stormed and captured a Russian rifle pit. They, too, received the V.C.

Medals

We know of two medals prepared especially for participants of the Crimean War and a third decoration that was first awarded during this conflict for conspicuous bravery. Figure 18 shows two examples of the Crimean War Medal prepared by order of Queen Victoria in 1854 for all ranks and forces – British Army, Navy and Marines – engaged in the con-

flict. The ribbon of the 36mm silver medal was pale blue with yellow edges (very reminiscent of the Ukrainian colors) and shows a profile of the queen on the obverse. On the reverse, a Roman soldier, armed with circular shield and short sword, is crowned by a flying Victory. Special clasps could be affixed for each of the major engagements: Alma, Inkerman, Azoff (Azov; for the navy), Balaklava and Sevastopol (Sevastopol). Medals with one and four clasps respectively are represented in Figure 18.

Another award is the Turkish Crimea Medal prepared in 1855 by the Ottoman Sultan for the troops of the three allied armies: British, French and Sardinian (Figure 19). These 36mm silver medals – with a crimson ribbon bordered in green – depicted a cannon, weapons and the four allied flags on the obverse, and an Arabic design on the reverse. Three types were prepared that differed on the obverse in the arrangement of the flags – each flag prominently displayed for one of the three allies.

The third decoration is the Victoria

Cross, introduced by the queen in 1854 for conspicuous bravery in the presence of the enemy. Unlike the other two medals it is not composed of shiny silver, instead it is cast from the bronze of the cannons captured from the Russians during the siege of Sevastopol. Today the Victoria Cross is recognized as the British Commonwealth’s highest military decoration for bravery.

Last year the Canada Post honored the 150th anniversary of the V.C. with a pair of stamps depicting the medal (in old and new designs; Figure 20). Sixteen stamps made up the border of the stamp pane in a unique arrangement (Figure 21) that allowed the central portion to be used in listing all 94 Canadians who have won the award. Conspicuous among the winners is Sgt. Filip Konowal, whose exploits were recorded in several articles published in *The Ukrainian Weekly* last year and who won his decoration during World War I.

Concluding statement

The above-described items represent only a sampling of the many types of



Figure 12. A follow-up commemorative cancellation from September 4, 2004, (enlarged) again mentions the 2,500th anniversary, but displays ruins of the siege of Balaklava.



Figure 11. Ukrainian first day cover of August 14, 2004, honoring the 2,500th anniversary of Balaklava.



Figure 10. British stamps from 2004 showing returning members of the British Crimean expeditionary force.



Figure 13. Cigarette card showing fighting at Alma.



Figure 14 and 15. Cigarette cards depicting cavalry action during the Battle of Balaklava.



Figure 17. Cigarette card of the audacious storming of a Russian rifle pit.



Figure 16. Cigarette card showing the rescue of a British general at the Battle of Inkerman.

Crimean War collectibles that are available to the collector. We welcome information from others on different items they may have discovered related to this often-overlooked but extremely important chapter of Ukrainian history. The senior author of this article may be reached at the e-mail and postal addresses given below.

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

Metropolitan Wasyly...

(Continued from page 4)

interment at Glen Eden Cemetery. Following the interment, a memorial luncheon was held at the Holy Trinity Auditorium.

The main celebrant of the funeral services was Archbishop John, archbishop of Edmonton and the Western Diocese, acting primate of the UOCC. Concelebrants were Archbishop Yuriy of Toronto and the Eastern Diocese, and visiting hierarchs and clergy of the UOCC.

The passing of Metropolitan Wasyly has impoverished his brother bishops, together with the Rt. Rev. Mitred William Makarenko, chair of the Presidium of the Consistory of the UOCC, the members of the Presidium and Full Consistory of the UOCC, and his spiritual children – the clergy and laity of the UOCC.

Metropolitan Wasyly's loss is felt most deeply by his sons by marriage to Paraskeviya (née Tymoffee) Fedak, who predeceased her husband in 1976: Justice Eugene Fedak; Jaroslaw Fedak, and Emil Fedak, along with their families; and his sister, Irene Melnyshuk; his niece and care-giver, Nadia Hudyma; and his personal secretary, the Rev. Fr. Cornell Zubritsky.

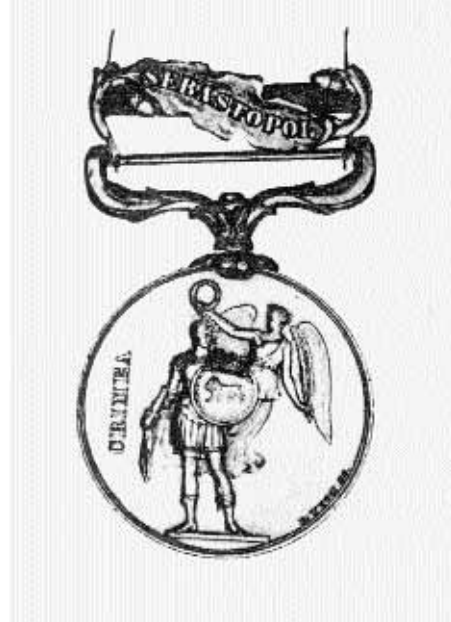


Figure 18. Examples of the British Crimean War medal.



Figure 19. The Turkish Crimea medal.



Figure 20. The Victoria Cross stamps issued by the Canada Post last year.

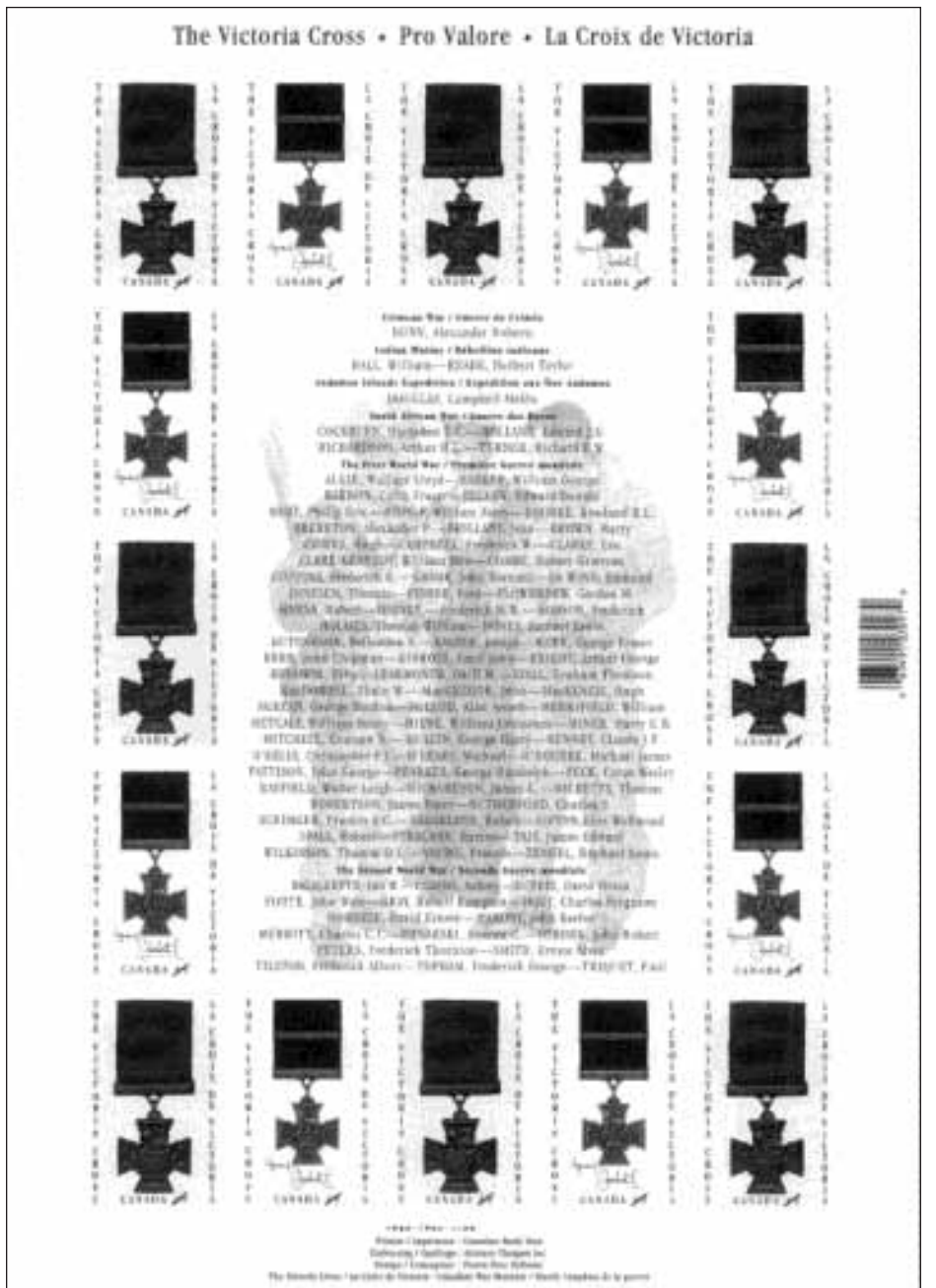


Figure 21. Full pane of the Victoria Cross stamps. Ukrainian Canadian war hero Filip Konowal is among the 94 recipients listed in the center of the pane.

Attention, Students!

Throughout the year Ukrainian student clubs plan and hold activities. The Ukrainian Weekly urges students to let us and the Ukrainian community know about upcoming events.

The Weekly will be happy to help you publicize them. We will also be glad to print timely news stories about events that have already taken place. Photos also will be accepted.

MAKE YOURSELF HEARD.

REFLECTIONS OF ELECTION OBSERVERS

The scene in Sevastopol

by Paul de Zardain

On New Year's Eve, Kyiv's Independence Square might as well have been Tibet. Snowflakes were falling on the maidan as hundreds of orange banners fluttered in the wind. Children marched down Institutska Street with flags strapped to their fishing poles. Further down on the Khreschatyk, Kyiv's main boulevard, student protesters roasted chestnuts in an improvised tent city. Kyiv was entranced by its commitment to a cause. Were these the architects of revolution? Yes – and they could hardly believe they had won.

The maidan, a popular name for Independence Square, has been at the center of Ukraine's democratic revolution. Bright orange is the color of Our Ukraine, the party of Viktor Yushchenko. Since November, politicians have stepped onto a techno stage here to denounce the election fraud that would have handed the presidency to Viktor Yanukovich. After considering 11,000 election violations, Ukraine's Supreme Court ordered a rerun on December 26. This time, Mr. Yushchenko managed a 7.8 percent lead over Yanukovich – an ample margin of 2.27 million votes. Homo Sovieticus was on his deathbed, said an analyst. With him, on the night table, was the ossified regime of Leonid Kuchma.

At dusk, the insignias of Georgia began to converge on the stage. The presence of President Mikhail Saakashvili, Georgia's reformist leader, had been announced on large video screens. Mr. Yushchenko himself was due to address the crowd ahead of the midnight fireworks. His name was already being chanted in bursts of spontaneity. Close to the loudspeakers, a group of Iranian teenagers soaked up pop music, yelling at each other in Persian slang. Flags from several countries were captured by a camera panning the audience: Canadian maple leaves, half-moons from Azerbaijan, blue fields from the European Union, dragons from Wales and a grizzly bear from California.

Kyiv had never been so hip. Last November it taught the world a lesson. By rejecting a rigged election, it found a new national consciousness. Following independence in 1991, Ukraine's 48 million citizens had been conditioned to think like a monolith.

Paul de Zardain works as an economic analyst in Moscow. He was an international election observer in Sevastopol with the delegation organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

Bureaucracy was of the surrealist genre and payoffs for services were common from the polyclinic all the way to higher education.

Neither East nor West, Ukraine was stuck with a template of oligarchic capitalism, followed by a plate of managed democracy à la Putin. Russians felt sorry for their southern cousins, casting them as rough-hewn peasants. A popular restaurant in Moscow displays Ukrainians in theme-park style, with a live granny caring for her chickens.

Meanwhile, President Kuchma presided over a fiefdom in which clans had a stab at policy-making in the Verkhovna Rada. Only in this environment of corruption could assets like Kryvorizhstal, a giant steel mill, be sold to his son-in-law. In 2000, a tape recording also linked Mr. Kuchma to the killing of investigative reporter Heorhii Gongadze. His body was later found by a roadside. Ukrainians rebelled against this model, best exemplified by the cult of the black Mercedes-Benz. Given a choice between systems, they opted for European liberal democracy.

This is a hard pill to swallow if you are a former naval officer from Sevastopol, Crimea. That is where I was posted with a group of seven other international observers on December 26. Sevastopol is almost 750 kilometers south of Kyiv and far from the high-flying chants of the Orange Revolution. Founded as a naval stronghold in the days of Catherine the Great, it entered Russian lore for resisting an Anglo-Gallic siege in 1855. Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev transferred the whole of Crimea to Ukraine in April 1954.

Today, 19th century limestone buildings grace the embayed harbor and tree-lined promenades. The strategic city has evolved into a balmy seaside resort despite its aura of secrecy. This is, after all, the main base for Russia's Black Sea Fleet. The population of 400,000 is predominantly ethnic Russian, an anomaly in a peninsula long a melting pot for Greeks, Tatars, Jews and Genoese. What makes the city truly different, however, is its legal status. Sevastopol is an independent metropolitan district on par with Kyiv.

A record 12,400 international observers turned up in Ukraine for the rematch between Messrs. Yushchenko and Yanukovich. Many were Canadians with family roots in Ukraine. Others, with experience at polling stations in transition states, were sent by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe from Sweden.

My team was a handful of rugged individualists. Roman is a biomedical inventor from New Jersey who left Ukraine as a child refugee. Masha is a journalist working at Moscow's last independent radio station, Echo Moskv. Viola is a German agricultural economist specializing in Eastern European development. Donat is a Fokker pilot from Luxembourg with a second home in Odesa. Richard is a political science professor from Sacramento, with a hankering for Yalta. Ruslan, our team leader, is a strong-willed financial analyst from Edmonton. Then there was Robert, a resettled Manitoban with a love interest in Kyiv. As for myself, I work as an economics analyst in Moscow. All of us flew to Crimea after two days of chaotic training.

On December 26 I was assigned to polling station No. 41, a public school outside of Sevastopol. District 224, formerly a string of villages on the road to Balaklava, has grown into a charmless housing project for former civil servants. The side streets are cratered and reflect the level of infrastructure you might expect in eastern Turkey, just south of here. The previous day our team had decided to keep an eye on this precinct because of its group dynamics. Observers develop a sixth sense after visiting an average of three polls per hour. Some tip-offs include lukewarm welcomes or brusque movements, as when we stumbled into two commission members copying lists from a previous election. At my poll, the young secretary, Irina Sulimenko, seemed easy prey for Olga Zabyamova, a commandeering commission president.

Taras, our regional leader, had told us that election observing is like playing spy. I began election day at 7:15 a.m. by checking the names of the first and last entries on the voting lists. No names can be added or marginal notes annotated. According to the list, 2,056 people were entitled to vote and the Territorial Electoral Commission had provided 2,092 ballots. I then tested the pens for invisible ink. Documenting each step on an official checklist can help back up any allegations of fraud. Part of my job was to remind the commission to stick to the regulations drawn up by the Central Election Commission in Kyiv. Checking IDs is also important in Sevastopol, where 73 percent of the population retains Russian citizenship. Although technically illegal, dual citizenship has proven a useful hedge against post-Soviet insecurities.

A local OSCE consultant, Liubov Bogdanova, said voters here see Mr. Yushchenko as a usurper of their inalienable rights. After years of scuffles over sovereignty, Moscow and Kyiv agreed to

grant Sevastopol de-facto autonomy from the rest of Crimea. "But people continue to tune into Moscow, not Kyiv. Mr. Putin promised them visas and Mr. Yanukovich promised to make Russian an official language," explained Ms. Bogdanova.

During the day, people walked over to offer snacks and chat me up. The local marriage market was a recurring topic, but so was the amount of money I allegedly was being paid by U.S. authorities to "secure" Sevastopol. I explained that I had paid my own way from Moscow. The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) was covering meals and our hotel expenses downtown, but the rest was out of my pocket. Then I must be of western Ukrainian descent, they concluded.

With a cursory look at my last name, the conversation quickly reverted to capital flows.

In the logical warp of post-Soviet democracies, election rigging is accepted as a way to counteract the power of money. Forget civil society or the human drive to adopt the innovations of others. Money is the kingmaker.

Marina, a middle-aged Yanukovich supporter, wondered whether international observers should not be dispatched to Ohio instead of Crimea. She had a point, but her comments reflected Kremlin propaganda rather than reasoned criticism. Russian PR men like Gleb Pavlovsky have accused Washington of bankrolling agitators on the maidan. Moscow has been rife with speculation about how much they get paid per hour. Fed ad nauseam through Russian-language TV stations, Sevastopol needed little convincing.

The only serious violation at Ms. Zabyamova's polling station was when I noticed she had not posted the campaign platforms of both candidates. According to Ukrainian election law (Article 74.5), the official material should hang at the entrance to each poll. A series of snapshots on my camera show the school janitor, a former naval officer, running away with the posters to cut them up in a room down the hall. "We do things differently here," he said. "Go back to America." That was the only ugly incident during a day in which I visited 11 other precincts in District 224.

The tedious process of counting unused ballots, control ballots, spoiled ballots and valid ballots lasted until 2:30 a.m. Ms. Zabyamova developed a transitory speech impediment after pronouncing the word "Yanukovich" so many times. Yes, Yanukovich won in my district by 88.52 percent. The final tally at polling station No. 41 was 1,426 for Mr. Yanukovich and 107 for Mr. Yushchenko. Thirty-seven people voted against both candidates.

Fata Morgana travels to Ukraine to support the Orange Revolution

by Lidia Hawryluk

NEW YORK – On December 22, 2004, Oleksij Kereksha and the Fata Morgana band arrived at Boryspil Airport in Kyiv full of pride and enthusiasm for the Orange Revolution. Feeling the need to support the energy manifesting itself in Kyiv, the group felt that by performing their original musical compositions they could show their support and help ignite the cause.

The decision to travel to Ukraine to support Viktor Yushchenko was a spontaneous and emotional one for the group. Upon receiving an invitation

from the Yushchenko campaign to perform on the maidan, their decision was made. Travel arrangements were set and the group began its adventure.

Fata Morgana was created by Oleksij Kereksha in 1988 in Kyiv. Since 1991 the group has made its home in the United States, playing at festivals, concerts, dances and weddings. The members include Ihor Shablovsky, Andriy Solodenko and Serge Kolomiets (the only member not able to make the trip due to family obligations).

During their visit to Kyiv, Fata Morgana gave numerous radio interviews and Mr. Kereksha, the group's

founder and leader, was featured on a Channel 5 Television interview.

As the only musical ensemble representing the U.S. diaspora, members of Fata Morgana had the privilege of performing at the tent city before their historic appearance on the central stage on Independence Square in front of tens of thousands of Yushchenko supporters. The original compositions of Mr. Kereksha echoed through the crowds as "Okean," "Hamalia" and "Kyiv" created an atmosphere of pride and patriotism on the evening of December 26.

The pride and awe felt by the members of Fata Morgana simply cannot be

put into words. "To be a part of history can't be defined," Mr. Kereksha underscored.

Fata Morgana expressed thanks to supporters who made this historic trip possible: the Ukrainian Fraternal Association, Self Reliance Credit Union of Jersey City, Self Reliance Credit Union of New York, Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church of Jersey City, N.J., Stepan Maksymczuk, Stefka Maciach, Halyna Hawryluk, Ihor Danylko, the Voskobijnyk family, Volodymyr Kozicky and Dunwoodie Travel, Orysia Salak and Andriy Cihovlyas.

REFLECTIONS OF ELECTION OBSERVERS

From Kyiv to Irpin

by **Ulana Baluch Mazurkevich**

I arrived in Kyiv on December 23, 2004, to be an international election monitor for the December 26, run-off presidential election between Viktor Yushchenko and Viktor Yanukovich.

Arriving at the center of the Orange Revolution, I am immediately caught up in the almost carnival-like atmosphere. Everyone walking the streets of Kyiv is swathed in the orange color, there is orange everywhere: orange scarves, orange caps and orange ribbons tied as arm bands. Some of the women have elaborate orange fringes tied around their boots, and in their hair. As one Ukrainian actress there said to me, "orange is such a happy color, and it is so becoming to both men and women."

Music is blasting everywhere. There are smiles on peoples' faces. I have never seen so many smiling faces – and this in

Ulana Baluch Mazurkevich, is president of the Ukrainian Human Rights Committee, was an election monitor in Kyiv on December 23-30, 2004. In 1991 she traveled with members of Rukh to campaign for the pro-independence referendum. Ms. Mazurkevich is a former public member of the United States Commission on the Ukraine Famine.

Ukraine. It is a very welcoming atmosphere. People express kindness toward one another, and everyone is eager to help. I am told that since the Orange Revolution the crime rate in the city of Kyiv has dropped drastically; the Orange Revolution has captured us, it has enthralled us, it has changed us.

In the middle of the wide Khreschatyk boulevard stands the tent city. It is next to Independence Square, currently referred to as the "maidan." The tent city is a city unto itself; it is closed off to cars as well as to pedestrians. Because of this blockage of one of the main arteries of the city there are horrendous traffic jams, but no one complains. Everyone accepts this with a big smile.

The tent city is fortified and encircled with graffiti poster boards proclaiming: "Yushchenko is the truth," "Ukraine is and will be," "Ternopil for Yushchenko"; "Yes! Yushchenko," "Putin out of Ukraine," etc. There is only one entrance to this encampment. To be granted entrance, appropriate identification must be presented, and only if the administration of this city grants you entrance can you enter. At the entrance to the tent city stands a chalk board and requests for the day are written on it. Today's request: "We need coffee." I see an elderly woman, who herself looks like she needs assistance, donating a bag of

coffee to the tent city. She thanks them for their work, and they thank her. Young and old, rich and poor in the spirit of this Orange Revolution are working together.

The tent city has its own hierarchy. There are guards who are identified by their armbands who keep control in the city, as well as patrol the perimeter of this encampment. These "police patrols" are also used to prevent any incidents outside the tent city.

I see a group of 50 or so elderly women and men carrying icons and placards with signs denouncing Mr. Yushchenko: "Yushchenko is a Nazi," "Yushchenko is the death of the Orthodox Church."

They are accompanied on both sides by orange-ribboned policemen" from the tent city. I find out that this is done to prevent any incidents or any aggression by the Yanukovich supporters and to prevent any clashes between the two opposing sides. So the demonstrators are allowed their freedom of expression, and this freedom is protected by the very side that they are protesting against. Democracy is at work!

Election day, December 26, 2004: It's the day of the presidential run-off elections between Viktor Yushchenko and Viktor Yanukovich. We international election observers have all been assigned a region to monitor. I am assigned to Irpin, 60 kilometers north of Kyiv.

We arrive at our destination, a former factory. It is bitterly cold outside, the streets are icy and the sidewalks have not been swept. It is difficult walking on the sheet of ice. Inside the polling place it is just as cold. Electric heaters have been plugged in in an effort to heat the long row of election officials. But the room never warms up. Outside the polling place hangs a Ukrainian flag, there are no posters espousing this or that candidate, and no campaign material is being passed out. At the polling station both candidates have their representative. The electoral commission that sits at each polling station is headed by the commission head. The election commission decides if a vote is valid or not. We, as international observers, are there only to monitor; we cannot vote on the validity of a ballot. As international election monitors, however, we bring a certain legitimacy to this electoral process, and it seems that our very presence keeps everyone on their toes.

The doors open and the masses of peo-

ple start lining up to vote. Their passports have to be checked against their registration. Problems arise when some of the voters who are not on the list insist that they registered. At this point they are sent to the courthouse to resolve this problem and to bring back documentation to allow them to vote. The courthouse is opened specifically for these elections. It is so very icy and cold outside that I am surprised these people have the fortitude to keep going back and forth between the polling station and the courthouse. They are determined to make their vote count.

At our polling station we are joined for a short time by another international monitor, a deputy from the Russian Duma, Nikolai Kurianovich. In the Duma, Mr. Kurianovich is on the Committee on National Security. He belongs to the LDP, a party headed by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. Mr. Kurianovich tells me "I am here to make sure that the elections are according to law." He further tells me that he wants Zhirinovskiy to become president of Russia. I comment, "you want a Russian empire." He responds, "Ukraine should be with Russia, with Belarus, with Kazakstan – we would all be in an economic partnership." He continues, "we, don't want to be under the influence of America and Europe." Furthermore, he says, "tell America and her 50 states, as well as the 51st state of Israel, to stay out of Ukraine's and Russia's business." It's obvious which candidate he supports!

We leave the polling station at 11:30 p.m.

However, the day is not ended. We arrive at the Yushchenko campaign headquarters, which are located at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy at 1 a.m. The headquarters is packed with the world media. They have all set up their cameras in anticipation of Mr. Yushchenko's victory announcement. At 1:30 a.m. Victor Yushchenko appears on stage and declares victory. The hall goes absolutely wild, chanting "Yushchenko," "Yushchenko." Everyone is euphoric. Mr. Yushchenko addresses the assembled, and thanks them for their support, then asks everyone to join him in going to the maidan to thank the "narod" – the people.

I get a chance to speak to Katya Chumachenko Yushchenko, Mr. Yushchenko's wife, and I ask her – "Is there anything that you need us to do?" She replies, "Just enjoy yourself – "zabavliaytesia." This we all do until the wee hours of the morning.



Ulana Baluch Mazurkevich with a young "policeman" at the tent city on Kyiv's Independence Square.

On assignment in Vasylykiv

by **Katya Bowers**

My husband, Hank, and I were observers for the December 26 elections in Ukraine under the auspices of UCCA. I was an observer for the parliamentary elections in 1991 when Ukraine was still a Soviet socialist republic. I was there as an observer later that year on December 1 when the people of Ukraine went to the polls to cast their votes in a referendum on independence and to elect the country's first president, Leonid Kravchuk. I was in Kyiv to lend a helping

Katya and Henry Bowers, MD., live in Sanibel, Fla. Dr. Bowers is a retired pathologist who was the director of laboratories at Mount Vernon Hospital in Alexandria, Va. Ms. Bowers is a Soviet expert with 20 years' experience in Washington, most recently as the WESTNIS Regional Director in Kyiv for the Counterpart Foundation, a not-for-profit organization funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development to provide programs to help the civil sector in Ukraine.

hand when the United States opened its Embassy in 1992. I served as a regional director in Kyiv for one of the USAID assistance programs to Ukraine from 1993-1994.

Therefore, I had to be there on December 26, 2004, to observe the election of the first democratic president in Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko. I was happy to have my husband participate with me, also as an official UCCA observer. He is a non-Ukrainian, but firmly supportive of his Ukrainian-born wife.

Our desire to be present at the historic elections was almost thwarted by the late arrival of our visas from the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington. They finally came 24 hours before our flight to Ukraine. Our late arrival in Kyiv meant that we could not go to Kharkiv as planned, because the team of observers to that eastern oblast had already departed. It was a disappointment. I was born south of that city in a village called Plysova. In 1993, 50 years after the Nazis drove us off our land, I stood where our house once stood and walked along the rows of sugar beets where my father's

apple orchard had grown. The village was burned to the ground in late 1943, part of Hitler's scorched earth policy as the German eastern front withdrew behind the Dnipro River to the west bank before an advancing Red Army. I was hoping to see Plysova again and to show my husband my ancestral village.

At the UCCA headquarters, located at the corner of Prorizna Street and the Khreschatyk, the staff reassigned us to an area close to Kyiv. Leaving the building, we had our first chance to take a closer look at the tent city clearly visible from the foot of Prorizna. It looked like a permanent encampment, with a press center, posted sentries and stoves inside the tents to fend off the bitter cold. Later that day, December 25, we celebrated my birthday with our longtime friends, the noted Ukrainian artist Oleksander Dubovyk and his wife, Iryna. All in all, it was a full but happy day.

On the 26th we met our driver, Aleksei, a Russian, at 6 a.m., in order to arrive at our first polling station in Vasylykiv no later than 7:15. Vasylykiv is a small town just outside Kyiv on the same side of the Dnipro River. We were instructed to be present before the polling station was open at 8 a.m. to certify

that the polling boxes were sealed and not tampered with before the voting started.

The 16-member local election board at polling precinct No. 1 in the Cultural Center at Vasylykiv was very cooperative. The head of the board, Olha Hryhorivna Blyzniuk, explained carefully every step she was taking in a procedure that was spelled out by election law. She invited us and the Ukrainian observers in the room, representing each candidate, to examine the four sealed polling boxes, the ballot forms and the pens – making sure they were not filled with disappearing ink. She also allowed us to inspect each of the six polling booths where voters would cast their ballots in secret. There were 2,318 registered voters in that precinct. Hank carried his camcorder and was able to film the entire opening of the polling station, as well as the first voters to arrive.

From there we went on to other polling places in the town: to precinct No. 9 located in a factory with 2,236 registered voters, and precinct No. 4 in a school with over 800 registered voters. We encountered no problems. Several times we found our-

(Continued on page 23)

REFLECTIONS OF ELECTION OBSERVERS

In the town of Kupiansk

by Yaromyr Oryshkevych

Now it can be told. Ukraine had the third (and final) round of its presidential election, and democracy won. When the call went out from various monitoring organizations that they needed monitors to be at the polls during the election on December 26, yours truly (and many of my friends, including Dr. Roman Serbyn, who became my traveling partner) heeded the call, made reservations, and flew to Ukraine.

I found out upon arrival that there were over 12,000 foreign election observers, most from the U.S. and Canada, and that we would be sent into "hostile" areas, where the greatest fraudulent occurrences were detected in the previous election.

On the evening of December 25 several of us took a train from Kyiv to Kharkiv, found our hotel and located the individuals for whom we carried "spos-terihach" certificates which allowed them to function as official election observers.

I was then rousted out of bed at 4 a.m. on December 26 and told that two vehicles would carry a group of seven of us (plus two drivers) to a smaller city, Kupiansk, about two hours to the east, near the Russian border, where we would do our poll watching.

We were also told by people who had visited the area the day before that we would be approached by burly men, verbally or even physically assaulted, our lives possibly threatened, our badges stripped from our jackets (we were told to put them away), and to be aware of the

Yaromyr Oryshkevych volunteered to be an observer under the auspices of the UCCA. A resident of the suburbs of Washington and a dentist in Waldorf, Md., he was born in Zolochiv, Halychyna.

possible cutting of electrical wires to the polling place, and that we were to videotape any and all such occurrences.

At about 5:30 a.m., our vehicles stopped for a "smoke break" literally in the middle of nowhere, with half a foot of snow covering the countryside and not another person or car in sight. After the break, a couple of people got switched; we had a new passenger, and we received a repeat of the previous precautions.

By about 6:45 a.m., we arrived in Kupiansk, got oriented and proceeded to the first polling place, which I expected to be guarded by black-jacketed burly men with axe handles and ski masks. Instead, a smiling gentleman in a suit escorted us in, and a line of ladies at the sign-in tables welcomed us with smiles and friendly greetings. (So far so good.)

We observed the entire procedure from the opening of the safe, distribution of the ballots and signed petitions, the assembly and sealing of the voting boxes, to an explanation of what to do with individuals who cannot identify themselves – everyone needed a passport. Well, now we're getting better. (The bad guys must be hiding.)

We left a couple of our people there, and after visiting another polling place, our cars split up, and we paired up and visited several more polling places. Everywhere the poll workers were quite friendly, the leaders were quite cooperative, with an occasional resistant one, and we filmed anything which could have been remotely out of place. The occasional black-jacketed burly guys were few and far between, and I certainly didn't see any axe handles.

We visited a local establishment that supplied us with delicious ethnic food (the waiter could have used a little Dale Carnegie refresher), and over the meal we plotted our strategy for the afternoon

and evening.

Our pair continued to visit various polling places, some more difficult to find than others, and I continued to film the facilities and the conditions under which people voted. Some people had to travel quite a distance in the snow – many walked, some took public transportation – to vote, but the voting commission provided buses for invalids who wanted to come to vote (if they didn't have a physician's certification, no vehicle would be sent to collect their vote, so they had to come to the polling place to vote in person), and they came. One elderly lady who couldn't even walk, was assisted by two burly men, cast her ballot, and, when asked for whom she voted admitted that she voted for Viktor Yanukovych. Even though Mr. Yanukovych was not thought of well by people in the western part of the country, he was still the candidate of the east.

Several more polling places later, my partner Constantine and I arrived at a site we visited previously and spent the remainder of the evening here, watching the last vote being cast, witnessing the closing of the doors, the announcement of the procedures to be followed and the opening of the voting boxes. Then the counting began. I thought the woman who repeated Yanukovych's name 1,500 times would be in a straight jacket by the end of the evening, but she did well. Mr. Yanukovych beat Viktor Yushchenko by about 5:1; again, democracy at work.

We followed the vehicles carrying the sealed packages of the certified ballots and final counts to the central election bureau, where we were to witness 170 polling places post their results. By about 7:30 the next morning all 170 reported, and Mr. Yanukovych had at least a 6:1 margin. The people were expressing their will.

By about 8:15 a.m. our remaining five some (the others left earlier) drove west to Kharkiv, drooping and dozing as the

countryside swept by, but elated by the fact that we made sure democracy worked and that the people were able to vote for the candidate of their choice. Our presence possibly prevented the 6:1 margin from becoming a 10:1 margin (as happened on November 21 in many places). By the time we arrived in Kharkiv, we found out that Mr. Yushchenko had already been declared the winner (by CNN exit polls) by about 54 to 46 percent, but that the final results wouldn't be available for several more days. The Orange Revolution succeeded, even though when we were in the eastern part of Ukraine we could show no colors nor express any opinion.

Several challenges by random individuals at the polling places proved that we came as impartial observers, and that made other observers present feel at ease. At one polling place, an elderly gentleman came up to us and started to tell us what he thought of Mr. Yanukovych (mind you, as a Yushchenko supporter he was in a 5:1 minority, and he felt "safe" in expressing himself to us); our videographer continued to film while this gentleman continued his diatribe; when he asked us what we thought, we emphasized that we wanted to make sure that the voices of the people of Ukraine would be expressed through their vote, and that democracy would be the winner. He then quieted down, went back to his place and we continued to observe.

The black-jacketed burly men kept a low profile, we were followed much of the time, cell phones announced our departure from one place and approach to another, but the foreign eyes that we lent to the proceedings, and the video cameras that recorded many of the events helped to maintain the principles we were trying to guarantee: free speech, one person one vote, majority rules, no verbal or physical intimidation – all spelling democracy for a newly emerging country.

On the ground in Khmelnytskyi

by Andy J. Semotiuk

In early December 2004 I sat in my office in Los Angeles and watched on my computer as, day after day, news from Ukraine reached us. I was impressed by the discipline of the opposition and the fact that 2 million people were out in the streets of Kyiv demanding democracy. Though I was busy, and didn't exactly expect to welcome these developments into my life at that moment, I began to realize that the events taking place in Ukraine were of historic significance. I resolved that I should do what I could to support the efforts to democratize that

Andy Semotiuk is a lawyer from Los Angeles.

country. The result was that on December 19, 2004, I became one of some 100 observers from the United States who came to Ukraine to observe the election. Indeed, it was remarkable that the international community would ultimately send 12,000 people to Ukraine to guarantee the honesty of the presidential vote. The logistical effort was very impressive indeed.

Upon our arrival in Ukraine, each of us was credentialed as an observer, briefed extensively on Ukrainian election laws and our duty to be impartial, and sent to some region of Ukraine. In my case, I was sent to the city of Khmelnytskyi along with another observer from Canada, Prof. Maureen Marchak from Vancouver. Typically, there were two observers, one driver and one translator who were pres-

ent at the polling stations. In our case we visited nine villages.

In each case, we witnessed extraordinary poverty and a very hard life, but a very warm and friendly welcome from the persons in the village. Despite temperatures below zero, the village halls where voting took place were not heated. People stood around in winter coats and gloves. There were no washrooms, only outhouses in the middle of nowhere. This was particularly difficult for women, especially late at night when one had to go out in sub-zero weather in total darkness. Needless to say, hygienic conditions were not of the highest quality. In some instances, toilets basically consisted of a hole in the ground. There was no medical care, no dental plan, no social programs – in short, none of the trappings of modern-day life in the United States. The value of human life in that society was significantly less than it is for most of us in the United States. There is a brutality about life in Ukraine that emerges from the harsh economic and social conditions that exist there. Despite these stark conditions we encountered human warmth everywhere. We were treated with great respect, and each village put forward its best in dealing with us.

As far as the elections themselves were concerned, by and large this time we found the elections were run honestly and properly. Voter lists were prepared listing each of the individuals entitled to vote. Votes were collected and counted properly and then reported accurately to the Central Election Commission. Viktor Yushchenko ended up winning by an 8 percent margin over his opponent. In subsequent days the result was recog-

nized by the CEC.

As an election observer, I have to admit that I couldn't help but be impressed by the importance of an honest election, the power of the ballot box, and the extraordinary importance of a nation choosing its leader. While 12,000 observers couldn't help but influence and educate the population of Ukraine in proper electoral procedures, I am positive that each one of us also took home with us the realization that the very essence of democracy is the expression of the will of the people through the ballot box.

Furthermore, I have no doubt that democrats in Russia have carefully been observing the results of the Ukrainian Orange Revolution, and have been inspired by it. As President Jimmy Carter's former National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski stated, if Ukraine goes democratic, Russia will have no choice but to follow. Bearing in mind that Russia holds some 20,000 nuclear weapons, this is indeed a positive prospect.

Let me conclude by saying that when I traveled to Ukraine I carried with me a letter signed by Ken Petrusis as president of the Beverly Hills Bar Association, expressing the solidarity of the executive and entire board of directors of the association with the members of the Supreme Court of Ukraine and the courageous step they took in reversing the decision of the Central Election Commission calling for a new presidential run-off election to take place on December 26, 2004. This letter, together with a translation, was passed onto the associate chief justice of the Supreme Court of Ukraine, who welcomed it warmly.

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Virlana Tkacz receives literary fellowship for poetry translation

Serhiy Zhadan to read works at Bowery Poetry Club

NEW YORK – Virlana Tkacz, founding director of the Yara Arts Group, a resident company at La MaMa Experimental Theater in New York, recently received the National Endowment for the Arts prestigious Poetry Translation Literary Fellowship to translate the recent work of Serhiy Zhadan – the most popular poet of the post-independence generation in Ukraine – from Ukrainian into English with her long-time collaborator, African American poet Wanda Phipps.

Ms. Tkacz was born in Newark, N.J., and educated at Bennington College and Columbia University. She first started translating Ukrainian poetry with Ms. Phipps in 1989, when the two were working together on Yara's first theater piece, "A Light from the East," which included a number of poems by Pavlo Tychyna. Ms. Phipps and Ms. Tkacz have continued working on translations of contemporary Ukrainian poetry ever since, and recently have also started translating traditional folk songs and incantations. They first translated poems by Serhiy Zhadan in 2002 for Yara's "Kolo Nas" (Around Us) series of new poetry, art and music in Kyiv.

Mr. Zhadan's work speaks to the disillusionment, difficulties and ironies of life that the collapse of the Soviet Union has brought to the country. Once, the enfant terrible of Ukrainian letters, now 30, he is acknowledged as the most important poet of the current decade, as well as one of the leading voices of the last century.

The anthology "A Hundred Years of Youth: Bilingual Anthology of 20th Century Ukrainian Poetry" (Litopys: Lviv, 2000) which included the 100 best poets of the 20th century, concluded with a selection of Mr. Zhadan's work. His most recent published poetry book, "History of Culture at the Turn of This Century" (Kyiv, 2003), has been the talk of literary circles in Ukraine.

Mr. Zhadan's audience is young and vocal, filling up large auditoriums for his readings and snapping up his books. Mr. Zhadan has also earned deep respect among fellow poets and literary critics.

Mr. Zhadan will read his new work at the Bowery Poetry Club, 308 Bowery (at First Street) at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, with Ms. Tkacz and Ms. Phipps reading their translations of the poet's recent verse, in a program that is free and open to the public.

Ms. Phipps, whose poems have

appeared in over 60 American literary journals, is the author of the books "Wake-Up Calls: 66 Morning Poems" (Soft Skull Press), "Lunch Poems" (BOOG Literature), "Your Last Illusion or Break Up Sonnets" (Situations) and "Zither Mood" (a Faux Press CD-Rom). She is a contributing editor for the Internet journal Big Bridge and has served on the literary board for the New York City – based literary magazine Lungfull!

Her work can currently be found in the anthologies "The Portable Boog Reader" (BOOG Literature), "Oblek: Writing from the New Coast" (Oblek Editions), "The Unbearables" (Autonopedia), and "Verses That Hurt: Pleasure and Pain from the Poemfone Poets" (St. Martin's Press).

As a founding member of Yara Arts Group Ms. Phipps has collaborated on numerous theatrical productions presented in Ukraine and Siberia, as well as in New York City at La MaMa, E.T.C.

Previously, Ms. Tkacz and Ms. Phipps were awarded the Translation Prize given by Agni Review and Boston University, as well as the National Theater Translation Fund Award. They are recipients of seven translation grants from the New York State Council on the Arts for



Vitali Horbonos

Serhiy Zhadan

their work with Ukrainian poetry, as well as three for their work with Buryat material. They have also received numerous awards for their translations with Sayan Zhambalov of Buryat shaman chants.

Their translations have been integral to all the theater pieces created by Yara Arts Group. In 1991 they translated



Vitali Horbonos

Virlana Tkacz

Ukrainian poems about Chernobyl for Yara's production of "Explosions." Agni Review published their translation of Natalka Bilotserkivets's "May" from this show. Their translations of Vasyl Yeroshenko, a blind Ukrainian poet who traveled to Japan in 1914 and wrote in Japanese, became the basis of "Blind Sight." Next, they translated one of the best-known Ukrainian dramas, Lesia Ukrainka's verse play, "Lisova Pisnia" (The Forest Song). Yara's "Forest Song" was based on this work and also included a number of their translations of contemporary poetry. The piece opened in Lviv (May 1994) and at La MaMa in New York (June 1994) to excellent reviews.

Yara's next piece, "Waterfall/Reflections," incorporated ancient Ukrainian songs and incantations, as well as contemporary poetry by Ukrainian women in translations by Ms. Tkacz and Ms. Phipps. "Waterfall/Reflections" premiered at La MaMa (January 1995) and played at the festival of experimental theater in Kyiv (April 1995). The New York Times called it "a theatrical enchantment."

Yara's projects "Virtual Souls" (1996-1997) and "Flight of the White Bird" (1997-1999) were inspired by Oleh Lysheha's long poem "Swan," and included translated sections of the poem. These projects were performed at La MaMa, at the Buryat National Theater in Ulan Ude and in Kyiv at the

Experimental Theater Festival. Yara also performed the complete poem in a new theater piece titled "Swan," which played at La MaMa and Harvard in the summer of 2003. Yara's "Song Tree" (2001) was based on their translations of traditional songs from Poltava, Polissa and Pokuttia.

Contemporary Ukrainian poetry in the original and in translations by Ms. Tkacz and Ms. Phipps served as the base for the "Poetry in Performance" workshops Yara conducted at Harvard Summer School for 11 years. Every summer Ms. Tkacz directed students in an evening of performances created using contemporary Ukrainian poetry as texts.

Yara has also produced 10 major poetry and art events at the Ukrainian Institute of America on East 79th Street in Manhattan. For instance, 20 translations by Ms. Tkacz and Ms. Phipps were interpreted in 1999 as installations by visual artists for the festival "Poetry Installations and Performances." The installations included an experimental film by Joel Schlemowitz inspired by Atilla Mohylny's "Bridge Crosses the Pond"; an assemblage by Watoku Ueno based on Oleh Lysheha's "Mountain"; and a series of striking black-and-white photographs by Margaret Morton that were a response to Oksana Zabuzhko's "Letter from the Summer House."

Ms. Tkacz's and Ms. Phipps's transla-

(Continued on page 21)



Joel Schlemowitz

Wanda Phipps

Specialist discusses contemporary Ukrainian jazz

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON – If one were to do a Google search on the Internet for articles that contained the words "Ukrainian" and "borsch" on the one hand, and "Ukrainian" and "jazz" on the other, which would be expected to get more "hits" (resulting article links)?

Most Ukrainian Americans would bet on the borsch (or its Manischewitz spelling "borscht" or its other variant "borsch"). They would be wrong – very wrong.

In a recent test, the "Ukrainian" and "borsch" combination got 21,800 hits, "borscht" got 9,020, and "borsch" came in last with 3,560. "Ukrainian" and "jazz" got 157,000 hits – almost five times more than all of the borsch varieties combined.

How could there be so many instances of Ukrainian jazz on the Internet?

While our knowledge of the subject may be limited to the Ukrainian Canadian jazz pianist John Stetch and his music, Ukrainian



Library of Congress jazz expert Larry Appelbaum (left) discusses his recent visit to Ukraine following his lecture about jazz in Ukraine. Listening in are Larysa Kurylas (center) and Svitlana Shiells, director of the TWG Cultural Fund.

jazz is on the rise – in Ukraine.

The fourth hit on the Ukrainian jazz search happened to be a lengthy report on www.jazzhouse.org written by Larry Appelbaum, a jazz specialist and senior studio engineer at the Library of Congress who recently visited Ukraine to discuss that art form with jazz musicians, composers, technicians, journalists, students and fans in Kyiv and Lviv. His visit on November 7-13, 2004, was organized by the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv to launch its 2004-2005 "Open Lands" music project.

A week ago, on January 27, Mr. Appelbaum shared his experiences and played some examples of contemporary Ukrainian jazz during a lecture and discussion at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington organized by the Cultural Fund of The Washington Group.

To introduce the audience to the jazz of Ukraine, Mr. Appelbaum played a piece by guitarist Enver Izmailov as an example of

(Continued on page 23)

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Remarks by...

(Continued from page 3)

strategic partners of Ukraine.
We built on an assumption that in
many respects our national interests
coincide. And I would suspect that, with
respect to the previous policy of the pre-
vious power, our allies had a lot of frus-
trations. Very frequently the inconsisten-
cy in our policies made our bilateral and
multilateral relations ineffective.

And today I am proud to state that the
Ukrainian party is responsible for all the
commitments that we have before our
allies and partners. We want to pursue
the processes of liberalization and
democratization in all aspects of public
life that are so badly needed for Ukraine
and other Eastern European countries –
shoulder to shoulder with our partners.

In my discussion with Mr. Vice
President, I have repeatedly highlighted
that, after the Orange Revolution, the
country and the nation have changed.
Not only do we have an independent
country, we have a free country – a coun-
try capable of pursuing new, independent
and responsible policy.

We have discussed a number of issues
that refer to our bilateral relations, both in
economic and political aspects. I was
pleased to invite Mr. Vice-President to
visit Ukraine at his convenience, and we
hope that our bilateral relations will con-
tinue to remain constructive and effective.

Neo-McCarthyism...

(Continued from page 6)

“The Holocaust in American Life,”
Jewish Holocaust victims and their prog-
eny. How/why is that subject “off lim-
its”? According to whom? The new
thought police?

It's ironic. A Jewish Ukrainian is to
help head up the new government in
Ukraine, a Jewish American is the direc-
tor of the leading center of Ukrainian
studies in North America, and, as far as I
can tell, their being Jewish is a non-issue
in Kyiv and in the Ukrainian community.
Yet, some spokespersons in the Jewish
community have taken it upon them-
selves to opine as to which Ukrainian
American should have attended the
recent inauguration in Ukraine.

The supposedly saintly Elie Wiesel
has in print expressed a vicious, racist-
like hatred for Ukrainians. Yet, it would
never occur to me to presume to suggest
that he should or should not represent us
Americans at some Holocaust commemo-
ration. Why not? There are several rea-
sons. Because I'm not that arrogant or
presumptuous. Because Mr. Wiesel's
prejudice against Ukrainians is not
directly relevant to how effectively he
can speak about the Holocaust. And also
because it would not occur to me that
someone whose views are odious should
for that reason alone be blackballed. I
guess I'm old-fashioned. I still believe in
rebuttals.

Correction

In the “Ukrainians and Ukraine in
headlines in Canada” section of our
“2004: The Year in Review” (January
16), the name of Commander Yaromyr
Borys Koropecy, an alumnus of Royal
Military College, was incorrectly listed
as Borys Koropecy.

Insure
and be sure.
Join the UNA!

Yushchenko outlines...

(Continued from page 2)

the path that leads to membership is a question diplomats try hard to avoid." But now that the EU has agreed to admit Turkey, it has a more difficult time rejecting Ukraine.

Britain, a key supporter of Turkish membership, is now in a quandary. An EU that is "widened" to the borders of Iran, Iraq and Syria is one that is never likely to be "deepened" in the manner that France and Germany desire. A "wider," as opposed to a "deeper," EU could never become a superpower rivaling the United States. This would mean that Europe would continue to delegate security issues to NATO, rather than build up its own independent force. While this explains why France and Germany were always lukewarm about Turkey, it does not

explain Britain's position. Under the logic of "deepening" versus "widening," Britain should promote Ukraine after Turkey. Yet, London isn't, and Britain's policy is contradictory. The Times (January 25) explains this paradox in three ways.

First, there is greater support for Ukraine joining the EU than there is for Turkey. Agreeing to let Ukraine in might, therefore, upset plans for Turkey.

Second, many EU members believe there should be a period to "digest" the 10 new members. After the latest expansion, there is little appetite for new members.

Third, "At the same time, Britain does not want to be seen to undermine Mr. Yushchenko's heroic bid to lead his country in a different direction," said The Times. The Orange Revolution fundamentally changed Ukraine's international image in a

positive direction. There is a widespread view in the West, as echoed in the media and among government ministers, that Ukraine has now "earned" its place in Europe.

As EU External Affairs Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner admitted, "We have to recognize this new political reality in Ukraine" (Financial Times, January 25). On January 13, the European Parliament issued an appeal to the European Commission and EU Council calling upon the EU to review the EU-Ukraine Action Plan, which currently does not provide for Ukraine's future membership.

Ukraine's allies in the EU include all eight of the new post-Communist members, led by Poland. Austria, Finland and Sweden also support Ukraine's EU membership. Poland, which had backed Turkish membership, has broken ranks with London by lobbying for Ukraine to be invited to join at the same time as Turkey. Poland sees a Ukraine inside the EU and NATO as the best way to secure stability on its eastern flank and provide a buffer between itself and Russia.

France, which always was cool to Turkish membership, is even colder towards Ukraine, because it fears harming relations with Russia. France and Germany, whose leaders have very warm

relations with Russian President Vladimir Putin, continue to look at Ukraine through Russian eyes. They also continue to see Russia as a useful counterbalance to an American hyper-power.

President Yushchenko is keen to quickly follow through on both the momentum of the Orange Revolution and his plans for Ukraine to "return to Europe." Ukraine is to formally apply for EU membership this year, a step that Mr. Kuchma never undertook. "The new president and government of Ukraine will do everything in its power" towards this aim, Mr. Rybachuk declared (Ukrainska Pravda, January 22).

The EU founding treaty states unequivocally that any country geographically situated in Europe can join the EU. The EU, therefore, will be in an extremely uncomfortable position if it formally turns down Ukraine's application.

Thus far, President Yushchenko has not discussed Ukraine's plans for NATO, because it is a more sensitive issue inside Ukraine and regarding Russia. But, if the EU snubs Ukraine's membership application, Kyiv will have greater incentive to focus on NATO membership, which is far easier to achieve, has broad U.S. support, and is a step where Russian concerns are less likely to be taken into account.

Tymoshenko...

(Continued from page 2)

nessman, this would have undermined Mr. Yushchenko's policy of separating business and politics. Mr. Poroshenko is often labeled as the "oligarch" in the Yushchenko camp.

A third, more pertinent factor rests on President Yushchenko's policy aims. Ms. Tymoshenko is ideally suited to be a radical prime minister during the short period between now and the implementation of constitutional changes either in September 2005 or March 2006.

Ms. Tymoshenko has anti-oligarch credentials. In the Yushchenko government of 2000-2001 she was instrumental in efforts to eliminate loopholes in the energy sector that had been exploited by the oligarchs; the move returned over \$2 billion to the budget. She has stated, "The oligarchs are cowards. As soon as they realize that the system has changed, they will be forced to change their methods or go to jail" (The Independent, December 7).

Finally, Ms. Tymoshenko was chosen to reward the maidan, the protesters in Independence Square who supported the Orange Revolution. Many of its young participants are ideologically closer to the more radical Ms. Tymoshenko than to the more moderate Mr. Yushchenko. During the Orange Revolution she was labeled the "goddess of revolution" (AP, December 3).

Her newfound hero-like status completes the evolution of her image. The process began in February 2001 when, as vice prime minister responsible for energy issues in the Mr. Yushchenko government, she was arrested. She was later released, and in subsequent years some courts attempted to indict her while others dismissed the charges. Ms. Tymoshenko's future rested on a Yushchenko victory. If Mr. Yanukovich won the elections, she would have to flee abroad or go to prison.

Government attempts to remove this key Yushchenko ally came to a head in mid-July, one week into the presidential campaign, when pro-presidential parliamentary factions began discussing a motion to have her arrested. The entire pro-presidential bloc supported the motion, including moderates who now seek to ingratiate themselves with President Yushchenko (Ukrainska Pravda, July 16, 2004). The Procurator General's Office then issued fresh indictments (Ukrainska Pravda, September 15, 2004). Also in July 2004, Russia issued a search warrant for Mr. Tymoshenko and placed her on Interpol's wanted list (Interpol.org).

This step backfired, because now Prime Minister-designate Tymoshenko cannot travel to Russia. Russian political technologist Sergei Markov, who worked for the Yanukovich side, predicted that Russian prosecutors would soon drop their case against Ms. Tymoshenko. Mr. Markov also has changed course, asserting: "People have said Ms. Tymoshenko is a radical politician, that Russia is at war against Ms. Tymoshenko and that her nomination will be

negative for Russia. I think that is absolutely wrong" (Financial Times, January 25).

Mr. Markov's apparent shift might be attributed to Ms. Tymoshenko's confusing politics. In an op-ed piece written for the Russian newspaper Vedomosti (January 11) she talked in language that ought to make Ukrainian nationalists shudder. Ukrainian-Russian relations are "rooted in our common history," she said. Both peoples belong to the "same civilization" and the "same geo-economic zone." Furthermore, she wrote that President Vladimir Putin and Mr. Yushchenko have similar goals in removing oligarchs from power and that both states will re-join Europe together. Ukraine may join NATO but only with Russia, with whom Ukraine should unify its military-industrial complex.

Despite these Russophile views, Ms. Tymoshenko remains the darling of the right populist and nationalist camps. Crowds numbering tens of thousands rallied in Lviv in support of her bid to be nominated prime minister. Yet, her radical, anti-Kuchma, and anti-oligarch views outweigh both her own oligarch past and her Russophile views.

Ms. Tymoshenko first entered politics with the dissident oligarch Hromada Party, led by Pavlo Lazarenko. After Mr. Lazarenko fled Ukraine in early 1999, she created her own Fatherland Party, which merged in 2002 with the populist-right Conservative Republican Party led by Stepan Khmara.

Ms. Tymoshenko took a leading part in the anti-Kuchma protests during the Kuchmagate crisis, when the opposition created the National Salvation Front (NFS). At that time, then-Prime Minister Yushchenko opposed the anti-Kuchma protests. Most of the political parties that made up the NFS, apart from the Socialists, later joined the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, which finished fourth in the 2002 elections with 7.26 percent.

Ms. Tymoshenko has views similar to those of Mr. Yushchenko and Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz on the need to implement radical democratic reforms, remove the oligarchs from power and combat corruption. But she will differ with President Yushchenko on some aspects of economic reform because, as she pointed out, "I am not a market fundamentalist" (The Independent, December 7).

Her parliamentary faction was the only one to vote against the December 2004 compromise package that includes constitutional changes. Ms. Tymoshenko has always supported strong executive powers. In contrast, Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine differed from the left and the pro-presidential camp only in the schedule for introducing constitutional changes (i.e., immediately after the 2004 presidential elections or after the 2006 parliamentary elections).

Ms. Tymoshenko's nomination will send shivers down the spines of Ukraine's oligarchs, particularly those who are grouped around Viktor Medvedchuk's Social Democratic Party - United.



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Sens. Levin and Lugar...

(Continued from page 3)

and openness. A society has rebelled against the illegal activities of its government. It is in our interest to recognize and protect these advances in Ukraine." Sen. Lugar served as President George W. Bush's personal representative during the presidential run-off election in November.

The Jackson-Vanik amendment was included in the 1974 Trade Act to pressure Communist states to permit emigration and adopt democratic economic and political practices. Since 1992 Ukraine has been certified annually as meeting the Jackson-Vanik requirements, and the United States and Ukraine have had a bilateral trade agreement in place. The Levin-Lugar bill would make this trade relationship permanent and, in doing so, would stimulate further market reforms and encourage Ukraine's continued commitment to safeguarding individual liberties.

In addition to granting Ukraine permanent normal trade relations, the Levin-Lugar bill urges the U.S. to remain com-

mitted to the democratization of Ukraine in the areas of emigration, religious freedom, restoration of property and human rights.

"In addition to welcoming the Ukrainian government to the family of democracies, we must also honor the Ukrainian people for displaying their commitment to democracy through peaceful demonstrations," Sen. Levin said. "Free and fair elections were conducted only because of the courage and hard work of the Ukrainian people."

"The United States has a long record of cooperation with Ukraine through the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction. Ukraine inherited the third largest nuclear arsenal in the world with the fall of the Soviet Union. Through the Nunn-Lugar Program the United States has assisted Ukraine in eliminating this deadly arsenal and joining the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear state," said Sen. Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

A companion bill was to be introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.) and others.

Rep. Rothman...

(Continued from page 3)

including reports of government-run media bias, abuse of absentee ballots and voter intimidation. Taking a step which demonstrated Ukraine's elected representatives' commitment to the rule of law and democratic governance, the Ukrainian Parliament responded by approving a resolution that called the elections invalid. This action was later reinforced when the Ukrainian Supreme Court invalidated the election and called for a third round of voting on December 26, 2004. Following weeks of protests and debates, 77 percent of the population turned out to vote in the election held on December 26, 2004.

"As a demonstration of American solidarity with the Ukrainian people and its newly elected leader, and in an effort to further strengthen U.S.-Ukraine relations, we believe it is important for you to urge President Yushchenko to come to the White House for a state visit in the near future," Rep. Rothman wrote.

Rep. Rothman is an active member of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, an organization that focuses on issues related to Ukraine and Ukrainian Americans.

Below is the full text of the letter sent on January 28 to President George W. Bush by a group of members of Congress. The letter was initiated by Rep. Rothman.

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to urge you to establish a relationship with Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and encourage him to schedule a state visit to the White House promptly. As you well know, the outcome of the recent Ukrainian elections provides the opportunity for Ukraine to become more closely integrated in Euro-Atlantic institutions, demonstrate true democratic governance under the rule of law and operate a genuine free market economy. It is critical that at this time we recognize the importance of the relationship between the United States and Ukraine and reach out to President Yushchenko in an effort to enhance these relations.

To your credit, the United States has consistently worked with Ukraine to encourage the conduct of free and fair elections in the former Soviet state. We were pleased to learn that Secretary [of

State] Colin Powell delivered an official invitation for a state visit to President Yushchenko at his swearing-in ceremony on January 23, 2005. We believe that with this recent election, Ukraine has indeed demonstrated its commitment to being a true democracy. The first and second rounds of voting on October 31, 2004, and November 21, 2004, respectively, were fraught with corruption and fraud, including reports of government-run media bias, abuse of absentee ballots, and voter intimidation. Taking a step which demonstrated Ukraine's elected representatives' true commitment to democracy, the Ukrainian Parliament responded by approving a resolution that called the elections invalid. This action was later reinforced when the Ukrainian Supreme Court invalidated the election and called for a third round of voting on December 26, 2004.

Following weeks of protests and debates, an impressive 77 percent of the population turned out to vote in the election held on December 26, 2004. We congratulate Ukraine on following the democratic processes that ultimately led to the conduct of a free and fair election for the Ukrainian presidency and the peaceful swearing-in of President Yushchenko.

As a demonstration of American solidarity with the Ukrainian people and its newly elected leader and in an effort to further strengthen U.S.-Ukraine relations, we believe it is important for you to urge President Yushchenko to come to the White House for a state visit in the near future. We thank you in advance for your kind attention and ask that you please inform us as to how you intend to proceed on this matter.

Steven R. Rothman
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Dana Rohrabacher
Nita M. Lowey
Anthony D. Weiner
Joseph Crowley
Michael G. Fitzpatrick
Thomas H. Allen
Donny K. Davis
Susan A. Davis

Kuropas's inclusion...

(Continued from page 4)

his teaching at NIU to warrant a review of his writings and statements. Education Department Dean Christine Sorensen said there was no indication Dr. Kuropas brought his politics into the classroom. "He's always had good evaluations from students," she added. The paper also noted that NIU officials described Dr. Kuropas as a valued instructor who has never been accused by any student of making racially or ethnically inappropriate comments.

On January 31 Reps. Waxman and Emanuel and nine other members of Congress, identified by Washington Jewish Week as "11 Jewish Democratic members of the House of Representatives," sent a letter to President George W. Bush expressing "disappointment with the White House's irresponsible decision to invite Myron Kuropas to represent the United States in the official delegation sent to Ukraine's presidential inauguration."

The letter noted that "there is no excuse for the White House's failure to examine the anti-Semitic nature of his repeated and well-documented statements diminishing the atrocities of the Holocaust."

In addition to Reps. Waxman and Emanuel, the letter's signatories were: Robert Wexler (Fla.), Janice D. Schakowsky (Ill.), Anthony D. Weiner (N.Y.), Howard L. Berman (Calif.), Jerrold Nadler (N.Y.), Gary L. Ackerman (N.Y.), Adam B. Schiff (Fla.), Tom Lantos (Calif.) and Nita M. Lowey (N.Y.).

Rep. Emanuel also sent a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, requesting that she "investigate and report to me and other Members of Congress the circumstances behind his [Dr. Kuropas's] inclusion [on the U.S. delegation to Ukraine], which might help prevent any repetition of this kind of embarrassment

during your tenure as Secretary of State." [Copies of all three congressional letters were obtained by The Weekly.] Writing on January 31, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA) cited Dr. Kuropas's purported accusations of "Holocaust manipulation" and reported that Dr. Kuropas "also raised money for the defense of John Demjanjuk, a death camp guard who faces deportation."

The JTA noted that the National Jewish Democratic Council said the appointment showed an "embarrassing" lack of judgment. "That the Bush White House put this man on a plane to Ukraine with our secretary of state, even as Europe was commemorating the Holocaust, is inexcusable," the council wrote, according to the JTA.

Rep. Nadler was quoted by the JTA as saying, "It's completely unfathomable that at this moment in history, as the world reflects on the tragedy of Auschwitz, the administration would send one of this country's most vocal anti-Semites on an ambassadorial assignment anywhere - much less to a celebration of the triumph of democracy."

On February 2, the New York Sun published an editorial titled "Good Question," which led off with a quotation from Rep. Emanuel: "How does a known anti-Semite walk onto a U.S. government plane with the secretary of state, as a member of the president's delegation - representing the United States of America - without anyone knowing how he got there or who recommended him?"

The newspaper underscored that the White House had "committed another failure of vetting," adding, "The Kuropas appointment isn't the most important to come across the president's screen. But the process is important and, if it isn't improved, Mr. Bush is going to be in for a tough second term."

- compiled by Roma Hadzewycz



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House Concurrent...

(Continued from page 3)

resources are not employed to the advantage of individual candidates or political parties;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires the full transparency of laws and regulations governing elections,

multi-party representation on election commissions, and unobstructed access by candidates, political parties, and domestic and international observers to all election procedures, including voting and vote-counting in all areas of the country;

Whereas efforts by national and local officials and others acting at the behest of such officials to impose obstacles to free assembly, free speech, and a free and fair

political campaign took place throughout Ukraine during the entire 2004 presidential election campaign without condemnation or remedial action by the government of Ukraine;

Whereas on October 31, 2004, Ukraine held the first round of its presidential election and on November 21, 2004, Ukraine held a run-off presidential election between the two leading candidates, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko;

Whereas a consensus of Ukrainian and international election observers determined that the run-off election did not meet international standards for democratic elections, and these observers specifically declared that state resources were abused in support of Viktor Yanukovich, and that illegal voting by absentee ballot, multiple voting, assaults on electoral observers and journalists, and the use of counterfeit ballots were widespread;

Whereas following the run-off presidential election on November 21, 2004, tens of thousands of Ukrainian citizens engaged in peaceful demonstrations in

Kiev [sic] and elsewhere to protest the unfair election and the declaration by the Ukrainian Central Election Commission that Viktor Yanukovich had won a majority of the votes;

Whereas the Ukrainian Supreme Court blocked the publication of the official run-off election results, thus preventing the inauguration of the next president of Ukraine until the Supreme Court examined the reports of voter fraud;

Whereas on November 27, 2004, the Parliament of Ukraine passed a resolution declaring that there were violations of law during the run-off presidential election on November 21, 2004;

Whereas on December 1, 2004, the Parliament of Ukraine passed a no confidence motion regarding the government of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich;

Whereas European mediators and current Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma began discussions on December 1, 2004, to attempt to work out a resolution to the standoff between the supporters of both presidential candidates;

Whereas on December 3, 2004, the Ukrainian Supreme Court ruled that the run-off presidential election on November 21, 2004, was invalid and ordered a new presidential election to take place on December 26, 2004;

Whereas on December 8, 2004, the Parliament of Ukraine passed laws to reform the Ukrainian electoral process, including to reform the Ukrainian Central Election Commission, and to close loopholes for fraud in preparation for a new presidential election;

Whereas on December 26, 2004, the people of Ukraine again went to the polls to elect the next president of Ukraine in what the consensus of domestic and international observers declared as a more democratic, transparent, and fair election process with fewer problems than the previous two rounds;

Whereas on December 28, 2004, the election victory of opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko was certified by the Ukrainian Central Election Commission; and

Whereas the run-off presidential election on December 26, 2004, signifies a turning point for Ukraine which offers new hope and opportunity to the people of Ukraine: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress:

(1) commends the people and government of Ukraine for their commitment to democracy and their determination to end the political crisis in that country in a peaceful and democratic manner;

(2) congratulates the people and government of Ukraine for ensuring a free and fair run-off presidential election which represents the true choice of the Ukrainian people;

(3) congratulates Viktor Yushchenko on his election as President of Ukraine;

(4) applauds the Ukrainian presidential candidates, the European Union and other European representatives, and the United States government for the role they played in helping to find a peaceful resolution of the crisis;

(5) acknowledges and welcomes the strong relationship formed between the United States and Ukraine, and expresses its strong and continuing support for the efforts of the Ukrainian people and the new government of Ukraine to establish a full democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights; and

(6) pledges its assistance to the strengthening of a fully free and open democratic system in Ukraine, the creation of a prosperous free market economy in Ukraine, the reaffirmation of Ukraine's independence and territorial sovereignty, and Ukraine's full integration into the international community of democracies.

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"Ukrainian-American Citadel" ...

(Continued from page 5)

Dobriansky refused to participate in the 1977 Human Rights Day hosted by Sen. [Robert] Dole because the UNA and not the UCCA sponsored the event. Confident of his re-election, Dobriansky would often leave the UCCA convention floor during heated debates between the Liberation Front and other groups, returning only to attend the banquet and to accept his re-election by acclamation on the last day of deliberations.

The 13th Congress of the UCCA was a disaster. In an attempt to totally control the national executive of the 40-year-old Ukrainian coordinating body, the Liberation Front mobilized a clear majority of delegates and pushed through a list of candidates that did not include an executive vice-president from any Ukrainian fraternal. According to a provision in the by-laws passed at the previous convention, the UCCA executive vice-presidency was to be rotated among the four fraternal. Until 1976, the position was automatically assumed by the UNA supreme president. When the majority refused to budge, 20 organizations including the UNA, the UWA (now called the Ukrainian Fraternal Association, UFA), ODVU, Zarevo, the Gold Cross, the UNWLA, Plast, ODUM, the Ukrainian Professional Society of Maryland, and the Ukrainian Engineers' Society left the convention hall. In a memorandum addressed to the UNA members, President Flis later explained:

"The reasons for the walk-out were the continued effort by certain elements to ignore the wishes of the minority, the imposition of a gag rule on the minority, and the relegation of the UNA to a position of insignificance in the official organs of the UCCA by the arbitrary cancellation of the UNA's traditional right to the office of the executive vice-presidency of the UCCA, which office the UNA has consistently held for many years, albeit on a rotational system with the other three Ukrainian fraternal during the past four years.

"The UNA has not resigned its membership in the UCCA. This question will be considered by our Supreme Assembly. For reasons stated above, the UNA has not named representatives to the positions reserved for the UNA in the governing bodies of the UCCA.

"We urge all UNA'ers to close ranks and defend the interests of the UNA against all attacks, internal and external, and assist your governing bodies in their attempts to retain in our communities our earned position of integrity and respect. ... Let our effort be instrumental in bringing about a healthy rebirth of unity in our communities and a revival of the spirit on which we built the democratic foundations of the Ukrainian National Association."

Virlana Tkacz...

(Continued from page 15)

tions have been read at St. Mark's Poetry Project, the Poetry Society of America, the New York Public Library and the Ukrainian Consulate in New York. A segment of Yara's poetry event, "Silver Threads," was broadcast on WNYC-TV. Yara has also performed poetry at the Music and Art Center of Greene County at the Grazhda in Hunter, N.Y., and at the Ukrainian National Association estate Soyuzivka in Kerkonkson, N.Y., as well as at events and conferences on the East Coast.

The translators are currently working on ancient winter solstice songs, or koliady, from the Carpathians to be used in Yara's next show, "Koliada: Winter Songs," at La MaMa Theater, slated for March 4 to 20. For information call Yara, (212) 475-6474, or e-mail yara@prodi-gy.net. For more information and updates visit www.brama.com/yara.

A Ukrainian Weekly editorial argued that America's Ukrainian fraternal had played a vital role in the UCCA since the 1940s when they revived the newly established umbrella organization, then drifting into oblivion as a result of the defamation campaign. "Fraternal form the base of the Ukrainian American community because they have been around the longest, they are dedicated to the ideal of self-determination for Ukraine, their membership is broad-based, and they have a tradition of service to their members. Without them, our 'community levers' including the umbrella organizations, would simply dangle in midair," declared the paper.

Criticism of the UCCA continued to build in the UNA press. In an editorial titled "Democracy in Action?" The Ukrainian Weekly opined:

"The intolerance for differing viewpoints, as well as the rather crude political thinking of some delegates and the ultrazealousness of others, blinded them to such a degree that they sought only victory for their own political grouping.

"The majority's abuse of power extended even to the by-laws and the accepted traditions governing the structure of the UCCA's executive bodies. Without the necessary amendment of the by-laws, the executive board of the UCCA was expanded in size from 21 to 26 members. ... With nothing more than a statement of one man – the chairman of the UCCA auditing committee – that the rotational basis of the executive vice-presidency had not been effective (no reasons for this evaluation were ever offered) this rotation system was rescinded, and the fraternal associations which traditionally held the office were demoted to lesser positions. The four fraternal were never consulted about the move.

"On the way to its 'victory,' the majority also approved congress rules that made it all but impossible for delegates themselves to ask for and obtain a secret-ballot vote. ... As a result of the majority's abuse of power and a virtual stampede of the congress, the UCCA is no longer an organization of organizations. At best, it may evolve into a coordinating body for ideologically affiliated groups."

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Toll Free: (866) 859-5848**NOTES ON PEOPLE****Sawchak wins seniors' title**

PHILADELPHIA – George Sawchak recently won the Seniors' Tennis Championship and a gold medal in the consolation finals of the International Tennis Federation World Championship, held in the fall of 2004 in Philadelphia. Mr. Sawchak is a well-known Ukrainian tennis player from the Tryzub sports club of Philadelphia, and director of tennis tournaments and tennis camps at Soyuzivka, the Ukrainian National Association's estate in Kerhonkson, N.Y., and the Tryzub Sports Center in Horsham, Pa. He is a member of UNA Branch 45.

**George Sawchak**

Notes on People is a feature geared toward reporting on the achievements of members of the Ukrainian National Association. All submissions should be concise due to space limitations and must include the person's UNA branch number. Items will be published as soon as possible after their receipt, when space permits.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

said.

Mr. Yushchenko recalled that the epitome of Nazi crimes to the Ukrainians is the tragedy of Babyn Yar, near Kyiv, where over 100,000 people of different nationalities were executed, more than half of them Jews.

He assured his audience that the current reforms in Ukraine "would change the living conditions of its 480,000-

strong Jewish community for the better, which would contribute largely to the emergence of this newly independent state."

Interfax-Ukraine noted that as of the year 2000 about 300 Jewish organizations and over 70 synagogues were functioning in nearly 100 cities in Ukraine.

Source: "Yushchenko voices support for Holocaust museum," from *Interfax-Ukraine, The Ukrainian Weekly, February 6, 2000, Vol. LXVII, No. 6*

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On assignment...

(Continued from page 13)

selves in a polling station with other international observers, from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe or the European Parliament. Then one or the other group would quickly leave and move on to the next precinct. There was a lot of ground to cover in one day.

Leaving Vasylykiv, we moved on to nearby villages in the direction of Obukhiv Raion. We went to Pohreby and Barakhty. One of the most memorable of

them was a small village called Liubianka. The polling precinct was located in the village council building, or silrada, and had only 225 registered voters. The entire village was relocated to the area just outside Kyiv from the 30-kilometer contaminated zone around Chernobyl in 1986, shortly after the nuclear plant exploded.

Curiously, it was the only voting place where a uniformed militiaman tried to intimidate us. He took our observer credentials from the head of the local board and reported both of us to someone over the phone. It was a clear infraction of the

voting rules designed to intimidate the observers and the voters. According to election law, only the election board, the voters and the observers are allowed in the room where voting is taking place.

It was the only instance of intimidation we encountered. We had more fear of falling on the slicked walkways leading to the polling stations than of physical harm from any individual. Clearing roads of snow and ice appears not to be a priority in Ukraine.

Back in Kyiv that night, as every night since November 21, the maidan was filled with thousands of cheering people, cele-

brating, singing, enjoying the fireworks. Hank and I were staying in an apartment on Mykhailivskiy Provulok, just a block away from Independence Square. We went down there every night to admire the Christmas tree, enjoy professional and more spontaneous entertainment, absorb the energy and spirit of the crowd, and hear Mr. Yushchenko address the people. That was the best. That was unforgettable!

Toward the end of our stay I got sick with the flu and was too weak to travel to Kharkiv before leaving for home. That trip has to wait for another day.

Specialist discusses...

(Continued from page 15)

what he characterized as "jazz born elsewhere, not in America" – Ukrainian jazz.

While Ukrainian jazz musicians are well-versed in American jazz classics, they are taking the genre in their own unique direction. And their original music, not widely known outside jazz aficionado circles at home, is almost completely unknown here.

The interest in it is developing, however. Enver Izmailov, for example, has performed at the jazz festival in Moscow, Idaho, and is due to return there, Mr. Appelbaum said. He added that when he played Mr. Izmailov's and other Ukrainian artists' CDs on his radio jazz show, "The Sound of Surprise," on WPFM-FM, he got phone calls from his listeners. Unfortunately, when they asked where they could buy these CDs, he had to admit that there was no outlet for them here.

Even in Ukraine, access to these recordings is spotty, and, more often than not in that part of the world, people listen to pirated copies of CDs. There was an indication that this may be changing, albeit slowly, Mr. Appelbaum said. Buying and possessing legitimate CDs was becoming "a new status symbol" in some quarters, he explained.

While in Kyiv and Lviv, he visited jazz clubs, attended jazz concerts, gave lectures, met with people and talked about whatever they wanted to talk about.

Mr. Appelbaum's first stop on arrival in Kyiv was at a smoky basement jazz club called Art Club 44, which happened to be presenting 44 bands in 44 hours non-stop.

Later he spoke about contemporary developments in jazz at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, where, among other questions, he was asked about "politics and jazz." It may have been appropriate in their environment, he said, but, unfortunately, American jazz artists do not get involved politically.

During a meeting with a group of journalists who write about jazz, one of the problems that came up was the lack of official or other forms of support for jazz in Ukraine. He later learned that this was an old Soviet-era malady – waiting for the someone from on-high to provide direction and funding. Mr. Appelbaum said his recommendation to them was to stop waiting for sponsorship "and just do it," whatever it was that they wanted to do. He cited as an example a non-profit collective he helped found in the Washington area that, without any backing or financial resources, has presented more than 100 concerts of improvised jazz music

over the past seven years.

While in Kyiv, he gave interviews to the "Jazz-Peak" radio program and other journalists, visited the Lemma recording studio and heard a "very good" jazz quintet, Skhid Side. He also discussed another of his specialties, digital preservation of recorded music, with his counterparts at the Ukrainian National Library, who, he said, were doing "remarkable things on a scarce budget."

After a long overnight train ride to Lviv, Mr. Appelbaum had a session with a very engaging group of music students at the Lviv Music Academy. Later that evening he heard a group of them performing some second-rate music at a jazz club. They had good technique, he said, but they still had to learn "the difference between hip and corny." He expects that, in time, they would. To help them, he made copies of some of the CDs he recorded of selected leading contemporary American jazz musicians.

His visit to Lviv had a special meaning for Mr. Appelbaum, as his grandmother came from that area of Ukraine – from Mostyska, a town about 40 miles west of Lviv, near the Polish border.

While in Lviv, he also got to know avant-garde saxophonist and composer Yurii Yaremchuk, who on occasion played Duke Ellington blues and other "commercial

music," as he termed it, but only for the money.

In the report posted on the Internet, Mr. Appelbaum singled out a few Ukrainian groups and soloists for developing "their own sounds, based on their own traditions and experiences": The Black Sea Trio (which includes the guitarist Mr. Izmailov), Skhid Side, pianist Leszek Mozdzir, vocalist Sasha Belina, an acid jazz group called "aby mc," and the "adventurous, creative improvised work" of Alexander Nesterov and Mr. Yaremchuk.

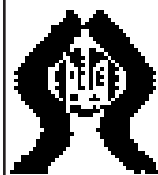
Mr. Appelbaum's trip to Ukraine happened to fall between the presidential votes in October and November, which launched the Orange Revolution. In the conclusion of his report he fondly recalled the conversations he had late into the night with friends on train rides between Lviv and Kyiv.

"I learned a lot from them," he wrote, "not only about the music scene in Ukraine, but about life and the changes their society is going through since the fall of the Soviet Union. I worry what might happen if the will of the people is thwarted in the upcoming election, as the majority of Ukrainians are neither docile nor ignorant."

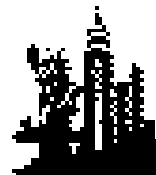
"And if jazz represents freedom," he added, "Ukrainians clearly want more of both."

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“Joy to the World” concert benefits Ukraine’s orphanages

by Bohdan Malaniak and Alexander Rivney

LOS ANGELES – Never before has an event such as this happened in the Ukrainian community of Los Angeles. On December 18, 2004, through the collaborative efforts of the Ukrainian National Choir Kobzar of Los Angeles and the Pasadena Community Orchestra, a presentation of Christmas carols from around the world became a reality. This event was held to benefit the orphanages of Ukraine. The concert was featured under the motto “Joy to the World.”

As the audience entered the lobby of the historic Wilshire Ebell Theater, they encountered a three-foot-by-four-foot sign reading “Joy to the World,” with a border composed of poinsettias. Upon entering the theater hall, the thing that immediately stood out was a large three-foot-by-15-foot sign, stretching across the center of the stage. The sign featured carolers and the message, “Joy to the World,” once more. But perhaps the most striking effect on the mood of the observers was the sea of orange ribbons displayed by the entire ensemble in support of a just and democratic election process in Ukraine.



Bandurist Ola Herasymenko-Oliynyk

The concert opened with “A Christmas Festival,” an orchestral medley composed by Leroy Anderson. The audience was pleasantly delighted, and the orchestra, some 70 members strong, and its conductor, Wayne Reinecke, received a standing ovation.

After welcoming remarks by the master of ceremonies, Luba Keske, the choir opened with “Dobry Vechir Tobi” (Good Evening), arranged by conductor Gregory Hallick-Holutiak. Again the audience responded with equal pleasure. The next two numbers, “Oy na Richtsi, na Yordani” (On the River Jordan) by Kyrylo Stetsenko and “Oy Dozvol, Pan Khaziayin” (Let us Carol) by Vasyl Stupnytsky, were received with equal enthusiasm.

These carols were followed by the orchestra featuring the “Introduction March and Shepherd’s Dance” by Gian Carlo Menotti from “Amahl and The Night Visitors” and the “Polonaise” from “Christmas Night” by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov. The next three carols were sung by the choir; “Boh Sia Rozhdaye” (God is Being Born) by Stetsenko, “Schedrivka Dzvony” (The Bells) by Dmytro Kotko, featuring the pleasant baritone voice of Mykola Zlydenny, and “Oy Syvaya ta i Zozulenka” (The Gray Cuckoo) by Stetsenko. The orchestra’s rendition of “Sleigh Ride” by Leroy Anderson concluded the first half of the concert. The audience’s standing ovation, that immediately followed, instilled a high level of confidence in all the performers.

After the intermission, the orchestra featured “It’s Christmastime” by Calvin Custer. It also featured guest performer Ola Herasymenko-Oliynyk, a native of Ukraine and the first professional bandurist to have been featured as a soloist with American Symphony orchestras. Her contribution featured “Ukrainske Rizdvo” (Ukrainian

Christmas) by Yuriy Oliynyk, and three traditional carols, “Oy Vysoko Nad Poliamy” (Up in the Hills), “Try Slavnyi Tsari” (Three Kings), and “Dyvnaya Novyna” (Wonderful Tidings). The audience was mesmerized. For the many in attendance it was the first time they heard the sound of the Ukrainian national instrument. Not only the audience, but also the members of the orchestra watched with amazement the bandura soloists’ performance.

The remaining six carols were performed with the accompaniment of the orchestra. They were “Joy to the World” by G.E. Handel, “Walking in the Air” by Blake, “The First Noel” (traditional English carol), “Silent Night” by Gruber, “O Come All Ye Faithful” by John E. Wade, and “I Believe in Father Christmas,” based on Troika from the “Lt. Kijé Suite” by Sergei Prokofiev.

It was during this segment of the program that the audience was joyfully engaged and responded with an explosive ovation, which in effect was a demand for an encore.

Next, Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich gave some words of praise and encouragement by presenting the two musical directors with beautiful scrolls. A congratulatory message from Jack Palance was read by Luba Keske.

After the presentation the audience was rewarded with an encore of “Shchedryk” (Carol of the Bells) by Mykola Leontovych. This evoked an equally strong enthusiastic response from the concert-goers in attendance.

There are several factors that contributed to this successful performance by the two musical organizations. First of all, the Kobzar Choir’s young and energetic musical director, Mr. Hallick-Holutiak, conceived the idea of the concert. He presented this idea to the Pasadena Orchestra’s musical director, Mr. Reinecke, to which he immediately agreed. Secondly, the Kobzar Choir was pleased to have the Ukrainian Culture Center as its sponsor.

Other factors that were also helpful were the willing-

ness of the two musical organizations to work together, the numerous and generous sponsors, support from the entire community, the augmentation of singing voices from San Diego (15) and Chicago (two), the beautifully designed programs by Maria Oharenko, the masterful presentation of the program by the master of ceremonies, the taping crew from Chicago, and the good will on the part of every member of the Kobzar Choir.

The older members of the choir nostalgically reminisced about Kobzar Choir’s performance on this very same stage 22 years ago, with Metropolitan Opera star Paul Plishka and composer and piano virtuoso Virko Baley. Like the concert 22 years ago, this concert lived up to the expectations of the Ukrainian community and restored pride in the Ukrainian heritage.

The concert benefited everyone, but the biggest benefactors will be the orphanages in Ukraine, which the community so generously supported.



Gregory Hallick-Holutiak, Kobzar choir conductor.



The Pasadena Community Orchestra with the Ukrainian National Choir Kobzar.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Interpipe owner and former President Leonid Kuchma's son-in-law, Viktor Pinchuk, at which he answered questions from businessmen and Western journalists about European integration. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Fighting corruption a priority

DAVOS, Switzerland – At a meeting with representatives of major multinational corporations in Davos, Switzerland, on January 30, President Viktor Yushchenko said that if any businessmen enter the government they will have to declare not only their own income and expenditures but also that of their close relatives, UNIAN and the presidential press service reported. They will also have to refrain from any entrepreneurial activities during their government service. President Yushchenko assured world business leaders that his administration's top priorities will be the battle with corruption and separating business from politics. He also announced that he will create an investment council that will begin a fresh dialogue between businesses and the new government. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Pora declares new campaign

KYIV – The youth organization Pora held a ceremony in Kyiv on January 30 to mark its transition from a civic campaign to a public organization and analytical center, Ukrainska Pravda and Ukrainski Novyny reported. At the ceremony, State Secretary Oleksander Zinchenko read a letter of thanks and congratulations from President Viktor Yushchenko. According to a January 27 press release, Pora's next stage of activities will be devoted to the "de-Kuchma-

ization of Ukraine," the goal of which will be a "cardinal renewal of the authorities," the lustration of cadres and the increase of the authorities' transparency. Meanwhile, Ukrainian Television reported on January 28 that Pora activists threw eggs at the Uzhorod mayor, who ambulance doctors said sustained a facial injury. (RFE/RL Newsline)

President taps lawmaker as aide

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has appointed Oleksander Tretiakov, a lawmaker from the Our Ukraine faction, as his first aide, UNIAN reported on January 28. Mr. Tretiakov, 35, is member of the Fuel and Energy Committee of the Verkhovna Rada. He also served as a treasurer for Mr. Yushchenko's election campaign. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Berezovskii plans move to Ukraine

LONDON – Former oligarch Boris Berezovskii, who has been living in exile in London since 2000, told gazeta.ru on January 28 that he plans to move to Ukraine within a few months. Mr. Berezovskii explained that he wants "to be closer to Moscow and to the culture in which I grew up." He added that although he hasn't spoken with Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko or acting Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, he is confident that the new Ukrainian authorities will not hand him over to Russian law-enforcement agencies. Asked about Mr. Berezovskii at a press conference in Davos, Switzerland, President Yushchenko said it was too early to comment but that he is sure Ukraine will "act in strict accordance with domestic and international laws" if Mr. Berezovskii's plans are realized, correspondent.net and Ukrainska Pravda reported on January 30. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Belarusian seeks political asylum

MIENSK – Alyaksandr Vauchanin, an activist in Zhodzina, east of Minsk, for the opposition United Civic Party, has applied for political asylum in Ukraine, Belapan reported on January 27. Mr. Vauchanin charged that an unnamed secret-service officer told him that the authorities may orchestrate his killing in retaliation for his political and human rights activities. He added that he has faced increased pressure since taking part in protests supporting Viktor Yushchenko in Kyiv in 2004. Mr. Vauchanin said that he supported President Alyaksandr Lukashenka in 1994 and 2001, and helped collect signatures to get him "on the ballot as an opposition candidate," despite government harassment. "Years have passed since then and now Mr. Lukashenka treats his opponents in the same manner," Mr. Vauchanin said. "Has he forgotten everything?" (RFE/RL Newsline)

Court stops Kryvorizhstal privatization

KYIV – A district court in Kyiv has blocked the final transfer of a 93.02 percent stake in Kryvorizhstal steelmaker to the Investment-Metallurgical Union (IMU), Interfax and the Ukrainska Pravda website reported. Investment-Metallurgical Union represents the interests of Interpipe corporation, which is owned by former President Leonid Kuchma's son-in-law, Viktor Pinchuk, and the System Capital Management company, which is controlled by Rynat Akhmetov, a longtime associate of former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. In August, then presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko said that his Our Ukraine bloc considered the Kryvorizhstal privatization illegal. He said that the company was worth \$4 billion to \$5 billion but was bought by IMU for only \$800 million, despite other bids of up to \$1.2 billion. IMU has 15 days to appeal the court decision. Kryvorizhstal employs some 52,000 people and produces roughly one-third of Ukraine's steel, according to the dpa news service. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko meets world leaders

KRAKOW – During a visit to Krakow, Poland, on January 27, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko met with the leaders of Poland, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and the Czech Republic, as well as U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney, Ukrainian Television and Interfax reported. President Yushchenko was in Poland to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. The newly inaugurated Ukrainian president recalled that his father, Andriy, was a camp inmate, and he vowed to fight anti-Semitism and xenophobia in Ukraine. Following his meeting with Mr. Cheney, Mr. Yushchenko said that he assured the U.S. vice-president that Ukraine "has changed a lot over the past few months" and is "capable of pursuing an effective, responsible policy." According to the Associated Press, Mr. Cheney, wearing a bright orange tie, declared that "the world has been inspired by the remarkable images from Ukraine in recent months." The meeting between the two men lasted twice as long as scheduled, according to the agency. (RFE/RL Newsline)

President dismisses three oblast chairs

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has accepted the resignations of three oblast chairmen: Oleksander Yefremov of Luhansk, Oleksander Udovichenko of Poltava and Vasyl Kompaniets of Kirovohrad, Interfax-Ukraine reported on

January 27, citing the presidential press service. Mr. Udovichenko, 47, had been governor since June 2003, while Mr. Kompaniets, 50, spent less than a year in office, according to Ukrainski Novyny. Mr. Yefremov, 60, has served in his post since April 1998. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kirpa's death ruled a suicide

KYIV – Law-enforcement officials have decided that the December 27, 2004, death of Ukrainian Transport Minister Heorhii Kirpa, 58, was a suicide, UNIAN reported on January 27, citing the Kyiv-based daily Segodnya. Mr. Kirpa fired one shot that killed him instantly. (RFE/RL Newsline)

EU membership a priority

KYIV – Viktor Yushchenko said in a BBC interview on January 26 that Ukraine may submit an official application for membership in the EU in just a few weeks. He said that "as soon as the government" and the department dealing with European integration policy is established, "We will have a separate vice prime minister premier dealing with European affairs. As soon as [this] is done...we will raise the question at once." On the same day, he told reporters in Strasbourg that he hopes Ukraine will start negotiations with the EU on its associative membership in 2007, according to Interfax-Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine's shares EU stand on Belarus

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko noted in Strasbourg on January 26 that his country shares the European Union's views on the situation in Belarus under the government of Alyaksandr Lukashenka, UNIAN reported. He added that he was happy to see Belarusian flags during the Orange Revolution in Kyiv. He said that he spoke with some "interesting and courageous young Belarusians" who had their own pro-Yushchenko tent. Mr. Yushchenko stressed that despite the different ideological platforms of the Ukrainian and Belarusian governments, relations must remain "neighborly." (RFE/RL Newsline)


Medvedchuk explains SDPU's plans...

KYIV – Former presidential administration head and leader of the Social Democratic Party-United (SDPU) Viktor Medvedchuk told reporters in Kyiv on January 26 that his party is now in opposition to the new government and will not accept any posts in the government or the Verkhovna Rada, Interfax reported. In connection with the party's new policy, two ministers, acting Labor Minister Mykhailo Papiyev and acting Education Minister Vasyl Kremen, have left the party, according to the Ukrainska Pravda website. Mr. Medvedchuk said that his party's key priority in terms of foreign policy is to pursue Ukraine's entry in the Single Economic Space with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, Donetsk Ukraina Television reported. He added that his party opposes attempts to hasten Ukraine's integration into the European Union and the World Trade Organization. (RFE/RL Newsline)

...comments on reports of his wealth

KYIV – Viktor Medvedchuk also told reporters that he "regretfully" is not a dollar billionaire as some foreign media press reports have maintained, Interfax reported. "I am a law-abiding citizen. I have been and will remain one," he declared, adding that if any criminal investigations are launched against him he will consider them "political repression against the opposition," the

(Continued on page 27)



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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 26)

Ukrainska Pravda website reported. He said that he has no plans to leave Ukraine, nor does former President Leonid Kuchma. He declined to answer reporters' questions about whether defeated presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich was in Egypt. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Chornobyl children's treatment ineffective

MIENSK – Uladzimir Tsalko, head of the Belarusian government's Chornobyl Committee, said that the medical treatment and recuperation of children residing in the country's areas affected by the fallout from the 1986 Chornobyl nuclear accident has been inefficient, Belapan reported on January 25. According to Mr. Tsalko, only 40 percent of children in affected areas are treated at children's health establishments, while the rest are sent to poorly equipped facilities. He revealed that since 2001 the incidence of thyroid cancer among children residing in contaminated areas has increased

by 250 percent. Mr. Tsalko also said that, as of early 2004, the incidence of malignant tumors was 13.9 cases per 100,000 children, while the incidence of endocrine system diseases in radioactively contaminated areas is 20 percent higher than the country's average. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Statues of Stalin are planned

MOSCOW – The Federation Council representative for the city of Moscow, Oleg Tolkachev, told Ekho Moskvy on January 19 that a monument to Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin will be unveiled at the city's Poklonnaya Gora park by May 9 in connection with the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. According to Mr. Tolkachev, the monument is not a monument to tyranny but to the wartime leaders who defeated Hitlerism. He added that sculptor Zurab Tsereteli will create a monument to Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt at the Livadia Palace in Yalta by the 60th anniversary of the Yalta conference next month. The station's website noted that in a later interview with Russian news agencies, Mr.

Tolkachev disassociated himself from his earlier remarks. However, tsereteli.ru reported on December 6, 2004, that Zurab Tsereteli planned to create a composition devoted to Yalta for the palace in Crimea – as well as a column dedicated to the Leningrad, Belarus and Ukraine fronts that would be located in Poklonnaya Gora park. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Russians', Ukrainians' attitudes surveyed

MOSCOW – Most Russians favor the restoration of the Soviet Union and relate to Ukrainians worse than Ukrainians do to Russians, according to a poll conducted in December in both countries by the Levada Analytical Center, gazeta.ru reported on December 24, 2004. The poll

was conducted among 1,600 respondents in Russia and 2,000 in Ukraine. Replying to a question about the fate of the Soviet Union, 67 percent of Russians responded that they regret its collapse, while 50 percent of Ukrainians felt the same. On the other hand, 26 percent of Russians and 39 percent of Ukrainians said they do not regret its demise. Asked about their perception of Ukraine, 13 percent of Russians replied "very good," 66 percent "rather good," 14 percent "rather bad," and 3 percent "very bad." Ukrainians were more positive toward Russians, with 37 percent saying their perception of Russia is "very good" and 46 percent "rather good," while 8 percent replied "rather bad," and 4 percent "very bad." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Statement...

(Continued from page 4)

Responding to concerns from our Jewish dialogue partners in 1990 that an independent Ukraine would lead to pogroms, I traveled to Kyiv, Ukraine, to investigate. The man our Jewish dialogue partners told me to contact was one Marc Kotlyar, a refusenik, who told me that fear of pogroms was more real in Russia than in Ukraine. Not only were there no such fears in Ukraine, but Jewish families in Russia were sending their children to relatives in Ukraine for safekeeping. A few months later Marc made his way to Chicago, where the Ukrainian dialogue partners treated him and our Jewish partners to a meet-and-greet dinner.

I received the coveted David Roth Community Relations Award from the Illinois Coalition (an AJC administered organization) in 1996 in recognition of my continued service on behalf of ethnic bridge-building.

Unfortunately, as some Ukrainian dialogue partners and I became more involved with the defense of John Demjanjuk, accused of being "Ivan the Terrible of Treblinka," our dialogues became more strained. Soon it was obvious to all of us that we were getting nowhere, so we decided to issue a statement in which we essentially agreed to disagree. The Ukrainian-Jewish dialogue was postponed.

After spending six years in an Israeli jail, Mr. Demjanjuk was found not guilty by the Israeli Supreme Court and he returned to the United States, where his citizenship was restored. When our Jewish partners remained adamant that Mr. Demjanjuk must be guilty of other crimes against the Jews, any hope of further dialogue ended. Today, I continue to support Mr. Demjanjuk and it appears that certain members of the Jewish community have never forgiven me for my beliefs in this regard.

All of the statements attributed to me regarding "the Holocaust industry" were taken out of context from my biweekly columns in The Ukrainian Weekly. The particular quotations in question were actually part of a review of the book "The Holocaust Industry: Reflections on the Exploitation of Jewish Suffering" by Prof. Norman G. Finkelstein of City University of New York. Another column of mine was a review of "The Holocaust in American Life" by Peter Novick. All of my commentaries can be accessed at www.ukrweekly.com.

I am not a Holocaust denier. I am not an anti-Semite. I have responded, however, to certain behaviors and comments of certain Jews, especially those who seem to take pleasure in defaming the Ukrainian people. I realize that some of my views are not always in the mainstream but I believe I have the right to exercise my First Amendment rights and fairly comment on issues that are of significance in our community, especially in The Ukrainian Weekly.

Never in my 18 years at NIU have I allowed any of my personal differences with certain Jewish behavior to influence my teaching in any way. I pay great attention to cultural differences on campus and I celebrate diversity. Student evaluations have been consistently positive.

I was shocked and dismayed to read in a Chicago Sun-Times column by Lynn Sweet on January 28 that two congressmen (one from Illinois, the other from California) sent a letter to NIU President John Peters urging him to "re-evaluate the university's association with Prof. Kuropas and disavow any association with him because of certain anti-Semitic statements attributed to him." I have never met either of these gentlemen, and to the best of my knowledge, neither of them has a clue regarding my academic record at NIU.

Finally, let me conclude by saying that not only have I always welcomed a dialogue between Ukrainians and Jews but that I continue to do so. However, dialogue can only be effective if it is based on frankness and a willingness to appreciate that not every historical event or personality is necessarily seen in the same way by observers who bring their own perspectives and heritages to bear. There are likely some issues on which Ukrainians and Jews will not agree, ever, and however sad or unsatisfying that may be, there is little that either side can do to change that reality. When such differences arise it would be better, in my view, if both sides respected each others' right to freedom of expression and freedom of the press rather than resorting to innuendo and character assassination in order to silence those of contrary opinions. We should not tolerate bigots of any ethnic, religious or racial heritage, but we should also not stifle the free expression of contrary opinions and beliefs, honestly and openly given. America was forged in protest, and our founding fathers enshrined freedom of speech as one of the basic safeguards we have against tyranny.



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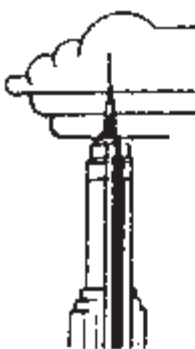
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Soyuzivka's Datebook

- February 4-6, 2005**
Church of Annunciation Family Weekend, Flushing, N.Y.
- February 6, 2005**
Superbowl Party on big screen TV with games, prizes and poker
- February 12, 2005**
Valentine's Day Weekend - Five-course dinner and dance featuring Askold Buk Trio, \$24.95+
- February 18, 2005**
Kerhonkson/Accord First Aid Squad Banquet
- February 18-21, 2005**
Family Winter Weekend and Ski Trip, Three-Night Package - \$125/per person, double occupancy
- February 26, 2005**
Napanoch Fire Company Banquet
- March 5-6, 2005**
Plast Kurin "Khmelnychenky" Annual Winter Rada
- March 27, 2005**
Traditional Ukrainian Easter Day Brunch, doors open at 11:30 a.m.
- April 1-2, 2005**
UNA District Meeting and Secretarial Course
- April 8-10, 2005**
Grace Episcopal Church, Madison, N.J. - Men's Retreat
- Road Rally Weekend - an Epicurean, motorized scavenger hunt
- April 9, 2005**
SUNY New Paltz Alpha Kappa Phi Sorority Formal Banquet
- April 15-17, 2005**
Plast Kurin "Chortopolokhy" Annual Meeting
- April 16, 2005**
Rochester Fire Company Banquet
- April 20-22, 2005**
SUNY at New Paltz, Migrant Education Program and Retreat
- April 23, 2005**
TAP New York Beer Festival at Hunter Mountain, round trip bus from Soyuzivka, special room rate - \$60/night
- May 1, 2005**
Traditional Blessed Ukrainian Easter Day Brunch, doors open at 11:30 a.m.
- May 20, 2005**
Ellenville High School Junior Prom
- May 27-30, 2005**
Memorial Day Weekend BBQ and Zabava
Adoptive Parents Weekend, sponsored by the Embassy of Ukraine and the UNA



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, February 6

WASHINGTON: The Washington Group Cultural Fund, in cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine, invites the public to an encore performance by Mariana Sadovska, who will perform ancient folk songs from various regions of Ukraine. The audience will be able to meet the artist at a reception following the performance. The concert will take place at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Old Town Alexandria, Va. Admission: \$20; students, free. The premises are handicapped accessible. For more information, contact Svitlana Fedko Shiells, (703) 506-4745.

Thursday, February 10

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Film Club at Columbia University will screen "A Friend of the Deceased," a full-length feature film by Viacheslav Khrystofovych (1993). This fiction crime story, with screenplay by the renowned Andriy Kurkov, invites the public to take a sober view of Ukrainian society as it enters the first days of the Yushchenko presidency. Introduction by Dr. Yuri Shevchuk, lecturer of Ukrainian language and culture, Columbia University. The film will be shown in the original Russian-language version, with English subtitles, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 717, Hamilton Hall. The screening will be followed by a discussion. For more information or to RSVP, contact Diana Howansky, (212) 854-4697, or ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu.

Tuesday, February 17

NEW YORK: Yara Arts Group and the Bowery Poetry Club present Serhiy Zhadan, one of hottest young poets writing in Ukraine today, who will read his new work. Virlana Tkacz and Wanda Phipps who are translating his new work into English, will read their translations. Time: 7 p.m.; place:

Bowery Poetry Club, 308 Bowery (at First Street) The event is free. For information call Yara, (212) 475-6474, or e-mail yara@prodigy.net. For more information and updates visit www.brama.com/yara.

Saturday, February 19

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites the public to a literary evening featuring the renowned Polish poet Dr. Anna Frajlich-Zajac, recipient of the Polish literary prize of the Koscielski Foundation of Switzerland (1981) and lecturer in Polish, Slavic department, Columbia University. Introductory remarks and Ukrainian translation of selected poems will be by Prof. Vasyl Makhno. The literary evening will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call the society, (212) 254-5130.

NEW YORK: The "Music at the Institute" chamber music series will present the Cerberus Piano Trio - Mykola Suk, piano, Byron Tauchi, violin, and Andrew Smith, cello - in a program of works by Ildebrando Pizzetti, Myroslav Skoryk and Anton Arensky. The concert will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., at 8 p.m. Donation: \$25; senior citizens and students, \$20. For additional information and reservations call (212) 288-8660.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Friday, March 4-Sunday, March 20

NEW YORK: Yara Arts Group's new show - "Koliada: Winter Songs" - will be staged at La MaMa Experimental Theater, 74A E. Fourth St. For more information on Yara Arts Group and the events visit the website: www.brama.com/yara. For tickets to the Koliada theater piece call La MaMa Box Office, (212) 475-7710.

PLEASE NOTE REQUIREMENTS:

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

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be no more than 100 words long; all submissions are subject to editing.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Please include payment of \$20 for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, please include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours. Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Items may be e-mailed to preview@ukrweekly.com.

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