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\$1.52 in Ukraine

Rada approves administration's new budget without opposition

by Zephan Zawada
 Kiev, Ukraine

KYIV — Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada approved the nation's 2005 budget without any opposition, a major victory for Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko in her efforts to pass into President Viktor Yushchenko's reforms.

The 2005 budget is widely described as the most socially oriented since Ukraine's independence, including higher allocations for pensions, government wages and financial aid for new mothers. President Yushchenko signed it into law on March 30.

Ms. Tymoshenko was exuberant after the confirmation vote in the Rada on March 25, raising her arms in victory and thanking the radical deputies who voted against.

"This is evidence that it's all out but possible to find harmony in the Parliament between big business, some entrepreneurs and others in society who are not entrepreneurs," she told reporters after the vote. "Today the balance was found. It was delicate, but it was found."

Opposition abstained and there were 48 no-shows, mostly coming from the Party of the Regions that opposed Ms. Tymoshenko's pro-social agenda.

Not since Ukraine's independence had a budget been approved without opposition, a feat that even the incumbent support of the Communist Party's national deputies, who had spent two sessions attacking the budget.

The budget was prepared by economists and statisticians, who don't want a Ukraine accident that the economy is in its "deepest crisis," said Petro Symonenko, the leader of Ukraine's Communist Party after losing its support of the budget.

The slight lean toward social spending are why many politicians were careful not to vote against the budget observers said.

More than 50 percent of the budget's expenditures are socially oriented (compared to 40 percent in the 2004 budget), and it increases the Yushchenko administration of doing out money in order to garner support in the 2006 parliamentary elections.

"Tymoshenko wants to be loved by the electorate," said Valerii Anashchuk, a member of the Rada's Budget Committee and the right-centrist Ukrainian National Party.

What made the budget such a brain-tinger act was that it had to meet commitments made by the Yanukovich government, those declared by the new one, as well as commitments made during the election campaign, said Mykola Myroshyn, the Verkhovna Rada's chairman.

Among the social improvements is a 17 percent increase in minimum monthly

pensions to \$10 a month, and a 27 percent increase in the minimum monthly wage for government workers to \$65 a month, said Viktor Pynzenyuk, Ukraine's finance minister.

Middle-level salaries such as those paid to doctors, teachers and scientists will improve by 57 percent, Mr. Pynzenyuk said.

The budget also increases financial aid for children by 12 times to \$2,679 per child and for single mothers fivefold, and to disabled children by 4.5 times and aid to orphans by 5.2 times to \$89 per child each month, he said.

Cultural issues also emerged as a priority. Spending to support the Ukrainian language increased by 50 percent, Mr. Pynzenyuk said, while spending for the Ukrainian Prospects will increase by 21 times.

Disposal projects would include opening 150 day-care centers in the Transcarpathia, Mr. Yushchenko said. More than 250,000 ethnic Ukrainians live in that region of Moldova.

In order to finance the \$22 billion in total expenditures — an 18.3 percent rise

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Ukrainian president to address joint meeting of U.S. Congress

PARISIDASE, N.J. — President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine will address a joint meeting of Congress on Wednesday, April 6, during his reflection in Washington, it was announced on March 30 by Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist.

Rep. Hastert (R-Ill.) and Sen. Frist (R-Tenn.) posted in a media release: "President Yushchenko's election is inspiring the spread of democracy throughout the world, in spite of threats and intimidations. We welcome him to this cathedral of democracy and look forward to hearing from him."

During his official visit to the United States, President Yushchenko is to meet with President George W. Bush on Monday, April 4. Mr. Yushchenko is scheduled to meet also with Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Meanwhile, First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko is scheduled to meet with her U.S. counterpart, Laura Bush.

As previously reported in *The Ukrainian Weekly*, the White House announcement about talks between the two presidents was released on March 31, the second day of Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Boyko

Lutsynuk's meetings in Washington with senior administration officials and congressional leaders, during a visit that was aimed at laying the groundwork for the presidential visit and focusing on some of the issues that will be discussed.

The White House announcement noted that the two presidents will discuss how the United States and Ukraine "can intensify our work as strategic partners on a broad range of issues, including supporting the advance of freedom and democracy in Eastern Europe and the broader Middle East, and cooperating to solve proliferation."

The Yushchenko visit was a purposeful series of meetings in Washington intended by State Secretary Alexander Zinchenko on March 28-29. Mr. Zinchenko met with White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card and Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Stephen Hadley and other administration officials.

During his visit to the United States on April 4-7, the Ukrainian news service reported, President Yushchenko's itinerary also includes stops in Chicago, Boston and possibly New York, where the president is to meet with business

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First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko reflects on her new role

by Maria Kulomayets

KYIV — Kateryna Yushchenko is enjoying her new role as the first lady of Ukraine, calling it the most wonderful job in the world. Born in Chicago on September 1, 1963, the daughter of Ukrainian immigrants from the Kyiv region and the Donbas, Katya Chumachenko was a typical first-generation diaspora teenager, involved in the Ukrainian American community, concerned to human rights issues, often reacting to the inaccuracies about Ukraine among her classmates and teachers, pointing out that Ukraine was not Russia.

She worked her way through top U.S. universities, Georgetown and the University of Chicago, where she earned an M.B.A., and spent a summer at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute in 1985. In Washington, she worked as the director of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America bureau, followed by a brief internship at the Christian Service and then politically appointed positions at the State Department's Bureau for Human Rights and International Affairs, the White House Office of Public Liaison, the Treasury Department Office of Policy Management and the Joint Economic Committee of Congress.

She visited the Ukrainian SSR in the 1970s and returned by an independent Ukraine in 1991 as a founder and representative of the U.S. Ukraine Foundation. In 1993 she became the resident adviser

for the USAID-financed Bank Training Program managed by KPMG Barretts Group and worked as the country manager for the company until 2000.

She married Viktor Yushchenko in 1998 and together they have two daughters, Sapnina, 11, and Chrystyna, 4, and a 7-year-old son, Taras, who turned 18 on March 24. She is also stepmother to Natalina and Andriy, the president's adult children

from his first marriage.

On January 25, Mrs. Yushchenko became the first lady of this country of 48 million as her husband was inaugurated the third president of independent Ukraine after the tumultuous events of the Orange Revolution that brought down the corrupt totalitarian regime of Leonid Kuchma.

She has now been called Ukraine's bridge to the West, blending the best of two worlds: the democratic principles of the America she grew up in and the ancient traditions and culture of one of the oldest European nations.

Stepping into her new office on the White House stage this past month was greeted as the husband's campaign headquarters, Mrs. Yushchenko thrives on the positive energy of the press, but is busy making plans to remodel it to reflect her own style. She has already filled the room with pictures of her family and mementoes from the Orange Revolution. Pleasant and elegant, Mrs. Yushchenko, dressed in a classic grey tailored suit by Ukrainian designer Liliya Davydenko, adorned by a reproduction brooch in a Soviet-era design, posed for her busy schedule to speak to *The Ukrainian Weekly*, reflecting on her life, her new role and her hopes for Ukraine's future.

Balancing the role of a mother, wife, first lady, diplomat, career woman, first-class presidential hostess and representative of Europe's newest democracy, she

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First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko

ANALYSIS

Serbia, Georgia, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan: Ukraine debates the next revolution

by Taras Kuzin

Larissa D. Morton

Last week's violent revolution in Kyrgyzstan was different from the peaceful transitions in Serbia, Georgia and Ukraine. At the same time, this fact has not stopped debates in Ukraine and the West over whether further "domino" are likely to fall in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry Boris Tarasyuk congratulated the Kyrgyz opposition on "victory" (Ukrainian Channel 5, March 24). "There is no doubt that it is difficult to imagine such processes taking place without a well-organized opposition and popular support," he noted. Comparing Kyrgyzstan, Serbia and Georgia to Ukraine, Mr. Tarasyuk said he believes that Ukraine's revolution was different in that, "the protests went on for a long time, they were large-scale, and they were not violent."

Ukrainian readers of the popular Ukrainian Pravda Internet newspaper see Belarus and Russia as the most likely sites of the next popular revolutions (Ukrainian Pravda, March 29). Among readers of the Ukrainian and Russian-language versions of Ukrainian Pravda, 28 percent and 34 percent, respectively, believe that Belarus is next.

Channel 5, a TV channel established by the current secretary of the National Security and Defense Council, Petro Poroshenko, debated the issue of Belarus on March 26. Since the Orange Revolution, Channel 5 has dramatically increased its ratings from 1.5th most viewed channel to third place.

Belarus is set to hold its next presidential election in October 2005. President Alexander Lukashenko plans to run for a third term, after he organized a referendum last fall that rejected the Constitution to permit this. If Mr. Lukashenko's plans to extend a presidency for life do not lead to a revolution in Belarus, then likely nothing will.

But is Belarus ripe for revolution? The opposition's talk at holding half a million people on the streets on March 25 should be contrasted with the 2004 who actually turned up for EU elections. March 26's event in the anti-Lebanon Kaifuma protests in Ukraine in 2000-2005 attracted rallies of 20,000-30,000.

Channel 5 is pessimistic about whether Belarus will fall next. At the same time, the Belarusian opposition is seeking to emulate Ukraine's revolution and Belarusian and Georgian Dags were the most conspicuous non-Ukrainian Dags preside during the Orange Revolution. The opposition plans to act on the Ukrainian scenario and put forward a single candidate. Channel 5 explained March 26.

Nevertheless, the Belarusian regime remains fully authoritarian, making it difficult for the opposition to organize as a serious threat to President Lukashenko. What distinguishes all four revolutions, Serbia, Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan is that they took place in semi-authoritarian regimes that still promoted some

limited space for the opposition, civil society and independent media.

Further revolutions can only take place in semi-authoritarian regimes in the CIS if limits the number of possibilities for only Moldova, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. Graeme Wood, an analyst at the Center for Strategic Research Center based at Britain's Defense Academy, predicted in a January study that Ukraine's Orange Revolution would increase the likelihood that CIS ruling elites would move their regimes towards greater authoritarianism, making it unlikely large revolutions would take place in the near future.

Belarus also lacks a single candidate around which the opposition could unite. Currently there are 10 politicians who seek to be the united opposition candidate. Mr. Lukashenko will exploit this division (Ukrainian Channel 5, March 26).

Readers of the Ukrainian and Russian editions of Ukrainian Pravda believe that Russia could succumb to a popular revolution. Typically, readers of the Russian edition were more pessimistic: 17 percent think readers of the Ukrainian edition (24 percent). Perhaps readers of the Ukrainian edition were simply engaged in wishful thinking.

Since President Vladimir Putin was elected to a second term in office in March 2004, Russia has increasingly moved towards a fully autocratic system. The opposition is finding it more and more difficult to find space for its activities, and the pro-Western opposition has been increasingly marginalized.

The ability of the opposition to rely on independent media outlets proved critical in the four revolutions cited. In Russia, the media situation was dramatically deteriorated that opposition and independent journalists are now moving to Ukraine. Katerina Maslova, a controversial Russian TV host who was booted out of Russia's NTV, is set to launch a television show on Ukrainian television. He observed, "Ukraine today is freer than other CIS countries" (Rossiskaya Gazeta, March 23).

Mr. Maslova predicted that other Russian opposition journalists would follow him to Ukraine. Olga Romanova, a host on Russia's Ren TV, also predicted that moving to Ukraine might be "the only way out" (Nezavisimaya Gazeta, March 23).

The prominent figure in Russia's opposition, Boris Nemtsov, has been appointed an adviser to Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko. Former Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasymov, an ally of Mr. Nemtsov, is seeking to become Russia's answer to Viktor Yushchenko and the united opposition's candidate for the 2006 presidential elections. That race will be similar to Ukraine's 2004 elections in that it also will be a potential succession crisis when Mr. Putin finishes his second term.

Ukrainian political commentators agree with Ukrainian Pravda readers that Belarus and Russia are the next potential CIS domino. Moldova, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan also are mentioned in Ukrainian Pravda (March 29).

Ukrainian pundits have also pointed to various factors that assisted earlier revolutions. These include intruding the rights of small and medium businesses, the role of young people, anti-oligarch sentiments, reaction against excessive

Taras Kuzin is visiting professor at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University. The article above, which originally appeared in The Jamestown Foundation's Eurasian Daily Monitor, is reprinted here with permission from the foundation (www.jamestown.org).

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NEWSBRIEFS

Probe reopens into Chornovil's death

KYIV — The death of Ukrainian opposition leader Vyacheslav Chornovil in a traffic accident in 1999 will be investigated once again, according to the Internal Affairs Ministry and the Prosecutor General's Office. Interfax reported on March 23. Chornovil, a former political prisoner during the Soviet era, headed the Rukh party. He was killed when his car collided with a truck on March 25, 1999. Many opposition leaders believed the incident was staged for political purposes. An investigation at that time by the Internal Affairs Ministry concluded that Chornovil's death was due to an accident. Subsequently, the former head of the Security Service of Ukraine, Yevhen Marchuk, announced that he had been given a videotape on which Internal Affairs Ministry officers reportedly admitted the accident had been pre-arranged. Later Mr. Marchuk claimed to have lost the tape. (RIEURL, Newsline)

Rep named for Chornovil inquiry

KYIV — Ukraine's Minister for Internal Affairs Yuri Lutsenko appointed Mykola Stepanenko his representative in the investigation of the tragic death of Vyacheslav Chornovil, the ministry's public relations department told Ukrinform on March 24. Mr. Stepanenko chairs an inquiry commission of the National Movement of Ukraine (Rukh) on the investigation of the death of the former Rukh leader. Two weeks ago documents on the case were stolen from Mr. Stepanenko's (Ukrinform)

Chornovil commission to resume work?

KYIV — Volodymyr Shchetovych, chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Combating Corruption and Organized Crime, said on March 23 that his bill on press regulating the judicial commission that was engaged in investigating the circumstances of Rukh founder and leader Vyacheslav Chornovil's death. According to Mr. Shchetovych, there is only one eyewitness left alive among those who would give testimony about the road accident in which Mr. Chornovil was killed. All others died under rather strange circumstances. Mr. Shchetovych contended. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has appointed ten possible eyewitnesses of the road accident in which Chornovil perished to furnish any accident-related information (Ukrinform)

Pact with Holocaust museum signed

KYIV — On Tuesday, March 29, an agreement on cooperation was signed

between Ukraine's State Committee on Archives and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. The document was inked by State Committee Chairman Hennadiy Boruk and Rada friend, the museum's senior officer. The agreement provides for exchanging documents for photo copying and thus open share the two institutions' archival holdings. The agreement signing ceremony was attended by U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John E. Herbst. The Holocaust Memorial Museum's archives contain over 70 million important historical documents (Ukrinform)

Group may have smuggled missiles

KYIV — Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Dmytro Svyrydoskyi held press conferences on March 30 that the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) has detected and "neutralized" an international group of arms smugglers from Russia, Ukraine and Australia who allegedly supplied 12 N-S5 missiles to China, and Iran in 2000-2005 under the pretext of exporting them to Russia. Interfax reported. Mr. Svyrydoskyi added that, in May-June 2001, citizens of Ukraine and Australia, using forged documents, illegally exported to Iran six more N-S5 missiles and equipment for their training camp on behalf of the Russian-Chinese state company. Mr. Svyrydoskyi noted that prosecutors launched a number of criminal proceedings in connection with the missile smuggling, adding that two involved smugglers died in some accidents in 2002 and 2003. (RIEURL, Newsline)

President wants local government reform

KYIV — President Viktor Yushchenko, said on March 24 that he is in favor of creating the all levels of local self-governments through the method of self-participatory constitutional amendments by localities. Interfax reported. Mr. Yushchenko also expressed his support for the political reform adopted by Verkhovna Rada in December, a switch the results from its current presidential system to a parliamentary one. The reform is set to take effect on September 1 if the Verkhovna Rada adopts a law concerning the self-governing system in place of the current one. In his statement, it will, theoretically, go into effect on January 1, 2006. (RIEURL, Newsline)

Leaders call for calm in Kyrgyzstan

KYIV — Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and his foreign minister

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Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group elects new leadership

OTTAWA — Approximately 40 members of Parliament and senators from all parties gathered in Ottawa on Tuesday

evening, March 22, to elect a new executive for the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group. This

unprecedented number elected Bronis Wrzesniewskij (Ehretweke Center) to chair the group.

Mr. Wrzesniewskij noted that: "It is encouraging to see approximately 40 parliamentarians from all parties, representing all regions of the country, coming together in the interest of promoting relations between Canada and Ukraine."

Canada has long enjoyed a "special relationship" with Ukraine based on the hundreds of thousands of family ties between our two countries," he added. "The goodwill of our relationship was further strengthened with Canada's strong support of the Orange Revolution elections in Ukraine through a number of unanimously supported parliamentary motions and through our Canada Corps project. With this renewed Parliamentary Friendship Group, we have yet another vehicle to evolve our 'special relationship' into a 'strategic relationship'."

Mr. Wrzesniewskij stressed that he is looking forward to working closely with members of the new executive and that his personal relationships with Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko will help Canada foster stronger ties with Ukraine.

The new executive of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group includes: Mr. Wrzesniewskij, chair; MP Walt Lastewka, vice-chair; MP Inky Mark, vice chair; Sen. Raynell Andreychuk, vice chair; Sen. Coryogho Di Nino, treasurer; MP Eleni Bakopanos, secretary; Sen. Jerry Grafstein, MP Judy Wasylyshyn, MP Bernard Burns, MP Peter Goldring, MP Jay Smith, and MP David Kilgour, directors.

Mr. Wrzesniewskij concluded the meeting by saying that he intends to be a proactive chair and will convene a meeting of the group for early April to set an aggressive agenda for advancing relations between Canada and Ukraine.



Among the members of the executive of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group are (from left): MPs Walt Lastewka, Peter Goldring, Jay Smith, Inky Mark and Judy Wasylyshyn-Leiv, Sen. Jerry Grafstein, MPs Bronis Wrzesniewskij, Mark Warawa and Eleni Bakopanos, Sen. Raynell Andreychuk and MP David Kilgour.

Rada approves...

(Continued from page 1)

from the prior year. Cabinet Ministers led by Ms. Tymoshenko targeted perks enjoyed by Ukraine's economic elite, friends and industrialists.

Such perks are: 1) Free enterprise zones where businesses don't pay any taxes at 112 technology parks that don't pay import duties, value added taxes or taxes on profit; 2) Puzynetskiy said.

Ukraine's budget presentation to the Rada, the finance minister pointed out that the *Azov* gas works in Zaporizhzhia is a Ukrainian enterprise that earned a profit of \$155 million in 2004.

Yet the maker of Daewoo, Opel and Mercedes cars received a government grant of \$84 million, Mr. Puzynetskiy said.

In a speech laden with populist rhetoric and anti-tips that she delivered just before the budget vote, Ms. Tymoshenko urged national deputies, the majority of whom are millionaire entrepreneurs, to sacrifice their benefits in order to minimize their spending for common citizens.

"If we need to force *Azov* to share, which received 2 billion dollars from the budget while earning 100 million hryvnia profit, then have a conscience," she said. "I want for us to finally learn how to share with society."

Ms. Tymoshenko defended stripping these benefits by explaining that Ukrainian entrepreneurs enjoy some of the cheapest electricity, gas and labor costs in the world, and therefore have nothing to worry about.

Instead, Ukrainian companies and factories need to prepare themselves for actual competition in the global economy instead of rearing "these artificial, cosy conditions that prevent them from standing on their own feet," she said.

The budget gives entrepreneurs work within the competitive framework the stronger they become," Ms. Tymoshenko said. "Private business makes them weaker."

Ms. Tymoshenko's critics did not voice her arguments, who argued the benefits would hurt Ukrainian industry.

The Yushchenko government is using Ukraine's economy hostage to transnational corporations and global speculative capitalists, Mr. Symonenko said. "The government is finishing what Kuchma started — a deindustrialization of the nation," the Communist leader said.

The prime minister's opponents said

the improved salaries and benefits pose inflationary threats, casting doubt on Ms. Tymoshenko's assurances that inflation would not increase more than 9 percent under the new budget.

Deputies also said they were concerned over the lack of a formidable opposition in the Verkhovna Rada to challenge the Yushchenko administration.

This was evident in earlier recent votes, in which a Rada minority upheld Ms. Tymoshenko's confirmation as prime minister and the Cabinet's budget without opposition.

"It's apparent there is no real opposition in Parliament," Mr. Asadchuk told reporters following the vote. "That's not very good. It's good when there is a constructive opposition. The political field is melting, and the government controls the parliamentary situation."

Perhaps the most significant voice of opposition was the president's own vice prime minister Anatoli Kinakh, whose criticism of the budget became a minor controversy. He said the budget contained chaotic changes.

"The changes, which apply to competitiveness, stimulants of our economy's development, attracting investment, innovation, in most cases did not have economic justification and a forecast of consequences," said Mr. Kinakh, who leads the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs.

Overall, the budget had a deficit of

\$1.3 billion, a 21 percent improvement from the prior year's budget.

However, President Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko are characterizing it as a balanced budget because funds raised by privatization will cover the gap.

"We expect to receive much more

funds from privatization than planned," Prime Minister Tymoshenko said. "There won't be any backdoor privatizations, and there won't be any entities sold at half-price. An open auction offers the ability to obtain a much higher value than planned."

Bill seeking repeal of trade restrictions on Ukraine gains another co-sponsor

WASHINGTON — Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-N.Y.) has joined on the Hill calling for the repeal of Jackson-Vanik trade restrictions with Ukraine.

Rep. Henry Hyde (R-III) introduced the bill, HR 885, in the House on February 17. Co-sponsors of the bill include Reps. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.), Christopher Smith (R-N.J.) and Howard Berman (D-Calif.). If passed, the bill will establish normal trade relations between the United States and Ukraine.

The Jackson-Vanik amendment, passed in 1974, restricts permanent normal trade relations with all former Soviet Union States, including Russia. The amendment was implemented in order to limit trade with countries which restrict emigration rights for its citizens and have non-market economies. Ukraine has made great progress towards the estab-

lishment of genuine democracy, it's a free market economic system, and has passed legislation protecting religious and ethnic minorities within the country.

Normal trade relations with the United States means that Ukrainian imports will face lower duties than countries with the trade restrictions. Ukraine will gain a competitive advantage in the United States, which is not available to countries without normal trade relations.

"It is important that the United States support the burgeoning democracy and economy of Ukraine. By lifting Jackson-Vanik restrictions, we can form a lasting relationship with the largest democracy in the region," said Rep. Crowley. "Ukraine is an example to all of this for our Soviet Union States that there are great rewards from adopting democratic ideals," he added.

US Army cadets conclude visit to Odesa Ground Forces Institute

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KYIV — Two cadets from the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. have concluded a working visit to Odesa Ground Forces Institute, United States Army Cadets Kenneth Peterson and Nathaniel Karamuski were participating in an exchange program initiated by the United States Military Academy in 1998, which also provides for Ukrainian cadets to visit the United States. The two American second-year cadets, using their introductory knowledge of the Russian language, attended classes, participated in weapons training, and shared daily life with Ukrainian cadets from the Air Mobile Department at Odesa Ground Forces Institute.

Ukrainian Cadet Sergeant Dmitriy Vasyler and Cadet Private Ruslan Kucheryavt visited their American coun-

terparts, Cadet Sergeant Vasyler and Cadet Private Kucheryavt will participate in a reciprocal exchange, visiting West Point between April 8 and 11. The Ukrainian cadets will be hosted by Cadets Peterson and Karamuski, and will also see New York City, the Pentagon and the White House.

This exchange program promotes understanding and goodwill between the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., and foreign service leaders around the world. The exchange program introduces cadets from nations around the world to the values of the United States' professional military ethic, particularly the role of the military in a democratic society. It also allows for a cultural exchange of ideals and values, establishing a common bond between the cadets of the United States Military Academy and cadets of foreign nations.



Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko reacts to the Rada's passage of the 2005 budget.

FOR THE RECORD: Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk speaks in D.C.

Following is the text of a speech delivered by Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk at Ukraine's International Republic on Ukraine's Independence reception at the Madison Hotel and at the Civil Liberty Matters Center at George Washington University in Washington on March 10. Minister Tarasyuk's presentations at the two events contained the major themes and points found in the text below, which was obtained by Action Ukraine Report from an assistant to the foreign minister. My readers should be advised that the text here is reprinted from Action Ukraine Report, but has been edited for clarity.

It is my great honor to be the first Ukrainian official to visit the United States after the election of the new President, Viktor Yushchenko, and appointment of the new government.

Why did Ukrainian events unexpectedly puzzle the brightest minds in Europe and the world? My answer is that the brightest minds underestimated Ukrainians as a nation. It was a case when all attention was focused on politics but not on the people.

I guess that you expect me to share my thoughts about the Ukrainian revolution and which direction my country is taking after the political miracle we have witnessed through November and December last year.

Being an insider and participant of this "miracle," I would like to briefly comment on its immediate reasons and ensuing consequences, and then I shall move to Ukraine's perspectives.

The first and foremost reason of the revolution the Ukrainian people have proved to be better and stronger than their government. The people stood up for a piece of bread, but in defense of their dignity and political will.

The people had the courage to confront gun muzzles, because they perceived democracy not as an empty shell but a profound personal aspiration.

The second reason is that the middle class has sprouted in Ukraine. Not only workers, but also the Czech community, students and small business owners rose up against injustice.

Ukraine as a nation refused to tolerate oligarchy — when some individuals controlling the economy are in collaboration with other individuals controlling politics. Also called "oligarchic economy," such a state will be a "quasi-democracy." However, for Ukraine "quasi-democracy" was not enough.

The third reason is that degradation of the former Ukrainian government had reached its highest peak. The dirty wage of murders, harassment, corruption, suppression of mass media flooded Ukraine.

The leader of the independent journalist Heretho Group, Izya in 2000 revealed that the government was necessarily sick. When in 2004 Viktor Yushchenko barely escaped death by poisoning, this was a sign that cynicism and cruelty knew no bounds. The government crossed the line and as a result was punished by its people, thereby sending a warning to all existing tyrannies.

The fourth reason is that after long years of being devoid of true national leadership Ukraine had a strong leader — Viktor Yushchenko, a person of public ideals, advanced principles and deep beliefs.

For him the presidential campaign turned out to be like nine circles of Dante's inferno, for his life, family and

relatives were put at stake. As Viktor Yushchenko succeeded to get safely through the circles, instant outrage imbued millions of Ukrainians. His valor and fortitude gave him the credibility to be a moral leader of the nation for the years to come.

Was Europe ready to meet a new Ukraine? I doubt that. As a diplomat and politician, I can observe that the Orange Revolution has rattled Europe with new dynamics while causing fear among its a surprise.

After many years of being considered an eternal "ugly duckling" in Europe, Ukraine has suddenly emerged as an important actor in the political process.

Without being either an EU or NATO member, Ukraine has evoked in Europe a slightly forgotten feeling — the feeling of the wind of change. The unanticipated yet peaceful revolution next door to the

Orange Revolution in the former fiction Minister of Defense Volker Ruhe who said: watching the TV broadcast from Independence Square we felt that the heart of Europe was beating in Kiev.

Ukraine's striving for freedom and justice during the revolution was as strong as that of the Poles at the time of Solidarity and of the Germans at the time of the Berlin Wall's fall.

The stereotypes of some European politicians about why Ukraine "does not belong to Europe in terms of civilization and culture," vanished in a matter of days. All references that Ukraine had not lived through the age of Enlightenment and bourgeois revolutions and, therefore, was not ready to accept modern democracy proved to be inconsistent. The assertions that psychologically Ukraine is closer to Asian despotic regimes rather than European liberal system lost any arguments.

Ukraine illustrated the belief of President George Bush that deep inside every person lives a natural desire to be free.

However, here arises the ever-lasting dilemma of big politics: how to marry personal convictions and geopolitical calculations.

Ukraine has been transformed from a European outsider to the European moral leader. It has not alleviated the burden of international strategists, particularly those who are shaping European integration. It is easy to decide the fate of an ugly duckling. However, it is difficult to do this if the "duckling" comes to be a prodigy, but the university has no place for him.

Some say that at international conferences attended by European officials one of the rules reads as, "Say whatever you wish, but do not mention Ukraine."

Why is this so? Because the new official position toward Ukraine is still in the final stage. It is clear in the case of the EU, since too many issues had to be integrated or what would later become the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy.

It is clear that global politics is a "big chessboard" where Ukraine is still seeking its place. But the point is not the game. The point is freedom and justice that are equally shared, for instance, by Ukrainians and Americans.

It is about a nation that has overthrown tyranny almost at the same time when the U.S. president spoke about it as he took the oath for his second term in office. I believe that this fact turns the Ukrainian nation into a natural partner of the United States as a recognized global democratic leader. Let me remind you that U.S. President George W. Bush equated Viktor Yushchenko and his role in Ukraine's history with that of George Washington.

Developments in Ukraine revealed not only the intensity of the human aspiration for freedom. They also exposed how some people could cynically resort to indiscriminate tools to suppress this aspiration.

While America was watching the revolution with astonishment and admiration, the former a hyperreaction in Ukraine connected a myth that has been hidden, was brought from American shores. Absurd as this myth may look, it nevertheless captured many minds.

That brings me to a few observations. Modern democracy indeed traces its roots to the United States. However, to say that George Washington and Thomas Jefferson are the fathers of the Orange Revolution would be some exaggeration.

It is conventional wisdom that the United States, being a global player and democratic leader, is important for any democracy in the world. However, this does not mean automatically that developments in Ukraine were misperceived

by Washington.

What was America for us in the Ukrainian opposition? It was an ideological partner, a guarantee that the democratic world would not turn a blind eye toward the blatant violation of basic human rights.

American idealists like John McCain helped the world to focus the Ukrainian elections in close focus, while American pragmatists like Richard Lugar stepped in resolutely to defend democracy in Ukraine. They were not silent when the government attempted to rig the elections, and they did not make any concessions behind the Ukrainian people's backs.

As the Ukrainian revolution was unfolding, the United States took a positive stance to the world democratic leader. So, for this — and not for an imaginary "tomorrow of the revolution" — I wish to extend my appreciation.

Ukraine invites the United States to a strategic partnership.

Democracy, justice and faith bind Ukrainians and Americans. We share common goals: global promotion of democracy, the fight against terrorism, the strengthening of European and trans-Atlantic security and ties. We actually have no interests that conflict. Our views of the future of Europe are converging. Our economic relations could be harmoniously intertwined.

I can see many arguments in favor of the elevation of our relations to a strategic partnership. No argument against this idea is in sight. I see the future of our relations as "partnership for democracy." This is not an alliance against a third party. This is an alliance for the promotion of high human values that have become victorious for Ukraine in December 2004.

Ukraine presented the world with an attractive alternative and a viable concept of "soft power," which could be more instrumental in making this world a better place to live.

This should be the ideology to underpin our relations. As to its mechanism, it is obvious that we have to resume dialogue on the highest political level. The forthcoming visit of Viktor Yushchenko to the U.S. will be such a mechanism.

I see bright prospects for development of our parliament to parliament cooperation. As a former member of the Ukrainian legislature, I am aware of the crucial role played by the legislative branches in our nation. I am in favor of stronger relations between the Rada and Congress.

American policy resides in the White House, but it is born in Capitol Hill. Therefore, it is twice as pleasant for me that the U.S. Congress has turned into the driving force of the Ukrainian-American partnership.

The most encouraging words in support of democracy emanated from the Congress. The Congress sent unequivocal warning messages to those who wanted to subvert democracy. We find the most enthusiastic and influential trends in the Congress now when it is high time to make steps toward each other.

To clear the hurdles that have hampered the development of our relations in the past years is an important precondition for our successful relations. The Ukrainian government is working to ensure that every investor could feel confident in Ukraine. The Ukrainian Parliament is taking up the adoption of intellectual property protection legislation as the highest priority.

We are aware of the [issue of] restitution of religious communities' property, and my country will resolve this matter in a civilized and consistent manner.

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Founding member of Pora explains organization's roots and its future

by Andrew Nyuka

NEW YORK — Pora, the Ukrainian non-governmental organization credited for its key role in the Orange Revolution, appeared quickly to spring to life last fall. Indeed, the organization appeared so suddenly and was so well organized that critics of the movement said such a feat could be accomplished only with foreign aid. Allegations surfaced that money flowed directly to the group from the United States government.

In an interview conducted exclusively with The Ukrainian Weekly, a Pora co-founder explained that, in fact, the founding of the organization dates to protest actions that took place more than three years before the Orange Revolution. During the founding interview, which took place on March 18, the Pora co-founder spoke at length on the topic and about the history of the organization, its role in the revolution and its future.

Volodymyr Vyatrosyich, who together with seven U.S. friends created Pora, spoke at the end of a three-week trip throughout the eastern half of the United States — a trip he says was meant to reach people more about Pora (translated roughly as "it's time").

His meetings in the U.S. included a discussion with Dr. Arnel Cohen of the Heritage Foundation, a research and educational institute. Mr. Vyatrosyich also met with nationalists, representatives of American non-governmental organizations and the public, including at a panel discussion on violence in the steps of the Orange Revolution held at New York City on March 11.

The 23-year-old native of Lviv recently earned a master's degree in history from Lviv University, where he wrote his dissertation on the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (Ukrainian: *Ukrainska Povstanska Armiya*) and the raids that organization undertook beyond Ukraine's borders. As a leading member of Pora, Mr. Vyatrosyich was responsible for marketing, coordinating and leading demonstrations.

Pora, Mr. Vyatrosyich confirmed, is run by a national coordinating council composed of 10 to 12 people and does not have an individual leader. The council makes decisions and, depending on the organization's needs in a given situation, will either increase or decrease in size. Each member of the council is tasked with a given area of expertise, whether it be communications, fund raising, etc. At its height, during the first weeks of the revolution, Pora was made up of 12,000 people, though now the organization has some 6,000 to 7,000 members.

While Pora was officially founded on March 28, 2004, work and training sessions held throughout Ukraine had already begun by November 2003, Mr. Vyatrosyich recounted.

At this point we had not officially come out into the public so as not to draw attention to our work," Mr. Vyatrosyich explained, adding that calling this portion of the organization's history similar to an underground movement could not be made.

One of the very first actions Pora undertook at the end of March 2004 included an informational campaign to explain "Kuchmaism," a term the group's activists coined to describe their view of the state of Ukrainian civil and political society. A website — www.kuchmaism.info

was launched together with the organization's official unveiling. That website is still active and running, and the computer server is kept in the United States, though Mr. Vyatrosyich says for security reasons he purposefully is unaware of its exact location.

The interview also caught several lighter

moments. On one occasion, Mr. Vyatrosyich laughed as he explained an incident during the height of the protests. He was at the front of a column of what he said were perhaps several hundred thousand people marching near to the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy when a security guard came out and saw a throng of people descending onto the school. "Sorry gentlemen, but there is no demonstrating here," Mr. Vyatrosyich remembered the security guard saying. "Demonstration?" Mr. Vyatrosyich responded to the guard. "In case you missed it, there's a revolution happening!" He also took a moment to explain that the popular chant "Rozum iya bilobiz, nas ne poroblyu!" (together we are many, and we can not be defeated) was coined by Anatoliy Bondarenko in 2002 and had sprung from the Spanish phrase "¡ si pueblo unido, jamás será vencido," roughly translated as "The people united, will never be defeated."

The following is a portion of The Weekly's interview conducted with Mr. Vyatrosyich. The discussion was held in Ukrainian and has been translated and edited, though the order of the questions remains untouched.

A large part of your trip here to the United States included raising awareness about your organization and, tangentially, to help raise funds for Pora. How do you collect funds, and how can people support your organization?

I specifically do not handle those matters. We have a saying taken from other revolutionary things: the less you know, the less you're able to say. In other words, I am not aware of any of our financial matters, and if I am asked, there is nothing I can say on the topic. You can question me, putting electricity in my fingers, but I can't answer those questions.

Is this an organization-wide philosophy? Is it true that the organization does not have a leader? And why is that?

First off, why is that? Because when we began this organization we were aware of people's ambitions to lead and the battles for leadership positions. We saw in other situations that people put more of their energy into fighting out which positions they could occupy rather than into helping corruption.

But this concept did not come from Pora; it is something that came from Dignity (the Serbian organization) combined with supporting that country's revolution. But leadership comes from the coordinating council, where specific areas of work are assigned by individual members. For example, work with the mass media, organizational issues, marketing and public relations, fund raising, etc.

You spoke earlier about the need for security and a culture of security with your organization. Could you elaborate on that?

We had three interesting seminars on the culture of security, meaning how to guarantee the safety of our movement. And here there were some basic principles. First, that you should not know about that which doesn't concern your area of work. Next, you shouldn't ask these types of questions — questions that don't concern your area of work.

And these principles need to become the culture of the organization so that, when a person begins to question, where does our money come from, and where do we keep our money? — these aren't seen as simply innocent questions. When these questions are raised they are already seen as possible provocations. This is a question of creating a culture of safety. And because of this structure life

for us went or completely normally.

In all other things we maintained a maximum degree of openness and transparency. Once our movement started we kept nothing hidden — who we were, what we were doing, etc. This was important because we didn't want to give the authorities any reason to wonder what we were doing. The more we made it seem like we were an underground operation, the more we were likely to feel the authority's repression. But we wanted to be absolutely transparent and open. We wanted to make certain that we weren't labeled a terrorist group. We did all kinds of public, open demonstrations. An important thesis of ours was that the enemy of safety is patriotism, meaning a fear of someone watching us, fear that there will be fights with patrons.

How do you reconcile this culture of safety — which means being secretive and closed — with your organization's goal of creating an open, transparent society?

The safety culture was an internal necessity. Obviously, the current situation doesn't require this culture of safety. Many of our members, on their own, understand the sense it made and to know too much. So this was something internal, for them. It's not that one person knew very much, while another knew nothing.

The Pora website also notes a first stage for the organization. Can you explain this? And, what are the other phases?

The first phase was to reverse the election campaign. The next phase, which is now under way, is the concept of the de-Kuchmization of Ukraine. In other words, removing those figures from government who were associated with Mr. Kuchma's regime, and removing the mentality of these types of people from Ukraine. Our greatest goal is to develop civil society in Ukraine.

Is a portion of your work a fight against corruption? I have in mind here not just on the highest levels of government, but at the very grass roots of society?

Absolutely. And one of our projects now is a pilot program to fight corruption in the universities. What we're trying to do is examine the causes of corruption



Volodymyr Vyatrosyich

and look at how they can be eliminated. We tried this on a national level earlier. We know this situation must be changed and we hope to get people beyond the mentality that bringing gifts or money to your doctor or professor or the traffic officer is normal. And we want to show people why this is not normal.

What is the future now for Pora?

We are now registered as a non-governmental organization, and we believe our job is to help civil society further develop and ensure that the new government does not revert back to the old ways.

No matter what is in government, we are often posed the question: Will Pora go into opposition against Mr. Yushchenko? And the answer is that Pora always has been and always will stand in opposition to lies, corruption and crime. And, God forbid, Mr. Yushchenko's merits to lies, corruption and crime, but then we would oppose him, because there should not be any cuts of personality.

Mr. Yushchenko at the moment is the representative of a solid tendency of democratization in Ukraine. Because of this, the people supported him. If Mr. Yushchenko goes in another direction, then we shouldn't be afraid to confront him.

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DISTRICT COMMITTEE
of UNA BRANCHES OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY
announces that its

ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on
Friday, April 15, 2005, at 2:00 p.m. at the
UNA House Office
2200 Route 30, Parsippany, N.J.

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

25, 27, 37, 42, 70, 76, 133, 134, 142, 171, 172, 214, 234, 287, 340

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.
Meeting will be attended by:
Nolan Kaczmarek, UNA President
Christine L. Kovach, UNA National Secretary
Roma Esvaychik, UNA Treasurer
Eugene Dostolowski, UNA Advisor

District Committee
Nolan Wellarsky, District Chairman
Daria Semegen, Secretary
Walter Hontcharyk, Treasurer

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

A new chapter

The upcoming visit by President Viktor Yushchenko to the United States may not be a "first" because it is not the first visit to this country by a president of Ukraine. His two predecessors, Leonid Kravchuk and Leonid Kuchma, both visited the United States during their terms of office. President Kravchuk twice and President Kuchma five times. And, the date of May 6, 1992, has already gone down in history as the first time a president of independent Ukraine arrived in the United States.

However, the dates April 4-6, 2005, will have their own reserved spot in the history books as Mr. Yushchenko, who won a hard-fought battle for the presidency of Ukraine amid unprecedented fabrications and intimidations, and in the process secured victory for the Orange Revolution, visits the United States.

He will arrive in this country as a hero to Ukrainians who reside in the United States and as a strong defender of democracy in the eyes of U.S. leaders, including countless members of Congress and the executive branch whose words and deeds offered support for free and fair elections in Ukraine. The leader of the Orange Revolution will be greeted at the White House, where he will meet with President George W. Bush and other members of his administration, among them Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

He will also address a joint meeting of the House of Representatives and the Senate, becoming the first president of Ukraine to be recorded in this extraordinary honor. As he speaks to the American public he will represent much more than himself; he will represent the heroic people of Ukraine who took to the streets and barricades to defend their rights and guarantee their future. He will be the embodiment of the Orange Revolution seen by hundreds of millions of people around the globe.

Mr. Yushchenko's first U.S. visit comprises components aimed at both the U.S. government and the Ukrainian community, including tens of thousands of people who have recently immigrated to the United States from Ukraine.

We are sure that U.S. officials are anxious to meet the new Ukrainian president, in whom they see the potential of a new Ukraine. No doubt they want to hear for themselves the Yushchenko administration's vision for Ukraine and its place in the world. Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist noted in announcing his speech before a joint meeting of Congress: "President Yushchenko's election is inspiring the spread of democracy throughout the world, in spite of threats and intimidations. We welcome him to this cathedral of democracy and look forward to hearing from him." Thus, President Yushchenko's every word will be crucial.

As for us, Ukrainians in the United States, well, the excitement surrounding President Yushchenko's visit is palpable. All of us, it seems, followed the events of November-December 2004, which Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasov recently described as a "political miracle" with keen interest. All of us were emotionally caught up in the struggle for democracy and truth, and a better tomorrow for Ukraine. After all, for some of us, Ukraine was our homeland, while for others it is the homeland of our fathers and grandfathers. Thus, we want to celebrate the heroic days of the Orange Revolution and welcome Ukraine's new leader, the president in whom so many have placed so many of their hopes.

At the same time, we too, will be listening to Mr. Yushchenko's every word as we know that what he says here in the United States will carry enormous weight and will determine how Ukraine is perceived and, as a result, treated by the U.S. and others.

Just as President Kravchuk's U.S. visit in 1992 was hailed as opening a new page in relations between Ukraine and the United States, President Yushchenko's 2005 visit will open an entirely new chapter in that relationship, one that we hope will be characterized by renewed contacts on the highest levels of government as the United States and Ukraine resume their strategic partnership.

April
4
2004

Turning the pages back...

One year ago on April 4, 2004, The Ukrainian Weekly's top front page story was about a visit to Kyiv by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, who told Ukrainian authorities during his March 28 meetings that future relations between Ukraine and the West are dependent on how the country's presidential election proceeds.

"It's our view that the nation of Ukraine has committed herself to certain standards as she addresses European Union and North Atlantic Partnership and the NATO action plan," explained Mr. Armitage during a press conference. "We would be able to develop a political relationship if there were fair, free, open and democratic elections. It's a very important milestone for Ukraine, I believe."

Roman Wronowicz of our Kyiv Press Bureau reported that Mr. Armitage emphasized that he believed that a good economic and security relationship already exists between Ukraine and the U.S. He added that if Ukraine held democratic elections free of "media intimidation and repression intimidation," relations between Washington and Kyiv could "get back to the type of relationship we envisioned when Ukraine became free more than about a dozen years ago."

Mr. Armitage's trip encompassed nearly all the priority issues in Ukraine's foreign policy towards the West, including its participation in the Iraq stabilization force, business contracts for refunding Iraq that Kyiv would like awarded to Ukrainian businesses, European Union and NATO membership for the country, and the Odessa Brody oil pipeline.

During a day on which he met with top state and government officials, as well as with opposition leaders, Mr. Armitage repeatedly stressed free and fair democratic

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Yalta event at UIA was a big mistake

Dear Editor,

I was one of the patrons of the recent photography exhibition and conference on President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Yalta conference held at the Ukrainian Institute of America. It was a eulogy for FDR and a whitewash of Yalta. The responsibility belongs to the ide facto organizers, EDR promoters (apologists), the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum and Freedom House, founded by Eleanor Roosevelt.

The "spirit" focused on contemporary irrelevance, rather than criminal consequences. Some of the more egregious conclusions reached were that Yalta should be forgotten since it has been rendered moot due to the emergence of Eastern European democracies over the last two decades and that FDR maintained a policy of isolationism, the world would have been much worse.

Consider some facts: FDR was accompanied to the Yalta conference by at least one advisor and policy troublemaker, Alger Hiss, who was subsequently convicted as a communist infiltrator; in the short term, Yalta culminated in the forced repatriation (Operation Keelhaul) of some 2 million Soviet nationals who were rounded up by American and British army units, forced into boxcars and returned to face brutal reprisals in the Soviet Union; many continued to die in the long term. Yalta acquiesced in some 40 years of Soviet tyranny over Eastern Europe, the incarcerations and deaths of thousands if not millions of individuals (i.e., the crushing of the Hungarian revolution in 1956 and the Prague Spring in 1968), FDR's aberrational behavior with "Uncle Joe" Stalin has been ascribed by myriad historians to physical debilitation, political naivete and even criminality.

A more fitting commemoration of the tragedy of Yalta and the nefarious role of FDR would have been a moment of silence, the remembrance of martyrs, e.g., Alla Borzka, Volodymyr Kvasiuk, Vasyi Stus and many from other nations as well.

The UIA has hosted many wonderful events, such as the recent event honoring the Khatynas. However, EDR-Yalta was a big mistake. I can only apologize to the Ukrainian community for my part.

Andriy S. Lazynskyj
New York

Regarding Plast and the UCCA

Dear Editor,

My brief comments are prompted by a letter to the editor, "Plast and UCCA," consider the issues," written by Dr. Roman Baranowskyj. It is my personal opinion that two statements in that letter are questionable.

Dr. Baranowskyj writes: "Plast is a non-political and non-demonstrational entity and cannot belong to any organization that is political." First of all, it should be emphasized that the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America is not a political, but a civic organization. In the United States there are two main political parties, Democratic and Republican and many Ukrainian civic and community leaders belong to either party.

I was especially surprised by the following statement in Dr. Baranowskyj's letter: "Nevertheless, I am sincerely sorry to see that the younger generation of seniors, who hold responsible positions in the Plast leadership, having the best intentions, but not familiar with the whole picture, are naively susceptible to the persuasion of agitators who exploit their lack of full knowledge." I am convinced that the UCCA does not employ agitators to fool the younger generation of Plast seniors.

Today we live in wonderful and exciting times for Ukraine. Our community in the United States is proud of the election observers program organized and coordinated by the UCCA. Two other recent developments promoting reconciliation in our community should be mentioned. At the UCCA convention in Philadelphia in September 2004, two members of the Ukrainian National Association were elected to the UCCA executive board. Most recently, the UCCA executive board unanimously elected a Committee on Reconciliation chaired by Julian Kulis. This committee also includes representatives from the Ukrainian National Association and the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics.

In these challenging times for all of us, there is no need to be obsessed with the past. We should try to be proactive rather than reactive.

Ivan Z. Holmowskyj
Sarasota, FL

Building bridges is most important

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to Prof. John Paul Hlinka's letter published in your March edition.

I agree with Prof. Hlinka that there is no place for "national secedarism" in order to keep tabs on who did what to whom. This approach is a relic from a past era.

I have no interest in seeing the hatreds, the Nigurry, the anti-Semitism, and the xenophobia of the 20th century (and earlier) passed onto my children.

Yes, I do know my history. My family was mostly affected by historical events in the 20th century. Those that survived bear the scars to this day. Those events have also left their mark on me and, I dare say, on my children. However, I know the lessons to be learned. The main lesson to me is that we have to build bridges to, and find common ground with other groups, to solve the truly pressing problems of today.

I am with President Viktor Yushchenko and Prof. Hlinka on this one.

M. Szal
Toronto

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 (anonymous letters are not published). Letters are accepted also via e-mail at staff@ukrweekly.com. The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer must be given for verification purposes. Please note that a daytime phone number is essential in order for editors to contact letter-writers regarding clarifications or questions.

View from the

Trembita Lounge

by Irina Szmagala Jr.

Do we put our faith first?

"Hey, that wedding was odd," my friend Marko said from the bar stool next to mine. He swirled his drink and continued with his intrusive (and irritating) comment. "I was so into that, but I don't see that." "Yeah, the Ave Maria was nice, but the rest of it... too plain for my taste." Having grown up a Ukrainian Catholic, Marko didn't have much experience in worshipping Latin Catholics.

"Depends on how you view it," I responded. "Did you see their Church bulletin?" "No," Marko replied. "What does their bulletin have to do with it?" "Well," I replied, "the mass may not have been quite enough for you, but the members of that parish were sure keeping busy. Just last week they organized a food drive, a 'salvage' night at the local homeless shelter, and a fund-raising effort for their sister parish in Ukraine. All that, in addition to the women's league, bingo night for their school, and their weekly youth encounter group. That church didn't seem very plain to me."

"So what?" Marko was unimpressed. Our church does that, too. We send plenty of support to our elementary schools and high schools, we send money when natural disasters strike, and we always send lots of money to Ukraine. I encouraged the priest. "You encourage our church is good at raising money, sometimes when natural disasters strike, but especially when we need to build more churches."

"What's wrong with nice churches?" Marko asked, incredulously. "What do you want to worship God in one of those sterile 1970s style McChurches with a beige altar and all the spirituality of some local Howard Johnson's?" That's your problem, Jesus... you see the Church is so saturated with social service oriented activities. But the Church isn't United Way with an altar... it's a place where one worships God, receives the sacraments, and preserves our spiritual heritage."

I had to admit Marko had a point, but something was still bothering me. As I pondered my response, my mind wandered back 25 years to the first time I became intelligently curious about my faith. I was a freshman at St. Ignace's High School, a Jesuit institution located in a prosperous city. Cleveland neighborhood, and our class was being confronted by a priest who had a question for us. "What did you see when you walked by our front door into school today?" he asked. Silence. The question was repeated. Still, silence. Finally a classmate slowly raised his hand. "A homeless guy sleeping under the bench" was his tentative reply. "Yes," the Jesuit replied, "exactly. Now, did you know that a Catholic parish in Shaker Heights is planning a multi-million dollar renovation to its church building. My question to this class today is: is it consistent with

our Catholic faith to spend that money when there are many sleeping under benches outside of this church?"

Of course, I didn't... indeed, he could just... propose to have the one correct answer to his question. But his challenge energized the class, and allowed us to begin exploring what it means to be Christian. What followed was a discussion that expressed a certain tension between the "spiritualists" (those who stress the importance of ritual and ceremony in Church life) and the "social activists" (those who view feeding the hungry, giving alms to the poor, and helping the disadvantaged as being central to the Church's mission). Students on both sides of this classroom debate raised good points, dignified points of worship are certainly necessary and appropriate and facilitate contemplation, prayer, and the celebration of the sacraments. In fact, even the most cursory reading of the New Testament reveals Jesus to be a man of social action, concerned with human suffering and providing his followers to take an active role in the world around them.

The primary lesson that we learned that day was that these two sides of the same Church are not mutually exclusive. Indeed, they are both necessary, and an even complement each other. So what was my lingering problem with Marko? And what continues to trouble me about the current state of our Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox Churches?

It is not that our Ukrainian Churches are too "spiritual" at the expense of social activity. One need only look at Patriarch Hrusa's level of involvement in Ukrainian civic life, including his apostolic mandate to his priests to become more socially active, to know that the Ukrainian Catholic Church is taking its social obligations seriously. And certainly the Ukrainian Churches have played, and continue to play, important roles within our community.

But when we see, we see "Ukrainian Catholics," or "Ukrainian Orthodox," do we mean it in that order? In other words, are we "Ukrainian" first, and "Catholic" or "Orthodox" second? Do we preserve our spiritual heritage to enhance our social activity, or our material pride? And is our attendance at Sunday liturgy an act of faith, or an act of utility? Like any Jesuit theology teacher, I will admit not having the answers to these questions... but I suggest they are questions worth asking.

In this Lenten season, I suggest reflecting on whether you observe the Jubilee in the Gregorian calendar as I critically examine my own approach to these issues. It occurs to me that ethnicity, while important, cannot be the central focus of one's faith. After all, Jesus never said, "Blessed are the Ukrainians, for they are the best ethnic group." Rather, ethnicity must only complement, not supplant, the call of our Churches to spirituality and social action. By putting our faith first, we can derive new meaning from the richness and spirituality of our Church, and ensure that it remains relevant in America six years from now to come.

PERSPECTIVES

by Irina Szmagala Jr.



Heroes in red robes

Even if, such proximity, it is safe to say that Ukraine's Orange Revolution changed the course of history. Above all, it thwarted Vladimir Putin's aspirations to mark the entrance of the Cold War by casting the Russian Empire. Now, the Orange Revolution is serving as a model for democracy, human rights, and independence in Lebanon, Iran, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, and elsewhere. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that the outcome in those areas will be as positive as it was in Ukraine.

Looking back at the dramatic events of November and December 2004, you can see any number of moments when it all could have unfolded in a different direction, in a completely different direction. For example, the plot to murder Viktor Yushchenko had succeeded and instead of an inauguration, there had been a funeral, with Messrs. Kuchma, Yanukovich, and Putin playing the role of chief mourners. What if the call to take to the streets to protest a stolen election had been met with apathy. If it people had gone home after a couple days of winter cold, having decided that winning against entrenched power was impossible? What if Internal Affairs Ministry troops had been unleashed and their seeds had been killed in a Tambov Square style massacre, or if Russia had intervened and confronted Ukrainian tanks and military. What if battles had broken out between the drunken hooligans from Donetsk and Yushchenko supporters?

The nation's idealism and enthusiasm during the long ordeal, of course, were genuine and deeply held and Mr. Yushchenko was successful in steering it all in a positive direction. Battered by a manipulator from our lines of orange clad people, he showed a steady resolve and faith that the rule of law would prevail. And ultimately it did. When people finally had a chance on December 26 to vote freely, openly, and fairly, the electorate affirmed the decision that the streets had already made.

What if that, arguably the most pivotal day of all, the counting points was the judgement that Ukraine's Supreme Court rendered on December 5 invalidating the fraudulent election and ordering a new one. In my view, that signaled Ukraine's emergence as a mature society that not only has laws, but also a convergence of policy willing to affirm them, along with a populace that accepts its decisions and goes on from there.

Following widespread reports of election fraud, the 11 red-robed members of the Supreme Court gathered evidence from every corner of Ukraine, evaluated it, and then ruled that unequal access to the media, voter suppression, ballot box stuffing, and other fraud had negated the election. Rendering the decision, Chief Justice Anatoliy Yarema said, "The conclusion of the court is that the rules of the electoral law were broken and the exact result of the voters' will across the territory of Ukraine cannot be ascertained."

By its decision, the Ukrainian Supreme Court not only made it possible for the will of the Ukrainian electorate to be freely expressed and accurately counted, it also established the court as an honest, neutral arbiter for the nation. This is a principle American society has accepted since 1803, when the Supreme Court in *Marbury vs. Madison* declared an act of Congress invalid, thus establishing itself as the final

arbitral branch of government, in accord with the Constitution and the executive.

Ukraine recently enjoyed the protection of an independent judiciary provides. Instead, Russian spies and Soviet contacts was tried by personal whim and once twice. Throughout the 20th century, most leading members of citizens were created based on their social class, who their relatives were, the books they read, whether they spoke Ukrainian and/or did not, and the color of the letter "y". The judges presiding over the Soviet genocide were merely actors in a grand show that was dictated by the secret police in a First of January, starting with the Chkva negotiating with the KGB.

America, especially my home state of Ohio, has played a key role in helping Ukraine's fledgling development into an independent institution capable of rendering history making decisions. In 1997, a year after the break up of the Soviet Union, Chief Justice Thomas Mayer formed a partnership between the Ohio Supreme Court and Ukraine's Supreme Court and Kuchma with the goal of developing and strengthening democratic ideals and judicial institutions in both countries.

Justice Mayer has visited Ukraine numerous times and we continue to have many delegations of Ukrainian jurists to Ohio. Members of the Ukrainian American legal community, particularly my friend and fellow Clevelander Bohdan Butry, himself a judge in the U.S. federal court system, were invaluable in this and similar projects.

Recently, I was at a symposium in Columbus, Ohio, Orange Revolution, the Yushchenko Presidency and the Future of Ukraine, where Chief Justice Mayer chaired a panel that included judges from the Ohio's Appellate Arbitration Court, the Appellate Court in Luhansk, a Civil Court from the Zaporizhzhia Oblast, and the Supreme Court. Near the end of the session, Justice Mayer asked the panel to assess the impact of the December 5 ruling on Ukraine's judicial system and society in general.

"We're here as judges," Supreme Court Justice Oleksander Potylchak replied. "We just rule on the facts and let the politics flow from there." Here, Civil Judge Viktor Horodovskyy interrupted him. "Oleksander Potylchak is too modest," he said. "Based on the facts and the law, the Supreme Court's December 5 decision was correct, to be sure, but it took enormous courage. Thus, the court gave official voice to the overwhelming desire of Ukrainians for a democratic country run where people and the government play by the rules. That judgment, in turn, empowered the entire judiciary," he said... from the municipal level to the very top, indeed, the entire nation itself, to render fair, impartial decisions in the difficult jobs ahead of re-structuring Ukraine's society. In my opinion based on corruption and privilege to one strand on the rule of law. The political and social impact of that on Ukraine has been enormous. But before Judge Brodskiyenko could finish, Odesa Judge Adam Bahakli interrupted him with a one-sided assessment of the Supreme Court's work "Heroic" (Heroin).

Ukraine's history has many warriors, scholars, artists, clergy and activists who became heroes in the struggle for Ukraine's freedom and independence. Now we can add another category: judges who take their oaths seriously and have the courage to rule impartially in the face of enormous pressure from powerful interests. Heroes, indeed!

Irina Szmagala Jr. is a Cleveland based attorney and third generation Ukrainian American. Mr. Szmagala may be reached at szmagalajr@yahoo.com

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Ukrainian Canadian Restitution Act passes second reading

OTTAWA — The Ukrainian Canadian Restitution Act, Bill C-331, passed its second reading in the House of Commons on Thursday, March 24, receiving the support of members of Parliament from all four parties in the House.

The measure introduced as a private member's bill by Inky Mark, Conservative member of Parliament from Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette (Manitoba), now goes to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage before proceeding for its third and final reading in the House of Commons.

Mr. Mark said during debate in the House of Commons: "During World War I the Canadian government unjustly interned more than 8,000 Canadians of Ukrainian and Eastern European heritage in labor camps throughout Canada. For 85 years the federal government has refused to acknowledge that it's even occurred. My bill is a resolution in the light for recognition that has gone on for 20 years."

Bill C-331 has been endorsed by groups representing Canada's Ukrainian community. It has also been supported by the Conservative Party of Canada, the Bloc Québécois, the New Democratic Party, as well as some Liberal members of Parliament.

Speaking in favor of the bill on March 24 were: Stephen Harper, leader of the Conservative Party of Canada; Bernard Jigras from the Bloc Québécois; Borys Wrzesnewskyj of the Liberal Party; Joy Smith, Conservative MP from Kildonan-St. Paul (Manitoba); and James Brizan, Conservative MP representing NeKark Interlake (Manitoba). (The text of remarks by MPs Harper and Wrzesnewskyj appear on the right.)

At the conclusion of the debate, the bill was given unanimous consent by the House of Commons.

Mr. Mark argued that "It is time that the

Liberal government deal with this issue," adding "One million Ukrainian Canadians have waited too many years for the recognition that they deserve. The previous prime minister promised to correct this injustice and it was a promise broken. Will this Liberal government leave a similar legacy? Acknowledgment is not too much to ask. Canadians and the Liberal government must accept our history for what it is, learn from it, and give justice to those from the Ukrainian community."

Commenting on behalf of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, which has been in the forefront of efforts to secure redress for the 1914-1920 internment operations, Chairman John B. Gregorovich said, "The Ukrainian Canadian Restitution Act enjoys the endorsement of the Bloc Québécois, the NDP and the Conservative Party of Canada, and even of some Liberals, like Borys Wrzesnewskyj, who was courageous enough to stand up for what is right. We are, of course, especially grateful to the Honorable Stephen Harper for so unambiguously underscoring his support, and that of the Conservative Party of Canada, for redress to the Ukrainian Canadian community."

Mr. Gregorovich added, "We look forward to passage of Bill C-331 and to negotiating a comprehensive settlement with the government of Canada, hopefully while the last known survivor of the internment operations, Mary Manko, can still bear witness to such a historic reconciliation. As Mr. Harper noted, Mary turns 92 this summer, and we would all like to present her with the gift of closure. She deserves at least that much for what she and her family endured during Canada's first national internment operations."

The Ukrainian Canadian community's campaign for redress has been ongoing for two decades.



Denyris Soudas

In the House of Commons on March 24 (from left) are: MP Inky Mark, sponsor of the Ukrainian Canadian Restitution Act; Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, research director of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association; and MP Stephen Harper, leader of the Conservative Party of Canada.

FOR THE RECORD: Statement by Conservative Party leader

Below is the text of a statement by Member of Parliament Stephen Harper, leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, on Bill C-331 delivered in the House of Commons on March 24.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an important and dark chapter in Canadian history.

I am pleased to give my support for Bill C-331. Bill C-331 is an act to recognize the injustice that was done to persons of Ukrainian descent and other Europeans who were interned at the time of the first world war. It is to provide for public commemoration and for redress which is to be devoted to public education and the promotion of tolerance.

Please allow me to begin by first recognizing the Ukrainian Canadian

Congress, the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, and in particular, Prof. Lubomyr Luciuk for their tireless efforts to promote awareness of the internment of Ukrainian Canadians during the first world war. Without their efforts, we would likely not be having this debate today in Parliament. And, unfortunately, without their advocacy, this chapter of Canadian history would be largely forgotten today.

I would like to thank my colleague, the Conservative member of Parliament from Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette [Inky Mark], I thank him for bearing the torch for redress of this historic wrong, and for his leadership in working to finally close this painful chapter of

(Continued on page 17)

FOR THE RECORD: Remarks by MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj

Following is the text of remarks by Borys Wrzesnewskyj, member of Parliament for Etobicoke-Centre (Liberal Party of Canada) delivered on March 24 in the House of Commons during the debate on Bill C-331, the Ukrainian Canadian Restitution Act.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to speak in Bill C-331, a Private Member's Bill that seeks to recognize the injustices that were done to persons of Ukrainian descent at the time of the first world war. Let me begin by congratulating the member for Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette [Inky Mark] for the work he has done to bring the issue of the internment of Ukrainian Canadians to this House. The bill underscores the need to publicly commemorate this tragic event through public education initiatives so as to lead to an atonement.

I love Canada and believe that Canada is unique internationally, the Canada that I've known for the last number of decades has been a shining example of multiculturalism. We do not just tolerate our differences, we celebrate the people and cultures that make

up our national mosaic. However, I mentioned that today I rise with a heavy heart, it is because I also know that to make one Canada an even greater country, we must have the courage to acknowledge the dark episodes in our country's past. While some would have preferred to sweep the tragic episode of the internment operations from 1914 to 1920 into the dustbin of history, the Ukrainian Canadian community remembers and through public acknowledgement by the government it seeks to bring closure to a painful episode in our common history.

We should congratulate the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association in their determination to make sure that there is a proper acknowledgment.

In the decades following Canada's confederation, thousands of Ukrainians were encouraged to leave their homeland and embark on an arduous journey that took them to some of the most remote parts of western Canada. These settlers faced very harsh living conditions under isolated circumstances with little in the

(Continued on page 22)

A Ukrainian Summer

Appears May 1 in The Ukrainian Weekly

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FOCUS ON PHILATELY

by Igor Kozub

Ukraine's first express mail service

Background

Express mail service has been around for a lot longer than most people realize. In the U.S. it began on an experimental basis in 1920, it was made a permanent postal service in 1977. However, the roots of expedited postal service go back much, much further. The Austrian Empire was one of the first countries to introduce express mailings for domestic mail on October 1, 1859. The service was initially only available locally within certain cities, but gradually it became an inter-city service.

Figure 1 is a cover to mailed envelope sent from Lemberg (today's Lviv) to Vienna on October 16, 1871. The 30-Venzer franking (applied postage) on the cover breaks down as follows: 5 Kreuzer for letter transmission, 10 Kreuzer for registration and 15 Venzer for express delivery. Although it was not a requirement, most express letters were registered.

The efficient Austrian postal service continued the express service right up

until the fall of the empire at the end of World War I in November of 1918. Figure 2 is a wartime cover dispatched from Lemberg to Krakow on June 26, 1917. The 75-heller franking is composed as follows: 20 heller for an over-weight letter, 25 heller for registration, and 30 heller for express delivery. A Krakow receiving mark on the reverse of the envelope indicates that the letter arrived the same day.

On November 1, 1918, Western Ukraine (the eastern part of the Austrian province of Galicia) declared its independence from the Empire. Western Ukraine's first stamps were produced in Lviv (the new capital), but the city fell to the Poles just as the stamps were to be released and so they did not see much use.

The next Western Ukrainian stamps were created in Kolomyia. On December 12, 1918, five different Western Ukrainian stamps were put into circulation. Four of these consisted of the over-

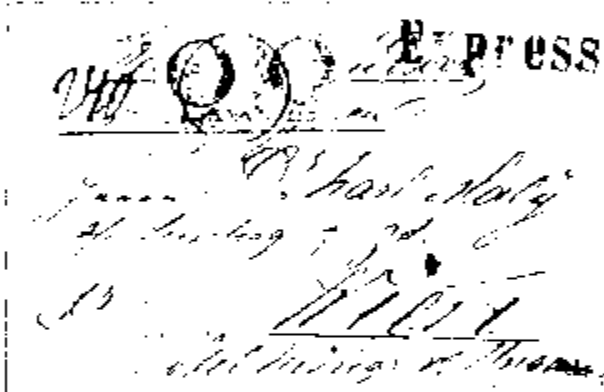


Figure 1. A 19th century cover showing an early instance of express mail – from Lemberg (Lviv) to Vienna.

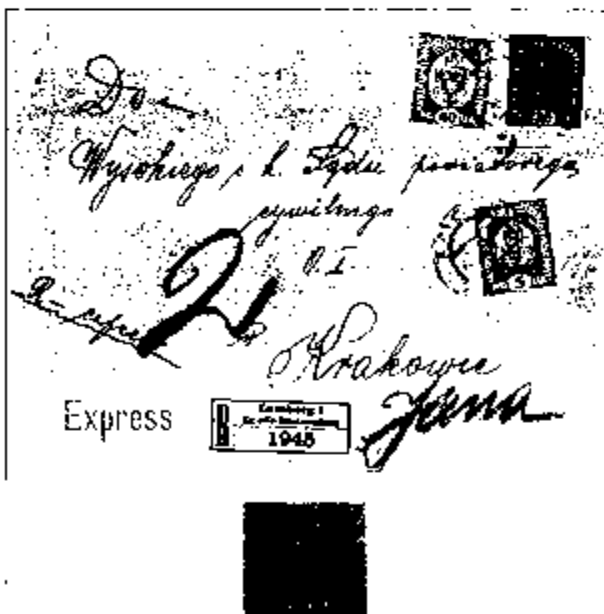


Figure 2. World War I cover illustrating express service between Lemberg and Krakow. The marking on the reverse indicates same-day delivery.

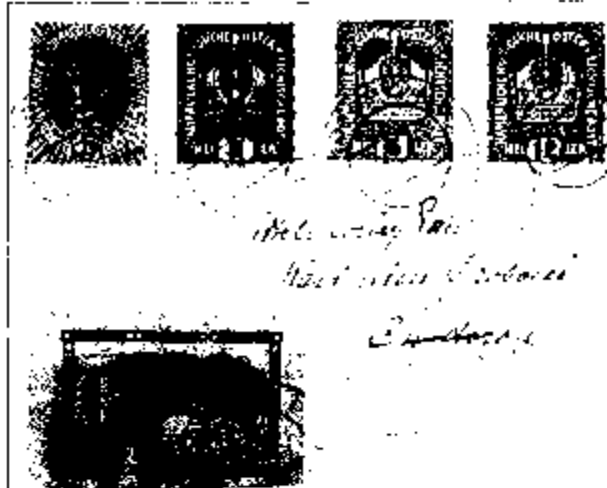


Figure 3. Rare cover displays all five stamps released by the Western Ukrainian government on December 12, 1918. The 10/6 and 10/12 sovyk values in the upper right were produced in very low quantities and sold out on December 23, the day this letter was posted.



Figure 4. This registered cover sent from Kolomyia to Stanyslaviv has several indications on it showing that it was an express delivery.

print "Yip HP" (Ukrainian National Republic) and a new value. The fifth was an entirely unique Western Ukrainian registration stamp prepared at a local print shop. Figure 3 shows all five of these stamps on a registered letter mailed December 23, 1918.

The Western Ukrainian government initially retained the Austrian postal rates, a letter still cost 20 heller for sovyks, the Ukrainian name to send, while registry was raised slightly to 40 sovyks. The cover in Figure 3, therefore, is slightly overfranked (totaling 65 sovyks) since only 50 sovyks were required. This overfranking was intentional on the part of the sender in order to show all the stamps of the set. Note the Ukrainian-language boxed "Censor/Kolomyia" marking, since this letter was transmitted under wartime conditions.

Western Ukrainian express mail

Also retained by the Western Ukrainian government was the Austrian express mail service, which therefore became the first Ukrainian express mail service. To date, I have not come across any express mail covers from 1918, but I have been able to acquire two from the following year.

The ongoing war with Poland created many hardships, and the Western Ukrainian postal service soon felt it needed more income to sustain its services. On January 1, 1919, postal tariffs were raised as follows: letter rate 40 sovyks, registration 50 sovyks, and

express delivery 1 hryvnia and 20 sovyks.

Figure 4 is an express cover mailed from Kolomyia to Stanyslaviv on May 20, 1919. Three things on the envelope indicate that it is express: the "exp" abbreviation in the upper corner, the "V" through the middle of the cover (short hand for "express"), and the 2 hryvnia 10 sovyk franking (40 sovyk letter rate, 50 sovyk registration, and 1.20 hryvnia express fee). The amount is made up with 1 and 10 Austrian heller, which remained valid in Western Ukraine as sovyks, and the 50 sovyk registration stamp.

Figure 5 is also an express cover, but it is harder to detect since there is no "express" inscription of any type. An "V" was applied across the cover, but it is quite

(Continued on page 18)

1. A 500-heller system went into effect in Austria on January 1, 1901, two new heller replaced one old krenner.

2. Despite the fact that eastern Galicia was overwhelmingly Ukrainian in population, Poland banned the term "sovyk" and set about trying to take it as force.

3. Although the much larger eastern Ukraine had broken free of Russia rather late (November 20, 1917), de jure January 22, 1918), its postal system never had an express mail service (unlike the Russian).

4. 100 sovyks equalled 1 hryvnia.

5. Stanyslaviv at this time functioned as the Western Ukrainian capital, but it would fall to the Poles five days later. Today the city's name is Ivano-Frankivsk.

CONCERT REVIEW: Pianist Juliana Osinchuk at the Lyceum

by Zdzislaw Krzewicki

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The 2004-2005 Music Series sponsored by The Washington Group Cultural Fund under the patronage of the Embassy of Ukraine presented a recital by pianist Juliana Osinchuk on Sunday, March 13, at the Lyceum in Alexandria, Va.

Dr. Osinchuk is a versatile pianist performing internationally both as soloist and as chamber musician. She is also an active educator, developing music workshops for students and presenting lecture-recitals for professional and community groups. As a champion of contemporary American music, Dr. Osinchuk has presented numerous works to great critical acclaim.

The recital at the Lyceum showcased her talents both as a piano virtuoso and as an excellent raconteur. The commentary provided by Dr. Osinchuk about the various works on the program was quite interesting and added to the intimate feeling of this pleasant Sunday afternoon concert.

The opening work on the program was the Sonata in C Major by Dmytro Bortnyansky, the famed Ukrainian composer, who is well-known for his choral works. Hearing this piano Sonata, written in the classical style of Mozart, was a revelation. It was interesting to discover that the master of choral liturgical music also contributed to the wealth of piano literature.

A short elegant Ronde by Hummel, another contemporary of Mozart, was followed by a rendition of Schumann's "Papillons," a work that embodies all the

principles of romantic music. Based on the writings of Jean Paul, it is a musical description of a masked ball. The variations are whimsical delightful portraits of the various characters who participate in the festivities, and the music requires the performer to quickly change moods while preserving the integrity of the whole. Dr. Osinchuk succeeded in evoking the excitement of the entire piece, but the contrasts between the different personalities depicted could have been more dramatic.

The first half of the program concluded with two works by American contemporary composers. In the "Rhapsody for Piano Solo" by Lawrence Mass, a member of the music faculty at the University of Maryland who was able to attend the recital, Dr. Osinchuk succeeded in weaving the complex, tenuous relationships of the work into a lovely passage.

Philip Munger is an Alaskan composer and Dr. Osinchuk, who is also a resident of Alaska, has premiered several of his works. The composition presented on Sunday was the "Kokulnuk's Toccata, Op. 39" which refers to the Kokulnuk Island in Alaska. The turbulent beginning and ending of the work imitate the fury of the water surrounding the island, while the slow brooding middle section suggests its mystery. Dr. Osinchuk's reading of the work proved her to be a particularly adept interpreter of contemporary music with the ability to analyze and understand its complex structure.

The second part of the program was devoted to the music of Liszt. Dr. Osinchuk seems to have a particular affinity for Liszt's music and, for this lis-

tenor at least, this portion of the program was the highlight of the afternoon. Two pieces from "Gilles de Worseltice," "Ballade Ukraine" and "Complainte," which were written under the influence of Liszt's visits to an estate in western Ukraine, used themes from popular Ukrainian folk songs and the familiar melodies resonated with this audience.

In the four "Conservations" chosen for this program, Dr. Osinchuk exhibited a lovely lyrical tone and created the intimate quiet mood that is characteristic of these lovely short pieces of music. The

final work in the program was Liszt's transcription of the waltzes from Gounod's opera "Faust," and here Dr. Osinchuk had the opportunity to showcase her spectacular technique. The show-stopping performance brought her a standing ovation from an appreciative audience and she responded with an encore, a brilliant étude by Moritz Moszkowski.

After the concert there was a reception to provide an opportunity to meet the artist and to honor the Cultural Fund's founder and former director, Mariyssa Courtney.



Pianist Juliana Osinchuk meets fellow Alaskan, Sen. Ted Stevens, following her concert on March 13 in Alexandria, Va.

DRAMA REVIEW: "Koliada: Twelves Dishes" at LaMama Theater



Allison Bicoiti, Andrew Colteaux and Silu Elsmore as the spirits who come to dinner in Yura's "Koliada: Twelve Dishes."

by Olena Jennings

NEW YORK — "Koliada: Twelve Dishes," performed by the Yara Arts Group at the LaMama Theater in New York City on March 4-20 is a collage of past, present, pagan and Christian traditions. Ukrainian and English are also interwoven in traditional, folk song and spoken word, which includes the poetry of contemporary Ukrainian writer Serhiy Zhadan.

"Koliada" was created in a theater workshop that took place in Kyiv during the Orange Revolution, but the idea was conceived during director Virliana Tkacz's research travels in the Carpathian Mountains, where many of the rituals invoked in the play are still practiced.

The play is framed by the Christmas Eve dinner. A lonely Ukrainian woman (played by Olga Shoban) prepares dinner, goes outside with an ax, which she taps against a birch, calling the spirits and bears to the table. "If you don't come when I invite you, then don't come at all," she says. When she falls asleep, the spirits enter her house and prepare to feast.

The spirits are played by Andrew Colteaux, Olenka Derysenko, George Drance, Silu Elsmore, Allison Hiroto and Yura Slywonsky. Even in her silence, Silu Elsmore conveyed emotion in her vocal expressions. The confidence of Mr. Colteaux's movements stood out as the spirits danced rhythmically on stage. Ms. Hiroto also starts with the pungency of her voice during the cast's performance

of musical arrangements by Mariana Sadovska.

Music is important throughout the play. Hutsul kolyadnyky Ivan Zelenchuk and Dmytro Talychuk sing and at one point play a trembita from a ramp above the stage. This adds an especially Ukrainian touch since they sing in a traditional style, while most of the play seems to transcend specific culture. This is one of the play's strongest points. It brings Ukrainian culture to a universal level.

In the play, visual images become poems in themselves. Upon first glance, the set designed by Witoku Ueno seems simple, but when the play begins audience members discover its intricacy. Shadows add to the ethereal atmosphere. In one scene, colorful fruits and vegeta-

bles are placed on a tablecloth reminiscent of a canvas. These scenes drift toward the audience members, causing them to reinterpret their perception of everyday objects just as Zhadan's poems do. His poems cause us to contemplate the associations with objects such as "Honey," "Mushrooms," "Fish" and "Potatoes." In another visually stimulating image, cabbage falls from up above, neon green leaves landing with a thud against the black floor.

At the end of the play, the table is pushed toward the audience. The members in the front row are actually sitting at the table. They are given a spoonful of kuliya, joining the spirits, emphasizing the communal nature of the Christmas Eve dinner and of the artistic experience of viewing the play.



Hutsul "kolyadnyky" Ivan Zelenchuk and Dmytro Talychuk.

Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art to present work of Aka Pereyma

CHICAGO The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art (UIMA) presents the body of work of artist Aka Pereyma in a comprehensive exhibition of drawings, watercolors, oils, mixed media, sculpture and ceramics – a celebration of the artist's significant contributions to contemporary Ukrainian art and culture and art in general.

A versatile artist, Ms. Pereyma draws inspiration for her work from the traditions and artistic expressions of her Ukrainian heritage. While deeply rooted in ancient Ukrainian folk art and vibrantly colorful folk art, her work is strikingly contemporary in expression.

Her art often draws on the richness of Ukrainian folk art as a symbolic form and is often generated by the power of nature, just as the very rhythms of nature defined the visual expression of Ukraine's ancient culture: traditional motifs, monochromatic pre-Christian sculpture, ritualistic objects, including always the simplest source of restoration symbolism – the decorated egg or pysanka.

Ms. Pereyma has had a distinguished career as an artist and has garnered a number of awards recognizing her originality of composition, perfection and depth of detail, richness of color and her certainty of vision. For her contribution to



"Cranes," mixed media, 1995-1998.

Ukrainian cultural identity, Ms. Pereyma received the Distinguished Ukrainian Artist medal awarded by the government of Ukraine in 2001, and in 2004 she was a recipient of the Ohio Heritage Fellowship for her artistry in ceramics and painting.

The exhibition "Aka Pereyma: 40 Years of Creativity, 1965-2005" opens at the UIMA on April 19, where it will be on view through May 22. The opening reception will be held on April 24 at 7:00 p.m., with a gallery talk by the artist at 8:00 p.m.

An exhibition catalogue, printed in Ukraine as a publication of *Young Arts Magazine*, Kyiv, with Mykola Malyshchuk, editor, will be available at the opening reception on April 24. Price: \$10; order requests may be sent to the UIMA by mail, 2820 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60627, telephone: (773) 227-5522, or e-mail: info@uima.org.

The UIMA gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, noon-4 p.m. For additional information about the exhibition, Ms. Kuchuk, chair of the UIMA Art Committee, at (773) 227-5445 or visit the web site www.uima.org.

Aka Pereyma (née Klyvo) was born in 1927 in Siedlce, Poland, moved with

her family to Ukraine in 1939, and came to the United States as a post-war refugee in 1959. Her formal art studies were at the School of Art Institute of Chicago, the Western Art Institute and the Robert Schuch School of Welding Technology.

Ms. Pereyma has been exhibiting her work yearly since 1967 in solo and group shows in North America, and in frequent exhibitions – some 30 – in cities throughout Ukraine since the country's independence in 1992.

As part of her frequent visits to Ukraine, Ms. Pereyma has been present at several openings of her teaching exhibitions and continues to study and explore the traditional arts of her homeland.

Every year, since 1986, in order to show the influence of the "pysanka" on her art, Ms. Pereyma exhibits her works with pysanky, which were made by her sister Tanya, Ukraine first at the United States and since 1991, in Ukraine.

Ms. Pereyma is recognized as a Merited Artist of Ukraine by the Ukrainian government, and holds a place of honor in her hometown at the Troy Hall of Fame.

The artist creates work in seven work stations on the family's nearly 400-acre farm in Troy, Ohio.

Daughter and colleagues share reflections on the artist

The egg came first

by Christina Pereyma O'Neal

My mother, Aka Pereyma, was born September 30, 1927. Like other Ukrainians of her generation, the road to a good life was unpredictable. Her early life was rich in Ukrainian traditions and atmosphere. Her parents were school teachers in a rural area. They experienced seasonal rhythms, holidays and celebrations. In her first decade she enjoyed a stable family life.

The decorating of the pysanka, a Ukrainian decorated Easter egg, was an essential annual tradition that was practiced in her home. She vividly remembers the warmth and importance of these moments. She learned the techniques, as well as she was able to grasp the *lyskivka*, the decorative line. Decorating the egg's peaty surface taught her the fundamental rules of design: the division of space, the rules of the line, the use and control of color and the importance of filling an empty space. Those who have attempted to know how extremely difficult it is to create the line on a small three-dimensional object. Even for the expert, the art form must be practiced diligently to preserve the symmetry and elegance of a masterfully decorated pysanka. This work possesses a strong spiritual value, a legacy that has been passed from generation to generation and maintains a continuity of belief that stretches back to prehistoric, pagan times. Aka carries this and other Ukrainian traditions within her; they saturate her sense of self and creatively influence her dreams and creative impulses.

Her life changed dramatically at the onset of the second world war. Over the next 20 years Aka endured an unsettled nomadic existence passing through Ukraine, Poland, Germany, Italy, landing in America. She endured the same hardships of other displaced Ukrainians: no home and no possibility of return. Burning, fear, survival, family hunger and death were her constant companions. These operative themes defined her adolescence and young adulthood. Hope for

a good future was always present, but was often obscured by the momentous and overwhelming realities of war and emigrant uncertainty.

Her arrival in New York was accompanied with the usual degree of fear, no common language, living on pennies, hard work, solitude and three young children to raise in the immigrant city. While her husband, Constantine, completed his specialty training in surgery, she endured long hours alone. She lived the sharp double-edged sword of the immigrant experience, where freedom and hope are tempered with the heartbreaking loss of her Ukrainian home. The family struggled with questions of how and where to build a life for themselves. Aka became a resourceful partner, carrying her home with her wherever she went. These difficult early years in America formed the beginning of her artistic endeavors. She repaired the mirror of our Brooklyn neighborhood's look like a Ukrainian schoolroom. She visited metropolitan museums and galleries, her first exposure to modern and contemporary art. In quiet moments at home, she began to draw. At

the same time she held tightly to what she valued, a Ukrainian island in an American stream.

In 1960 we settled in our home in Troy, Ohio. Ukrainian traditions were always present in our lives. On holidays like Christmas, Easter and the summer solstice, we sang emotional folk songs with unending verses about love and life and even black chickens. In the early years in Troy we gathered Ukrainians together for spectacular celebrations at our busy Ukrainian. We listened to the distinctive complex harmonies of their many voices. In the summers, we became a Ukrainian village for all the city-dwelling cousins, grandparents, aunts and uncles. At home we were taught that the pysanka was an essential part of our cultural identity, often discussed over plates of *bersch* and *vatrenyky*.

The legend that places decorating the pysanka at the center of mankind's survival was retold many times in our household. The story of the monster in the mountains bound by chains, each link in the chain magically growing stronger with every egg we decorate. We under-

stood the mystery of its fertility, the male and female sexuality implicit in its fragility and form. As it was in the beginning, it is now and ever shall be: the egg was Aka's enduring song. In the Pereyma household, there was never any doubt: "The egg came first."

In the 1960s Aka went to art school. She was confident and bold. The *pysanka* iconography, its vibrancy and meaningful lines were part of her personal lexicon. Abstraction of recognizable and not quite graspable reality is inherent in the decorated egg. Aka saw that the leap to modern forms and sensibilities was easily made. Forms derived from nature, like in the *pysanka*, were more interesting to her. The essential forms are constant, but are infinite in their variations.

She worked and continues to work in many media. Centrating a blank canvas, a lump of clay, a pile of soap suds, or that clean surface of the egg over millennia has her steadfastly works on themes that concern seasons, nature, home, love, life, death and sex. Aka makes literal references to Ukrainian folk songs and idiomatic symbols. She deconstructs her Ukrainianness.

Her never-ending series of birds, sculptural and graphic, could have been plucked from the face of a *pysanka*. They have the linear quality of the simple silhouettes that appear on decorated eggs. The welded birds are part of a folk-primitive tradition that uses found objects to create art that has a physical and spiritual meaning. Viewers recognize individual elements that comprise each bird – a line, a knife, or a stick – and metaphorically connect these elements to their own experiences.

In the series of poetry drawings she connects the imagery of the written form directly to prehistoric wall lines that are found in Ukrainian archeological sites. Clearly these star lines are a form of communication, incomprehensible in their specific meanings, but the clear intent to express is unmistakably there. Her ceramic plates decorated using mixed and wax resist techniques are an



"Girl Picking the First Blossom," oil on canvas, from the series "Ukrainian Folk Songs."

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First Lady...

(Continued from page 1)

prepared for a week of events that included her son's first birthday. Other items on the agenda were the visit of Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili and his wife with a myriad social, cultural and humanitarian events, a series of meetings with her foundation, Ukraine 3000, and preparations for her upcoming return to the United States — now as a citizen of Ukraine. She will be accompanying President Yushchenko on his first official visit to the White House.

Mrs. Yushchenko, who was interviewed in mid-March, spoke candidly about her feelings and concerns. Editor's note: The transcript that follows was given to Mrs. Yushchenko last week for her review prior to publication.

What motivated you? why such a strong commitment to Ukraine?

There are several factors that made me so strongly committed to Ukraine. The first was my family. As with many diaspora Ukrainians, my conversations around the dinner table almost always revolved around my father talking about the famine, the Stalin years and the war. Discussions about Ukraine were omnipresent in our family — both the wonderful and the tragic aspects of our history. And there always seemed to be Ukrainian music in our home, sentimental nostalgia.

A second factor was my first two trips to Ukraine in 1975 with my mother and in 1979 alone. These two months really changed my life. My first trip here made me want to live in Ukraine — it made me want to return someday, whether as a diplomat or banker. At that time, it became an overriding desire in my life to come back. U.S. Dad had a slightly romanticized version of Ukraine. I met with family at both Kyiv and the Dnipro, and I was touched by the folk songs in family sing, the green parks, the evening walks in a city that seemed so safe and crime-free. Yet, I also knew that I was followed everywhere I went, my mother and I were brutally searched at Boryspil on this day, whenever we go through the VIP gates. I remember that terrible experience in 1975, there were red banners hanging in the streets. It was a strange juxtaposition between good and evil — something out of a spy novel.

The third event that made a major difference for me was a speech by Gien Revo Goponenka (president and founder of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group) on Daley Plaza in Chicago in 1979. I remember that he said, "I believe that I will still see an independent Ukraine in my lifetime." I saw so many people, young and old, with tears in their eyes. And, I realized that if he, in his elderly years, truly believes that, then it must be possible.

As a young adult, I kept taking chances in my life that brought me back to Ukraine. I believe that God leads you down a certain path. Whenever I had a choice, for some reason the best decision always seemed to involve Ukraine.

Did your faith in God help you get through the difficult times of the Orange Revolution?

Without a doubt, it was our belief in God that got us through the last few months. The whole experience was strange, often I wondered if I was in a dream and would awake to see that none of this had really happened. The moving announcement speech on Spivochko Field, the campaign stops that were attended by thousands of Ukrainians with hope in their eyes, the poisoning and threats and other dangerous incidents, the hospitalization and return to Ukraine, the vote fraud and cruelty in the media, the uprising and the unbelievably courageous and positive

behavior of the Ukrainian people. There were extremes of emotions — from exhilaration to anger, from joy to fear.

Through it all, Viktor and I never truly questioned why we were there. It was clear, there was a reason for it all. We never talked about it. We both knew that God had put us and many other people here at this particular time, in this particular place. This was a very pivotal time in Ukrainian history and we were all meant to play our little part.

I have to admit that I often had doubts and fears. On November 21, the night of the second election, I asked Viktor, "What happens now?" He answered, "It is now all in the hands of the people." I asked him, "Do you think they are ready?" He answered me, "They have had enough. Of course they are." He was very confident, he never had any doubts.

There were a few evenings when I thought I should return to our home and pack food and clothes — not to leave the country — but in case we were arrested. There were a number of threats to kidnap or kill me or the children — not to speak of threats to Viktor's life. All our family — children, grandchildren lived in another family's home far more than four months, we had security that would double-up when they feared an armed attack. While I thought I might have to send the children to close friends, there was never a time when I thought I should leave the country. I could never do that to Viktor. It was history in the making, it was just too important. That to be here.

How did the children respond to all of this?

The children were Viktor's biggest support system. All of the family was together during the Revolution. I remember that he came home after a particularly difficult day and the three little ones were running around the house, chanting, "Together we are brave and we shall overcome." *Однако ми ніколи не постанемо!* That of course had to bring a smile to his face.

What made me happy was the fact that I realized that these children, like children throughout Ukraine, would never be over-awed, and no matter what else happened, no one (on the maiden square) would ever be a slave to a regime again. These young people would be different.

That we were on the maiden every day was very important to me, we walked around and talked to the people. It gave me a lot of strength and positive energy in bringing people from all corners of Ukraine. I wanted them to know that we were with them and that we were all in this together. There was such an amazing outpouring of goodness, of positive emotions. God held the hand of every individual there and all of this made each and every one a better person. Everyone who participated in the Orange Revolution — I want them to never forget the positive feelings of the maiden and to maintain that same active role in society, to keep fighting for freedom and for their rights.

You have said in previous interviews that your husband does not listen to your advice. How has your relationship changed? You were his biggest supporter through all of this.

Of course, the horror of his illness, when he was so close to death, changed our relationship. There is always a commitment, largely because of children, but this experience made it deeper.

Viktor respects my advice — but I also know that my advice is not always expected or welcome. He is not one to come home and unload and expect feedback. He is an introverted thinker. All day he has people telling him what they think he should do, telling him negative things. He does not need this at home. He wants to come home and receive positive emotions.



Kateryna Yushchenko with her children, Chrystyna, 4, Turas, 1, and Sophia, 6.

When he does ask my opinion or to take on a project, I accept this responsibility very seriously. Through the years, I have come to learn that Viktor has a very good sense of both the strategy and tactics needed for Ukraine. He is a very strong decision maker. My advice is often supplemental.

How do you see your role as the First Lady of Ukraine?

I believe that I have one of the most wonderful jobs in the whole world. I can pursue so many interests that I have, and have much more effect than before. I will be taking over my husband's foundation, Ukraine 3000, which for three years has sponsored projects in three areas: Ukraine Yesterday, Ukraine Today, and Ukraine Tomorrow. Under Ukraine Yesterday, we sponsored projects on the topic of Ukraine's Genocide/Famine, including a film of eyewitness testimonies, a book, and a website. We also organized an exhibit of Ukrainian clothing design, a periodical for Ukrainian museum managers, a Trypilian archeological and "Kraiva Moja," a large international folklore festival organized by Oleh Skrypka of the rock group VV.

Under Ukraine Today, we provided stipends to the families of journalists who perished, sponsored a competition for regional journalists, assisted Father's House, a shelter for homeless children, and responded to more than 12,000 letters from families and individuals who asked for support.

Our Ukraine Tomorrow section sponsored 18 roundtables that brought together non-governmental organizations and individuals from around Ukraine to design a strategy for Ukraine's development, which produced a document, "Manifesto for the Individual," intended to provide a view of Ukraine's future from the point of view of its citizens rather than from its authorities.

In the future, the Ukraine 3000

Foundation will continue its work on the Ukrainian Famine/Genocide by sponsoring a massive collection of witness testimonies similar to the Spiegelberg Shoah Project. Our foundation will support the government's efforts to create a Famine museum and a famine movement. We also want to popularize the tradition, initiated by the late Dr. James Mace, of lighting a candle in memory of our ancestors, so that this great tragedy becomes a part of our national consciousness. On the 70th anniversary, we hope to organize an international world conference of leaders to commemorate the people who died. We also want to distribute literature to all Ukrainian families about the Famine so that they are aware of their history.

We will concentrate our efforts also on social issues that trouble Ukraine. These will include the integration of the disabled into society, homeless and exploited children, orphans and health issues including cardiac, tobacco-related, [illnesses] and HIV/AIDS.

We plan to address these issues by providing grants to grassroots community organizations that will tackle these issues frequently. Whether they work as individuals, small groups, or churches, we want Ukrainians to begin to think in the concept of neighbor helping neighbor, instead of constantly expecting the government to take care of all social ills. Where possible, we will work with other organizations. For example, we have already agreed to cooperate with the Katchelisho Brothers Foundation.

You have always been a very civic-minded individual, belonging to SUM (Ukrainian American Youth Association), later helping establish Help Us Help the Children, an orphans' aid association. How do you see a civil society developing in Ukraine?

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First Lady...

(Continued from page 12)

I have always been amazed by the commitment to charity in the United States. I read that more than 50 percent of Americans volunteer some of their time to charity every year. I have, this is wonderful for the world, for society and for an obligation to God. In my teenage years, I was involved in a variety of organizations such as SLM and in defense of Communist political prisoners, and in a high school I worked with handicapped children. I also led tours of the historic city areas along my community in Miron Polyshch, IL, working in the museum and starting the history of my high school. When started out as a hobby grew into a conviction that the best way to show respect to God is to do good for others, because God judges us by what we do when no one is watching.

The words of my late mother-in-law always echo in my mind. "Happy to do good" she would always say as we left her humble home in the village. One of the first things that impressed me about Viktor was that he did so many little things for so many people and he would never mention it. I would find out from a third or fourth party that he helped rebuild a museum or gave money to cure a child or publish a book and it was all without publicity. He was doing good for the sake of doing good - it was part of his usual upbringing.

The philosophy of our organization is that the only deal is the basis of a free society. I believe that the people of Ukraine proved during the Orange Revolution that they are ready to take responsibility for themselves, their communities and their country.

Will there be any special initiatives for the foundation working with the new government?

There will be many, but one that I am excited about is a joint project with the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We wish to set up Ukraine Houses in capitals throughout the world to promote Ukraine as culture and its people. We will send experts, sponsor concerts, donate books to libraries. Where possible we will work with diaspora, creative groups and others interested in promoting Ukrainian culture. For example, Current Department who became fascinated with Ukraine after playing Balzac in a film, has prom-

ised to help us in Paris.

In my capacity as First Lady I will be serving a representative role and my goal is to show Ukraine's best light to the rest of the world, and that includes the best of our arts, our culture, our costumes, our crafts, and cuisine.

And, who serves as your role model?

I don't have a single role model. There are many people I admire and think of in different situations. I believe my main heroes are Ukraine's dissidents, who always stand by their principles in the most difficult of times. I often thought of them during the Orange Revolution. Although we lived in total darkness during the Orange Revolution, we always had a place to go to get warm and comfortably the dissidents in the 1960s, '70s and '80s set up cold labor camps, far from family and often ill, often without a glimmer of hope. I cannot mention my 62 mother-in-law, a school teacher who was very strong and wise, and who accomplished so much good from her native Kyivpolitye. Her words and deeds brought thousands to her funeral this past January.

Among Ukrainian women I admire Yana Kostynuk, also because she is someone who will never compromise her principles.

I recently presented a new book titled "I kranyky y storyi" (Ukrainian Women in History) sponsored by Nadya Danylenko of Philadelphia. Women were often at the forefront of the Ukrainian intelligentsia.

To me, a role model is someone who chooses an issue important to him or her and works hard to achieve success in that area. I find that my closest friends today are people who fall into this category.

Are there any first ladies you admire?

I try to learn from every first lady I meet. I have had the opportunity to spend time with Mrs. Kawasiewska of Poland and Mrs. Roberts of Georgia and learn from their experiences.

I have admired various American first ladies for many reasons. Jackie Kennedy was very committed to her family and through her intelligence and elegance raised the level of culture in the White House. Nancy Reagan was deeply committed and protected her husband, Betty Ford used headlines to bring breast cancer and alcoholism to bring awareness to these problems in society, Barbara Bush had great talent and humor in the most difficult of situations, Hillary Clinton was highly intelligent and committed to soci-

ety causes. Laura Bush is eloquent in her pursuit of an issue close to her heart, literacy. I've mentioned in the past that Cheri Blain is very interesting to me - she has been able to combine a career and children very successfully.

So, it must be very exciting to be receiving the Profiles in Courage award from Caroline Kennedy next month?

The entire U.S. representing it is truly a unique moment in the history of Ukraine, which is now viewed internationally as a corner of democracy, a carrier of the message of freedom. I am very proud that Ukraine is being recognized and proud that my husband has played a role in this.

It is very sentimental for me to be coming together of my past, of my present and my future.

Your trip includes stops in D.C., Chicago and Boston. What about New York?

Yes, we will be arriving Saturday evening, April 3, and my husband will meet with President Bush on April 4, followed by a luncheon for the two presidents and the two first ladies. There will be a series of meetings in Washington with various political and policy organizations and the media.

After this, we will fly to Chicago, my hometown, where there will be a dinner, and my husband will meet with the media and speak in the Council on Foreign Relations, and I will deliver a speech at my alma mater, the University of Chicago. I was also thrilled to recently learn that next year the university will set up a scholarship in my name.

Then we are off to Boston, to the Kennedy Library for the award ceremony, followed by a lecture at Harvard. That same evening, we return to D.C. and on Wednesday my husband will address a joint session of Congress and hold many other meetings. I will attend a luncheon with organizations interested in working with Ukraine on humanitarian, social and cultural issues.

We will return to Kyiv on April 7. It's an unbelievably tight schedule, so it is doubtful that we will make a stop in New York, though I never say never. My husband intends to come to New York for the opening session of the United Nations in the fall, and then can meet with business, media and the diaspora.

We feel it is important for us to meet with the Ukrainian diaspora. More than

20 million Ukrainians live abroad. We want Ukrainians abroad to be more involved in Ukraine, and invite them to return and become vibrant members of our society. Some Americans may feel that I have given up America for Ukraine and some Ukrainians might feel that I am not Ukrainian enough, but I am honored by the thought that I may be able to be a bridge between the two worlds.

Your American citizenship was used in a paid-slanging campaign against your husband. What are you planning to do about your citizenship? Is dual citizenship possible?

Yes, the issue was used against my husband because they had nothing else or him no corruption charges to scandalize, but I don't think it was a very effective weapon. The people who were involved that his wife was an American were the people that would not have voted for him anyway. These were the communists, the oligarchs and those who oppose Western orientation for Ukraine.

According to the polls, this was not an important issue in the presidential campaign. However, Viktor and I decided many years ago that I would become a Ukrainian citizen, despite all the possible and other problems this presents. I put in my application last year to the Kuchma Yanukovich government, but they returned my application, citing procedural reasons.

On March 22, I received my Ukrainian citizenship.

The Ukrainian Constitution does not allow dual citizenship. In my opinion, the diaspora should have the right of Ukrainian citizenship, but this is or was the Ukrainian government and people should decide in the future.

You are perhaps the embodiment of the American Dream; what legacy would you like the Yushchenko presidency to leave behind?

I think the American dream is opportunity and hope, a fair chance for an education and work. A chance to have a happy family and material well-being. To read and learn and have access to information. To receive quality medical care for one's family. In fact, the American dream is the dream of every child and adult in the world. My dream for Ukrainians is that they can achieve their dreams. They should feel that they have a fair chance at an education and a job. To vote for a Ukraine that "I feel" is necessary that "I want the Ukrainians live, it is better of hope and opportunity.

Ukrainian president...

(Continued from page 11)

leaders, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and activists of the Ukrainian and Jewish communities.

The Weekly's Kyiv Press Bureau reports that the Yushchenko administration has also confirmed that the president plans to meet with Mikolaj Melnychenko, the security officer who made secret recordings of conversations in the office of then President Leonid Kuchma, including talks that appear to implicate Mr. Kuchma in the disappearance of Bohdan Goncharuk, the Internet journalist found murdered in September of 2000.

The press service of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs told journalists in Kyiv that President Yushchenko's official visit to Washington will cover all aspects of the strategic partnership between Ukraine and the U.S. and will focus on Ukraine's graduation from the provisions of the Jackson-Vanik amendment, recognition of Ukraine as a market economy and Ukraine's accession to the World Trade Organization.

According to the U.S. Ukraine Foundation and the Action Ukraine Report,

there will be a series of public events in Washington, Chicago and Boston at which President Yushchenko will appear.

First on the agenda is a speech in Washington at Georgetown University, Easton Hall, on April 4, at 4 p.m.

President Yushchenko will address the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations on Monday, April 4. The event will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Palmer House Hilton.

The next day, Tuesday, April 5, Mr. Yushchenko will receive the JFK Profile in Courage Award, which will be presented by Caroline Kennedy and Sen. Edward Kennedy at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum at 5 p.m.

On Wednesday, April 6, President Yushchenko will attend a socially-laying ceremony and deliver an address at the Yanuk-Shevchenko monument in Washington. The event begins at noon and is slated to last until 2 p.m.

The Weekly's Kyiv Press Bureau learned that the president will next visit the Holocaust Museum and Arlington National Cemetery, where he will place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. That evening, the International Republican Institute and the National

Democratic Institute will host the president at a reception. The Ukrainian American community's Youngest Ambassador of President Yushchenko will take place at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, with a reception beginning at 6:30 p.m. and the banquet at 7:30 p.m.

At press time, no information was available about the president's possible stopovers in New York. According to the latest information gathered by The Weekly's correspondent in Kyiv, where Mr. Yushchenko held a news conference on March 31, the New York trip was cancelled.

A special visit with Nastia

In addition, the Kyiv Press Bureau reports that President Yushchenko is expected to visit 5-year-old Nastia Ocheretseva because who underwent a long surgery at the Shriners Burns Hospital in Boston after she was seriously burned while rescuing her 2-year old sister from a fire.

Nastia, whose family lives in the village of Yonitsivka in the Khmelnytskyi region, arrived in the United States via a specially equipped medical aircraft on March 25. She was accompanied by her mother and a team of doctors. That day, Nastia under-

went a six-hour operation, which increased her survival chances to 75 percent, and was reported in stable condition.

When the book out at the Ochschi home on March 15, Nastia and her little sister, Urota, were alone. Nastia sustained burns on 80 percent of her body. Urota suffered comparatively minor injuries. When it became clear that the specialized treatment Nastia needed was not available in Kyiv, President and Mrs. Yushchenko became involved, securing both a hospital in the United States in Great Britain. Shriners hospitals provide care free of charge - and an airplane to fly her to Boston.

Nastia is expected to stay in Boston for several months as she undergoes multiple skin graft operations. The Embassy of Ukraine in the United States has appealed to Ukrainian Americans to help provide financial assistance for Nastia and her mother while they stay in this country.

A special account has been set up under the auspices of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America to accept donations. Checks should be made out to the USNWA with the notation "Nastia Ocheretseva" and sent to USNWA, 203 Second Ave., New York, NY 10003.

A LOOK BACK: UKRAINE'S PRESIDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES

White House meeting for Ukrainian president ends five-year hiatus

by Yara Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON — When Viktor Yushchenko and President George W. Bush began their meeting at the White House on April 4 it will end a five-year hiatus in the high-level dialogue between U.S. and Ukrainian presidents that never opened and closed to be almost an annual event during the latter part of the 1990s.

Ukraine's first president, Leonid Kravchuk, began the process in May 1992, when he arrived for a working visit, and came on an official visit in March 1994. His successor, Leonid Kuchma, came to Washington for the first time in 1994 and then returned in 1996, 1997 and twice in 1999.

During that series of meetings, a num-

ber of agreements were signed, reflecting the priorities of the two countries, dealing with Ukraine's de-nuclearization process — a U.S. priority, as well as security guarantees and economic assistance.

During the 1994 Kravchuk visit, Washington prepared a \$700 million aid package for Ukraine, half of which was aimed to help Ukraine rid itself of Soviet-era nuclear weapons. The remainder \$350 million was earmarked for economy assistance.

In subsequent seminars, Ukraine was also given U.S. assistance in working with international trade and financial institutions, and in obtaining much needed credits from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

(Continued on page 17)



President Leonid Kravchuk in May 1992 became the first president of Ukraine to visit the United States. Above he is seen during his working visit at a meeting in the Oval Office of the White House with President George Bush.



Presidents Leonid Kravchuk and Bill Clinton extend a hand of friendship at the conclusion of their White House meeting and press conference in March 1994 during the Ukrainian president's official visit to the U.S.



Presidents Leonid Kuchma and Bill Clinton pause for photographs prior to their meeting in the Oval Office in December 1999 — President Kuchma's last visit to Washington. Sitting next to President Clinton is his interpreter, Maria Zlytyk, and Vice-President Al Gore (second from the right).



President Leonid Kuchma fields journalists' questions following the NATO-Ukraine Commission meeting held during NATO's 50th anniversary summit in Washington in April 1999.



A LOOK BACK: VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO IN THE UNITED STATES



During his visit to Washington as prime minister in May 2000, Viktor Yushchenko had meetings with President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (above), as well as with other officials of the U.S. government and international financial institutions.



Following a full day of meetings with the international financial institutions headquartered in Washington, with U.S. officials and business leaders in October 1998, Prime Minister Valeriy Pustovoienko (left) and National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Viktor Yushchenko engage their discussion during an evening reception at the Embassy of Ukraine. Listening in is Ambassador Yuri Sheberbuk.



Viktor Yushchenko, in his first year as chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine, accompanied President Leonid Kuchma on his final U.S. visit in December 1999. Above, members of the Ukrainian delegation are having a business meeting over lunch at Blair House, the official residence of visiting heads of state, across the street from the White House. To Mr. Yushchenko's right is Vice-Prime Minister Serhii Lyshchko, who, in the early phase of last year's presidential election, served as Viktor Yanukovich's campaign manager.



No longer Ukraine's prime minister, Viktor Yushchenko last visited Washington in February 2003 as the leader of the Our Ukraine opposition in the Verkhovna Rada, seeking U.S. support for strengthening democracy in Ukraine. During one of the many meetings and appearances during his three-day visit — at a reception at the International Republican Institute — he found time to talk with Myroslava Gongulze (above), the widow of the murdered Ukrainian Internet journalist Hershii Gongulze.

White House meeting...

(Continued from page 14)

The American role development of this bilateral relationship, the two governments established the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission (also known as the "Kuchma-Gore Commission"), with committees that worked on improving political, economic and business relations between the two countries.

After President Kuchma's last visit to Washington in December of 1998, however, the meetings and the momentum stopped. And, despite Ukraine's willingness to send a contingent of troops to Iraq, persistent reports about political and economic corruption in Ukraine, official complicity in criminal activities and shady arms sales to rogue states, including Iraq, appeared to put a lid upon the relationship — and Mr. Yushchenko's hard-fought victory in the presidential election.

Mr. Yushchenko was not always in the opposition, of course, and he had been to Washington a number of times in the past as part of the Kuchma administration team — as the chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine in the late 1990s and as the prime minister in 2000.

His last visit here, in 2003, however, was as the leader of the Our Ukraine opposition forces in the Verkhovna Rada and the expected opposition presidential candidate in the 2004 election.

This time, in addition to congressional leaders and members of Washington's foreign policy establishment, he got to meet with several top administration officials — Vice-President Richard Cheney and Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage. This time he will be staying at Blair House, the official residence for visiting heads of state across the street from the White House, and he will spend a good part of his first day here meeting with the U.S. president.



Viktor Yushchenko, then the director of the National Bank of Ukraine, and Kostian Shpek, the director of the Ukrainian Reconstruction and Development Agency, listen in during Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko's press conference at the National Press Club in Washington in July 1996.

All photos in this section by Yaro Bihun.

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Serbia, Georgia...

(Continued from page 2)

foreign intervention, and the availability
of modern communications such as cell
phones and the Internet.

The Kyrgyz revolution, following so
closely the Ukrainian one, has led to
another debate in Ukraine about the vi-
ability of the CIS in its present form.
Russia's recent unauthorized military
incursion into Crimea (see EDM, March
29), and Russia's territorial demands on
Tuz's Island in 2003 have only seemed to
accelerate this debate.

Two groupings are again re-emerging
in the CIS, one led by Ukraine and
Georgia, and the other by Russia. Yurij
Lysenko, Kuchma's second term as pres-
ident of Ukraine (1999-2004), Russia
gained the upper hand as Mr. Kuchma lost
interest in the GU-AM group (Georgia,
Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan,
Moldavia). But, Russia's position is now
becoming increasingly weaker in Eurasia.

As Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister
Karavayuk told Channel 5 (March 24), the
CIS does not have a "future in the form
in which it currently exists." President
Yushchenko agrees, and is calling for
radical reform of the CIS (Ukrainka
Pravda, March 25). These reforms are
likely to weaken Russia's position in the
CIS and Eurasia even further.

Addendum

In the March 27 story about the
pyshka workshop organized at Cornell
University by the Ukrainian Club, the
caption under the photo of two club
activists should have identified the pair
as Renia Soluk and Mike Rapowy.

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BASIC: April 10 - 19, 2001; Oct 21 - Dec 13, 2004
BASIC: Nov 20 - Mar 27, 2002; Feb 17 - Aug 31, 2001
PEAK: Jan 17 - Aug 31

Statement by...

(Continued from page 10)

Canadian history for the descendants of those Canadians who were unjustly interned several generations ago.

Finally, I must also thank by name our Conservative Member for St. John's, Kathleen St. Paul, who gave up her final day, allowing me to speak on this subject and who has done a lot of work in support of Bill C-331.

Between 1914 and 1920, Canada witnessed its first internment operations under the War Measures Act. Thousands of loyal Canadians were systematically arrested and interned in 24 camps throughout our country. Simply because of their national origin, nearly 9000 Canadians were interned. The vast majority of Ukrainians in the internees of the first world war, western Ukraine was occupied by the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and Canada was at war with Austria-Hungary. In the midst of wartime hysteria, everyone with a connection to Austria-Hungary was widely deemed a threat to our country.

Ironically, in this case, many thousands of Ukrainian Canadians had actually lost their occupying power in their home land. A knowledgeable assessment of the situation could have easily led to their release. These thousands of Canada's wartime enemies were not a stigma of Canada. They were loyal, loyal British subjects, and allies of our wartime cause.

In fact, in 1915, the British Foreign Office wrote to the United Kingdom to grant Ukrainians preferential treatment, arguing that they were to be considered "friendly aliens" rather than "enemy aliens" yet the domestic government would not change its course. Moreover, many of those interned were not patri-

otized British subjects, but were Canadian citizens born in Canada, but bearing the wrong last name so the wrong patriotism, even if never, was interred.

Throughout the internment operation the civilian internees were transported to Canada's frontier hinterlands, where they were forced to perform hard labor under trying circumstances. Some sites that we all know well today include Banff and Jasper national parks and the spectacular hot springs at Kananaskis, first developed by the pool of forced labor.

As Ukrainian Canadians were being interned for having been interned in Europe to enter this country with Austro-Hungarian documents, other Ukrainian Canadians who had entered Canada on different foreign documents were serving Canada bravely in overseas battle. Let us not forget Ukrainian Canadian war veteran, Filip Korowal, who was awarded the Victoria Cross by King George V for his brave wartime service as a Ukrainian Canadian hero, while his fellow neighbors were wondering why they had chosen Canada to be their new home.

Mr. Speaker, we know we cannot write history. We cannot change the fact that an injustice occurred. Only those who carried out this injustice can truly hold themselves accountable and only those who themselves suffered unjustly can do proper compensation. But, as long as our society and its institutions, we can acknowledge injustice, appreciate the lessons of history and make amends where appropriate.

If we hope to make amends, Bill C-331 is a bill that must pass. It will be the first official acknowledgment that Canada's treatment of Ukrainian Canadians during the first world war was wrong. It will be the first time that a promise, made in law, is met by Canada's political leaders.

will be kept.

Tonnie Frank Manser, Izzy Chelien had repeatedly promised to officially recognize the internment operations, but he failed to deliver while in office. Former Heritage Minister Sheila Copps had similarly promised to give official recognition to this historic injustice, but also failed to act when elected to the government benches.

It is time to put this matter to rest.

By passing Bill C-331, we will finally take a step to acknowledge the injustice of the past – an injustice that would never be allowed to be corrected today in this great country, which reserves our freedoms and the rule of law.

So too, the Ukrainian Canadian community has placed memorial plaques at almost all of the internment sites, except for five, to remind Canadians at what

happened at these locations, so that this sad chapter of our history may never be repeated.

Many official documents and archival files were destroyed in the early 1950s, but Canada's national has been re-examined again. Thanks to many academics at Ukrainian Canadian history, that have been successful in keeping alive our collective memory of these historical events. We must be further and officially recognize these events as a historical wrong. The last remaining survivor of these internment operations, Mary Baskett, is still alive. She will be turning 97 this summer. I sincerely hope that she will live to see an official recognition of this past injustice.

I urge all of my colleagues in this House to join me in support of Bill C-331.

JUN JIE (JACKIE) XU

January 1, 1986 – March 16, 2005



All of life is precious and it is filled with brief encounters – some positive, some negative. Each of us has been touched by your smile, by your wit, by your intellect, by your sensitivity, but most of all by your compassion.

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With deep sorrow we announce that on Tuesday, March 22, 2005, in Jersey City, at the age of 93, passed away

MICHAEL KOWBASNIUK

Born in Ory, Ukraine.

He was a member of the Ukrainian National Home, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Ukrainian National Association, and Prosveta in Ukraine.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, March 24, 2005 at Roshko National Home in Jersey City, followed by a Divine Liturgy at Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Jersey City. The interment was held at St. Andrew's Cemetery in South Bound Brook, NJ.

In deep sorrow:

wife – Nina nee Pinchuk
sons – Bohdan with wife Maryka
Peter with wife Natalka
Walter with wife Zorana
10 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren
extended family in the US and Ukraine.

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Ukraine's first...

(Continued from page 9)

light and easy to overlook. What defines it is express, however, is the franking.

The piece was mailed on February 6, 1919, to Vienna and so it is an international letter. Nonetheless, the franking did not change; it remained 2.10 hryvni (the same as for a domestic dispatch).

Rarity

Because the Western Ukrainian postal service existed only for about seven months (November 1918 to May 1919)

and because fighting took place during much of this time, only an estimated 400 or 500 Western Ukrainian covers survive. Of these, only a minuscule fraction are express covers. Such items, therefore, are very scarce. All Western Ukraine covers are expensive (the "cheapest" with more common stamps or franking are \$75 to \$100; the priciest with rare stamps go for thousands of dollars). Express covers typically fall in the \$600 to \$700 range.

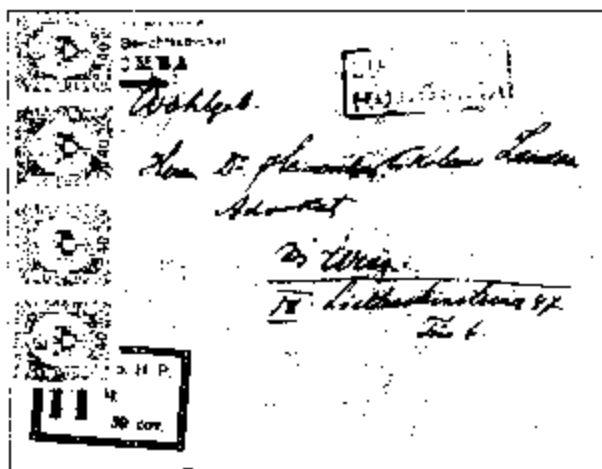
 Inquiries should be contacted at P.O. Box 3, Springfield, VT 05150 or at his e-mail address: uscefcu@usps.gov


Figure 5. A "cryptic" cover whose total franking (applied postage of 2.10 hryvni) reveals that it was sent express.

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Founding member...

(Continued from page 5)

And Mr. Yushchenko as a more political man, should be thankful that the people will tell him honestly that you're going too far.

How do you keep contact with all of your members? And how did you contact each other during the revolution?

Internet, mobile phones, communication is not a problem for us. First of all, we're also hooked up by e-mails. Within e-mails we're also broken into smaller sub-groups of several hundred people, so it doesn't require that one person call 6,000. One person who is responsible for contacts in a region can send out information whether through the Internet or a text message on a phone or by a phone call to 25 people and he's covered the country and these people can then call their sub-groups.

But this means that you've created a very loose organizational structure. Doesn't it become difficult to have specific directives followed?

No. This isn't a problem if it doesn't go past the boundary of our overall strategy. The general strategy is the building and development of democracy and the development of a civil society. As long as the work continues in this direction and it does not go against these ideals, it's even very good because people in Kiev will not know what to do in Poltava, as an example. Therefore, this is a very good principle for us and it's something like franchising for us. We have a brand, we have several principles, and we give the brand and the principles to people who we see already have these same ideals within them.

And, in principle, it is one of the reasons Para was so effective. We looked for people who had already an initiative. You take on maximum responsibility and you do your work.

How then do you handle the situation of people who abuse this franchise, who abuse the name Para? Won't you have people who go beyond your principles?

Yes. This is absolutely normal. We have our definite principles, and if groups go past them, then we say, "Thank you, gentlemen. Sorry, but we're no longer working with you."

And who makes this decision?

The decision is made by the coordinators of all the other regions and the rest of the national coordinating committee. So there is no individual decision that is made, but these issues are resolved by our contacts.

Can you address the question of Para becoming a political party?

This is an example of Para principles being broken. The principles of Para include independence from political parties. We worked with those political parties that we believed were necessary for the revolution and beyond politics. If Para were to become a political party, we would need to adopt a detailed position. We would have to turn away those people who would want to work for other political parties. We would have to become an organization that fights for power. But Para is supposed to be an organization that fights against power. Therefore, if we became a part of the power, how are we able to control it? So when these principles are broken we protest against them, but unfortunately in Ukrainian law there are no mechanisms to protect us from this.

Understand that we weren't thinking that we had to create a brand when the revolution started. You see, the name

"Para" cannot be registered because Ukrainian law won't allow it. It's a commonly used word. The one thing we can do is spread information about ourselves and we know that if a political party with the name Para did emerge, it would never have what we have and that values of people.

The people would not go for this. The one thing that could happen is that they assume the brand Para. Our work right now we categorically distance ourselves from this.

You've mentioned that the co-founders of Para were initially involved in the Ukraine Without Kuchma movement in 2001 and the Arise Ukraine movement after that. Is it fair to say then that for Para this is almost a third take at large-scale protests? Because for many of us in the West it appeared that Para appeared rather rapidly. It's not accurate then to say that Para just sprung up, seemingly out of nowhere, is it?

That it looked as though this was something that fell from the sky was a surprise and this gives a special public relations effect—a sort of "Ughpa" that something new has appeared.

You know, this could have helped you, but it can also have a negative effect. People in the West have said: See, the U.S. gave Para money, because how else could an organization form so quickly?

OK. But at the moment we are not doing this. At the moment we're doing the opposite. In interviews and in our work we're showing people logically

where we came from. It is this period since the revolution that we're showing people where we came from, who we are and how this happened. Obviously this is our responsibility now to show people, and we are constantly talking about this, that this in fact did not come from the heavens, that American money and the CIA had nothing to do with this.

Was safety an issue for you or other members of Para during the Orange Revolution? If so, what steps did you take to ensure your safety?

If we saw that some of our members were being followed or watched by the police, we would try to completely put the public spotlight on the person being followed. We would get them interviews and then the police would be afraid to touch them. We also had a system in place that if the police arrested a person, then that person was supposed to try to call a phone number and say that he was being held at such and such a place. We also walked in two groups. In the front group there were four people and in the back group there were two people. If people in the front group were detained then the second group was supposed to take down the make-up the car and the license plate number and make a note of where the car went. After that we'd call police officers we knew and start asking questions. We had the phone numbers of police representatives in all regions of Ukraine and we'd have our people call them and start asking why our people were detained, what were the charges, etc. If that didn't help, we'd call politicians we knew and get them to call the

police with similar questions. If that didn't help, we'd ask politicians and journalists to come join us to protest where the people were being held. Usually after a couple of days of this they'd be over-whelmed and would let our people go.

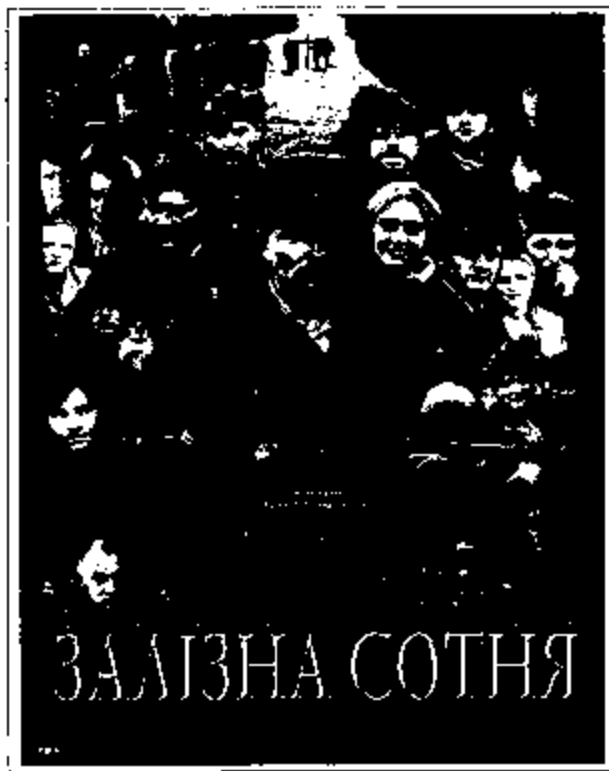
When we asked why our people were being held, they'd say: "Ok, you can go. Sorry, this was all a misunderstanding. We accidentally detained you." We'd ask, "Who was holding our people, and why?" They'd say: "We don't know." The entire situation was completely laughable—how is it that they wouldn't know who was holding our people. Come on.

Last question for you. The New York Times wrote about the Ukrainian security services' work during the Orange Revolution. Did you have any official contact with members of Ukraine's security service?

I can't say a word about this report. It seems to me that it was PR for the SBU [Security Service of Ukraine]. Surely thought through, but PR by the SBU. I'm not certain if the SBU generally really played such an important role in the revolution. I'm concerned that from a glass roof level within the SBU, at its contact. Many members of the SBU and police worked to quietly sabotage any official orders to go against the people. They understood what their orders meant and they just decided not to follow them. Therefore, a quiet sabotage did occur.

With regard to our official contacts with the SBU, there were no direct contacts. They would walk through the streets and quietly tell us: "Hey boys, be careful." There may be trouble."

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- Tuesday, April 12, 2005, 7PM, Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 24* Kenilworth Avenue North, Hamilton, Ontario
- Wednesday, April 13, 2005, 7PM, London Ukrainian Centre, 247 Adelaide Street, South, London, Ontario
- Thursday, April 14, 2005, 7PM, St. Vladimir and Otha Ukrainian Catholic Church, 1505 Langlois Avenue, Windsor, Ontario
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- Tuesday, April 19, 2005, 7PM, St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Army Trail Rd., Bloomington, IL
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Ladies and Gentlemen!

On behalf of the UNA Seniors, it is my pleasure to invite you to participate in our annual UNA Seniors Week, which will be held at Soyuzivka, in Kerhonkson, NY, on Sunday, June 12, through Friday, June 17, 2005. For your general information please note that the UNA Seniors was organized and has been active for over 30 years. The purpose of the club is to support UNA endeavors to preserve and cultivate Ukrainian heritage, promote unity with the community, develop social activities and maintain Ukrainian community life in America. We hope that you will be able to join us. We will try to make the week interesting and fun. If you would like to suggest activities for this week, we will be happy to consider all ideas.

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Foreign Affairs Minister...

(Continued from page 4)

Manifestations of anti-Semitism, racism and other ideologies of hatred are very rare in Ukraine.

In the whole, it is high time to adopt a new and overarching agenda for relations between Ukraine and the United States. I am visiting Washington to declare this aspiration of my nation and to share my views on how to bring it into life. I believe that our ideas find response and support, so when the president of Ukraine comes to Washington these ideas will be blessed or the highest political level.

Coming upon the new agenda, I cannot but expound the most pressing issues that, to start with, could be resolved already now.

It is with satisfaction that I observe an increasing number of politicians in Washington who support the graduation of Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik amendment, the establishment of normal trade relations and accession to the WTO. I think it is beyond a doubt that application of the Jackson-Vanik amendment to Ukraine is to be reconsidered. For modern Ukraine to be an object of this legislation is like wearing the clothes of a dead person is offensive for its peaceful character.

Normal trade relations are as equally an indispensable part of partnership as are normal political relations.

The spirit of the new Ukrainian government is to convert a "political miracle" into an "economic miracle." It is the economy, indeed, reflected the ideas of Bill Clinton during the presidential elections in 1996. However luminous this principle may sound, it is perhaps still universal.

In the modern world the success of the nation is measured not in ideological slogans, but economic indicators. Therefore, whoever wishes success to Ukrainian democracy should think in economic terms.

The first question that comes to my mind in this regard is the accession of Ukraine to the WTO. The president of Ukraine listed it among the priority issues for this year.

Speaking about positive time, I would like to briefly reflect on yet another aspect of Ukrainian-American relations. Those closely watching relations between Ukraine and the U.S. can confirm that we have already heard abundant rhetoric on partnership. That was 10 years ago, when independent Ukraine voluntarily renounced its nuclear arsenal and was celebrated in the United States for this step.

What happened next was an obvious disappointment both for the United States and democratic pro-European forces in

Ukraine. In the '90s we furnished many opportunities, but that lesson did not pass unnoticed. The new Ukrainian government believes that in modern politics the main virtue is not simply to say gladly what you are expected to say, but honestly and consistently.

For instance, we do not keep secret the fact that Ukraine is going to withdraw its troops from Iraq. This was the demand of Ukrainian voters. This is the promise of the Ukrainian president to his people. However, there are many aspects that we are constantly keeping in focus.

Ukraine will remain a partner of the U.S. in the global war against terrorism. Ukraine consistently supports U.S. efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, biological and other types of the weapons of mass destruction.

We shall not take any step that might let down the Iraqi people and our brothers in arms in Iraq. The United States and Poland, who are Ukraine's most consistent Western allies. We shall do our best to ensure that there will be no vacuum of security after the withdrawal. We shall substitute a military component with our diversified presence in Iraq.

The new wind coming from Ukraine is bringing changes to Europe. At present, two parts of one whole have to be mended. These are (1) the European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations of Ukraine and (2) the non-readiness of the European Union and NATO to meet them.

We regard European and Euro-Atlantic integration not as a political fetish. We do not consider it a ticket to an elite club that would bring a paradise for everyone.

We know that the Orange Revolution has strengthened our convictions that only we could be the masters of our prosperity and democracy.

Under such circumstances the EU and NATO are crucial for us because of the following considerations. First, in the modern world these two organizations are equated with Europe and "Western civilization" - the one Vaclav Havel so well described in the following words back in 1991:

"Speaking about us being a part of the West, we mean being a part of a certain civilization, a certain political culture, certain spiritual values and universal principles. We mean a civilization, culture and values that we embrace."

That was said by the leader of the Czech Republic - a nation that had long been an integral part of European civilization and then for a couple of decades was parted from it.

The alienation of Ukraine from Europe lasted much longer. However, Ukrainian roots are traced to European

civilization.

Where could we place Kyiv Rus' - one of the biggest European nations in the times of Charlemagne? Could we forget Prince Yaroslav the Wise, who was father-in-law to a large part of Europe because the kings of Hungary, France and Norway married his daughters? Could we ever erase from European history his daughter Anna, who was the queen of France?

Respectively, for Ukraine, European and Euro-Atlantic integration is a historical rather than a political move.

Second, European and Euro-Atlantic integration will mean total recognition of Ukraine as a European nation. It ensures that Ukraine will no longer be considered as a former colony.

Third, Ukraine in the EU and NATO will be a showcase of success in political and economic terms.

In this regard I would like to address American political pundits. I know that recently it has become fashionable to mention Ukraine as a "European country." It suffices to look at the map to learn that this is geographically wrong. It is enough to look into a lexicon to learn that this is historically wrong. In December it was enough to watch CNN Headline News to realize that this is politically incorrect.

So, forget about the Eurasian myth, forget about the European "belt of power" - forget about "butler zones." Europe

keeps growing, while the Orange Revolution has starkly recalled this process and given it a powerful impetus.

When I think of open attractive examples that Ukraine found in the post-war Western Europe and Poland of the 1960s, the United States was explicitly and implicitly present in both cases. Supporting democracy in Europe has become a historical tradition for your generation.

The U.S. contribution to post-war European history is so significant that your nation might be regarded as European, as well as Asian and African. Some critics in America fear its "omnipresence." But millions of people have grounds to look at the United States with admiration and gratitude.

One American writer joked that should an advertising slogan be invented for the U.S. he would suggest: "Twenty million illegal immigrants cannot be wrong."

To put it more seriously, American is one of the places on the planet where the word "justice" is not a hollow promise. We may agree or disagree with how Americans understand justice, but we cannot doubt your sincerity.

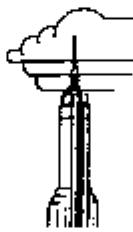
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Remarks by...

(Continued from page 8)

way of support, yet their desire for freedom and a better future for their children and grand-children sustained them through their very difficult pioneering years. Out of the wilderness of Canada's West they carved a golden wheat fields as far as the eyes could see. Yet, despite having built Canada's West, and despite having been a countenance to the experts and settlers from the United States, Ukrainian Canadians experienced prejudice and misery in their new home land.

With the outbreak of World War I, this prejudice and racism was turned into xenophobic animosity with the implementation of the War Measures Act as a result of an Order in Council by the Canadian government. 8,579 so-called "enemy aliens" of which over 5,000 were Ukrainians who had emigrated to Canada from the Austro-Hungarian Empire were interned. These internees, which in many cases included women and children, were not only disenfranchised, but their homes and businesses were taken away from them; they were sent to processing centers for internment and then sent to work camps to live behind barbed wire. In addition to this internment, some 30,000 Canadian citizens, of which the vast majority were Ukrainians, were obliged to register as "enemy aliens" and then required to report to local authorities on a regular basis.

Meanwhile, the internees were used as "forced laborers" to develop our regional infrastructure. They were used to build Banff National Park, the logging industry in Northern Ontario and Quebec, the steel mills in Ontario and Nova Scotia, and the mines in British Columbia, Ontario and Nova Scotia. This infrastructure development program benefited Canadian corporations to such a degree that, even after the end of World War I, for two more years, the Canadian government carried on the internment and the forced labor.

From 1914 to 1926 a breaking of the trust between the government and its own citizens took place in Canada; it was called internment. Politicians and leading Canadians took an active role in its justification by feeding the stark side of human nature: fear of different cultures, prejudice and xenophobia. In this tragic case the victims were pioneers who were encouraged to leave their homeland to help build Canada. It is an example of the terrible human cost paid when xenophobia and racism are fueled by international threats and are unchecked by legislation. Today, notwithstanding the existence of the

Charter of Rights and Freedoms, processes such as denaturalization and deportation show the vulnerability of individual rights when government seeks to intimidate and fear.

Mr. Speaker, as the grandson and son of Ukrainian immigrants I have a particular appreciation for the significance of the member's bill. I view this bill as part of the process to ensure that this historical wrong is righted through an honorable acknowledgement. After 82 years, it's high time that the internment operation against the Ukrainian Canadian community be properly addressed by the establishment and maintenance of 24 memorial plaques at 24 internment camps across Canada and by the establishment of a permanent museum at the site of the internment camp in Banff National Park. This museum should provide educational information on the operation of the internment camps across Canada and the role of Ukrainian Canadians as one of western Canada's founding peoples. As well, the minister responsible for Canada Post should engage the corporation to issue a set of stamps to commemorate the contribution of Ukrainian Canadians in building this great country.

Finally, agencies should be set aside to establish educational projects, and such projects should be agreed to by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the government of Canada.

I believe that there now is the will in this House for a reconciliation to which this bill speaks. I am optimistic and look forward to the day when the government of Canada and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress begin the negotiation process so that present and future generations of Canadians will be afforded the opportunity to learn from this tragic episode of our history.

May a more complete knowledge of our past help this and future generations in our collective enterprise of building a more strategic, multi-cultural Canada, a celebratory mosaic of peoples which the rest of the world will look to as an exemplary of what a society can achieve.

It is and always was my firm belief that a few friendly amendments to the wording of Bill C-351 would ensure that this long overdue legislation can and will be supported unanimously by all parties and all members of the House. I certainly look forward to working hard to achieve this goal with the Ukrainian Canadian community and the bill's author, whom I'd like to congratulate once again on his determination in bringing this bill forward. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, the time for a reconciliation has arrived.

Thank you.



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Ukrainian Folklore Center hosts American specialist on folk culture

by Natalie Kononenko

EDMONTON — On March 16 and 17, the Kate Carr Ukrainian Ethnography and the Ukrainian Folklore Center of the University of Alberta sponsored a visit by Michael Taff, head of the Archive of Folk Culture at the American Folklife Center of the United States Library of Congress.

Dr. Taff is no stranger to Canada and Edmonton. He received his Ph.D. in folklore from Memorial University of Newfoundland and his M.A. in library science from the University of Alberta.

While at the University of Alberta, Dr. Taff examined the Holodomor Medvedevsky Ukrainian Folklore Archives, assessing preservation and indexing procedures. He then offered advice on procedure improvement. He met with staff concerned with the digitization of archival materials, a process which should both improve preservation and greatly expand public access.

On Thursday, March 17, Dr. Taff gave a public lecture titled "The Ethnographic Archive in the 21st Century." He said that, while collecting folklore had been the primary concern of scholars in the past,

preservation of materials will be the task of the future. Rapidly changing technologies demand the creation of digital copies of archival materials. We must also create a system that will allow conversion to new technologies as these are introduced, he added.

Dr. Taff gave some examples from the Veterans Oral History Project at the Archive of Folk Culture and played excerpts of sound recordings that are already available on the Internet.

Dr. Taff's earlier Canadian experiences include service as the university archivist and head of special collections at the University of Northern British Columbia, as well as a network of folkloric folkings.

Among his most notable current projects is New On Sounds, a United States-wide effort to digitize and preserve folk song recordings.

Dr. Taff and an international team of folklorists are also working on a database to facilitate digital information exchange. Such a database would allow people all over the world to search and access digital archives, such as the Bobdarr Medvedevsky Ukrainian Folklore Archive housed at the University of Alberta.



Dr. Michael Taff lectures at the University of Alberta.

Daughter and colleagues...

(Continued from page 11)

the body of work that uses various seam, fabric, forms and an idiosyncratic coloration.

The pysanka in all its myriad designs and technical styles was a way of maintaining a link to the past. As a young girl, she passed them down to her from her own experience. She understands the arc of language and meanings from their use and translates them to modern goals. She will use an exhibit to illustrate an aspect of her inspiration and she continues to create such meanings there. At her seven work stations spread throughout the house and here, she constantly generates new work in an ongoing manner. Her experienced signals with each new idea and with each new solution. Lyssanka, the written egg, inspires AKs to write in her personal ancient script to tell her own stories and to preserve our stories that need retelling.

Christina Pereyina O'Neil is a folk culture artist who lives and works in Iowa, USA.

A certainty of vision

by Aleksandra D. Koelmen

The world of art in the Western world is ever changing, with artists seeking something new that will best reflect the spirit of the times. The result is eclectic.

As a Pereyina is a multi-talented artist growing up in a Ukrainian family, she was exposed to Ukrainian art. Having

settled in the United States, she adopted the lifestyle of one seeking creative adventure. She found artistic inspiration in her childhood memories, her heritage rising to the forefront of course, as well. She uses the rich history of Ukrainian folk art, as the basis of her creativity, but where Ukrainian folk art is traditionalist, the highly imaginative Aka Pereyina combines Ukrainian influences with concepts of Western art.

The exhibit at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago includes drawings, watercolors, oils, mixed media, sculptures and ceramics. The displayed works incorporate originality, of course, with precision and depth of detail, richness of color and the artist's certainty of vision.

In the 1960s Ms. Pereyina created a series of "imagative compositions in pencil, pen and ink, and watercolor on paper." Most expressive are "Life's Intimate Moments," depicting the artist's own emotions, "When We All Lived in Peace" and "Ukrainian Madonna" which are remarkable for their individual composition, yellow-orange brightness and crystalline, simple ornamentation. Later works in the series "Ukrainian Folk Songs," "My Pysanky" and "Ukrainian Legends" are filled with folkloric content. Graphie clay dominates in these works, the works are impressional, and somewhat straggled of all times except clarity is there. Their intensity and range of color imparts the viewer with a sense of heightened energy, full of life and vitality.

Sculptures included in the exhibit portray various birds. The artist creates these from assorted metal, such as lengths of



Aka Pereyina at work.

pipe, saws, chains, pitchforks, syringes and the like. End use welded to create the intended sculpture.

Ms. Pereyina's ceramics anticipate Ukrainian traditional painting on dinner ware, with plant-inspired ornament in black applied to red, clay on bowls, plates, pitchers and gourds.

Her contribution to a worldwide Ukrainian cultural identity was recognized in 2001 by the government of Ukraine, which awarded Aka Pereyina with the Outstanding Ukrainian Artist medal.

In 2004 Ms. Pereyina was awarded an Ohio Heritage Fellowship by the Heritage Foundation of Ohio for her artists' necessities and jewelry.

Aleksandra D. Koelmen is a Chicago artist and educator and a member of the UTMA art committee, and was awarded an award at UTMA.

Artist who lives her art

by Lialia Kirichuk

More than 40 years have passed since Aka Pereyina participated in the 1963 "Monolith" Exhibit of Ukrainian Contemporary Artists in Chicago. This significant event was instrumental in the founding of the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art (UIMA) eight years later, in 1971.

When the UTMA invited Ms. Pereyina to show her profile, body of work, Lialia Kirichuk that a painting was requested. My first trip to Troy, Ohio, was an overwhelming introduction to the life of an artist who indeed lives her art. The evidence of this

is on display everywhere. There is graced not only with her sculptures but also with an enormous wall mural at her design in the center of town.

As the approach to the Pereyina home situated on the outskirts of town stands a distinctive metal bird sculpture, an eye you to her other visual delights. Ms. Pereyina's work in metal and wood, humorously installed among the trees, seems to emanate from the land itself. In her home, color and pattern identify her tastes and resources. The Ukrainian tradition is ever alive and vibrant in this family. Ms. Pereyina is an artist whose creative career of longevity is the very aspects of its courage are manifested by every room she employs.

As an artist she is very much respected and has received myriad honours in Ukraine and here in the United States. It is significant that in my last three trips to Troy, Ohio, had the special pleasure of being able to attend exhibits in which she participated. Her activity as an artist is in a word, remarkable. During an exhibit held at the Troy Hayner Cultural Center, she also engaged us with residents of folk songs before her paintings.

The works of Aka Pereyina, whether expressed through the medium of paint, metal, ink, calligraphy, delicacy of ink or through song, gives evidence to the importance of her artistic cultural contribution.

Lialia Kirichuk is Chicago artist known for her striking abstract and representational works in sculpture. A member of the UTMA art committee and curator and organizer of the "Monolith: 40 Years of Creativity, 1965-2005" exhibition at the UTMA.



"Leda and the Swan," 1964, woodcut and colored pencil.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Mikhail Saakashvili urged the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in a joint statement issued in Kyiv on March 26 to prevent violence in Kyrgyzstan. Ukrainian news agencies reported. "We were deeply concerned by the news that the situation in Kyrgyzstan is assuming threatening signs of violent confrontation," the statement reads. "We had the contagious step of the former president of the country [Askar Akayev] not to order the use of force against his own people in the first days of the public uprising." Presidents Yushchenko and Saakashvili also urged Mr. Akayev to "immediately influence his supporters so that they show high responsibility for the sake of peace and stability in the country." In a joint declaration on strategic partnership, the two presidents announced that the countries will support each other's aspirations regarding NATO and the European Union. They also underscored their mutual interest in developing transit capacities to supply Caspian oil and gas to Europe. Mr. Saakashvili

arrived in Kyiv on March 25 to inaugurate the "Year of Georgia in Ukraine" (RFE/RL Newsline).

Will Yushchenko be in Moscow May 9?

KYIV - President Viktor Yushchenko said on March 26 that he is not planning to attend the Victory Day parade in Moscow on May 9, to which he was invited by Russian President Vladimir Putin, but will stay in Kyiv for a local V-Day parade on that day and visit Moscow on May 8. Ukrainian and international news agencies reported. "As we cannot postpone commemorations that will take place in Ukraine on May 9, including a parade and other events, I would feel most uncomfortable if war veterans are gathering here and I am on a reviewing stand elsewhere," Reuters quoted Mr. Yushchenko as saying. "I think the Russian president, Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, and our other colleagues can easily understand that," the Ukrainian president added. Meanwhile, Mr. Yushchenko's spokeswoman Iyana Heraschenko told journalists on March 28 that his official schedule for May 9 has not yet been set. "I'm not ready to answer the

question of whether Yushchenko will go to Moscow on 9 May," Ms. Heraschenko said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Israeli detained on suspicion of trafficking

KYIV - Ukrainian law enforcement agents have detained Israeli citizen Yevhen Karesky on suspicion of organizing an international trip for trafficking in women with the aim of prostituting them, reported Ukrinform on March 24. Another Israeli citizen, Volodymyr Volodarskyi, was detained earlier. The two Israeli citizens were wanted on suspicion of human trafficking, as well as acquiring valuables through deceit, falsification and active involvement in the operations of a criminal gang. A Jerusalem court issued a warrant for the arrests of Messrs. Volodarskyi and Karesky on November 11, 2004. The Prosecutor General's Office will decide on their extradition to Israel. (Ukrinform)

Leaders comment on Kyrgyzstan events

KYIV - Viktor Yanukovich, the leader of the Party of the Regions and the former

of the 2004 presidential election, told Interfax on March 24 that the "situation in Kyrgyzstan was similar to that in other post-Soviet states," except that the Ukrainian revolution was non-violent. "The election observers from the CIS came to one conclusion in Kyrgyzstan and those from the OSCE came to a different one - and in this way duplicated the Ukrainian example." Mr. Yanukovich told Interfax. Communist leader Petro Symonenko told Interfax on March 24 that in Kyrgyzstan, as in other post-Communist countries, "authoritarian regimes allowed for the enrichment of small segments of society, engaging many citizens." Mr. Symonenko blamed the United States for the unrest in Central Asia. "I am convinced that the hand of the Americans is visible in Kyrgyzstan. The Americans are defining their strategic interests and subordinating Russia as if it were a bear caught in a trap, and placing little flags depicting that this geopolitical territory belongs to them," he said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv complains about naval incident

KYIV - Ukrainian officials have lashed out at Russia in connection with an incident in the vicinity of the Crimean town of Feodosiya on the evening of March 25 when a Russian landing vessel assigned to the Russian Black Sea Fleet landed 142 assault troops during a training exercise without informing the Ukrainian authorities, believed Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasuk told the Ukraine's Channel 5 television on March 24 that the incident constituted a serious violation by Russia of the base agreement regulating the activities of the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol. He added that Ukraine has often stressed that the Russian fleet should not use Ukrainian territory for any training purposes. Security Service of Ukraine Chairman Oleksander Turchynov told Ukrainian television on March 24 that the stationing of the Russian Black Sea fleet on Ukrainian territory runs counter to Ukrainian national interests. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kazakhstan supports Kyiv's gas proposal

ASTANA - Kazak Prime Minister Akhmetov told journalists in Astana on March 24 that the Kazak government supports Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko's proposal, voiced during a visit to Turkmenistan earlier this week, that Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine should establish a consortium to export gas via Kazakhstan and Russia. Interfax reported. "We think this project has good potential," Mr. Akhmetov commented, adding that "the export of Kazak gas beyond the CIS is of major economic interest to Kazakhstan." Mr. Akhmetov said the proposal will be discussed in depth during a visit to Kazakhstan next month by Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, and that a decision will probably be made by the end of April. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Turkmenistan trip yields no gas deal

KYIV - Ukrainian attempts to conclude a deal with Turkmenistan for a long-term delivery contract for natural gas did not materialize during President Viktor Yushchenko's visit to Ashgabat on March 22-23. Despite this, the head of Natohaz-Ukrainy, Oleksandr Lychenko, told Interfax that he is confident that Ukraine will continue to receive 30 billion to 40 billion cubic meters (bcm) of gas per year after the present contract ends in December 2006. When asked how the 25-year Russian contract signed with Turkmenistan, which foresees deliveries



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(Continued on page 25)

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 24)

of up to 70 percent of gas per year beginning in 2007, would affect deliveries to Ukraine. Mr. Yushchenko replied that Turkmen still has the capacity to produce enough gas to service both Ukraine and Russia. In fact, Turkmen gas production in 2004 was 58.8 bcm, a decrease from 2003's figure of 59.1 bcm. In the first month of 2005, production fell by 14 percent, due primarily to a stop in gas deliveries to Russia over a dispute with Russia's Gazprom over a new price for gas. Another drawback to Turkmen gas deliveries is that the trunk pipeline is capable of transporting only 40 km per year (IREFIRE Newsletter).

Yushchenko meets with Jewish congress

KYIV — Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko met with the head of the board of trustees of the European Jewish Congress, Avraham Kantor. During the meeting, Mr. Yushchenko stressed that there will never be a "national question" in Ukraine and expressed his condemnation of any manifestations of xenophobia and anti-Semitism. Messrs. Yushchenko and Kantor discussed the possibility of holding the Second World Holocaust Forum in November 2007 in Ukraine. The president said the forum should be accompanied by an educational program to turn the attention of society to this page in history. Mr. Yushchenko said he is convinced that "Ukraine can understand the Holocaust through understanding the Holocaust." The artificially created "Holocaust" perpetrated by Joseph Stalin in Ukraine in 1932-1933. An honest evaluation of these events is, according to Mr. Yushchenko, "a guarantee of national health." (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

UOC-MP private meets with Putin

KYIV — During an official visit to Ukraine on March 19, Russian President Vladimir Putin met with Metropolitan Valodiyer (Sabodan), head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP). "We always support friendly relations with the canonical Orthodox Church in Ukraine," said Mr. Putin at the meeting, and Orthodoxy is one of the important cornerstones of our spiritual relations," Metropolitan Valodiyer said that interdenominational relations in Ukraine today are difficult and that he hopes the situation will improve with the new government. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Sabodan meets Constantinople reps

KYIV — Metropolitan Valodiyer (Sabodan), head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP) met with two representatives of the Patriarchate of Constantinople on March 22 at his residence in the Kyivan Monastery of the Caves. The representatives were Archbishop Vsevolod (Mardoski), head of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., and Bishop Harion (Rudnyk), assistant bishop for the metropolitan of Portugal and Spain. In the course of the meeting, the parties discussed a number of issues regarding Church affairs of Ukraine. Among other things, an old and painful subject for Ukrainian Orthodoxy, its schism, was discussed. Church-state relations in Ukraine were also discussed in light of recent political developments. According to the UOC-MP press service, Archbishop Vsevolod said, while commenting on a recent visit by a Ukrainian delegation headed by State Secretary Oleksander Zinchenko to Constantinople, that the Ukrainian government demon-

strates concern about the canonical state of affairs in the Ukrainian Orthodoxy. Constantinople Patriarch Bartholomew, in turn, stressed during the meeting that the position of the Church of Constantinople hasn't changed, and that the issue of church schism in Ukraine must be resolved exclusively through canonical channels, observing the age-old canonical statutes of the Orthodox Church. The UOC-MP press service reported. At the end of the meeting, the two parties exchanged gifts. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Jobless exceed 1 million

KYIV — The unemployment rate in Ukraine increased from 3.5 percent in January to 3.6 percent in February, going slightly over 1 million people, Interfax reported on March 20, quoting the State Statistics Committee. (IREFIRE Newsletter)

Kuchma comments on scandals

KYIV — The Ukraine Fund's press service the fund was founded and created by ex-President Leonid Kuchma, circulated a statement that sheds some light on Mr. Kuchma's visit to the Prosecutor General's Office on March 10 in connection with the Gongulyk case. "I was asked there about what they had to ask me, that is, the Melnychenko tapes' authenticity, and I repeated what I stated on earlier occasions that I do not view the tapes as genuine," Mr. Kuchma was quoted as saying. The former president said he never hampered the investigation, which was difficult because, he noted, in this day nothing is known about who ordered the Melnychenko tapes operation. He said that the scandal must be uncovered, though quite a few experts established that the tapes had been formed from isolated fragments. Referring to the Kuchma scandal, Mr. Kuchma said it had stemmed from similarly false tapes. (Touching on the Latest

presidential elections in Ukraine, Mr. Kuchma said assessments that had been received against him of "neutral" and "pro-society" had been conducted by the Yemchynskiy election staff. Mr. Kuchma disclosed that he was approached by some persons who suggested that he turn authority over to Viktor Yanukovich before the elections, but he rejected this scenario because it might have caused a political crisis in Ukraine. Mr. Kuchma also referred to rumors about a tacit agreement regarding Viktor Yushchenko's victory in the presidential elections as "childish conjectures." What was going on in the country was a strict political struggle between the party in power and the opposition, Mr. Kuchma said. He offered his opinion that the Yanukovich team lost the race because it erroneously believed that the nation's economy, at various times weighed all other problems that exist in Ukrainian society. (Kupchynskiy)

Presidential supporters regroup

KYIV — The Ukrainian National Party (UNP) led by Yuri Koshenko has left the parliamentary pro-presidential Our Ukraine bloc and created its own caucus of 10 deputies. The Ukrainska Pravda website reported on March 16. Mr. Koshenko said the UNP will continue supporting President Viktor Yushchenko's electoral program oriented toward European integration and the creation of civil society in Ukraine. Earlier in March, Mr. Yushchenko's supporters created the Our Ukraine People's Union and Mr. Yushchenko suggested that the UNP may either be absorbed into the new party or go its own way. Meanwhile, OUCU parliamentary caucus consisting of 40 deputies, Interfax reported, citing OUP Executive Committee head Yuri Yelchynov. (IREFIRE Newsletter)

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\$500 UNA member
\$550 non-members

Tennis Camp 10-18

Intensive two weeks with instruction and competitive play directed by George Sawchak. Limited to 45 participants.

Weeks June 26 - July 8

\$540 UNA member
\$590 non-members
+ \$120 instructor fee per student.

Additional brochure information about camps and requirements is available online at: www.Soyuzivka.com. A \$75 deposit is required for pre-registration.

All camps are bilingual and geared toward a better understanding of Ukrainian culture and heritage.



Chemney Youth Camp 4-7

A day camp filled with daily activities of dance, song, games and crafts. Includes kid's lunch and T-shirt. Unless noted, is based on in-house occupancy of parent or guardian.

Week 1 July 17 - 22
Week 2 July 24 - 29
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM Daily
\$150 per camper
\$190 if not an overnight guest

Exploration Day Camp 7-10

Six hours of fun-filled activities in this new day camp.

June 27 - July 1
July 4 - July 8
\$100 per week or \$25 per day

Soyuzivka Scuba Diving Course 12 and up

One week will complete academic confined water and open water for PADI open water certification. Classes given by George Hanushevsky, scuba diver instructor. Pre-registration is required. Check on line brochure for additional information.

July 31 - August 5
\$400 course fee
\$120 deposit required
All fees payable to George Hanushevsky

Traditional Ukrainian Folk Dance Camp 8-16

Directed by Ana Bohachevsky-Lonkivych (daughter of Roma Pryma Bohachevsky). Expert instructor for beginner, intermediate and advanced dancers. The camp will end with a grand recital on August 20. Limited to 60 participants.

August 7 - 20
\$610 UNA members
\$660 non-members
+ \$275 instructor's fee payable to "UCDA"

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Groundbreaking held for chapel at All Saints Camp in Pennsylvania

EMMLINTON, Pa. — The All Saints Camp Committee of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and many friends and supporters of the camp on Saturday, March 19, participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the chapel of All Saints Camp.

Metropolitan Constantine of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. celebrated the ceremony along with Fathers Charles Bascien, John Nakumachy, Oksyia Hnanko, Stephen Repp, Stephen Zencuch and Mark Phillips, Deacons Anthony Perkins and Dennis Lapshinsky, and over 70 friends and supporters of the camp.

The All Saints Camp also hosted a Ukrainian Orthodox League Lenten Bible Cover the weekend of March 18-20.

Although the workday was overcast and the grounds muddy, the sun broke through the clouds as the metropolitan led all in prayer at the site where the chapel will be built.

The All Saints Camp was purchased 27 years ago for the purpose of providing a place where Orthodox Ukrainians could come to enjoy fellowship with one another



Metropolitan Constantine, clergy and faithful following the groundbreaking ceremony for the chapel at All Saints Camp.

or amidst the beauty of God's creation. From the very beginning, the All Saints Camp Committee's goal was to build a

chapel on the grounds of the camp.

The All Saints Camp Committee expressed thanks to the gracious benefac-

tors, who wish to remain anonymous at this time, whose generosity made it possible for the Church to finally realize this goal.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

elections as the benchmark that would determine Ukraine's future integration with the West.

The deputy secretary of state, the highest ranking U.S. official to visit Ukraine since the Iraq war, and the reason that so few top-level Bush administration representatives had visited Kyiv in the last few years had to do with what Washington had perceived as a questionable dedica-

tion to democratic development by Ukraine.

"We didn't have a high-level dialogue with the president, and one of the reasons was that we had some real questions about the commitment to democracy," explained Mr. Armitage.

The U.S. undersecretary of state emphasized that Ukraine's commitment would be further tested through the October 31 presidential vote. He noted that he had discussed with President Kuchma the adoption of the Ukrainian mass media and the opposition forces by

government bodies. He told journalists in his last appearance in Kyiv that he supported a limited but no government oversight of opposition organizations, including by the State Tax Administration and the various law enforcement bodies, until after the elections.

Mr. Armitage said the opposition leaders with whom he had met — Viktor Yushchenko of the Our Ukraine Bloc and Yulia Tymoshenko of the eponymous political bloc, along with several top supporters — impressed him with their dedication and sincerity.

"My impressions are that the opposition is very tense, very dedicated, troubled," explained the U.S. official. "It wants to be sure that the international community is watching very closely to see that generally recognized European standards for elections are upheld."

Source: "Arrivals to Kyiv: U.S. and just elections will be benchmark of U.S. Ukraine relations," by Roman Wronowski, Kyiv Press Bureau, The Ukrainian Weekly, April 4, 2004, Vol. XXIV, No. 14.

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

April 8-10, 2005
Road Rally Weekend - an epicurean, motorized scavenger hunt

April 9, 2005
SUNY New Paltz Alpha Kappa Phi
Society Banquet Banquet

April 15-17, 2005
Flora Kurin "Chim-pobokhy"
Annual Meeting
Brooklyn Group Volunteer Weekend

April 16, 2005
Rochester Fire Company Banquet

April 20-22, 2005
SUNY at New Paltz, Migrant
Laboration Program and Banquet

April 23, 2005
"Holiday Cooking in the Ukrainian
Tradition" organized by Flora
Kurin "Spatbanky"
TAP New York Beer Festival at
Hunter Mountain, round-trip bus
from Soyuzivka, special room
rate \$4/night

May 1, 2005
Traditional Blessed Ukrainian
Easter Day Brunch, church open
at 7:30 a.m.

May 20, 2005
Ellenville High School Junior Prom

May 27-30, 2005
Men's and Day Weekend BBQ
and Z-borya

Adoptive Parents Weekend, sponsored
by the Embassy of Ukraine and
the USA

June 1, 2005
Ellenville High School
Scholarship Banquet

June 6, 2005
Highland High School Senior Day

June 12-17, 2005
UNA Seniors' Week and Conference

June 19, 2005
Father's Day Program

June 26-July 3, 2005
Labor Pashat Session #1

June 26-July 8, 2005
Tennis Camp for ages 10-18

June 27-July 1, 2005
Exploration Day Camp - Session #1
for ages 7-10

July 3-July 10, 2005
Labor Pashat Session #2

July 4-July 8, 2005
Exploration Day Camp - Session #2,
for ages 7-10

July 10-July 16, 2005
Discovery Camp - Session #1,
for ages 8-12

July 17-July 22, 2005
Chemney Day Camp - Session #1,
for ages 4-7

July 17-July 23, 2005
Discovery Camp - Session #1,
for ages 8-12

July 17-July 23, 2005
Adventure Camp - Session #1,
for ages 13-16

July 24-July 29, 2005
Chemney Day Camp - Session #2,
for ages 4-7

July 24-July 30, 2005
Discovery Camp - Session #2,
for ages 8-12

July 24-July 30, 2005
Adventure Camp - Session #2,
for ages 13-16

July 31-August 6, 2005
Scuba Course for ages 12 and up



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, April 9

NEW YORK: As part of the exhibition "Voyse Trake" currently on view at the Ukrainian Institute of America gallery, featuring the most recent paintings by Alexander Mysh, there will be a "Meet the Artist Afternoon Tea" that will take place at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 77 F. 79 St., at 2-4 p.m. For more information contact the UIA, (212) 200-9600, or the Tea Collection at www.teacollection.com.

Saturday-Sunday, April 9-10

NORTH POLE, Fla.: An art exhibit featuring the works of local artists of Ukrainian heritage, sponsored by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, North Port Branch, will take place at St. Mary's Parish Hall, 2025 N. Broadway Drive, on Saturdays, at 4-7 p.m., and on Sunday, at 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Featured will be the works of 14 artists whose work in various media - oil, watercolor, acrylic, woodcut, clay and mixed media. The exhibits range in age from 5 to 80 years old and hail from the United States, Canada and Ukraine. Some have formal studies in fine arts, have exhibited widely, and were honored with awards for best work, while others have pursued art as a hobby. In addition to the art exhibit there will also be an exhibit of Ukrainian Easter eggs, pysanky, and Ukrainian embroidery. For more information contact Linda Dolan, (941) 978-9594, Vera Bushman, (941) 465-8175, or Christina Nieldon, (941) 460-0880.

Sunday, April 10

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch #11 invites the public to "Celebrate and Honor Fashion Show" to be held at the Ukrainian National Home Restaurant, 140 Second Ave., beginning at 2 p.m. Donations \$30 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and surprise RSVP by calling (212) 460-9643 after 3 p.m. on

(212) 665-8216 evenings

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWA) Chicago Regional Council celebrates the 60th anniversary of the UNWA publication "Our Life" / "Nashe Zhivnnyia" with a Luncheon to be held at 1 p.m. at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 2247 W. Chicago Ave. Tickets: \$35 per person. Interested parties should RSVP to Valia Urochysky, (847) 352-6371, or Maria Dugga, (847) 983-5065.

Monday, April 11

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will host the Vasyi and Maria Petryshyn Memorial Lecture given by Dominique Arel, professor of political science and chairholder of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa. Prof. Arel's lecture is titled "Understanding the Regional Factor in Ukrainian Politics, 1991-2004". The lecture will be held in the Thompson Room, Baker Center, 12 Quince St., at 4:40 p.m. For additional information, contact (617) 495-4253, or visit the website www.sri.harvard.edu.

Saturday, April 16

NEW YORK: "Music of the Institute presents Julius Berger, cellist (Germany), Marina Sturm, clarinet, and Melkora Sok, piano, in a "Mostly Beethoven" program. The concert program includes Beethoven's Six Variations on Mozart's "Der Mann mit dem schwarzen Hut" / "Der Mann mit der schwarzen Hut", and Beethoven's "No. 1 and 4" Magnificat in C major. The concert will be held at the Uva Hall Institute of America, 21 F. 79 St., at 8 p.m. Donations \$25. \$20, UVA members, seniors, teachers and students. For more information or to make reservations call (212) 788-9999 or visit www.ukrainianinstitute.org.

PLEASE NOTE REQUIREMENTS:

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. If a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per copy) is provided by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community, Payment must be received prior to publication.

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. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment of \$20 for each time the item is to appear and indicate dates of issues 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 290, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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

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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.