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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Orange coalition stalled on issue of prime minister

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Hopes for an Orange coalition regressed after Our Ukraine's leadership voiced its opposition to a provision in the coalition-forming procedure agreement that allows for the bloc that won the most votes in the parliamentary election to select the prime minister.

The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, which won the most votes of the three Orange political forces to qualify for the Verkhovna Rada, inserted the provision as the procedure agreement's sixth and final point, with support from the Socialist Party of Ukraine.

Though Our Ukraine Political Council Chair Roman Bezsmertnyi knowingly signed the agreement on April 13 with the sixth point included, the Our Ukraine People's Union Political Council voted on April 19 to support the agreement without the sixth point.

While citing a lack of clarity as its reason, Our Ukraine's disapproval of the sixth point essentially stalled the coalition-forming process and sent a clear message to Ms. Tymoshenko that Our Ukraine isn't supportive of her candidacy for the prime minister's post.

Earlier in the week, President Viktor Yushchenko had criticized the provision, stressing that the coalition's partners must formulate and agree on a detailed program of political activities before anyone is nominated to a government post.

"We are creating the coalition not assigning someone to a position," Mr. Yushchenko said on April 15. "We are creating the coalition to achieve something."

Ms. Tymoshenko, who has made very clear she wants to become Ukraine's next prime minister, again accused Our Ukraine leaders of deliberately stalling talks in order to buy time to form a majority coalition with the Party of the Regions.

Specifically, Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov, presidential confidante Petro Poroshenko and Our Ukraine parliamentary faction leader Mykola Martynenko are laying the groundwork for an Our Ukraine-Party of the Regions coalition, said Ms. Tymoshenko, citing several Our Ukraine members as the source of her information.

"The first part of this plan is to create a positive image in the mass media of a broad coalition between Our Ukraine and the Party of the Regions, including a large number of politicians, citizen activists and journalists who have as their goal creating an image of stability and unity between the east and the west," Ms. Tymoshenko said.

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Ukraine prepares to mark Chernobyl's 20th anniversary

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – At 1:23:47 a.m. on April 26, 1986, the fourth reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic exploded.

Radiation more than 18 times the amount of the Hiroshima nuclear bomb escaped into the earth's atmosphere, contaminating people and land throughout Europe and the Soviet Union.

The Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe is widely believed to have accelerated the demise of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and it forever altered views on nuclear energy.

An independent Ukraine this week began commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe, the repercussions of which remain elusive to those trying to assess its damage to Ukraine, its neighbors and the rest of the world.

First Vice Prime Minister Stanislav Stashevsky told an international audience assembled at the Chernobyl Museum at Kyiv's Kontraktova Square that coping with Chernobyl's aftermath remains a heavy burden for Ukraine to bear, demanding further international cooperation.

"Humanity must be convinced that the sad, painful and tragic lesson of Chernobyl will never repeat itself," Mr. Stashevsky said on April 18.



Cutty Sark Co.

U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst (left), Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund founder Zenon Matkiwsky and Ukraine's First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko announce the arrival on April 20 of an airlift bringing \$1.7 million in medicine and supplies to Ukraine to mark Chernobyl's 20th anniversary.

"Ahead of this sad date, in the name of the Ukrainian government, I want to turn to the governments of the world, the world citizenry, our countrymen overseas, with the proposition of active cooperation in resolving problems and hope for a new

understanding and cooperation."

Five million Soviet citizens suffered as a result of the Chernobyl catastrophe, either through harmful health effects or

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Tymoshenko tries to change her anti-business image

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – In a direct attempt to combat an anti-investment image festering in Western business circles, former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko told the



Zenon Zawada

Yulia Tymoshenko addresses the American Chamber of Commerce in Kyiv on April 17.

American Chamber of Commerce that her highest ambition is to eliminate corruption and make Ukraine business-friendly.

"My higher ambition is to build the type of Ukraine that will be a diamond in the civilized world," Ms. Tymoshenko said to applause. "That's my ambition, and who will stop me in my ambitions? Show me one such person!"

Addressing more than 250 businessmen on April 17, Ms. Tymoshenko outlined several initiatives she would take as prime minister, including reforming the courts, holding judges accountable for unlawful rulings, creating a stock exchange, opening Ukraine's market to foreign banks and making non-agricultural land easier to purchase.

Since her bloc's surprisingly strong performance in the March elections, Western businessmen and investors have expressed concern over Ms. Tymoshenko's possible prime ministership.

"As prime minister last year, she surprised us negatively by focusing on re-privatization, which had not been part of her government program," wrote Anders Aslund, a senior fellow at the Institute for International Economics and Ms. Tymoshenko's most vocal critic.

"Now she has received a greater popular mandate than ever before, so we can only wonder how she will amaze us this time," he noted.

Ms. Tymoshenko claimed she never even used the term "re-privatization" when she served as prime minister and has been unfairly smeared by her political enemies.

"Through a very well organized propaganda system, a terrible, horrible, scary re-privatizer has been made of me, who walks around with a scythe and hacks off honest private owners," Ms. Tymoshenko said.

Western businessmen are concerned about re-privatization because they perceive it as a threat to their private property rights and investments in Ukraine.

Ms. Tymoshenko and President Viktor Yushchenko launched one large-scale re-privatization effort, involving the Kryvorizhstal steel mill in Kryvyi Rih, in order to resell the plant at its true market value.

Former President Leonid Kuchma had sold Kryvorizhstal to his son-in-law, Viktor Pinchuk, and industrial magnate Rynat Akhmetov for \$804 million. At the October auction last year, multinational Mittal Steel Co. bought a 93 percent stake for \$4.8 billion.

The government is attempting to re-privatize a second enterprise, the Nikopol Ferroalloy Plant in the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, which also is owned by Mr. Pinchuk.

A lawyer from the Baker McKenzie

(Continued on page 30)

ANALYSIS

Ukraine and the Second Cold War

by Roman Kupchinsky

Ignore the broad smiles, firm handshakes, cheerful backslapping and toasts raised to “everlasting friendship” between well-dressed, smiling Russians, intense Germans, glib Americans and deceptive Brits.

The Second Cold War has already begun. If forced to be perfectly frank, every diplomat, spy or banker from Boston to Baku would acknowledge this. Anyone who reads the press or watches television must have noticed by now that the most dynamic, aggressive and self-assured force in the world today is Russia.

Daily reports in the media announce that the Russian state-controlled gas giant Gazprom is buying a pipeline network here or a European gas company there.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is shown pleased with himself in Budapest, as he offers Hungarians “reliable” gas supplies – but only if they buy from Gazprom.

It’s part of his fuel diplomacy strategy, which allows Russia to influence neighbors and more distant countries through energy supplies.

There is more to Mr. Putin’s arsenal. Russia is the ultimate salesman, offering weapons to Algeria, gas and oil to Beijing and nuclear reactors to Iran. By supporting ill-fated democracies and separatist movements in Transnistria, Ossetia and the dictator-ruled Belarus, Russia maintains a strong grip of influence over neighboring countries.

Meanwhile, Russian television stations present President Putin in a positive light, ensuring him stable support within his own country of 140 million. Western Europeans watch and worry, wondering whether they are doomed to cold winters if Russia cuts off their gas supplies.

The leaders of the great Western alliance, in the meantime, assure their citizens that the war in Iraq is almost won. Have patience, the masses are told, all we need is for Jeffersonian democracy to ultimately triumph in the slums of Baghdad.

Then there is Ukraine. With an indecisive chief executive who changes his views on policy issues all too frequently, the country seems to be not slipping, but tumbling back to its pre-Orange days. In Washington, London and Berlin the unpleasant little words that nobody wants to utter aloud are once again being whispered in the corridors of power: “A failed state.”

Is there hope? Can Kyiv resist Mr. Putin’s “Drang nach Malorossiya” or will it be trampled under the patent leather shoes worn by Russian oil and gas executives, as they lead the Russian corporate state to battle? Things look pretty grim.

Ukraine might not be a failed state, yet, but it is certainly beginning to look like a failed dream. Recall the slogans shouted on the Maidan (Kyiv’s Independence Square) in December 2004: “We Want to Be in Europe,” “Crooks Belong in Prison.”

Now that the hype is over, it might be

Roman Kupchinsky is the organized crime and terrorism analyst for RFE/RL. He was the president of Prolog Research and Publishing Corp. in New York prior to joining RFE/RL, where he was director of the Ukrainian Service for 10 years.

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appropriate to remind ourselves that:

- 1) Europeans, for understandable reasons, are not ready to admit Ukraine into their club.

- 2) The shadier elements of Ukraine’s elite are still at liberty, living very comfortably in penthouse suites.

Furthermore, it should be very clear that Ukraine is not only a victim of its geographic location but of its inability to conceptualize what is in its own national interests. Apparently, each section of the country cares more about its own regional interests than the well-being of the nation as a whole. This will not do.

Then there is the question of the northern neighbor.

Every evil cannot be blamed on the Russians. This moth-eaten explanation has been offered up by too many Ukrainian leaders as an excuse to cover up their own inability to govern efficiently and honestly.

Having said this, there is no doubt that many of Ukraine’s problems can still be tied to Russia’s imperial drive. Karl Marx, after all, once wrote that “the guiding star of Russia is world domination.” He may have been right.

What awaits a vulnerable and embattled Ukrainian state during the Second Cold War? The stakes in this conflict are great: either Ukraine will survive as a nation-state or become a part of what Russian energy mogul Anatoli Chubais envisions as a “liberal Russian empire.”

Within this empire, Ukrainians would be allowed to keep the blue-and-yellow flag, speak Ukrainian, keep their embassies, have an army and control their own borders. But the real decisions, the hardcore work, would be done for them in Moscow by hard-eyed Kremlin bosses.

During the First Cold War, Ukraine, by virtue of its membership in the USSR, was an active participant on the side of Russia and the other “socialist” republics in the ideological struggle with the West. They lost and, as a result of this defeat, Ukraine became independent.

Independence became reality not as the result of a powerful national liberation struggle with masses of oppressed Ukrainian workers and peasants on the streets with pitchforks and clubs, but through a political deal made in a forest in Belarus between two high-ranking Communist internationalists, Leonid Kravchuk and Boris Yeltsin.

Suddenly, Ukrainians found themselves in charge of their own country, a role they were quite unprepared for.

It is possible that, had they shed some blood for their freedom, things might have worked out differently, but that is now only speculation.

Today, as Cold War II heats up, Ukraine is virtually alone, in need of stronger leadership and without any meaningful friends, except Poland. The U.S. is preoccupied with terrorism, Iraq and so on. The Europeans may look the other way as long as Russian gas keeps flowing.

Ukraine must rely on itself to survive. Whether it really wants to survive as a sovereign nation is at the heart of the matter.

Some people warn me not to “dramatize the situation.” Ukrainians often tend to say this when they are uncomfortable with the possible end result of a given problem. It is an escapist phrase; it soothes the intellect and tells the subconscious that a solution is out there somewhere and all one need do is seek it out.

Cold War II, however, is not only dra-

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NEWSBRIEFS

Greenpeace on Chernobyl’s toll

KYIV – The global environmental group Greenpeace said in a report unveiled on April 18 that the health effects of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident have been “grossly” underestimated, international news agencies reported. According to Greenpeace, more than 93,000 people – mostly in Belarus, Ukraine and Russia – are likely to die from cancers caused by radiation connected with the accident. Last year’s report by an expert panel comprising the International Atomic Energy Agency and several other United Nations groups said fewer than 50 deaths could be confirmed as being connected to Chernobyl, while the number of radiation-related deaths among the 600,000 people who participated in fighting the consequences of the accident would ultimately be around 4,000. The U.N. report also estimated that the increase in cancer deaths among the 5 million people exposed to lower levels of radiation would be around 5,000. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Exhibit is dedicated to Chernobyl

KYIV – The Ukrainian National Museum of History is hosting the exhibition “Requiem to Memory” dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the catastrophe at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant. The exposition includes over 300 works, part of which were granted by the Central State Archive and the Pshenychnyi Central State Photo Archive. The exhibition includes some secret documents containing information quite contrary to that made public before. Maps of radioactive pollution, letters, diaries and memories of witnesses are also part of the exhibit. According to the president of the Chernobyl Union of Ukraine, Yuriy Andriyev, who spoke at the exhibition, on April 26, 1986, the fourth reactor was operating in a dangerous mode, which was supposed to be halted. It’s now obvious, he added, that the reactor was designed and constructed with various flaws. (Ukrinform)

Many events to mark 20th anniversary

KYIV – The Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry will convene some 700 events on

the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, the director of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry’s Economic Cooperation Department, Viktor Mashtabei, told a press club briefing on April 13. He said that various foreign international organizations are to send medicines, medical equipment and other humanitarian gifts to Ukrainian children who suffer from Chernobyl’s effects. Many children are supposed to undergo rehabilitation abroad, in such countries as the United States, Spain, the Netherlands and Slovakia. According to the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry official, on April 21 one of the papal universities in Rome will host an international conference on Chernobyl, and the pontiff is supposed to address the conference. On April 23 an annual charitable marathon will be held in London, the proceeds of which will be conveyed to the Chernobyl Aid Foundation. Mr. Mashtabei also noted other events related to the accident anniversary. (Ukrinform)

Belarus to spend \$1.5 B on relief

MIENSK – Belarusian Prime Minister Syarhey Sidorski said on April 12 in the Chamber of Representatives, Belarus’s lower house, that the government is planning to spend 3.3 trillion rubles (\$1.5 billion U.S.) in 2006-2010 for its Chernobyl relief program, Belapan reported. Mr. Sidorski noted that the main objective of the program is to achieve “real economic revival and sustainable development” of the contaminated areas. Sixty-three percent of the planned funds are to go toward allowances for Chernobyl victims. Mr. Sidorski said that 11,242 persons disabled by the disaster and some 115,000 veterans of Chernobyl clean-up operations are entitled to these allowances. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Chernobyl director comments on accident

KYIV – The former director of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, Mykhailo Umanets, said he never suspected that the plant’s reactors, the same as those at the Leningradskaya plant, were dual-purpose designs that could be used to make urani-

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Walter Prochorenko Ph.D., director of publications (973) 292-9800, ext. 3034
e-mail: prochorenko@unamember.com
Walter Honcharyk, administrator (973) 292-9800, ext. 3041
Maria Oscislowski, advertising manager (973) 292-9800, ext. 3040
e-mail: adsukrpubl@att.net
Mariyka Pendzola, subscriptions (973) 292-9800, ext. 3042
e-mail: ukrsbscr@att.net

Rivne investment promotion agency wins several top European awards

KYIV – An investment promotion agency established jointly by the project coordinator of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and local authorities in the north-western Ukrainian region of Rivne, has won several awards in a prestigious competition held by the Financial Times' fDi [Foreign Direct Investment] Magazine.

The InvestInRivne agency won the award for "Most Cost Effective City and Region in Europe" in the magazine's European Cities and Regions of the Future 2006-2007 competition. Almost 90 European locations competed for the awards.

The bid submitted by the InvestInRivne Agency also was named winner of the Western CIS and runner-up in the category "Region of the Future" for all of Eastern Europe. The Rivne region became the first Ukrainian location to win the magazine's awards.

"The list and the recognition that it

brings proves the success of the InvestInRivne model and translates into real investments," said Volker Frobarth, the OSCE's senior project officer responsible for the initiative.

Serhiy Rusnak, director of InvestInRivne Agency, added that the awards indicated how effective the agency has been in improving the investment climate in the western Ukrainian region.

The agency serves as a "one-stop-shop" for investors, expediting investment approval, company registration and acquisition of licenses and other permits needed to start operations in Ukraine. It also helps market the region and provides advice to local authorities on improving the investment climate.

Founded in 2005, the joint effort represents a major innovation in the ongoing cooperation between the OSCE project coordinator and Ukraine in the field of economic development.

Ukraine prepares...

(Continued from page 1)

forced relocations, Mr. Stashevsky said.

Among those victims, 2,646,103 were Ukrainians, of which 105,251 were declared disabled as a result of the disaster.

More than 643,000 Ukrainian children suffered from the Chernobyl disaster in one form or another, Mr. Stashevsky said.

Almost 5,000 cities and villages were contaminated with radiation, of which 2,700 were situated in Ukraine.

About 164,000 Ukrainians were permanently resettled as a result of the catastrophe, Mr. Stashevsky said, including 15,000 families transferred from the zone and 14,000 families removed from other contaminated territories of Ukraine.

About 7,000 entire families are registered as disabled, he said.

"Chernobyl dealt a hard blow to the economic and social spheres of Ukraine, Belarus and the Russian Federation," Mr. Stashevsky said. "In just the first phase of cleaning the accident, these losses amounted to nearly \$13 billion."

These expenses included industrial and agricultural costs, construction efforts, social programs and compensation payments.

For the past 14 years, Ukraine has independently covered the expenses related to cleaning up the disaster.

Between 1992 and 2005, Ukraine's Chernobyl expenses totaled \$7 billion, Mr. Stashevsky said, and that will increase to an astronomical \$170 billion burden by 2015.

"It's understood that this burden related to cleaning up the aftereffects of the Chernobyl catastrophe is too difficult for our economy, and that's why we so highly appreciate help from the international community, hope for it and expect it will be effective," Mr. Stashevsky said.

The Ukrainian government is having difficulty finding the funds to construct a cover for the reactor's ruins, he said.

About 180 tons, or 95 percent of the fuel in the reactor at the time of the accident, remains inside the temporary shelter erected after the 1986 accident, according to Ukrainian government estimates.

About four tons of radioactive dust remains inside the shelter.

This year's government budget has allocated \$69 million for the construction of what is called the New Safe Confinement cover to replace the unsteady sarcophagus. Its total construction cost has been estimated at \$768 million.

"Our hopes for financial support from

international cooperation, unfortunately, haven't been fully realized," he said.

Three academic conferences will occur simultaneously in Kyiv in the days leading up to the April 26 commemoration.

The most heated debate and controversy will surround the Chernobyl catastrophe's health effects.

Greenpeace International on April 18 released a 138-page report in which it challenged the conclusions drawn by the September 2005 Chernobyl Forum Report that cited a mere 4,000 deaths as direct result of the disaster.

Basing its data on Belarus cancer statistics, Greenpeace's "The Chernobyl Catastrophe" report estimated 93,000 fatal cancers will result from the Chernobyl disaster, with 270,000 additional cancer cases.

Other studies range in their casualty estimates anywhere from 9,335 to 32,000 deaths, the report points out, indicating the lack of consensus in the scientific community.

It also reveals how little is known about the potential human death toll the Chernobyl disaster will eventually count for during the course of this century.

Controversy surrounds not only the potential fatalities related to the catastrophe, but even the current death toll.

To date, only 56 deaths can be directly attributed to the disaster, the Chernobyl Forum Report claims, including 47 victims of acute radiation syndrome and a mere nine thyroid cancer deaths.

Critics of the Chernobyl Forum believe its information is unreliable because one of its main authors, the International Atomic Energy Agency, is interested in promoting nuclear energy.

In fact, more than 200,000 have died from as a result of the disaster between 1990 and 2004, according to the Greenpeace report, which based its estimates on statistics provided by the Belarusian, Ukrainian and Russian governments.

Mr. Stashevsky said he hopes that next week's conferences in Kyiv will help sort out the controversies.

At his April 18 press conference he said the Chernobyl Forum's estimates are not accurate.

"I am convinced the international academic conference, which will take place in Kyiv on April 24 and 25, will become a necessary step toward understanding the effects of the Chernobyl catastrophe, both for the benefit of the people and the development of international cooperation," Mr. Stashevsky said.

Choice of coalition partners seen as impacting Ukraine's future

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

WASHINGTON – While the recent parliamentary election demonstrated that voter preferences have shifted within the Orange Coalition since the 2004 elections, Ukraine's overall political landscape has remained the same, according to two experts on Ukraine.

Taras Kuzio and Jan Maksymiuk told an RFE/RL audience in Washington on April 12 that President Viktor Yushchenko faces a difficult decision in choosing coalition partners – a choice that will determine Ukraine's foreign and domestic trajectory.

Mr. Maksymiuk, RFE/RL analyst for Ukraine and Belarus, said that the surprise winner of the election was former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, whose party tallied 5.6 million votes nationwide – up from 2 million in 2004.

In contrast, he said that Mr. Yushchenko's support decreased significantly from 2004. According to Mr. Maksymiuk, Ms. Tymoshenko, was perceived by the electorate as more committed to the ideals of the Orange Revolution than Mr. Yushchenko.

Dr. Kuzio, a professor of Russian and Eurasian studies at George Washington University, agreed, tracing the roots of this perception to September 2005, when President Yushchenko relieved Ms. Tymoshenko of her duties as prime minister and, in order to secure Parliament's confirmation of his choice to replace Ms. Tymoshenko, signed an agreement with opposition leader Viktor Yanukovich.

Both Dr. Kuzio and Mr. Maksymiuk noted that geography, more than ideology, defines Ukraine's political landscape. The oblasts in which parties associated with the Orange Revolution dominate can be found in Ukraine's western and central regions, including Kyiv, while the "blue" regions aligned with Mr. Yanukovich are located in the south and east of the country.

Mr. Yushchenko, according to Mr. Maksymiuk, faces an unenviable dilemma: "One coalition is bad, the other is worse." Mr. Maksymiuk said Mr. Yushchenko could partner with Ms. Tymoshenko, who has personality conflicts with some of Mr. Yushchenko's ministers and who may insist on returning as prime minister. By doing so, she would position herself as a rival to Mr. Yushchenko in the 2009 presidential elections.

By contrast, a partnership between Messrs. Yushchenko and Yanukovich may lead to a worse result and, according to Dr. Kuzio, "the end of Yushchenko's political career." One potential consequence of partnering with Mr. Yanukovich, according to Dr. Kuzio, is that talks on NATO accession could be derailed. Furthermore, Dr. Kuzio said that such a coalition would compromise Ukraine's relationship with the United States and the European Union.

Though both analysts endorsed Ms. Tymoshenko as the optimal coalition partner, neither ventured to speculate what President Yushchenko's decision would be.

NATO secretary general speaks on alliance's role in modern world

by Oleksandr Khapatnyukovskyy

WASHINGTON – The North Atlantic Treaty Organization's 11th secretary general, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, met with students at American University on March 2 to speak about the role of NATO in the modern world.

The event, organized by The Atlantic Council of the U.S., was also interactively broadcast online to students from the universities of California, Michigan and Texas.

Mr. de Hoop Scheffer became the 11th NATO Secretary General on January 5, 2004, succeeding Lord George Robertson, who held the post from 1999 until 2003. Prior to joining NATO, Mr. de Hoop Scheffer had dedicated his career to the foreign affairs of the Netherlands.

During the one-hour conversation at American University, Mr. de Hoop Scheffer answered a broad range of questions regarding the role of the NATO,

Oleksandr Khapatnyukovsky is an intern at the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation.

which today mainly focuses on the humanitarian missions. To make his point, the general secretary mentioned the current operations under the auspices of NATO in Kosovo and Darfur. The essential role NATO plays is in the rebuilding of the post-war Iraq, in particular the training of the Iraqi National Army. However, NATO is still regarded as a key actor in the "war on terror" and in failed states, which are a threat to stability, international peace and security.

As for the future expansion of NATO, Mr. de Hoop Scheffer stated that its borders could not be unlimited. However, he underlined the bid of Ukraine for NATO accession and expressed hope that the final decision on this issue will be made during the upcoming 2008 NATO Summit in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Upon conclusion of the meeting, the secretary general explained to the students their important role for the NATO. He asked them to become advocates of NATO and to explain to all people the ideas and the mission of the organization. NATO, he underscored, is first of all a political, and then only, a military defensive alliance.

Quotable notes

"... there's a distinct difference between the populations of Russia and Ukraine. In Russia, more than 50 percent of the people regard Stalin as a positive historic figure, as the founder of a powerful Soviet state. In Ukraine, Stalin is a fallen idol; he is identified with forced collectivization, famine and repression. The defeat of Ukraine's Communists, who failed to get even 4 percent in the parliamentary elections, marks a final break with the Soviet past."

– Viktor Erofeyev, writing in the March 31 issue of the International Herald Tribune, in a commentary titled "Whose Ukraine?"



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Delegates and alternates to the 36th Regular Convention of the Ukrainian National Association

BRANCH	DELEGATE	ALTERNATE	BRANCH	DELEGATE	ALTERNATE
5	Maya Lew		174	Zenon Wasylkevych	Nina Wasylkevych
5	Oksana Lew		174	Vera Krywyj	Olga Hnat (Hnatievych)
7/178	Adolph E. Slovik		175	Zynowia M.Serafyn	Olena Papiz
8	Wolodymyr Kozicky	Leon Figurski	194	Oksana Lopatynsky	Ihor Zwarych
10	Lubov Streletsky	Vasily Streletsky	206	Irene Sarachmon	Eleanor Kogut
13	Nicholas Fil	Taras Myshchuk	214/353	Omelan Twardowsky	Daria Twardowsky
13	Gerald Tysiak	John Suchowacki	216	Bohdan Odezynskyj	
15	Sonia M. Krul	Marijka Lischak	217	Oksana Markus	Irene Grassman
20/86	Roman I. Kuropas	Tamara Kuropas	221	Helen Karachewsky	Wasył Kuszynski
22	Stefko Kuropas		230	Annabelle Borovitsky	
25	Nestor Olesnycky	Oksana Trytjak	234	Maria Oscislawski	Orest Zahajkewycz
27	Christine Brodyn	Daria Semegen	234	Edward Melnychuk	Helen Melnychuk
39	Mykola Duplak	Rev. Myron Kotch	238	Stephanie Majkut	Walter Majkut
42	Julian Kotlar	Barbara Tyzbir	240	Evhen Bachynsky	Marta Liscynecka
47	Oksana Koziak	Anna Kedyulych	240	Bohdan Samokyszyn	Iwan Slipec
57/16	Michael Sawkiw Jr.		242	Joseph Chabon	
59	Bohdan Doboszczak	Ihor Hayda	242	Andrea Chabon	
76	Michael Koziupa		245	Michael Martynenko Jr.	Michael Martynenko Sr.
76	Andrew Hrechak		247/347	Wasył Szeremeta	Lubomira Szeremeta
82/341	Olga Uliana Maruszczak		253/254	Peter Hawrylciw	
83	Hryhoryj Dawyd	Nicholas Pryszlak	257/307	Luba Sophia Keske	
83	Roman Panasuiuk	Fawronia Kuszniir	264/67	Bohdan Hryshchyshyn	Myroslaw Trojan
88	Stephanie M. Hawryluk	Andrij J. Cade	267/113	Gloria Tolopka	
88	Anna Slobodian	Sofia Semenyszyn	269	Paul Fuga	Valentina Kaploun
94	Vasył Kolodchin	Wsewolod Hnatzuk	277	Myron Kuzio	Myron Kolinsky
96	Jaroslawa P. Komichak	Raymond M. Komichak	282	Mary Bolosky	Henry Bolosky
102	Nicholas Bobeczko	Oksana Bobeczko	283/355	Stefan Lysiak	Michael Chalupa
112	Paul Romanovich	Patricia Romanovich	287/340	Roma Hadzewycz	
120	Eli Matias	Mark Szedny	291/388	Vira Napora	
125/220	Gloria Paschen		292	Irene Pryjma	
130	Alex Redko		316/343	Mary Sweryda	Anna Andrews
131/472	Lev Bodnar	Roman Zajac	325/226	Barbara Chupa	
133/338	Michael Bohdan	Nancy Bohdan	327/17	Bohdan Podoliuk	George Soltys
134/142	Iouri Lazirko		339/116	Michael Luciw	
139/66	Peter Pytel	Nestor Kocelko	345/382	Kateryna Dyachuk	
155	Nadia Salabay		349	Michael Zacharko	Stephan Zacharko
155	Maria Zaviysky		358	Taras Szmagala Jr.	Katherine Szmagala
161	Michael Hrycyk		360	Judith A. Hawryluk	
161	Tim Ganter		362/163	Maria Walchuk	
164/162	Tymko Butrej	George Fedorijczuk	364/486	Wlademer Wladyka	Bohdan Danylewycz
171	Genevieve Kufra	Stephan Welhash	367	Christine Dziuba	George Malachowsky
171	Elizabeth Siryj	Stefko Woch	372/37	Kristina T. Pavlak	
172	Longin N. Staruch	Michael N. Halibej	379/488	Myron M. Luszcza	
172	Ivan Pelech	Vladimir Bakum	381	Olya Cherkas	Walter Boryskewich Boyd
173	Peter Serba	Eugene M. Serba	385/368	Julian M. Pishko	Bohdan Kuchwarskyj
			387/78	Irene Oliynyk	
			397	Ułana Prociuk	Michael Chomyn
			399	Bohdan Kukurudza	Mykhajlo Klymchak
			402/466	Anna Buri	Omelian Drogo byckyj
			407/401	Tatiana Miskiw	Stephan Chorney
			409	Genet H. Boland	John P. Boland
			412/498	Ihor Kobil	
			414	Maria Antonyshyn	Donald K. Horbaty
			432	Vera Plawuszczak	
			434	Alexandra Dolnycky	Marta Bilyk
			444/441	Cecilia Kachkowski	Susan Soldan
			450/241	Motria Milanytch	
			452	Natalie Shuya	Jaroslawa Woloch
			461	Ben Doliszny	Janina Groch
			465	Alexander Kisak	Eugene Kisak
			473/49	Serguei Djoula	
			496	Myron Pylypiak	

Credentials Committee verifies delegates to 36th UNA Convention

The Credentials Committee for the 36th Regular Convention of the Ukrainian National Association met at the UNA Home Office in Parsippany on Thursday, April 13.

The members of the committee are as follows: Anna Slobodian (Branch 88), Kerhonkson, N.Y.; Stephanie Hawryluk (88), Kerhonkson, N.Y.; Julian Kotlar (42), Passaic, N.J.; Paul Fuga (269), Central New Jersey; and Myron Kuzio (277), Hartford, Conn.

The Credentials Committee verified the status of all the delegates in accordance with the UNA By-Laws. All delegates must be social members or have active policies and be in good standing as of December 31, 2005.

Nina Bilchuk, UNA Home Office employee, worked closely with the committee in helping them verify delegate records and payment of dues. The committee confirmed that there are 107 delegates eligible to be seated at the convention.

— Stephanie Hawryluk



The Credentials Committee at work (from left): Stephanie Hawryluk, Anna Slobodian, Julian Kotlar, Paul Fuga and Myron Kuzio.

UNA Executive Committee holds special pre-convention meeting

by Christine E. Kozak
UNA National Secretary

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – On Friday, April 7, the Executive Committee of the Ukrainian National Association held a special meeting to approve the delegates to the 36th UNA Convention.

In accordance with the UNA By-Laws, the Executive Committee approved the delegates and alternate delegates for the 36th Convention that will be held at the Soyuzivka resort on May 26-29. The Executive Committee also appointed members to the Credentials Committee, By-Laws Committee and Financial Committee. The members of these committees are named from among the dele-

gates elected to serve during the convention.

The committees named to the 36th UNA Convention are:

- By-Laws Committee – Bohdan Doboszczak (Branch 59), Alexander Kizak (465), Oksana Lopatynsky (194), Nicholas Bobeczko (102), Longin Staruch (172);
- Credentials Committee – Paul Fuga (269), Stephanie Hawryluk (88), Julian Kotlar (42), Myron Kuzio (277), Anna Slobodian (88);
- Financial Committee – Joseph Chabon (242), Michael Krycyk (161), Wolodymyr Kozicky (8), Gloria Paschen (125/220), Gerald Tysiak (13).



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

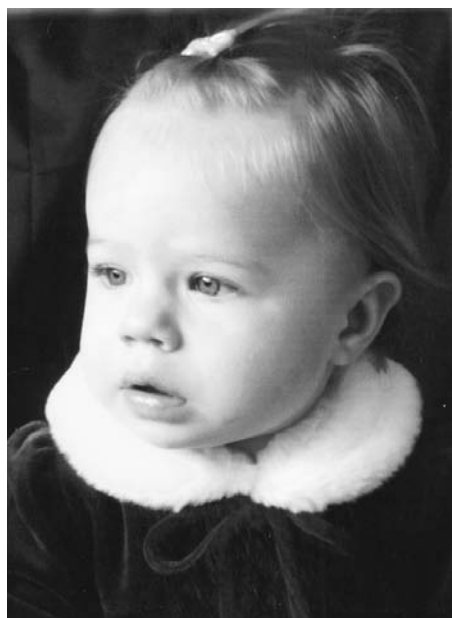
Young UNA'ers



Roman Ingrassia, son of Robert Ingrassia and Lidia Poletz of St. Paul, Minn., is a new member of UNA Branch 345. He was enrolled by his grandparents Alexander and Valentina Poletz.



Nicholas C. Voltaggio, son of Christopher and Christine Voltaggio of Staten Island, N.Y., is a new member of UNA Branch 372. He was enrolled by his great grandmother Sophie Lonyszyn.



Oksana O. Wojcik, daughter of Marichka and William Wojcik of Stroudsburg, Pa., is a new member of UNA Branch 15. She was enrolled by her grandparents Peter and Sonia M. Krul.

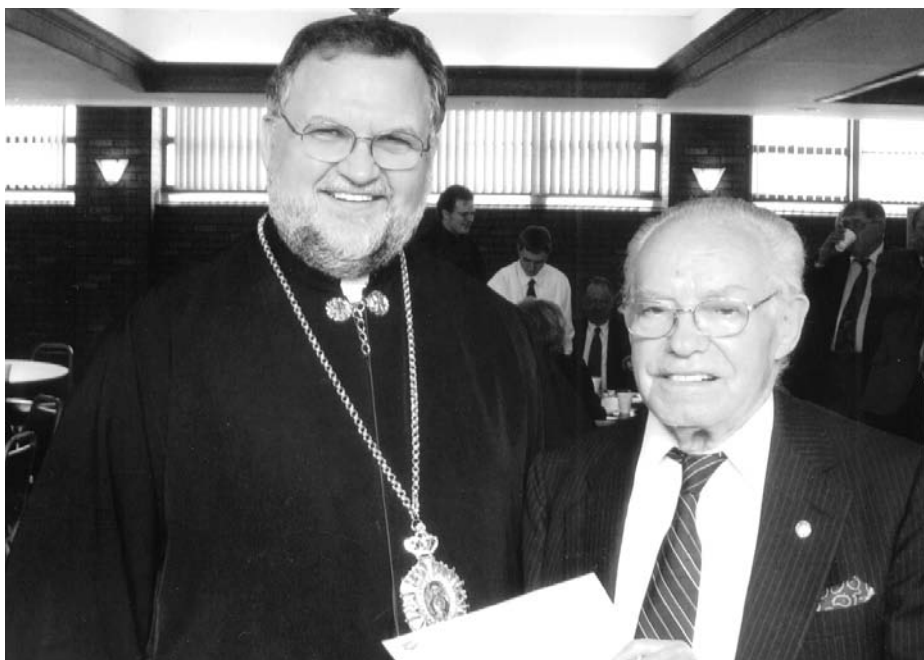


Alexander X. Kowalyk, son of Vanessa Kowalyk of Aliquippa, Pa., is a new member of UNA Branch 120. He was enrolled by his grandparents John and Dolores Kowalyk.



Mark, Ivanka and Adrian Temnycky, children of Roma and George Temnycky of Manlius, N.Y., are new members of UNA Branch 39. The children were enrolled by their parents (with whom they are seen above).

Metropolitan Soroka joins the UNA



PHILADELPHIA – Archbishop Stefan Soroka, metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States, recently became a member of the Ukrainian National Association. He was enrolled into UNA Branch 83 by UNA Advisor Stefan Hawrysz.

**Do you have a young UNA'er,
or potential young UNA'er in your family?**

**Call the UNA Home Office at 973-292-9800
to find out how to enroll.**



Do you know why we're so happy?

Our parents and grandparents invested in our future by purchasing an endowment and life insurance policy for each of us from the Ukrainian National Association, Inc.

They purchased prepaid policies on account of the low premium rate for our age group. If you'd like to be smiling like us, please have your parents or grandparents call the UNA at 1-800-253-9862.

They will be happy to assist you!

THE UNA: 112 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHORNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

"The main problems are solved ... we don't need any help."

— Vladimir T. Lapitski, counselor of the Permanent Mission of the Ukrainian SSR to the United Nations, speaking on May 5, 1986, about the Chernobyl accident with a delegation composed of Rep. Benjamin Gilman, three Ukrainian American community activists and the editor of *The Ukrainian Weekly*.

Chernobyl then and now

Back in 1986, when we carried the first reports about an unimaginable accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine, the news media were hampered by the Soviet Union's stony silence. In fact, the first reports about a nuclear accident came from Sweden, where authorities detected unusually high levels of radiation.

The official Soviet announcement that there had been an accident at one of its nuclear plants came two days later. "An accident has taken place at the Chernobyl power station, and one of the reactors was damaged. Measures are being taken to eliminate the consequences of the accident. Those affected by it are being given assistance. A government commission has been set up," said the USSR Council of Ministers in a statement read on Moscow television on April 28, 1986. Four days after the accident, *Pravda Ukrainy* reported: "At the Chernobyl atomic energy station (CAES) there was an accident that led to the ruin of a portion of the building housing the [fourth] reactor and to some release of radioactive materials. As a result of the accident, two people have died. The radiation situation at the CAES, as well as surrounding areas, is stabilized."

Clearly, the USSR was attempting to hide the severity of the disaster by insisting that everything was under control. Indeed, May Day parades went on as usual in Kyiv, even as radiation rained down upon the Ukrainian capital and its unsuspecting people. It was more important for the USSR to give the impression that life was normal than it was to warn the people that they were in danger. The USSR's actions were reprehensible. We wrote back in 1986: "The Soviet Union failed in its international obligation to let its own people know what happened. And, because of this, people will be affected for generations to come."

The Soviets' attempts to hide the truth — no doubt to conceal what would be perceived worldwide as a failure of the Soviet system — and the absence of reliable information resulted in the dissemination of all sorts of false information and rumors; it also led the people of the USSR to even more determinedly question official information and Soviet authority. That presented an outright challenge to General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, who had told the 27th Communist Party Congress in February of 1986 that he wanted to build a more open society.

But, it was only on May 14 — an astounding 18 days after the accident — that Mr. Gorbachev first spoke about what took place at the Chernobyl plant. In a 25-minute speech he reported that nine people had died and 299 had been hospitalized with radiation sickness. He also said, "The most serious consequences [of the accident] have been averted," but added that "the level of radiation in the station's zone and on the territory in the immediate vicinity still remains dangerous for human health."

Now, 20 years after the fact, Chernobyl's consequences are still with us.

According to information released by the Embassy of Ukraine, 2,594,071 residents of Ukraine — almost half of them children — were affected by the catastrophe; a total of 504,117 Ukrainians who were affected by the accident died in the period 1987-2004, among them 34,499 "liquidators" — those sent to battle the accident's "consequences" — and 6,769 children; 48,400 square kilometers of land encompassing 2,218 settlements are contaminated by radiation; and the exclusion zone around the nuclear plant covers a territory of 2,600 square kilometers. Furthermore, Chernobyl Interinform, a Ukrainian government agency, says 3 million people received increased radiation doses and 84 percent of them have since become ill; among the liquidators, the rate is 92 percent.

Two decades after that horrific day in 1986, Chernobyl's effects — medical, environmental, social, psychological — continue to be felt. Contrary to what we were told 20 years ago, the main problems associated with the world's worst nuclear disaster have not been solved and Ukraine does need help.

FOR THE RECORD: UCCA on the Chernobyl anniversary

On the night of April 26, 1986, an irresponsible experiment forced by the Soviet regime ended in a horrific tragedy of historic proportions. An explosion took place at the fourth unit of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, which resulted in a large-scale radioactive spill. By attempting to hide this disaster from its own people, the Soviet government caused irreparable damage to their health.

Human nature dictates that we slowly forget the horrors of 20 years ago. The international attention to the Chernobyl zone problems has gradually diminished. However, we cannot forget that the consequences of Chernobyl will last for thousands of years.

The most pressing issue is the structural integrity of the "shelter" encasing the site of the accident. Scientists agree that approximately 95 percent of the nuclear waste is still located within the confines of the unit. If it were to collapse before the second confinement structure is built, the tragedy will exceed the Chernobyl explosion by far. Ukraine and the world need to concentrate on erecting the second confinement layer to prevent the radioactive waste from re-entering ground waters and the air, further damaging people's health.

Another important issue is children's health. Pediatric oncology and hematology require immediate attention in

Ukraine. Lack of infrastructure necessary to deal with the serious diseases caused by radiation exposure adversely affects the chances of children's healthy and normal survival. We must work together to help Ukraine develop a network of hospitals and collect the necessary equipment to help medical experts fight childhood cancer and other illnesses.

In order to ensure safety of the explosion site, Ukraine has shut down all reactors at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, a move that adversely impacted its economy. The international community should provide assistance to Ukraine in order to develop alternative sources of power and help ensure the safety of the remaining nuclear power plants.

Ukraine should not have to face all these problems caused by the Chernobyl explosion alone. The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America urges Ukrainians in the United States to mark the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy and honor the memory of those who sacrificed their lives, protecting the world from its consequences. Let us remind the world that we must work together and do all in our power to neutralize the consequences of Chernobyl as much as possible so that we can pass our land to future generations clean and without pollution.

— **Executive Board of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America**

STATEMENT: Environmental association comments on 20 years after Chernobyl

Following is the text of a "news statement" released on April 17 by the Ukrainian-American Environmental Association, which is based in both Rivne, Ukraine, and Washington, D.C.

Twenty years ago, on April 26, 1986, the world experienced the worst commercial nuclear accident in history when the Chernobyl reactor near Kyiv exploded.

Today, the nuclear industry is attempting to revive itself — ostensibly as a solution to climate change. Notwithstanding Chernobyl's heavy toll on the health of its citizens and the local environment, Ukrainian officials are contemplating the construction of 11 new reactors. In addition, 12 new reactors have been publicly proposed for the United States. A new reactor is now under construction in Finland, while India, China, Bulgaria, Russia and other countries are building or actively considering building new reactors.

Government leaders in Ukraine, the United States and other countries who advocate a return to nuclear power have failed to learn the lessons of Chernobyl.

Twenty years later, nuclear power remains a highly dangerous technology, whose safety depends heavily on the absence of human error and the certainty that plants can be protected against terrorist attack and nuclear materials against theft.

Twenty years later, nuclear power remains the most expensive energy technology available and one that cannot compete in the marketplace unless heavily subsidized by the government and shielded from the responsibility for the costs associated with insurance, decommissioning and waste disposal.

Twenty years later, neither Ukraine, the United States, nor any other nation has developed the technology, or the sites, to

permanently isolate lethal, long-lived radioactive waste from the environment.

Yet, 20 years later, one thing has changed.

Today, renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies have matured to the point that they not only obviate any need for new nuclear construction but also can enable the phase-out of existing plants and sharp reductions in the use of fossil fuels.

Energy efficiency alone could reduce energy use in the United States by at least 20 percent and arguably up to 40 percent or more (compared to the 8 percent of total energy supply provided by nuclear power). In Ukraine, which now consumes more than four times as much energy per unit of national product as does the U.S., efficiency measures could curb consumption by at least 60 percent (compared to the 12 percent now provided by nuclear power).

Renewable energy sources (e.g., biomass/biofuels, geothermal, hydropower, solar, wind) which now provide 7 percent of U.S. energy needs and 3 percent of Ukrainian energy needs are technically and economically capable of at least tripling their contribution in both countries within the next 15 to 20 years. Coupled with aggressive energy efficiency programs, they could meet the bulk of both countries' energy needs by mid-century, while simultaneously reducing reliance on fossil fuels and energy imports as well as slashing greenhouse gas emissions.

Twenty years after Chernobyl, the lesson for both Ukraine and the United States remains: A nuclear future is dangerous, expensive and environmentally destructive. Moreover, it is not necessary. There are safer, cleaner, cheaper and more socially acceptable alternatives available now.

April
21
1996

Turning the pages back...

The Ukrainian Weekly's special issue marking the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl accident featured an article about Chernobyl's impact, as examined by a Yale and Columbia University conference held on April 8-9. Among the conference's

presentations were reports on the accident's effects on public health and the environment, its social and political impact, and potential alternative energy sources for Ukraine.

The conference was opened with presentations at Columbia by Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Yuri Shcherbak, and at Yale by the country's ambassador to the United Nations, Anatolii Zlenko. Ambassador Shcherbak, a physician, underscored that Chernobyl is notable because it brought significant social, medical and psychological consequences, involved large numbers of the population and did long-term damage to the environment. The Chernobyl accident is extraordinary also because, "even after 10 years, it still requires the close attention of the international community," as it is not an internal affair of Ukraine. Mr. Zlenko's message: "Chernobyl is not in the past. Chernobyl lives

(Continued on page 17)

THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHORNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

Anniversary of Chornobyl sharpens debate over disaster’s consequences

by Alexander B. Kuzma

Between April 24 and 26, Kyiv will be host to a historic gathering to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster. More precisely, there will be three simultaneous gatherings, each with its own perspective and emphasis, each playing its own key role in a historic drama that has been unfolding for several months now.

The official state-run conference hosted by the governments of Ukraine, Belarus and the Russian Federation will bring together the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) and other institutions that will be formulating the official government response to the disaster.

Titled “Chornobyl, A Look into the Future,” this conference will be convened at the Ukrainian Home, the cavernous former Lenin Museum, and it will almost certainly adopt the September 2005 Chernobyl Forum report that downplayed the impact of the disaster and endorsed a greater reliance on nuclear energy. As intended, that report generated extensive coverage in major publications such as The New York Times, which immediately hailed its findings as “authoritative” and “definitive,” and gave short shrift to many scientists who challenged its findings. The forum report gained further momentum after the IAEA and its president, Dr. Mohammed el-Baradei, were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their work on nuclear arms control. Although the award did not address the IAEA’s role in promoting nuclear energy, it nonetheless served as a major boost to the agency’s credibility after it had come under attack from the U.S. government in the lead-up to the Iraq War.

Arrayed against this powerful government-IAEA consortium will be a coalition of environmental organizations that will gather at the Budynok Uchytelia, the former Parliament building on Volodymyrska Street that in 1918-1919 housed the first Ukrainian government chaired by historian Mykhailo Hrushevsky. Organized by representatives of the European Parliament and the European Green Parties, this conference will outline the many health effects the Chernobyl Forum report ignored.

Titled “Chornobyl +20: Remembrance for the Future,” this counterweight to the government report will also focus on the European community’s progress in developing alternative energy sources and environmental health programs.

The third conference is hosted by the first lady of Ukraine, Kateryna Yushchenko, her charitable foundation Ukraine 3000 and the Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF). This symposium, titled “Rebirth, Renewal and Human Development,” will focus on the humanitarian response to Chornobyl and other disasters. It will seek to develop a series of recommendations for strengthening emergency preparedness, medical aid and community development programs that can overcome the effects of such tragedies.

All of this is taking place against the backdrop of last winter’s energy crisis, when Russian President Vladimir Putin threatened to cut off natural gas supplies in a blatant (and ultimately successful) attempt to breach long-standing contracts and extort higher prices from Ukraine. Mr. Putin’s threats came during the coldest winter in nearly 30 years, and they sent shock waves through all of Europe that relies heavily on Siberian gas supplies.

Even prior to this crisis, then-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko called for the construction of 11 new nuclear plants in Ukraine, and President Viktor Yushchenko suggested that Ukraine might consider creating an international atomic waste repository at or near the Chornobyl disaster site.

In 1986, Chornobyl was a dagger to the heart of the few nuclear construction programs that had survived the scare at Three Mile Island in 1979. Now the IAEA and the international nuclear industry hope to reverse the trend and use the 20th anniversary of Chornobyl as a dramatic turning point to overwhelm the opposition and to galvanize public support for a re-acceptance of nuclear expansion.

Alexander B. Kuzma is executive director of the Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund. He is currently based in Kyiv.



Environmental activists stage a demonstration on April 22, 1996, in front of the presidential residence in Kyiv. They are holding crosses inscribed with the names of villages abandoned after the April 26, 1986, accident at the Chornobyl nuclear power plant.

After all, if the Ukrainians who bore the brunt of Chornobyl’s fallout can be persuaded to embrace nuclear power, why should the rest of the world resist?

Despite its Nobel Prize and Dr. el Baradei’s unblemished reputation, the IAEA continues to suffer from a major credibility gap where Chornobyl is concerned. Dr. Fred Mettler, the IAEA’s chief spokesperson on Chornobyl and the author of the 2005 Chernobyl Forum Report, was the same individual who testified at U.S. Senate hearings in 1992 that there was no increase in thyroid cancer following Chornobyl.

Five weeks after his testimony, the World Health Organization confirmed that there was an 80-fold increase in thyroid cancer in children living in or near contaminated areas. The thyroid cancer epidemic is not over. In Ukraine alone there are 9,000 children and

young adults with pre-cancerous thyroid lesions.

The IAEA now concedes that it was wrong in its denials of a thyroid cancer epidemic, but would have us believe that no other health effects will be caused by the accident: according to the U.N. report, no genetic damage, no cardio-vascular illnesses, no immune deficiencies and no additional childhood leukemia can be linked to the disaster.

Just as they did in 1992, Dr. Mettler and his agency are claiming that their report is based on a “comprehensive” review of all the literature available on the Chornobyl aftermath.

There is a great deal of evidence that says otherwise. Before President Yushchenko took office in 2005,

(Continued on page 12)

PASTORAL LETTER: We pray for the life of Ukraine

Pastoral letter of the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine addressed “to our beloved spiritual children, the clergy and faithful of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Ukraine and beyond her borders on the 20th anniversary of the worst nuclear disaster the world has ever known – the catastrophic explosion of the nuclear plant in Chornobyl, Ukraine, on April 26, 1986.”

Dearly Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:
Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

Twenty years after the horrifying explosion in a small city in north-central Ukraine near the Belarus border – Chornobyl – from nearly every nation in the world we hear the prayers arising to our Heavenly Father beseeching eternal repose and blessed memory for those who perished immediately following this nuclear disaster and for the healing of those who continue to suffer the consequences of the 1986 tragedy, whether personally injured or perhaps as survivors of those who perished unnecessarily. We hear the prayer arising most especially for the children – the future of the nation - who have seemed to be the most easily damaged victims of the tragedy.

On April 26, 1986, our Ukraine – just beginning to experience the taste of freedom under what was then called “glasnost,” our Ukraine – having experienced so many other tragedies throughout her history, our Ukraine – having patiently carried all her historical crosses, our Ukraine – just beginning to hope for and expect something better for her people, experienced, instead, a new Golgotha, the consequences of which

were appallingly tragic not only for her, but for the nations on all her borders, beneath the death-bearing, invisible clouds of radioactive toxins.

Our Ukraine again found herself weeping and wailing at the loss of her children, like Rachel of old, and could not be comforted. Hundreds of thousands of innocent victims will never be able to return to their homes or to their land, which is so very central to their existence as a people and a nation. All that was familiar to them now lays barren and cannot produce the abundance of harvest for their sustenance.

As we bask in the Light of the Resurrection of our Lord, we commemorate both the living and the deceased victims of human error and perhaps even vanity. May this Resurrection Light and Power fill us with hope and enable us to forgive those responsible for the unnecessary explosion in Chornobyl. At the same time, however, may they also give us the courage in the name of justice and our deeply held belief in the sanctity of life, to demand from the highest pinnacles of power in this world a firm vigilance to ensure that no further Chornobyls ever occur or even threaten mankind.

Government organs in Ukraine have informed us that more than 4,000 people perished during and following the explosion in attempts to halt the expansion of the cloud of radiation and that over 100,000 Ukrainians (let alone the thousands more in Belarus and other nations) still bear the consequences of that spring day of 1986.

The Chornobyl disaster was and is not a horror for Ukraine alone, but a horror for the entire world. It has

(Continued on page 25)

THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHORNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

In Polissia's contaminated north country, village life continues despite health concerns

by Alexander B. Kuzma

ZARICHNE, Ukraine – The village of Zarichne is located in one of the most remote corners of northern Ukraine, where the woodland bogs and vast unbroken tracts of birch and boreal pine forests of the Rivne region blend into the unmarked border with Belarus.



Photographer Joseph Sywenkyj meets with 10-year-old Bohuslav Poliuhovych in the village hospital in Zarichne. Bohuslav was born with a life-threatening aortic valve defect and a club foot, but his condition has not diminished his zeal for his studies as he excels in history and English, and is a straight-A student.

In wintertime, the area is reminiscent of the rugged backwoods of the Allagash wilderness in Maine, with deep snowdrifts and road signs warning of moose crossings and logging trucks carrying fresh cut timbers to local sawmills. The woods here can be inviting and vaguely menacing – “lovely, dark and deep,” in the words of Robert Frost, and travelers have reason to worry about icy spin-outs

or mechanical breakdowns, as there are few passers-by to stop for help.

One can drive for miles without seeing any signs of civilization. The first hints of an approaching settlement are often the Ukrainian equivalent of a classic scene from Currier and Ives: a horse-drawn sledge, or “britchka,” plowing through the ice-crusted shoulder of the

highway, shaggy ponies snorting steam and shaking their manes in a frothy canter, as an old codger in a sheepskin hat slaps the reins and skeptically eyes the car with city plates as it passes by.

This northern Polissia region was significantly contaminated by radioactive fallout after the 1986 accident at the Chernobyl nuclear plant. However, unlike the evacuated city of Prypiat and many of

the ghost towns in and around the 30-kilometer Chernobyl exclusion zone, the old settlements of the Zarichnianskyi and Rokytynskyi districts of northern Rivne remained inhabited and vibrant. The residents here live off the land much as their ancestors did before the automobile. They heat their homes with wood, harvest oats and raise dairy cattle, supplement their diets by hunting deer and rabbit and moose, and in late summertime they gather wild mushrooms and cranberries (“zhuravlyna”) in the marshes.

The woodlanders of Polissia, or “Polischuky” as they call themselves, take pride in their self-sufficiency, their determination to overcome hardships, to keep up their humor, even in the dead of winter. They take pride in their region’s rich history as the birthplace of the Ukrainian Partisan Army (UPA) and can recount vivid stories of their forefathers’ resistance to the Nazis and the Soviets. While the International Atomic Energy Agency has tried to promote a stereotype of Chernobyl survivors as hypochondriacs wallowing in self-pity and “radiophobia,” the Polishchuky are more likely to impress visitors with their gritty optimism and their community spirit.

Traditionally, the residents of this area raise large families of five children or more. With a strong presence of Baptist and evangelical churches, families here reject abortion as a reproductive choice, and local communities are seeking to build new schools and maternity hospitals for a growing population.

The needs of the northern Rivne communities pose a number of challenges for Oksana Zalipska, who last year was appointed to serve as the director of the provincial government’s Office of Chernobyl Consequences. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Zalipska lived in Kyiv where she served on the National Board (KPS) of the Plast Ukrainian Scouting



Oksana Zalipska, the director of the Rivne Regional Office on Chernobyl Consequences, travels the snowy backroads of radiation-contaminated Sarny District to inform medical aid workers of the needs of the Chernobyl survivors.

Organization. The organizational skills she developed in coordinating hundreds of Plast chapters from Lviv to Kharkiv to Crimea helped to prepare her for the myriad projects she is now implementing for the Chernobyl survivors in the Rivne Oblast.

“Rivne received a huge amount of radiation from the Chernobyl disaster,” said Ms. Zalipska. “In fact, there were chunks of the exploded reactor core that were discovered in the woods, making this area highly contaminated.” The worst problem local farmers face is the poor quality of the soil. Unlike the rich black earth or “chornozem” of Kyiv and Zhytomyr provinces to the east, here the soil is sandy, acidic and boggy. In the

(Continued on page 22)

Pop star Ruslana tours children's hospitals in Ukraine

by Evhenia Medvedenko

KYIV – Over the past month, the popular Ukrainian recording artist Ruslana (Lyzhyhko), winner of the 2004 Eurovision Song Festival, toured children’s hospitals in Lviv and in Dnipropetrovsk to promote humanitarian efforts designed to save children’s lives.

At the invitation of the New Jersey-based Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF), Ruslana first visited the Regional Children’s Clinical Hospital (Okhmatdyt) on 32 Lysenko St. in the historic district of her hometown of Lviv.

Ruslana was accompanied by the renowned German musician and film producer Peter Maffay and his film crew, who documented the new technology and hospital improvements introduced by the CCRDF. Mr. Maffay’s film is scheduled to be broadcast on German television as part of a national telethon this spring.

Visibly moved by the sight of premature infants struggling to overcome various complications, Ruslana commended the miraculous efforts of thoracic surgeon Dr. Roman Kovalsky and the neonatal specialists at the Lviv Okhmatdyt who have helped to save hundreds of babies with the help of respirators, pulse oximeters and other intensive care and diagnostic equipment delivered by CCRDF.

Most recently, with the aid of a grant from UMC, the Ukrainian mobile telecommunications company, CCRDF has installed more advanced technology

that will enable Dr. Kovalsky and his staff to perform more complex open heart operations on children with congenital defects. The first operations will be carried out jointly with veteran surgeons from the Amosov Cardiac Surgery Institute in Kyiv.

On March 11 Ruslana made a surprise visit to the Dnipropetrovsk City Children’s Hospital No. 3 in central Ukraine. She took special pride in a new state-of-the-art Bear Cub 750 respirator

that CCRDF had purchased with funds raised during her benefit concert last May as part of the Eurovision festivities.

According to Dr. Alexander Buyalsky, the director of the Newborn Intensive Care Unit in Dnipropetrovsk, this one respirator had already saved the lives of 21 infants in its first three months in operation. At current rates, the doctors expect this respirator to save 82 infants per year, and well over 1,000 during its operational

lifespan. The respirator is adorned with a small poster of Ruslana to remind parents of their babies’ benefactor.

With the help of the UMC grant, CCRDF has also provided the Dnipropetrovsk hospital with an ultrasound machine, a Colin Monitor and a special urodynamic diagnostic system designed to help surgeons perform delicate operations to correct birth defects affecting the gastro-intestinal and urinary tracts and reproductive organs.

Located in the industrial heartland of Ukraine and downstream from many pollution sources along the Dnipro River, the Dnipropetrovsk hospital has been forced to specialize in these types of unique procedures as environmental contaminants have caused a variety of unusual congenital malformations.

Ruslana was warmly greeted (and occasionally mobbed) by hospital staff and patients who asked for her autographs and thanked her for taking time out of her busy schedule to visit the hospital. The star of “Wild Dances” and many popular music videos promised to help raise more funds for the medical mission of CCRDF now that she has seen for herself the impact of the fund’s efforts.

For more information on CCRDF or to make a contribution, readers may contact Alexa Milanytch at (973) 376-5140 or write to: CCRDF, 272 Old Short Hills Road, Short Hills, NJ 07078.



Eurovision winner Ruslana looks over a baby in the neonatal intensive care ward of the Lviv Regional Children's Clinical Hospital.

THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHORNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

The “zone of alienation”: a thriving radioactive wilderness

by Mary Mycio

The wild Przewalski's horses were grazing on last year's dried grass when an NBC News film crew drove by in early April. The cameraman leaped out of the van to film the horses, dramatically framed by the sarcophagus that has covered Chornobyl's No. 4 reactor since soon after it exploded on April 26, 1986, and burned for 10 days. The unprecedented disaster spewed the radioactive equivalent of 20 Hiroshima bombs around the globe and defiled the surrounding countryside with heavy contamination.

The small herd was wary. The stallion and alpha mare kept a close watch on the cameraman – and me, as I slowly approached them to take some pictures. A species apart from domestic horses, Przewalski's horses can be vicious, attacking if threatened.

Extinct in the wild since the 1960s, Przewalski's horses are a captive breeding success story. Nearly 1,500 have been bred worldwide – many of them at Ukraine's Askania Nova reserve. Today, there are enough horses to start releasing them into natural habitats. The main problem has been finding places where they won't disturb people, trampling farmland, and where people won't disturb them.

One of those places has been the zone of alienation (also known as the exclusion zone) surrounding the Chornobyl reactor. About 135,000 people were evacuated from the 30-kilometer zone established around the reactor in the first few months. More people were resettled from contaminated patches in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine in the ensuing years, for a total of 350,000.

They were not Chornobyl's only human victims – or survivors, depending on one's point of view. Nearly 900,000 liquidators worked on the clean-up, and not all of them were volunteers. How the disaster affected the evacuees' and liquidators' health is a matter of some controversy. But no one disputes that the disaster – compounded by the Soviets' failure to warn the affected populations – has caused nearly 4,000 cases of thyroid cancer (with thousands more still to come), mostly in people who were children at the time of the disaster.

Chornobyl's psychological effects also linger, even among people who were not significantly affected by radiation. Studies comparing people who live in the contaminated regions to people in “clean” areas found that both groups consider Chornobyl to be their No. 1 health problem. That conviction, in turn, can cause stress, fatalism, depression. As one Ukrainian expert said when asked about the various ailments people blame on the disaster: “Are they sick because of radiation? No. Are they sick because of Chornobyl? Yes.”

In short, the disaster's human consequences are grim and should not be underestimated – though in the renewed debates over nuclear energy, they must be kept in perspective and compared to the human costs of other forms of energy, especially fossil fuels.

But Chornobyl has not been quite the environmental disaster everyone predicted and most people still imagine. Far from being dead, the zone of alienation is very much alive. In fact, by forcing people to abandon a contiguous area of nearly 2,000 square miles, or the size of two Rhode Islands, straddling the border between Ukraine and Belarus, radiation has paradoxically allowed nature to thrive.

Populations of large animals such as moose, wild boar and deer have rebounded, together with the predators that keep their populations in check. During more than 20 visits to the zone, I've seen wolves in broad daylight and heard the call of an endangered lynx at nightfall. I've become a good enough tracker to probably qualify for a Plast merit badge.

Biologist Igor Chyzhevski has been studying the wild animals since the early 1990s, when he used to go hunting with European scientists studying how much radioactivity game animals were accumulating (their conclusion: quite a lot).

“There are no mutants,” he insisted, when I asked him the same question nearly everyone poses to me, about two-headed moose and six-legged boars. “If deformed animals are born in the wild, they die. Scavengers dispose of them before anyone can find them.”

Mary Mycio is the author of *“Wormwood Forest: A Natural History of Chernobyl”* (Joseph Henry Press, 2005). Readers can visit the official website at www.chernobyl.in.ua.



Przewalski's horses photographed in the zone of alienation around the Chornobyl nuclear power plant.

Like their unexpectedly inviting habitat, the animals are also radioactive. Cesium-137, which chemically mimics potassium, packs in their muscles. Strontium-90, which imitates calcium, collects in their bones. Birds also collect strontium-90 in their eggshells. But the benefits of the human-free environment seem to be outweighing what negative effects there may be from radiation.

If the animals live long enough to reproduce, they are considered biologically successful – even if they may be dying earlier because of radiation-related diseases. Some creatures' fertility also may be depressed. For example, great tits nesting in very radioactive areas lay misshapen eggs that often fail to hatch.

Nevertheless, birds are far more plentiful inside the zone than outside it. There are some 280 species, including rarities like black storks and white-tailed eagles. Since the health of an animal population is measured by its size, not by the health of its individual members, Chornobyl's creatures are healthy indeed.

That's why Askania Nova scientists Natalia Yasenetska and Tetiana Zharkikh decided that the zone was the best place in Ukraine to experimentally release Przewalski's horses. In 1999, 21 horses were released

into the wild, though the program met with fierce opposition. Some scientists were concerned that the horses, a steppe species, would be unable to adapt to the zone's forested and swampy terrain. But the program went forward, though it somewhat resembled an equine soap opera to which I devote an entire chapter in *“Wormwood Forest: A Natural History of Chernobyl.”*

Originally, there were two family groups, called harems, of mares, youngsters and a stallion. There was also a group of bachelor stallions that was on a constant prowl for unattached mares, including domestic mares in the zone's various agencies and services. Over the years, the herds expanded steadily.

Mature colts and fillies were expelled from their family groups. Colts joined bachelor herds, while more mature bachelors fought each other for the young mares, forming new harems that allow more stallions to contribute to the Chornobyl horses' gene pool.

Today, there are five family herds, as well as some bachelors. On their last trip to the zone in March, Mmes. Yasynetska and Zharkikh counted 63 horses, which is a tripling of the original number released. That may seem

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European Greens launch study on malignant legacy of Chornobyl

BERLIN – The European Greens on April 6 launched a new report on the devastating and ongoing legacy of the disaster in Chornobyl. With the 20th anniversary of Chornobyl falling on April 26, the report by two leading scientists from the United Kingdom, which was commissioned by Member of the European Parliament Rebecca Harms of the German Party of Greens, clearly sets out the continuing and predicted future noxious effects of Chornobyl – not just on the immediate area, but worldwide, particularly Western Europe.

Some key findings of The Other Report on Chernobyl (TORCH) include:

- Belarus, Ukraine and Russia were heavily contaminated, however, more than half of Chornobyl's fallout was deposited outside these countries.
- Fallout from Chornobyl contaminated about 40 percent of Europe's surface area, and about two-thirds of Chornobyl's collective dose was distributed to populations outside Belarus, Ukraine and Russia, especially to Western Europe.

- About 30,000 to 60,000 excess cancer deaths are predicted – seven to 15 times greater than the International Atomic Energy Agency/World Health Organization published estimate of 4,000.

Speaking at the launch of the report in Berlin, Ms. Harms said: “We commissioned TORCH to counterbalance claims made by the IAEA in the media last year, which both played down the lethal consequences of the nuclear accident at Chornobyl and failed to make a meaningful analysis of its wider effects on Europe and the world.”

She added: “The much-publicized IAEA estimate of a mere 4,000 excess cancer deaths provoked an outcry among the scientific community and environmental NGOs, and was a dishonor to those who have and will suffer as a result of Chornobyl. This is one of a number of underestimates, which TORCH set out to rebut. There must be no mistaking the catastrophic dangers that are still very much associated with nuclear power.”

TORCH was prepared by two UK scientists, Ian Fairlie, Ph.D., and David Sumner, D.Phil. Dr. Fairlie was to take part in a wider Greens press conference on nuclear energy on April 19 in the European Parliament in Brussels in advance of Chornobyl's 20th anniversary.

The Greens are also organizing a conference in Kyiv on April 23-25 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Chornobyl disaster and present arguments as to why the deadly nuclear option must not be considered as an answer to Europe's current energy supply problems.

The story above was transmitted by the Ukrainian-American Environmental Association, a private, non-governmental organization founded in 2004 and chartered in both the United States and Ukraine. It is a network of more than 500 Ukrainian and American NGOs, academic researchers, businesses and government officials to facilitate the exchange of information on a broad array of environmental issues including, but not limited to, energy policy, climate change, air and water pollution, toxic wastes, soil conservation, sustainable agriculture, and wildlife and wilderness protection.

THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHORNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

Chornobyl: the 20th anniversary debate

by David R. Marples

Twenty years after the worst industrial accident in history, we are as far away as ever from any definitive conclusions about its effects. Chornobyl was a difficult accident to monitor, first because of the secrecy of the Soviet regime, which classified much of the data available, particularly on health and casualties; second, although the Soviet authorities agreed to share some information with the International Atomic Energy Agency, a United Nations body that it had joined in 1985, and which from that point took on the role of the leading international institution dealing with Chornobyl, the IAEA lacked credibility in some quarters; third, because of the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the formation of 15 independent states only five and a half years after the catastrophe; and lastly because of the profound psychological effect of the accident that for different reasons has prevented any consensus as to its effects.

Let us examine briefly each of these aspects in turn, before analyzing the conclusions of the two main scientific reports released in conjunction with the 20th anniversary.

The secrecy of the Soviet regime

It would be difficult to overestimate the significance of the way in which the Soviet regime operated. It had successfully concealed several earlier accidents, including the explosion of an atomic waste dump in Kyshtym in 1957, as

David R. Marples is professor of history and director of the Stasiuk Program on Contemporary Ukraine at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta. He is author of 10 books, including three on Chornobyl, with others on Stalinism in Ukraine, contemporary Belarus and the collapse of the Soviet Union. At the University of Alberta, he was awarded the J. Gordin Kaplan Award for Excellence in Research in 2003 and a Killam Annual Professorship in 2005-2006.

well as an accident resulting in the release of significant amounts of radiation beyond the confines of the station at Chornobyl's No. 1 reactor on September 9, 1982. The latter was only revealed with the release of documents filed by the Ukrainian KGB in 2003, but spread radiation at least 8 miles beyond the confines of the Chornobyl nuclear plant.

This innate secrecy is also evident in the discussions among Politburo members that took place after the Chornobyl accident, particularly on the number of early victims, the number of people seriously irradiated, the number of people moved to various hospitals, and concerning responsibility for the mistakes that led to the two major explosions that blew the roof off the fourth reactor building.

This same secrecy was applied to the current radiation situation surrounding the plant and health information, and resulted in the classification of subsequent deaths. No information was made available about the thousands of volunteers who came to Chornobyl in the first days and weeks afterwards to assist with the clean-up operation, and prior to the arrival of the military reservists that we today term "liquidators." In Belarus, a computer file listing "victims" of Chornobyl mysteriously "disappeared."

Chornobyl occurred prior to the onset of glasnost under Mikhail Gorbachev and, in fact, may have served as the catalyst to glasnost. Ukrainian KGB documents indicate that the serious flaws in the RBMK-type reactors were well-known to the scientific authorities, and that the official optimism regarding the safety of the nuclear power industry was not mirrored by the reality at the building sites.

Even after the accident, there were serious problems during the clean-up campaign, such as the lack of Geiger counters, or the presence of Geiger counters with only limited scales so that overexposure was commonplace. The workforce became almost mutinous, such was its dissatisfaction with conditions, including the lack of clean clothing or even showers after a day spent removing radioactive deposits. Official information was misleading – the most notorious example is the Ukrainian Health Minister

Anatoly Romanenko advising people to go and swim in the Dniro River – or could not be trusted.

Precisely because of the lack of faith in official reports, particularly by the late 1980s when both Belarus and Ukraine had begun to develop their own informal associations dealing with Chornobyl and other issues, the cooperation between the Soviet authorities and the IAEA was flawed from the beginning. The problems started with the Soviet report on the causes of the accident to the IAEA in Vienna, which blamed the accident solely on human error and ignored the various design flaws. They were compounded by the 1988 suicide of Valery Legasov, the disillusioned scientist who had led the Soviet delegation at that time, and whose memoirs issued posthumously reflected his deep anxiety about the safety of the RBMK reactors.

The IAEA was never accepted outside the scientific community of the affected nations as an impartial arbiter into the effects of the accident mainly because of its role as a promoter of the development of civilian nuclear power.

The IAEA and the Chernobyl Forum Report

The IAEA's role, as an integral part of the United Nations, has been to promote the safe operation of nuclear power, as well as to safeguard the world from random nuclear proliferation. The agency has played a role in the authorship of several scientific analyses of the effects of Chornobyl. It also continued to monitor improvements made to the station after 1986, but had resolved by 1994 that the Chornobyl reactors were inherently dangerous and that the plant should be shut down.

Ukraine complied six years later, after difficult negotiations with the G-7 countries and the European Bank to ensure that it would get some form of compensation for taking this step, as well as starting up new reactors, Khmelnytsky-2 and Rivne-4, both VVER-1000-type reactors. The new capacity would match the loss of the two remaining reactors at Chornobyl after 2000, namely the first and third units.

The scientific studies promoted or authored by the IAEA have appeared on or just prior to significant anniversaries and have generally sounded an optimistic note regarding the health effects and direct link between enhanced radiation to the affected population and illnesses arising.

The most recent account, authored with seven other U.N. agencies (including the World Health Organization), as well as with selected departments from the governments of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, has been the Chernobyl Forum Report (2005), which like earlier reports has suggested that the overall health and environmental impact of the disaster was less than initially feared.

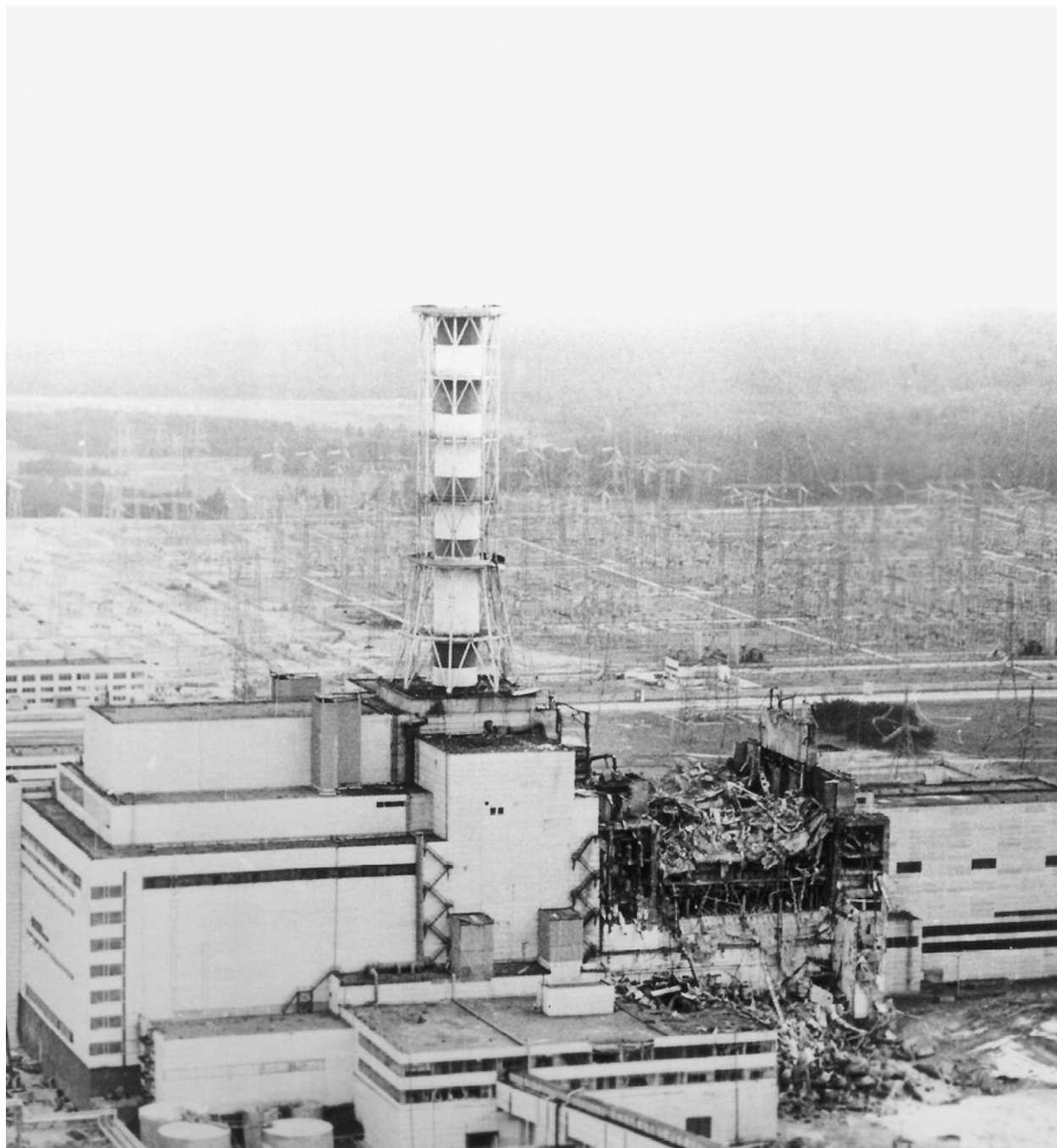
The main conclusions of the Chernobyl Forum Report are as follows: up to 4,000 people could eventually die from radiation exposure from the accident, but by mid-2005 fewer than 50 deaths had resulted. Some 2,200 deaths are to be expected among the 200,000 liquidators who were in the area in 1986-1987, and 4,000 children have contracted thyroid gland cancer, but the number of deaths among them to date has been only nine. The most important health effect from Chornobyl has been the impact on mental health and psychological concerns, and a critical aspect has been poverty and the problems caused by evacuations. The report called for redefining contaminated zones and stressed that programs introduced to help Chornobyl victims should not promote dependency among the population.

Though the report did not receive lasting media attention in the West, the general reaction was fairly critical. It also elicited strong and adverse reactions in the three countries of its concern, including from government officials and institutions, despite its claim to be representative of these same governments. The adverse reaction reflects in part the often disparate views and research of different government agencies in the three post-Soviet countries most concerned.

Several leading scientists and doctors are reportedly putting together an alternative version of the impact of Chornobyl that disputes the Chernobyl Forum Report's conclusions. It will posit that the number of deaths from long-term cancers will exceed 30,000 (a further report from Greenpeace has cited a figure of 90,000), and that among those 2 million people classified as Chornobyl victims – evacuees, liquidators, those living in zones contaminated by radioactive cesium – up to 500,000 already have died.

Among liquidators specifically, this alternative report suggests that 34,499 who took part in the Chornobyl clean-up have died subsequently, according to Mykola Omelianets, deputy chairman of the National Commission for Radiation Protection in Ukraine. Many died of cardiac

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The destroyed fourth reactor of the Chornobyl nuclear power plant as photographed soon after the April 26, 1986, disaster by Andrey Illesh.

THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHORNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

Chornobyl...

(Continued from page 10)

arrest, and their deaths have fueled a new debate about the links between radiation and heart disease.

Evheniya Stepanova of the Ukrainian Scientific Center for Radiation Medicine claims that infant mortality has increased 20 to 30 percent since 1986 as a result of chronic exposure after the accident, and that cancers, genetic mutations and leukemia are overwhelming the Ukrainian health authorities. The alternative report also lists various other diseases that have emerged in the contaminated regions, including as far west as the Rivne Oblast. Nearly one in three babies born in this area has deformities, most of which are internal.

How is it possible that such contrasting pictures, all based on scientific data, have emerged? Equally problematic has been the attitude of IAEA spokespersons to such reports. For example, one official responded to the Ukrainian scientists' findings with the questions: "Do they have qualified people? Are they responsible?"

These questions encapsulate the fundamental problems of the U.N. agencies today, namely the propagation of science as a monolithic concept in which only one version of events has any credibility. In this way the IAEA and other allied agencies – especially the World Health Organization – have perpetuated a negative stereotype of their activities that began with the investigation into Chornobyl, particularly when they are not prepared to discuss views contrary to their own.

The Chernobyl Forum Report has been criticized also for its nebulous language, its omission of the long-term impact of Chornobyl radiation outside the three countries studied (which would have an impact on the long-term casualties as well), and the way it has accepted at face-value some of the patently false – as now demonstrated by newly released archival documents – information issued by the Soviet government about immediate casualties and the extent of the radiation fallout, particularly the attribution of Chornobyl-related deaths to other causes.

Above all, the elitist attitude of the Chernobyl Forum spokespersons tends to belie what is a very detailed and overall credible report in some respects. Nevertheless, the notion that this report or any other on the 20th anniversary can be described as definitive is naïve and non-scientific.

The collapse of the USSR

The collapse of the Soviet Union led to immediate economic and financial problems in the newly formed states that had a negative impact as far as attention to Chornobyl was concerned. Centrally planned schemes simply collapsed, even though the new governments in Moscow, Kyiv and Minsk vowed to work together to deal with the massive health and environmental problems that developed. Russia, Ukraine and Belarus took markedly different attitudes to Chornobyl.

For Russia, it represented an important but not the most significant environmental problem. Contamination was widespread but affected only 0.5 percent of the Russian Federation.

For Ukraine, besides widespread contamination, the key issues became a new moratorium on the commissioning of new reactors and the shutdown of the plant and eventual construction of a new shelter over the destroyed reactor. These issues were clearly undermined by the sudden and almost catastrophic economic decline that occurred in the early years of independence. The economy was also affected by the strong environmental movement (Zelenyi Svit, led by Dr. Yuri Shcherbak and Dr. Dmytro Hrodzynskyi) that brought about the abandonment of many reactors under construction, including completely new programs at Chyhyryn, Crimea and other locations.

For Belarus, on the other hand, the effects of Chornobyl were almost overwhelming, with about 80 percent of the republic initially affected by fallout of radioactive iodine and about one-fifth contaminated with longer-living radionuclides. A republic of 10 million people could hardly have been expected to deal alone with a catastrophe on such a scale. At one point Chornobyl-related issues occupied more than one-fifth of the entire health budget of Belarus.

The fall of the Soviet Union has tended to obscure the administrative aspects of the Chornobyl disaster: the fact that two Moscow-based ministries controlled civilian nuclear reactors prior to 1986: Medium Machine-Building and Power and Electrification. The former ministry was responsible for the atomic weapons program and thus for the conversion of the RBMK for civilian purposes. The Ministry of Power had to oversee a vast program under the auspices of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance



Yuri Shcherbak, then a leader of the Green movement in Ukraine, addresses a 1991 rally in Kyiv.

(CMEA) to build nuclear power stations throughout the western USSR and Eastern Europe that could all be harnessed to the MIR grid.

The Ministry of Atomic Energy was founded only after the disaster in 1986. Nuclear power was transferred to the same frenetic timetable that typified Soviet industry in general. Corners were cut. Reactors were constructed in unsafe regions – including earthquake zones – and without adequate safety mechanisms, including fallout shelters and adequate evacuation procedures. Emergency shutdowns were frequent, and there was a dearth of sufficiently skilled personnel.

After the dissolution of the USSR, however, all these difficulties were exacerbated. Most of the well-qualified nuclear experts moved from Ukraine to Russia. Belarus did not have an operating nuclear power plant, the full effects of Chornobyl were revealed much later than in other republics, and the number of medical victims was too high even to monitor adequately.

The psychology of Chornobyl

The Chernobyl Forum Report has focused on psychology, and with justification. From the outset, Chornobyl was an accident that elicited extreme emotions. Soviet reports compared the drama with that of the second world war, except that this time the enemy was invisible.

The evacuations were traumatic enough, but many of the 350,000 people who left their homes between 1986 and 2000 found life in their new environs very difficult. Often they were not welcomed. Local residents thought they were infectious, others were incensed that they were occupying apartments that others had awaited for years. Many could not adjust to life in a new home. Jobs and careers were also difficult to find.

For those who remained behind, the situation was equally difficult. They were visited by teams of scientists, reporters, filmmakers and others. They began to attribute all illnesses to Chornobyl, to decline to have families and eat properly, and often fell victim to alcoholism. All these facts are well-known, and they form part of the Chornobyl syndrome. The Chernobyl Forum Report maintains that a dependency on the state has developed.

It could be equally determined that such dependency was an integral part of the Soviet system and has been consolidated in the post-Soviet period, at least in Belarus with its dictatorial government that has forced students and military reservists to re-cultivate contaminated land and persecuted scientists for research studies that contradict the official version of an accident that has been overcome.

What is manifest by 2006 is that there are at least two parallel scientific conceptions of Chornobyl that do not make contact with each other. There is, in addition, a large body of opinion that distrusts any information provided by the IAEA as lacking in objectivity. This complex rift undermines efforts to come to terms with the alarming health problems among the population affected by Chornobyl, which no one doubts are much more serious than 20 years ago.

The affected population includes 80 percent of young

children classified as "not healthy," a significant rise in childhood diabetes, pervasive respiratory and digestive illnesses, and, above all, heart disease, in addition to the one illness that has been accepted universally as a consequence of Chornobyl – thyroid gland cancer among children, which encompasses around 10,000 children today (not the 4,000 specified in the Chernobyl Forum Report).

Aside from thyroid gland cancer, are these massive problems linked to a rise in radiation, background (low-level radiation) or have they resulted from other factors? It is still open to debate, but the traditional comparison with the victims of Hiroshima appears to be inadequate and even irrelevant in many respects. The results are very different. Among liquidators the various ailments and subsequent deaths could also be the direct consequences of high-level doses, many of which went unrecorded. To what extent are traditional lifestyles blamed for psychological problems and stress today? And could stress be considered a medical illness that results from enhanced radiation rather than forming a response to it? There is at least one study from France that posits so.

Unfortunately no definitive answers have emerged to these questions.

It is clear nevertheless that the health problems in the contaminated zones are considerably worse than in "clean" areas, and that the incidence of morbidity and infectious diseases is far higher than it was 20 years ago.

Conclusion

What we do know 20 years on is that the effects from Chornobyl continue to have an enormous impact on the affected population of between 5 million and 7 million people. The number of precise deaths probably cannot be known, but the figure of "less than 50" to date is not taken seriously by most analysts. Conversely, there are also a number of victims who have survived heavy doses of radiation, including firemen, first-aid workers and even operators at the scene of the accident.

The accident changed irrevocably the landscape, economy and habitation of a large zone of forests and agricultural land. It had a limited negative effect on the development of nuclear power in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine, but ultimately it did not halt existing programs or preclude new and even more ambitious programs for the longer term.

The Chornobyl region has been depopulated, and the loss of the 350,000 evacuees has been further complicated by internal migration from the affected regions, leaving many empty villages and tracts of land.

The shelter has yet to be erected through an international consortium, but costs are already over \$1 billion.

Lastly, the principal victims of Chornobyl today are now young adults or people of middle age. Thyroid cancers affected primarily children born or conceived before the 1986 accident. Liquidators today are in their 40s and early 50s. Like all victims of the disaster, they tend to perceive the world as an epoch divided by the event: before Chornobyl and after it.

Nothing was ever the same again.

THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHORNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

Myriad events dedicated to nuclear accident's consequences

by Serhiy Zhykharev

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON – Within the framework of commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, the Chernobyl Challenge '06 coalition was created on the initiative of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) and the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF). The coalition will hold a number of events to highlight the consequences of the tragedy from the point of view of the problems that still require attention and resolution.

Honorary co-chairs of Chernobyl Challenge '06 include Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) and Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-Fla.).

The events in Congress will open with a one-day photo exhibit titled "Chernobyl-20," which will open at 10 a.m. in the foyer of the Rayburn House Office Building on April 26. The exhibition will include photographs by several prominent artists, illuminating the human stories behind the Chernobyl catastrophe and highlighting the dignity and hope of its survivors.

The following day, April 27, a congressional briefing co-sponsored by the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus (CUC)

will be held at the Capitol building (HC-6) featuring expert testimony on Chernobyl issues, including radiation and health, agriculture and food, environment, economics, U.S. assistance and the containment of the 4th unit at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant. The CUC co-chairs will start the meeting with brief remarks, after which the Ambassadors of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia will take the floor.

In the evening of the same day, the Chernobyl Challenge '06 committee will hold a congressional reception to help members of Congress and their staffers make contacts in order to help them further expand and develop cooperation with experts on important issues related to the Chernobyl disaster's consequences.

Together with the Ukraine 3000 foundation chaired by the first lady of Ukraine, the Chernobyl Challenge '06 coalition will participate in organizing a historic international conference in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv that will bring together national leaders, scientific and medical experts, corporate sponsors and humanitarian activists from around the world to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl accident.

Titled "Rebirth, Renewal and Human

Development," this symposium will focus on the many dramatic changes that have taken place in the wake of Chernobyl, the progress that has been made in creating democratic societies, stimulating economic growth, developing new energy sources and rebuilding the medical infrastructure of Ukraine.

New York's Harriman Institute at Columbia University and Washington's Kennan Institute at the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars will host two conferences titled "Commemoration of the Chernobyl Disaster: The Human Experience" on April 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and April 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., respectively. At these conferences experts will examine the Chernobyl disaster from its historical, medical, social, environmental and human perspectives.

Commemorative events dedicated to the 20th anniversary of Chernobyl will take place at the United Nations on April 28. A special commemorative session of the United Nations General Assembly to mark the 20th anniversary of Chernobyl will open at 10 a.m. All three Missions of the contaminated regions, Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, will host the event. Also, the "Chernobyl – 20" photo exhibit, which will have opened in Congress on April 26, will be shown in the hall of

the United Nations building the same day.

CCRDF, co-founder of the Chernobyl Challenge '06 coalition, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of State, who is sponsoring this action, will organize a 20th anniversary commemorative airlift bringing vital medicine and state-of-the-art medical equipment to the children of Ukraine. On April 20 the airlift will be greeted by Ukraine's First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko and U.S. Ambassador John Herbst, and will serve as a prelude to the International Chernobyl Commemorative Conference.

In addition, during photo exhibitions at the United Nations and the U.S. Congress, a companion "Chernobyl-20" music CD, featuring tracks by major international recording artists, will be offered for purchase. Funds raised will be donated to humanitarian organizations working in Chernobyl-affected regions.

The members of the Chernobyl Challenge '06 coalition are: Belarusian-American Association, Chernobyl Children's Project International, Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Ukrainian Human Rights Committee and the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee.

Anniversary...

(Continued from page 7)

many scientists and researchers who once labored under the shadow of the post-Soviet medical system were afraid to share their findings with the outside world. Many of the former health officials who presided over the cover-up and who denied the need to take protective measures still wielded enormous power in the Ukrainian medical establishment. They had a stake in downplaying the extent of the damage caused, and they had a major chilling effect on subordinates whose research revealed negative health effects.

With the new policies of free speech and freedom of the press fostered by President Yushchenko, a number of Ukrainian scientists have felt emboldened to bring their research studies into the clear light of day.

First, it is worth examining the actual death toll of the Chernobyl liquidators. Dr. Mykola Omelianets is a leading demographer with the Institute of Radiation Medicine in Kyiv. According to government registries, there were 344,000 Ukrainian liquidators who took part in the Chernobyl emergency clean-up. Of these, 34,400 or 10 percent have died between the years 1989 and 2004. Most of these were young men in their 20s and 30s at the time of the accident, and they are dying at a rate 2.7 times higher than working-age men across Ukraine.

Even more noteworthy is the fact that 25 percent of these deaths were caused by cancer, while the rate of cancer deaths among average Ukrainian males in the same age range is only 9.6 percent, an almost three-fold (2.7) difference. These excess cancer deaths would account for 8,600 liquidators – already twice the death toll estimated by the U.N. forum. And this data does not include the cancer impact on liquidators from other ex-Soviet republics, evacuees or people still living in contaminated territories. It also does not count liquidators who had died

prior to 1989.

A parallel study by Israeli and Ukrainian scientists published in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine in Britain found that the children of Chernobyl liquidators suffer from a sevenfold increase in chromosome damage as compared to their siblings born prior to the accident.

Extensive studies in the Institute of Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology (IPOG) in Kyiv and parallel studies in Belarus have documented the accumulation of radioactive cesium-137 in the stillborn fetuses and placentas of women exposed to Chernobyl radiation. Belarusian scientists have established a strong correlation between congenital deformities of the central nervous system with increased levels of cesium-137 in the placenta. Further evidence of Chernobyl's genetic impact has been gathered in Ukraine.

A program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the Volyn and Rivne oblasts has been tracking birth defects among 104,000 newborns (26,000 annually) since 2001. According to Dr. Wolodymyr Wartecki, the team leader and chairman of Medical Genetics at the University of South Alabama, the rate of spina bifida among these children is four times higher than normal. If the normal rate is 3 cases per 10,000 newborns, across Ukraine it has risen to 12 per 10,000. More significant is the comparison with spina bifida among newborns from the northern districts of the Rivne Oblast which were heavily contaminated by Chernobyl fallout. There the rate was 28 per 10,000 – more than 9 times higher.

For the CCRDF's partner hospitals who work with newborn children, these statistics come as no surprise. As early as 1993, neonatal specialists began to notice many more cases of these unfortunate children with herniated tissue protruding from their bodies. Such cases had occurred even prior to Chernobyl, but very rarely, perhaps once every few years, while after Chernobyl, these cases began to multiply each year.

There are many other congenital malformations that have been documented by Belarusian and Ukrainian, Japanese and Italian scientists whose studies have been ignored by the IAEA: abnormally high rates of cleft palates, polydactylism (extra fingers or toes), microcephaly, deformed or missing limbs, stunted torsos, cataracts, and missing or deformed internal organs.

Several peer-reviewed studies have also found substantially higher rates of pregnancy complications among women living in contaminated villages, compared to women from relatively clean zones. These included intrauterine hypoxia of the fetus, pre-eclampsia and other dangerous conditions. The Institute of Pediatrics (IPOG) in Kyiv has spent 14 years studying the impact of radiation exposure on the immune systems of liquidators' children and children living in contaminated regions. They found a severe depletion of immunoglobulin-A, and depression of the entire system of T-helpers and T-suppressors that play a critical role in defending the human body against toxins, bacteria and carcinogenic agents.

The latency period for many forms of cancer begins to exact its toll after 20 years, and the half-life of radioactive cesium and strontium is 30 years, so we may witness the greatest surge in cancers in the next decade. In any case, it is very premature to close the book on Chernobyl's consequences at this stage.

A study commissioned by the U.S. Office of Naval Research found that Ukrainian children in the Zhytomyr and Rivne oblasts had twice the rate of acute lymphoblastic leukemia as children in areas that were spared Chernobyl's fallout. A Harvard Medical School study found that children in Greece who were in utero at the time of the Chernobyl accident had twice the risk of developing leukemia as control groups.

There is also growing concern about the prevalence of cardio-vascular disease among children born to liquidators and children living on contaminated territories. Ivan Kirimov, the mayor of the town of Ivankovo, just south of the Chernobyl

exclusion zone, has been pleading for health officials to provide more screenings for children in his district. Preliminary surveys have shown that up to 75 percent of children in some villages suffer from high blood pressure.

Doctors at the Amosov Cardiac Surgery Institute in Kyiv and the main cardiac center in Miensk have reported abnormally high rates of cardiomyopathy, mitral valve prolapse and Epstein's Syndrome. Some of these cases were featured in the Oscar-winning documentary film "Chernobyl Heart."

Follow-up studies are clearly needed to verify the degree to which these illnesses and birth defects are related to radiation exposure, as opposed to other environmental factors. The Chernobyl disaster still offers unique opportunities to learn much more about the effects of radiation exposure. But the international research community has shown a curious lack of curiosity in addressing or financing these research programs.

Instead of following Christ's adage: "Seek and ye shall find," many research institutes seem to be following a policy of "Seek not, find not," or "Seek not, lest ye regret your findings." Even when presented with an opportunity to verify their much-touted theory of "radiophobia" and "hysteria" as the catch-all excuse for any reports of ill health effects, the IAEA declined. (Dr. Simeon Gluzman of Kyiv and Dr. Evelyn Bromet of the State University of New York at Stony Brook are two of the foremost experts on post-traumatic stress in communities recovering from disaster. Recently they offered to conduct a broad-based study of the psychological health of Chernobyl survivors and their children. If the IAEA were interested in a clinical diagnosis of such a syndrome as "radiophobia," as opposed to a layman's stereotype or slur, this was their agency's chance.)

These are just a few of the issues that will be discussed and debated at the April 24-25 conferences in Kyiv. The outcome could have a very long-term impact on energy policy and public health for many years to come.

THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHORNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

Exhibit of works by Lydia Bodnar-Balahutrak evokes Chornobyl

HOUSTON – April 26, 2006, marks the 20th anniversary of the nuclear plant explosion in Chornobyl, Ukraine. Ten years ago, Lydia Bodnar-Balahutrak visited the Chornobyl zone, northwest of Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine. That fall of 1996, the artist and a Ukrainian radio-oncologist embarked on an offi-



“Reflected Innocence” by Lydia Bodnar-Balahutrak.

cially sanctioned one-day visit of the radiation-saturated fenced 40-mile-wide circle called the zone, including the abandoned town of Prypiat.

What she saw and experienced, along with much material gathered and documented since 1986, is at the heart of the selection of artwork in her University of Houston-Clear Lake solo exhibition titled “Chornobyl.”

The exhibition features mixed media paintings that combine seemingly contradictory and disparate materials and processes – such as lead and gold, organic and inert materials, hand embroidery and torching. The 13 works on canvas, wood, and paper, selected from several series begun after 1986 and continuing through 2005, evoke the Chornobyl cataclysm in its many manifestations.

Accompanying the exhibit is the artist’s essay, recounting her impressions of the zone and reflecting on ways it influenced her ensuing artwork. The contemplative nature of the exhibition is enhanced within the gallery with soft lighting and the sounds of “Requiem for the Victims of Chornobyl,” a moving choral work composed by Ukrainian Canadian Roman Hurko.

Just outside the gallery’s glass wall, a display case holds magazines, books, excerpted writings and images of the 1986 Chornobyl disaster. Here the artist has also included her photogravure print “Reflected Innocence” and information about her project to raise funds for the Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund.

In commemoration of the anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster, Ms. Bodnar-Balahutrak and the Texas Print Collaborative in Houston initiated a fund-raising special project that will continue through the duration of

the exhibition. An edition and a limited number of proofs of “Reflected Innocence” are available for purchase through the Collaborative or the artist through May 31, with proceeds benefiting the Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund (www.childrenofchornobyl.org).

Those interested in supporting this special project are invited to click onto the designated site (<http://www.texasprint.net/SpecialProjects.html>) for more information, to view the print image and place an order. Funds raised are earmarked for the purchase of medical equipment – such as a pulse oximeter – for the neonatal intensive care unit of the Chernihiv City Maternity Center hospital in Ukraine.

Ms. Bodnar-Balahutrak’s solo exhibition

“Chornobyl” is on view from April 1 through May 31 in the Art Gallery of the University of Houston-Clear Lake, the Bayou Building, Atrium I, First Level, located at 2700 Bay Area Blvd., Houston, Texas 77058. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m.-noon on Friday, or by prior arrangement. Visitor parking is provided in front of the Bayou Building. For further information, please call UH/CL at 281-283-3446.

On Tuesday, April 25, beginning at 6 p.m., Ms. Bodnar-Balahutrak will give a gallery talk in the Art Gallery, Bayou Building, Atrium I, Level 1. This presentation about her show “Chornobyl” is free and open to the public. More information about the artist’s work can be gleaned from her website, www.LydiaBodnarBalahutrak.com.

Chornobyl: an artist’s view

by Lydia Bodnar-Balahutrak

April 26, 1986, unleashed a cataclysmic moment of unparalleled unbridled energy. It continues to awe and humble in its divine display of horror and tragedy, as well as beauty and grace.

On a misty autumn day 10 years ago, a Ukrainian friend and I embarked on an officially sanctioned visit to the Chornobyl zone. The Chornobyl nuclear power complex is situated 65 miles northwest of Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine. It is ground zero, saturated with radioactive dust, a fenced 40-mile-wide circle called the zone of exclusion. At the first designated checkpoint, we were shown to changing rooms and issued shoes, pants, a jacket, gloves and a mask to filter outside radioactive particles. After we donned our protective gear, our affable guide herded us into his car, and our tour began.

The air was laden with moisture, a continuous sprinkling of rain. It was eerily quiet. The silence permeated the vast open spaces and shrouded the nearby forest of charred trees. There were no sounds of bird-song, no buzzing of insects, no fluttering of wings.

Passing vast stretches of flat land and sheared forests, we drove toward a cluster of block-like Soviet-style structures – the town of Prypiat. Stopping, we wandered through the wildly overgrown buildings and grounds. I felt I was inside an enchanted tale. Apple trees were weighed down with scores of golden ripe fruit. Here was the story of the poisoned apple, the allure of deceptive beauty.

Left untamed, nature was resolutely reclaiming herself, regenerating life and spreading her healing mantle over the dust and decay. Tree limbs were forging their way in through broken windows, saplings were breaking through concrete floors and taking root.

Inside the crumbling, condemned buildings, it looked like people left in a hurry, intending to return. The children’s daycare center still had neatly lined up shoes and slippers, rows of tiny metal frame beds readied for nap-time, painted murals peeling off the walls, toys and dolls strewn everywhere. I picked up some children’s drawings and scrawled bits of notepaper scattered on the floor. “You can take those with you,” our guide informed me, “but they’ll need to go through the decontamination process.” I followed his directives. Those saved bits and

pieces of child’s play were later woven into my work.

As we drove back to the orientation center, I gazed out into the distance and followed the tall gray silhouette of the sarcophagus shielding the remnants of nuclear reactor No. 4. It jutted out against the sky, this memorial to the desperate nightmare after the 1986 explosion. I thought of all the clean-up workers, now interred with other victims of radiation, all the tons of lead and sand dropped by helicopter through the reactor’s roof to quench the fire, all the steel and concrete poured to encase the melting core. It was the recollection of all that accumulated human effort and trauma, of all the building up and layering of organic and inert material to contain the “beast” that later informed my mixed media artwork. Indeed this was at the heart of my compulsion to combine seemingly disparate materials and processes, like lead and cloth, gold-leafing and torching.

Our official tour ended inside the power complex. I could have stood in the control room of a reactor virtually identical to that of the destroyed No. 4, mesmerized by the graph bars and squiggles, strangely familiar and alluring. In their visual patterning and color they mimicked the twists and turns of embroidery threads deftly worked into scraps of cloth. The women had gifted me with embroidered mementos – works of their hands. I came to regard these remarkable women as Chornobyl’s grace notes and later incorporated their handiwork into my art.

The control room provides the coda, with the riveting monitor screens and the sensors relaying the temperature and other information in vivid traffic-signal colors. I could imagine the screen lighting up with yellow, then orange, then red – the flickering lights signaling condition red, a release of too much heat and radiation, and then the impending meltdown.

Chornobyl continues to impact the lives of people who suffer from all manner of serious illness. For me, that experienced by children is most heartrending. In some measure, through the artwork, through words, and with related special projects, I address this, our human condition. I cannot save the world, but I can hopefully point in the direction of respectful vigilance, reverence and compassion.

April 2006

FOR THE RECORD: Rep. Chris Smith’s statement on CCRDF

Following is the text of the statement by Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.), which was read at the April 5 press conference of the Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund. The statement was read by Orest Deychakiwsky, senior staff advisor at the U.S. Helsinki Commission, of which Rep. Smith is co-chairman.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I congratulate the Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund on the launch of the Chornobyl 20 Commemorative airlift. This feat builds upon the fund’s impressive record of having sent 31 airlifts and 16 sea shipments to Ukraine, delivering humanitarian aid valued at over \$53 million. The airlifts are just one aspect of CCRDF’s vital and far-reaching work

over the last 15 years in helping the most vulnerable in Ukraine – her children. And, as a congressman from New Jersey, I’m proud of the work of CCRDF and its supporters in the Cherry Hill-Marlton, Trenton area.

Ten years ago, I chaired a Helsinki Commission hearing on the 10th anniversary of Chornobyl, at which CCRDF Executive Director Alex Kuzma and other witnesses, including then Ukrainian Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak, offered compelling testimony addressing the health and demographic consequences of the world’s worst nuclear disaster. I’m pleased that Ambassador [Oleh] Shamshur has accepted the Helsinki Commission’s invitation to testify at our Chornobyl 20th anniversary hearing

which will be held on April 25.

As a strong advocate of the health of all children, including the unborn, Chornobyl is of special concern. In Ukraine and Belarus there is growing evidence of a steep increase in birth defects, especially an alarming four fold increase in spina bifida that has been documented by the Ukrainian American Association for the Prevention of Birth Defects. Many other forms of birth defects have doubled since Chornobyl, including cataracts, deformed limbs and fingers and cleft palates. Recent Israeli-Ukrainian studies have shown that children born to Chornobyl liquidators have a sevenfold increase in chromosome damage as compared to their siblings born prior to the Chornobyl disaster.

Last year, I authored language that was included in the State Department Authorization Act authorizing funding for assistance to improve maternal and prenatal care, especially for the purpose of helping prevent birth defects and pregnancy complications. The monies would be for individuals in Belarus and Ukraine involved in the clean-up of the region affected by the Chornobyl disaster. We need to make sure that Chornobyl health studies and efforts to prevent birth defects through the distribution of folic acid and better prenatal care receive sufficient funding. These are funding priorities that I will continue to pursue.

The public health research community

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INTERVIEW: Ambassador Roman Popadiuk on the new Ukraine

by Irene Jarosewich

Essential to the development of good relations between sovereign states is an informed and active diplomatic corps. It has been Ukraine's good fortune that each of the U.S. ambassadors dispatched to Kyiv were committed to the young nation's success – not only while they served in Ukraine, but for many years

by President George Bush, Ambassador Popadiuk felt enormous pride in being able to represent America in the homeland of his parents; Ukrainian Americans were enormously proud of him. Those early years were critical in developing a solid trust between the United States and Ukraine – exciting years that Ambassador Popadiuk recalls with fondness and no small amount of

The Ukrainian electorate has shown again that it is ready to move forward. Now it's up to the political elite to understand.

afterwards. The names and photos of William Green Miller, Stephen Pifer, Carlos Pascual and John Herbst have appeared numerous times on the pages of our newspapers during the past 15 years.

However, the dean of the U.S. diplomatic corps to Ukraine – the first ambassador to represent the United States in Kyiv – is Roman Popadiuk, currently the executive director of the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation in Texas.

Throughout these past years Ambassador Popadiuk has remained actively engaged in U.S.-Ukraine affairs. He has worked with each Ukrainian ambassador to the United States, helping the Embassy of Ukraine establish contacts in the U.S. government, with the media and with business groups. He has written and lectured on the subject of U.S.-Ukraine relations and has traveled to Ukraine.

Appointed to serve in Ukraine in 1992

as he compares the Ukraine in which he served 14 years ago with the country that he visited recently as an election observer.

As a member of the delegation organized by the Washington-based International Republican Institute, Ambassador Popadiuk observed polling stations inside and outside of Kyiv on March 26 during the elections to Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada.

Shortly after his return to the United States, Svoboda Editor-in-Chief Irene Jarosewich spoke with Ambassador Popadiuk about what he saw and what he remembers.

There was an almost immediate consensus among election observer organizations that the March 26 elections were genuinely free of any serious infractions – none of the intimidation and fraud that prevailed during several



Roman Popadiuk with an election commissioner at a polling station in Puschta Vodytsia, outside of Kyiv.

previous elections in Ukraine – most notably the presidential elections in the fall of 2004. In fact some of the observers with whom I spoke later were a bit pensive – feeling there's nothing much left to do in Ukraine. What were your observations on the ground?

I agree that these elections were fair – transparent and conducted in a peaceful manner. But I wouldn't be pensive – the March 26 elections were a historic event. The election opened the door to Ukraine's future and closed the door on its past. What this election did was solid-

ify the political culture of Ukraine. Ukraine can no longer be thought of as a Soviet state with all the negatives associated with that rubric.

The Ukrainian people have come to accept the concept that power rests in their hands and that there is a procedure for the exercise of such power. The Orange Revolution proved that the popular will can prevail and the March 26 election firmly established this as the new right.

At the same time, it appears to me,

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ELECTIONS 2006: Ukraine slips comfortably, and safely into democracy

by Peter Borisow

Ukraine's future, independence and identity were all in play in the parliamentary elections this spring as chaos menaced the political landscape. There was a serious fracture in the Orange Coalition. Scandal engulfed the presidency. There were 45 different political parties vying for a place in the eternal sunshine of the prosecution immune Verkhovna Rada. The Party of the Regions, packed with rich oligarchs and led by Viktor Yanukovich (who lost to Viktor Yushchenko in 2004), was running first in the polls.

Moscow and its friends had hired the best American advisors and image makers that money could buy. Washington was, once again, trying to sit on both sides of the fence. After the gas crisis this winter, there was concern that the West might sacrifice Ukraine on Russia's rich gas-fired altar. Yes, they finally revoked Jackson-Vanik, but who would potentially benefit from that more than Ukraine's Russophilic oligarchs? Washington announced a new ambassador to Ukraine the week before the elections. Although it was described as a "routine rotation," even the really stupid ones know that routine rotations aren't done the week before a critical election.

Also of concern was the relatively low number of international election observers this year – less than half of those in 2004. That smaller number of international observers was compensated, however, by the large number of poll watchers from Ukraine's many political parties. Every party was entitled to have two representa-

tives at the polls, and many took that literally. With so many competing eyes watching, no one was going to pull a fast one without being noticed. Where there were any complaints, everyone knew about them very quickly.

Complaints were mostly about mechanical issues – too few poll workers, not enough voting booths, cramped facilities. There were as many as five different paper ballots, some over three feet long. National, regional and local elections were being held simultaneously. Many older voters were confused, some taking 10 minutes in the voting booth to fill out all the forms. Others wandered around polling stations looking for someone to help them. People were filling out the ballots just about any place they could find a flat surface. The crowds waiting to get into the polling places were large, sometimes in the hundreds.

Thank God Ukrainians are among the most patient people on earth. Although many grumbled, most waited patiently and voted. And, once again, individual Ukrainians proved they were equal to the challenge. The atmosphere among the poll watchers from competing parties was collegial. Perhaps because they had done it before, perhaps because they were just more comfortable with the concept of free voting, this time the tension, hostility and paranoia that was present in 2004 was simply not there.

When the polls closed at 10 p.m., the massive task of counting all those votes became a reality. In Dnipropetrovsk, an area expected to be problematic – it's Yulia country, hotly contested by Regions – a location with two adjacent polling stations sharing the same building provided an interesting contrast. One was run by an older crowd of folks who could at one time have been party apparatchiks, while the

other was run by a 20-something crowd, the next generation. The younger group was better organized and more efficient, but the older group was getting things right as well. Ukrainians had adapted successfully to the democratic voting process.

The trend emerged soon after the Central Electoral Commission began tallying the votes. Of the 45 parties that entered the election, no more than five or six would qualify for the Rada. The extreme players, on both the right and the left, failed to meet the 3 percent threshold. While it was sad to see old nationalist warriors like Stepan Khmara miss the boat and Pora's young veterans failing to qualify, there was palpable satisfaction among virtually everyone that radicals like Natalia Vitrenko were left by the wayside. None of the old Kuchma crowd survived. Even Volodymyr Lytvyn, who started the campaign with over 10 percent support, crashed and burned.

Despite all the pre-election anxiety, good old Ukrainian grassroots wisdom found the common sense center and solidified there. By the end of the counting it was down to five parties: Regions, the Tymoshenko Bloc, Our Ukraine, the Socialists and the Communists.

The Ukrainian people had declared their independence from the politicians of the past. They rejected both Moscow's and Washington's plans for Ukraine's future. They found their own political identity – Ukrainian, pro-democracy, pro-European, free enterprise with a social conscience.

The Party of the Regions was the big loser. Although the Western press was bizarrely headlining a Regions "victory," the reality was the opposite. The Regions group dropped from 47 percent support in 2004 to 35 percent. Their only allies to survive the election, the Communists, proved to be a dying dinosaur – geriatrics

sustained by fractured memories, IV fluids and Moscow's funding. Relentlessly retired by God onto the trash heap of history, the Communists would not survive the next round of elections. Without them Regions was down to 32 percent. All their money and slick advertising failed to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. In danger of becoming marginal players, Regions will now have to change to stay relevant and avoid similar extinction.

Yulia Tymoshenko was the biggest winner. She did not win by simply replaying the fiery Joan of Arc who rallied the maidan at its darkest hours. Despite her differences with some of the president's men, she stood her ground, always wrapping herself in both blue/yellow and orange, always professing her loyalty to the nation and to the president. The people loved it. She got more votes than anyone had predicted, even making inroads in eastern areas previously deemed solidly pro-Regions. She held the center and captured those disaffected with Our Ukraine. She built a new, larger center around herself. Far from being just a pretty face who could give a good speech, Ms. Tymoshenko proved she is one of the smartest politicians in Europe.

The second winner, albeit so far unsung, was President Yushchenko. To appreciate his success, we need to put in perspective the Orange Revolution and his role in it. After the scandal of the second round in 2004, world politicians started looking for a win-win solution, a compromise that would be a "Victory of the Two Viktors" (Yushchenko and Yanukovich) – a division of influence in Ukraine between Moscow and the West. It was the half million ordinary Ukrainians who stood in the

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Peter Borisow, president of the Hollywood Trident Foundation, served as an election observer during Ukraine's parliamentary elections on March 26.

BOOK NOTES

Experts explain Ukraine's democratic breakthrough

"Revolution in Orange: The Origins of Ukraine's Democratic Breakthrough" by Anders Åslund and Michael McFaul. Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2006. 224 pp. \$16.95 (paperback).

by Matthew Dubas

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace has released a new publication titled "Revolution in Orange: The Origins of Ukraine's Democratic Breakthrough." It is a compilation by various authors, each offering a thorough explanation of the events and factors that contributed to the Orange Revolution's success.

This highly informative book begins with a contribution by one of the editors, Anders Åslund, adjunct professor at Georgetown University, who brings the reader an in-depth look at the role that the oligarchs of Ukraine played in the success of the revolution. He describes how these oligarchs were intertwined with the government by forming their own political parties and placing push-over candidates in high positions.

In addition, the author shows the instability caused by former President Leonid Kuchma, as he pit oligarchs against one another, diverting their attention from Parliament to their competitors, resulting in divisions among the law enforcement community.

In the second chapter, Adrian Karatnycky, president of The Orange Circle and senior scholar at Freedom House, explores the rise of political opposition in Ukraine. He begins with the formation of the Rukh movement against the Communists, the problems occurring from a highly centralized government with a Constitution that granted the president supreme authority and goes on to note how the murder and cover-up of journalist Heorhii Gongadze was a catalyst for the unification of the opposition.

However, it was the use of the highly public space of the "maidan" or Independence Square, as the rally stage, Mr. Karatnycky writes, that was a key factor in the Orange Revolution's success. He closes with the reminder that the revolution was more than just a people's demonstration against voter fraud; it was a constitutional process for permanent democratic change.

The role of the everyday Ukrainian in the Orange Revolution, profiled by Taras Kuzio, visiting professor at George Washington University, outlines the typical passive stance taken by average citizens of the "it's not my business" attitude, which kept the elite in power. He also talks about the underestimation by the authorities of the popularity of new technology and its lack of censorship,

allowing the opposition to disseminate information to all parts of Ukraine simultaneously on the Internet, satellite television and mobile phones.

Humor was another aspect of Ukrainian society that helped citizens comment on daily life via publications like "Yanukdote" (a play on the word "anecdote") and the egg-throwing incident that felled Viktor Yanukovich. The author goes on to describe how the average Ukrainian was mobilized nationally, linguistically and musically, and that the people were reminded it was "our Ukraine" – not the elite's.

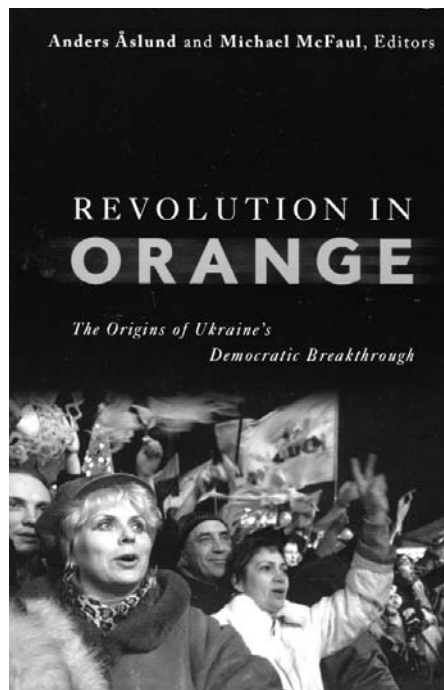
Nadia Diuk, director of the Central Europe and Eurasia department at the National Endowment for Democracy, writes of the maturation of Ukrainian civil society and its organization. In its early years, political groups like Rukh were at the forefront of the opposition, and from that came other cultural, sporting, political and social groups.

In the streets, campaigns and groups such as Za Pravdu (For The Truth), Pora (It's Time), Chysta Ukraina (A Clean Ukraine) and Znayu (I Know) held mass rallies against the corruption known as "Kuchmism." The ability of these non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to assemble and organize a broad base of support was pivotal to the revolution's success, according to Dr. Diuk. As described by the author, the maidan at the time of the revolution, "looked like a microcosm of Ukrainian civil society," with its own organizations, policing, housing and enforcement of non-violent measures.

To follow up on the previous chapter, Pavol Demes, director for Central and Eastern Europe with the German Marshall Fund, and Joerg Forbrig, program officer with the German Marshall Fund, examine the Pora (It's Time) civic group, its organization, resources and reasons for success in the revolution. Pora, a volunteer network aimed at ensuring free and fair elections and democracy for Ukraine, had a campaign strategy that was broken into steps: "It's time to stand up," "It's time to think," "It's time to vote" and "It's time to keep watch." These methods were tested at mayoral elections, and the techniques were refined for the presidential election.

Evidence of the extent of Pora's organization is seen in its training manuals such as "How to Inform the Public," "Rights During Arrest," "Violations of Electoral Law" and "Internal Communication and Coordination of Action."

The role of the Ukrainian media prior



to and during the Orange Revolution was covered by Olena Prytula, editor-in-chief of Ukrayinska Pravda in Kyiv. She begins with the censorship campaigns of President Kuchma and his use of directive documents known as "temnyky" on how major stories should be covered. These directives led to the practice of self-censorship by media channels to avoid attacks from the government, a lack of live news broadcasts and a resultant rise of alternative sources of information.

The growth of the Internet in Ukraine, from 6 million users in September 2004 to 20 million users in December 2004, was compared by the author to the "samizdat" (a term used in the Soviet era for self-published suppressed works - "samvydav" in Ukrainian) offering a platform for an opposition view.

Television took a progressive step when Channel 5, owned by Petro Poroshenko, a supporter of Viktor Yushchenko, presented opposing views on national television – something that was never before done under the Kuchma regime. Many television personalities took advantage of their positions in the public eye by wearing orange as a silent statement of support for the opposition. Radio played a modest role in the revolution because of the president's control; radio stations were shut down and obtaining a license was made very difficult.

Oleksandr Sushko and Olena Prystayko, director and project director, respectively, of the Center for Peace, Conversion and Foreign Policy of Ukraine, separate myths from realities in their article on the role of Western influence in the revolution. Propaganda against the West by Mr. Yanukovich targeted the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU) as foreign entities that would not represent Ukraine's best interests. However, the Party of the Regions

used Western PR firms in a failed attempt to further Mr. Yanukovich's campaign.

The United States wanted "honesty and transparency" from the elections and threatened sanctions against the authoritarian regime for violations of human rights. Pressure was increased to ensure a free and fair election by sending representatives of President George W. Bush to Ukraine, among them Sen. Richard G. Lugar and Secretary of State Colin Powell.

However, the European Union had a divided stance on its involvement in the Ukrainian elections, with Western European nations taking a "wait and see" attitude, and Central European members pushing for a more proactive approach.

In contrast to the previous chapter, Nikolai Petrov and Andrei Ryabov, both scholars in residence with the Carnegie Moscow Center, show the role that Russia played in the Orange Revolution – its forms, decisions and reasons for failure. What the authors call the "Kremlin Strategy" stressed the importance of Russian relations, highlighted Eastern Ukraine as an industrial center thanks to Russia and extended coverage in the Russian media of Mr. Yanukovich. Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to Kyiv, according to the authors, was an attempt to promote the Russian interests of dual citizenship, official recognition of the Russian language and voting rights for Ukrainians in Russia.

To tie together all of the elements that made the Orange Revolution a success, Michael McFaul, co-editor and associate professor of political science at Stanford University, draws on examples of Serbia, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan, and the overthrow of their respective authoritarian regimes. He highlights the Ukrainian experience by noting the progressive non-violent use of negotiations by Mr. Yushchenko.

The author also profiles certain conditions that are necessary in order for revolutions of this nature to make permanent change. These include an autocratic or semi-autocratic regime, an unpopular leader, a well-organized opposition, the ability to create the perception of falsification, the use of the media to inform the public of findings, the ability of the opposition to mobilize thousands to protest, and the division between intelligence forces, police and the military.

This book comes in paperback and hardcover, with a who's who list of prominent figures in the Ukrainian political environment and a timeline of events. The paperback edition sells for \$16.95 and the hardcover is \$33.95. It may be purchased online at www.CarnegieEndowment.org/RevolutioninOrange, or by contacting Hopkins Fulfillment Service, PO Box 50370, Baltimore, MD 21211-4370; telephone, 800-537-5487 or 410-516-6956; fax, 410-516-6998.

Ukraine slips...

(Continued from page 14)

maidan and refused to leave who turned the crisis into a real victory for Ukraine. They made the Orange Revolution a success, and they chose their heroes.

Mr. Yushchenko's fate was sealed by the ham-fisted attempt to kill him. He became the inescapable face of the revolution – a face that suddenly reflected all the evils that had persecuted Ukraine throughout its history and tormented its present. When he was inaugurated as the democratically elected president of Ukraine, he didn't just have to hit the ground running – he was expected to

work miracles, to instantly fix not just decades, but centuries of wrongs.

President Yushchenko was stuck with the previous corrupt regime's hostile legislature. His inner circle of trusted friends had experience mostly in opposition and revolution. The transition to trustworthy allies capable of governing was not only inevitable but also inevitably tumultuous. Along the way, Moscow – still dreaming of regaining its rapidly atrophying empire – did everything imaginable to destabilize Ukraine. And, Ukraine's oligarchs and wannabe oligarchs, interested only in whatever would make them rich or even richer, grabbed what they could for themselves while the party lasted.

Despite all this and his constant and

painful health issues, Mr. Yushchenko took Ukraine through a democratic election process that can serve as a model for any country in the world. Ukraine is proceeding united into the future as a democracy. Three hundred fifty years of Russian colonialism, even a quarter century of genocide that killed 18 million people – fully half of Ukraine's population in the mid-20th century – had not destroyed the soul of Ukraine. Little more than a year after being given their first opportunity in three and a half centuries, Ukrainians slipped comfortably and safely into democracy.

The third winner was Moroz. Long maligned as a Trojan horse by his rivals, the head of the Socialist Party proved to be a mature leader, neither taking advan-

tage of his leverage to gain personal wealth nor holding out for impossible terms. As internal affairs minister, the Socialist's Yuriy Lutsenko became a symbol of the war on corruption and one of the most popular members of the Yushchenko administration. As soon as the vote was clear, Moroz was the first to stand front and center, ready to do his bit for the democratic coalition.

The biggest winner, of course, was Ukraine itself. Now, there is no doubt there will be a free and independent Ukraine in our children's future. For a while, at least, our sacrificed ancestors can rest in peace. How fitting that a new Ukraine, free, democratic and Ukrainian, has risen this spring, right on the eve of Easter.

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to its members, their families

and the Ukrainian community

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BOOK NOTES

“The mother of all pysanka books”*The Ukrainian Folk Pysanka* by Vera Manko. Lviv: Svichado, 2004. 41 pp., 38 color plates, map. ISBN 966-8744-23-3.

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

This is the mother of all pysanka books so far – informative, accurate and lushly illustrated. You just know that the author approached this subject with great knowledge, research and a love of pysanky and all they represent.

It joins the other – regrettably few – fine books on pysanky. These include Zenon Elyjiw’s “Sixty Score of Easter Eggs” (Rochester, 1994) and “Pysanka: Icon of the Universe” by Mary Tkachuk, Marie Kishchuk and Alice Nicholaichuk (Saskatoon: Ukrainian Museum of Canada, 1977).

The pioneers in the pysanka field were Yaroslava Surmach in the 1950s, and a bit later the Procai/Perchyshyn/Luciw family of Minneapolis, with their many finely produced, detailed and very popular books on pysanky.

There have been quite a number of pysanka books over the last few decades, but not all satisfy this admittedly picky and critical pysanka nut. Some books, both in North America and Ukraine, have been produced very well, but the content leaves much to be desired. If the authors wish to add their own personal and often quite creative interpretations as to what pysanka symbolism is, there should be a clear distinction between that and the established research on the subject. If there is no such distinction, the information is misleading, but gets passed on and takes on a life of its own.

Vera Manko’s first edition of “Ukrainska Narodna Pysanka” (2001) was a 46-page soft-cover publication. It was richly illustrated with archival photographs of Easter rituals, pysanka motifs and regional designs. After I read it, I wrote to the author suggesting that it be translated into English, because such a book would be very welcome in the pysanka lovers’ world.

Ms. Manko and Svichado publishers had the second edition of the original translated into both English and French, adding more illustrations and 38 full-color

tables of pysanky by regions. The English edition is translated by Lada Bidiak and Andriy Maslukh. The French translation is by Halyna Xotkevych. The very fine artistic layout is by Sophia Burak.

The second edition was awarded a prize at the Odesa Book Fair in 2004, and I am surprised there have not been other awards. This book, in English and French, is the kind of gift that Ukrainian Embassies and Consulates could proudly present to guests and dignitaries.

The author provides the usual information on pysanky that is found in most books, but she does it so well and in more detail. The first chapter “What Does the Pysanka Tell Us?” covers the history of the pysanka, archaeological information, the transition from prehistory Christian symbolism and rituals, the egg as a symbol of spring around the world, and the fate of the pysanka during Soviet times.

Subsequent chapters discuss folk customs and traditions, the symbolism of the pysanka, stories and legends, and how to write a pysanka – with details that even a seasoned pysanka writer can learn from and appreciate. A bibliography and explanation of the illustrated pysanky follow.

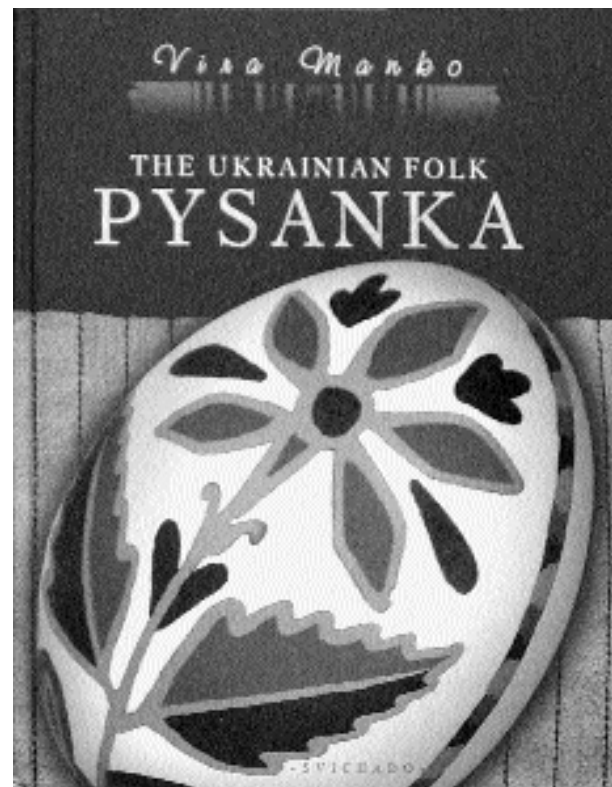
The remainder of the book is a section of 38 glorious tables of 36 to 40 color pysanky, each with an insert of a fragment of embroidery or weaving from a particular region.

Especially interesting are the pysanky from the Vinnytsia region, many appearing in print for the first time. These were obtained by pysanka writer Maryna Verkhova from the sketchbook of Countess Janowa Belina Brzozowska, who sketched them in Popeliukhy (now the village of Yavorivka) before 1917.

Information about the origin of each pysanka is as detailed as possible. The front endpaper has a map of Ukraine with the provinces and ethnographic regions delineated, and has two “holuby” (doves) – the kind hung before the icons in a Hutsul home, as described by Volodymyr Shukhevych in “Hutsulshchyna.”

When I visited with Ms. Manko in Lviv two years ago, she showed me the boxes of pysanky that she had written for the new edition, often recreating the faded designs from old museum originals. At times, she had only limited access to museums across Ukraine, and had to persevere to locate particular collections – cooperation was not always forthcoming. Her determination and selflessness in pursuing her goal are amazing, because this was truly a labor of love and faith.

The design of the book is truly beautiful. On most pages the archival photographs and reproductions of old works of art and folk art form the background for the



text, and enhance the overall elegance of the volume. The notes are detailed and informative. The translation by Ms. Bidiak and Mr. Maslukh is as it should be. Too often we read very stilted, quaint and even painful English translations of Ukrainian books by someone not fluent in the language.

One quibble – and this is a matter of language, not the translation: in the very first sentence, it says “... it is difficult to imagine that several thousand years ago, an ancestor held a similar egg in his hands...” His? Traditionally, it was the women who wrote pysanky. But because “prashchur” (ancestor) in Ukrainian covers both genders but is a masculine noun, the phrase “try-may u svoiykh rukakh...” implies a male ancestor.

Ms. Manko’s “The Ukrainian Folk Pysanka” is a book to enjoy, to use and to present as a special gift. May the author and the publisher continue to produce many more books on pysanky and other Ukrainian folk arts.

Svichado Publishers, which are affiliated with the Studite Monastic Order in Lviv, publish excellent material on many religious and cultural subjects (see www.svichado.com). When in Lviv, you can visit their book store at 22 Vynnychenko St. just across and up the hill from Ivan Fedorov Square.

This book is available at the usual Ukrainian book stores and online at www.yevshan.com, www.ukrainian-bookstore.com, www.ukrainiangiftshop.com and www.artukraine.com/availbooks/pysankabook.htm.

EASTER GREETING: A message from Ambassador Kuchinsky

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations and from me personally please accept our most cordial greetings on the beautiful Easter Holy Day – a celebration that moves our hearts and fills them with love for those close to us and with strong faith in Christian values, in fairness and in a better future day.

During this springtime of bounty, I would like to extend to you, my fellow Ukrainians, my heartfelt wishes that the glorious Holy Resurrection of our Lord will bring you happiness and good health, well-being and peace of mind, God’s grace and good fortune.

Today we have our own state that many generations of our ancestors had fought for. Its future lies in the hands of Ukrainians themselves. There is no doubt we will overcome the difficulties that may stand on the way to a prosperous and happy Ukraine. But, first of all, we should always remember the lessons of our history and do our best to preserve the spirit and the unity of the Ukrainian people, who in the days of the Orange Revolution and during the most recent parliamentary elections, demonstrated to the world their will to live in peace and harmony, and to build an independent democratic European Ukrainian state.

I avail myself of this joyful opportunity to thank you, Dear Friends, for your constant attention to the work of Ukrainian diplomats at the United Nations, and for your unswerving commitment and the excellent cooperation, which, I am confident, will contribute many times again to the success of our common Ukrainian cause.

May you have a Happy Easter. May it bring peace and love to your homes.

Christ is risen!

Sincerely yours,
Valeriy Kuchinsky, Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Ukraine to the United Nations

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

with us today, and it will be with us in the future.”

Findings presented by one of the speakers, Dr. Alexander Sich, who was affiliated with the Nuclear Safety Account of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, were based on his 18 months of experience in the zone beginning in October of 1991. Commenting on the Soviets’ report of the “success” of their intervention in the area at an August 1986 conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Dr. Sich said, “There was no human intervention that caused the accident to stop; it stopped by itself.” The IAEA accepted the Soviet version of the “truth,” Dr. Sich pointed out, even though evidence pointed to the contrary.

Speaking on the topic of the social and political impact of Chernobyl, Alexander Burakovsky, a human rights activist and author of “Period of Half Life,” said that “the explosion at Chernobyl uncovered the shortcomings of the Soviet system and awakened the sleeping. It led to the appearance of parties that later worked for the independence of Ukraine.”

Crusading journalist Alla Yaroshinska of Moscow, who in 1992 uncovered secret protocols of the Kremlin that proved the Soviet leadership knew much more about the severity of the Chernobyl accident than it admitted, spoke about the Kremlin’s “global deception” related to the Chernobyl accident.

Dr. Wladimir Wertelecki, chairman of genetics at the University of South Alabama Medical School, underscored that Chernobyl is “not just an ecological disaster,” adding that “nothing in the food chain has escaped

Chernobyl” and that the accident “destabilizes all species, including our own.”

Dr. David Marples of the University of Alberta, who had just returned from Miensk, noted the hopelessness of the Belarusian people, characterized by widespread radiophobia. This is compounded by the fact that Belarus received 65 percent of all the radioactive fallout from Chernobyl, where low-level radiation has weakened immune systems to the point that a form of “Chernobyl AIDS” is prevalent today, Dr. Marples said.

The issue of energy futures was discussed not only in relation to Ukraine, but from a global perspective. One suggestion came from E. Steven Potts, president of Professional Services International Inc., who described how Ukraine could better use its energy resources through renovation of existing thermal and hydroelectric plants. He said “the future of Ukraine has to be along multiple paths for energy,” but was “skeptical that Ukraine can get rid of its reliance on nuclear power, oil and gas in the near term.”

Among the many other speakers was Alexander Kuzma, director of development for the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, who gave some background on the organization that today is known as the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund. CCRF, he said, “took on the challenge posed by Volodymyr Yavorivsky [a deputy in teh Verkhovna Rada], who sounded the alarm. We are proud of our achievements, but haunted by the immensity of the Chernobyl disaster,” which “will be a challenge for many years to come.”

Source: “Yale/Columbia conference examines latest information on Chernobyl’s impact” by Roma Hadzewycz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, April 21, 1996, Vol. LXIV, No. 16.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

um and plutonium for nuclear weapons. Mr. Umanets noted that such top secret information was available to a very limited circle of specialists, including deputy chief engineers, chiefs of nuclear safety and security departments, and senior engineers in charge of operating reactors. Speaking with an Ukrinform correspondent on April 14, Mr. Umanets explained that decisions on operating reactors in the dual mode were made only by the Central Committee Political Bureau of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Today it would be very hard to either confirm or deny that the Chernobyl plant's reactor No. 4 was used to enrich plutonium and uranium, he added. According to Mr. Umanets, after the accident over 400 technical steps were made at the plant's other reactors to rule out any similar accidents due to human error. Mr. Umanets noted that immediately after the accident two versions of its likely causes were circulated: inherent design flaws and personnel error. Eventually blame was placed on the latter. The design version was rejected after Aleksander Mashkov, first deputy minister for medium engineering, clashed with Mikhail Gorbachev. Mr. Mashkov said, "you know quite well why this happened." Mr. Umanets interpreted this as indirect proof of a number of reactors' dual-purpose design. With the aim of concealing that fact, mention of faulty design was expurgated from official documents about the Chernobyl nuclear accident, Mr. Umanets said. (Ukrinform)

Demonstration organizer jailed in Belarus

MIENSK – Uladzimir Katsora, head of the regional campaign office in Homiel of opposition candidate Alyaksandr Milinkevich in the March 19 presidential election, was sentenced to 10 days in jail on April 18, Belapan reported. Mr. Katsora was reportedly arrested earlier that same day and found guilty of organizing an unsanctioned demonstration. "Katsora has filed an application with the Homiel City Executive Committee for permission to stage a demonstration in the city on April 25 on the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl accident," Yuri Zakharanka, Mr. Katsora's colleague, told the agency. "Although the demonstration is yet to be staged and the city authorities have not yet announced their decision on the application, he has already been convicted." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko greets Jews on Passover

KYIV – "Today the Jewish Community of Ukraine is undergoing a period of true revival and is a full and honored participant in social life," said Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko in his Passover greeting. He said the Jewish community was able to achieve this due to active humanitarian, educational and charity work. President Yushchenko expressed his conviction that the fruitful work of Jewish religious organizations will continue to promote the development of spirituality and the strengthening of interethnic and interreligious peace. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

President meets with U.S. senators

KYIV – On Thursday, April 13, President Viktor Yushchenko met with a group of U.S.

senators to discuss bilateral relations, and economic cooperation. The president said that relations between Ukraine and the United States have been developing dynamically over the past year, adding that important issues have been resolved, such as recognizing Ukraine as a market economy, signing a bipartite protocol on access to markets of commodities and services within the framework of Ukraine's drive to join the WTO, and the revocation of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. Sen. Bill Frist (R-Tenn.), leader of the Senate Majority, congratulated the people of Ukraine on having held fair, transparent, democratic elections, which will facilitate Ukraine's further reforms. The meeting was attended also by Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.), Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.) and U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst. (Ukrinform)

Yushchenko: no need to review gas deal

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko told journalists in Kyiv on April 12 that he sees no need to review the recent gas-supply deal with Russia, Reuters reported. The deal has been the source of considerable controversy since it was signed in January. "In the framework of a difficult negotiation process, which often seemed complicated to Ukraine, we have achieved what is most important for securing our strategic national interests," Mr. Yushchenko said. "We have a price of \$95 [per 1,000 cubic meters] for Russian gas at the Ukrainian border. This is the cheapest price in countries bordering Russia." Yulia Tymoshenko has announced that if she regains the post of prime minister, she will immediately annul the gas deal. Under the January 4 gas accord between Ukraine's gas company Naftohaz Ukrayiny, Russia's gas monopoly Gazprom and a Swiss-based intermediary, Ukraine is to obtain 34 billion cubic meters of gas in 2006 from Russia at \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters. Critics of the gas deal say it is valid for only the first six months of the year and that the price will be revised upward after that. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Patriarch Mstyslav Medal is awarded

KHARKIV – In accordance with a decree by Archbishop Ihor Isichenko of Kharkiv and Poltava of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UAOC), National Deputy Mykhailo Kosiv, a member of the parliamentary Committee on Issues of Spirituality and Freedom of Conscience and a layman of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, will be awarded the Patriarch Mstyslav Medal, the highest honor of the UAOC. Mr. Kosiv has become the fourth Knight of the Medal of Patriarch Mstyslav, it was reported on April 10. "Mykhailo Kosiv's firm and discreet position as to Church policy and his numerous interpellations and addresses to state officials and his mission as mediator in relations between church communities and the government have made a great contribution to resolving interdenominational conflicts and conflicts between Church and state, in particular regarding the revival of the constitutional rights of eastern Ukraine's community of the UAOC," reads the citation of the UAOC Eparchy of Kharkiv and Poltava. "Kosiv's political activity demonstrates his own active evangelical service, deep Christian faith and subtle feeling of the common Ukrainian-Byzantine tradition as a

(Continued on page 19)

Ukraine and the Second...

(Continued from page 2)

matic; it is a question of real survival.

Ukraine's political establishment does not seem to understand this. Maybe they don't want to face the truth, and believe they can bluff their way out of doing something preventive, the way that former President Leonid Kuchma bluffed

Washington for years by making promises to reform the economy.

The time has finally arrived for Ukraine to begin behaving as a real state and not a playground for oligarchs. The victors of this high-stakes geopolitical game will not spare the losers, and the time may come when Uncle Sam will throw up his hands in frustration at the shenanigans played in the Ukrainian capital.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 18)

basis for a partnership between the divided branches of the Kyivan Church. Therefore, the initiative to award Mykhailo Kosiv the Medal of Patriarch Mstyslav received the general approval and support of the clergy and laity of the Kharkiv-Poltava Eparchy of the UAOC.” To mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Patriarch Mstyslav (1898-1993), the Patriarchal Council of the UAOC established the Patriarch Mstyslav Medal, the highest award for secular politicians. This award is given annually on April 10, Patriarch Mstyslav’s birthday, to the politician who has distinguished himself for spreading Christian values and defending the social rights of Ukraine’s religious community. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Relics of Greek-Catholic martyr venerated

LVIV – The relics of Blessed Mykola Charnetskyi were placed for veneration at the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church of St. Josaphat in Lviv on April 1-2. Laypeople were able to touch the relics of the saint, to express personal gratitude and to ask for his blessing, the Lviv Gazette reported. The solemn transfer of the relics of Blessed Mykola Charnetskyi to St. Josaphat’s took place on July 4, 2002. Since that time, the sanctuary has been a place of pilgrimage for thousands of faithful from all over Ukraine and abroad. Prior to that time, the relics were in Lviv’s Lychakiv Cemetery. During his visit to Lviv on June 27, 2001, Pope John Paul II beatified 28 Ukrainian martyrs and confessors, Bishop Charnetskyi among them. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Models of Famine memorials on display

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko toured an exhibition of 13 models of a future memorial complex honoring Ukraine’s Famine-Genocide victims. The exhibit was under way at the Kyiv House of Artists. Speaking to journalists about his impressions of the exhibit, the president said: “Today, the nation is learning to appreciate the profoundness of that tragedy. We are becoming increasingly aware of our responsibility to honor those who perished.” Mr. Yushchenko also opined that the 1932-1933 Holodomor was a tragedy for all the people of the world. The memorial complex will be built on the Dnipro River bank, where the president last year planted a grove of snowball trees. The president has

tasked politicians to defend Ukraine’s historical memory and to exert every effort to make the world recognize the Ukrainian Famine as a genocidal act in the chain of genocides of the 20th century. (Ukrinform)

Pora-PRO bloc is disbanded

KYIV – The chairman of the Pora Political Council, Vladyslav Kaskiv, said on April 17 that with the completion of the election campaign, the election bloc PORA-Party of Reforms and Order has ceased its existence. As Ukrinform reported, the bloc gained merely 1.47 percent in the parliamentary vote, thus failing to cross the barrier for representation in the Verkhovna Rada. (Ukrinform)

Yekhanurov comments on Regions

KYIV – The leader of the Our Ukraine election bloc, Yurii Yekhanurov, said in an April 17 interview with Expert magazine that the economic programs of Our Ukraine and the Party of the Regions “coincide up to 75 percent.” The economic programs have no significant contradictions that could prevent a constructive dialogue on many issues in the future Parliament, Mr. Yekhanurov said. The prime minister sounded confident that the Party of the Regions won’t stand in opposition to the president as, objectively, the president’s policies are beneficial to them. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovych speaks on coalition

KYIV – The leader of the Party of the Regions, Viktor Yanukovych, said on April 17 that he believes the parliamentary coalition of democratic forces in its current composition has no long-term prospects. Mr. Yanukovych was commenting on the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, Socialist Party and Our Ukraine signing a protocol of principles on forming a coalition in the newly elected Verkhovna Rada. According to Mr. Yanukovych, “these are only protocols of intent, and they will be signed numerous times in different configurations. There is nothing unusual in that.” Mr. Yanukovych stressed that he believes there is only one efficient variant of a parliamentary coalition: “creating a coalition with the Party of the Regions, which won the parliamentary elections and united the southeast of Ukraine, residents of the biggest industrial regions of Ukraine.” (Ukrinform)

Japanese soldier turns up in Ukraine

KYIV – A former Japanese soldier who disappeared after World War II and was officially declared dead in 2000 has turned

up alive in Ukraine. Ishinosuke Uwano, now 83, served with the Japanese Imperial Army in Russia’s Sakhalin Island. He lost contact with his family in 1958. He has now reappeared in Ukraine, where he is married and has a family. This week he is due to visit Japan for the first time in six decades. According to an April 17 report by the BBC, he was one of thousands of Japanese soldiers and civilians who were left stranded across the Pacific and in parts of China and Russia after the war ended. Some were kept as prisoners and forced to work as slave laborers, while others remained of their own accord. It has not been revealed why Mr. Uwano remained in Russia or how he ended up in Ukraine. (BBC)

World Forum of Ukrainians slated


KYIV – The fourth World Forum of Ukrainians will be held in Kyiv on August 18-20 this year, on the eve of Ukrainian Independence Day. Members of the organizing committee discussed the program during their maiden session, presided over by Viacheslav Kyrylenko, vice prime minister in charge of humanitarian and social matters. Mr. Kyrylenko said the gathering of Ukrainians from all over the world will have a number of peculiarities. The most significant of these is that the diaspora will be represented by its eastern wing, that is, those Ukrainians who live on the territory of the former USSR. Public organizations also are cooperating with the forum, he noted. Top officials of Ukraine, including political figures, are going to take part in the work of the forum, which will be organized and held at the expense of the Ukrainian government. Taking part in the meeting were: Mykhailo Horyn, chairman of the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council; Dmytro Dovhovich, president of the European Congress of Ukrainians; members of the Cabinet of Ministers, national deputies and representatives of NGOs. (Ukrinform)

Putin aide: Russia does not belong in G-8

MOSCOW – Andrei Illarionov, who recently served as economic adviser to President Vladimir Putin, told reporters in connection with the recent Moscow meeting of energy ministers from the Group of Eight (G-8) industrialized countries that the Western democracies are “appeasing” Russia by accepting it as a member of that group, The Moscow Times reported on March 20. Mr. Illarionov stressed that the other seven countries will be endorsing Mr. Putin’s policies of “nationalization of private property, destruction of the rule of law, violation of human rights and liquidation of democracy” if they attend his July summit in St. Petersburg. The former aide added that Russia does not qualify for G-8 membership on either political or economic grounds. “The St. Petersburg summit will be a triumph for dictators around the world and a signal to them that what they do to their people and neighbors does not matter,” he added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Adoption law is changed

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on March 21 signed the law “On Amending the Family Code of Ukraine,” which the Verkhovna Rada passed on February 23. Under the law, a married woman who gave birth to a child has the right to challenge the paternity of her husband, bringing an action to exclude an entry about him, as the father, from the birth certificate. The law also allows the adoption of children who were abandoned. The law specifies provisions concerning the registration of orphaned children and children deprived of parents’ care, who may be adopted or given to foster care by a family. Over the past six years, 11,000 children from Ukraine were adopted. In 2005 alone foreigners adopted more than 2,000 children. (Ukrinform)



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племінники	– МИРОСЛАВА МРИЦ-ГУК з родиною
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Ambassador Popadiuk...

(Continued from page 14)

that while the political culture seems to have coalesced for the population in general, a culture of political leadership does not appear to have gained a foothold among Ukraine's leaders. Politics in Ukraine continue to be personality-based, devoid of any real affinity for and responsibility towards the electorate and the need to pursue a common good.

The real danger for Ukraine, therefore, is the continuance of a disconnect between the electorate and the political leadership.

The disconnect between the ruling elite and the electorate was made stunningly clear by the poor showing of President Viktor Yushchenko's party Our Ukraine – about 14 percent. However, it must also be noted that together the original Orange Coalition – that is Our Ukraine at 14 percent, Yulia Tymoshenko's bloc at over 22 percent and Oleksander Moroz's Socialists at over 5 percent pulled in almost 42 percent support in western and central Ukraine. This was 10 points ahead of Viktor Yanukovich's Party of the Regions, which dominated in the eastern oblasts, an area with a

large population of ethnic Russians. So it seems as though the disconnect is also between the people themselves and how they see their future.

The east-west divide revolves more around economics and culture, rather than ethnicity. True, because of the large Russian ethnic minority in eastern Ukraine, the long history of Russian control of the region, as well as long-standing financial ties, there is an affinity for Russia. These factors, however, have been exacerbated by the general economic stalemate and have raised the level of frustration in the region.

The political situation reflects the frustration with the central government's inability to meet the region's concerns – a region which is the country's industrial base and provides much of Ukraine's wealth and tax revenue. It must be remembered that ethnic Russians in Ukraine favored Ukraine's independence. There was an expectation that the economic future would be better in Ukraine than in Russia. This is still true. Furthermore, it has not been lost on the Russian minority in Ukraine that totalitarian control and abuse is a legacy that emanated out of Moscow, not Kyiv. What concerns the voters most in the eastern regions is economic stability.

The Ukrainian government has done an

excellent job for the past 15 years in consistently working from the principle that territory, not ethnicity, defines nationhood. A great deal of credit must be given to President Leonid Kravchuk. During my tenure in Ukraine, I saw him do much to establish the principle that Ukrainianism is based on geography. He did much to tamp potential hostility based on ethnicity.

This ethnic division of Ukraine, I believe, is a result more of outside observers pointing to a supposed fault line than it is a defining reality. As generational change occurs, and if the government of Ukraine can implement a more stable economic regime, the tendency towards Russia will evaporate. The continuing erosion of differences between the two regions can be seen by the success that Tymoshenko had among eastern voters. Her bloc made inroads in Kharkiv, Kirovohrad and other eastern strongholds.

As I see it, the internal divisions are less of a concern than the inability of the central government to perform. Weak and indecisive governments usually lose public confidence, which can leave them vulnerable to foreign pressures. Differences may exist in Ukraine, but they are not insurmountable.

You mentioned that the legacy of totalitarian abuse emanates out of Moscow. That legacy appears to be

firmly entrenched in neighboring Belarus, which recently underwent presidential elections. There the protests – which drew tens of thousands of people – against the abuses of the Lukashenka regime were quashed. Many Western observers pointed to the radical differences in the paths that the two former Soviet republics took post-1991. Did the events surrounding the election in Belarus have any impact on the Ukrainian electorate?

I'm not a Belarus expert, but I didn't notice any impact really, didn't sense the impact of the situation in Belarus on the population of Ukraine. Ukraine, rightfully so, has focused on itself now. The political culture really has developed differently in the two countries. The development of democracy faltered early in Belarus.

People often forget that in Ukraine there was a peaceful transfer of presidential power in 1994. There was a widespread assumption that Leonid Kravchuk would win, yet Leonid Kuchma won. Kuchma promised to be a reformer and early on was looked upon by the West as supporting reform. Ukraine, therefore, has had a series of successful elections.

There is no doubt in my mind that Ukraine's peaceful Orange Revolution in 2004 was a symbol, an inspiration for Belarusians, a goal to emulate. Unfortunately in Belarus, the hold of the state is so strong that there is no tendency by the government to respond to the populist will. In 2004 we saw Kuchma decide not to use the military; not so in Belarus.

We're entering the 15th year since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the 15th year of Ukraine's independence. If you were to highlight some of the most dramatic changes between the Ukraine you remember then and the Ukraine you saw now, what would they be?

The most dramatic difference is that there is simply no longer any question as to the future existence of Ukraine as a nation. When I was in Ukraine, there were reports that the Russian Embassy in Kyiv was saying that in five years' time Ukraine would be back as a part of Russia. Again, the March 26 elections solidified Ukraine's future.

There is also no serious talk of separation of any parts of Ukraine. There may be discontent in eastern oblasts, but it is not an ultimatum for separation or an unbridled desire to return to Russia. I was in Ukraine during the tension over Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet. There was a real fear that Crimea would break away from Ukraine and that this would lead to greater Russian interference.

In 1991, freedom and democracy – they were theories. People wanted to believe in them, but they were not sure what these meant. Now they deeply feel it. They believe and accept these values as their right. And you see it now in the media. The Orange Revolution took away the final barriers to media self-censorship. Civil society has blossomed. Political culture has evolved. People really do accept that power is in their hands. And though Ukraine still faces economic challenges, overall, economic progress has been immense.

And Ukraine has shown a great deal of international responsibility. Ukraine was the first country to voluntarily relinquish nuclear weapons and established an international precedent that continues today – that states can exist without nuclear weapons and relationships must be based on cooperation, not enmity.

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Orange coalition...

(Continued from page 1)

The plan also involves dragging out coalition talks as long as possible in order to demonstrate the inability of the Orange leaders to reach an understanding.

In an interview on the 1+1 television network on April 18, Prime Minister Yekhanurov said he supports creating a “broad coalition,” with three or four factions signing its program of action.

“The talks are supposed to be held among all constructive forces, we need to write up a program of action and get as many deputies as possible to sign it,” he said.

On the other hand, Our Ukraine official Ihor Zhdanov denied that the Our Ukraine bloc is negotiating with the Party of the Regions to form a coalition.

Ms. Tymoshenko needs to participate in creating the coalition’s program of action and agree to the procedure agreement of five points, Mr. Zhdanov said on April 18. “If she only wants to be prime minister, then there won’t be any coalition,” he said.

Ms. Tymoshenko said she no longer supports the time-staking process of forming a program of action.

Creating new programs is a waste of time considering the president already has a “Ten Steps for the People” program, she said, adding that there is also the political program her government had set when she was prime minister – a program “that had the votes of 370 deputies.”

“We’re refraining from all discussions around a program and are relying on these two documents,” Ms. Tymoshenko said.

She called upon Mr. Yushchenko, instead of Mr. Bezsmertnyi, to represent Our Ukraine in the coalition discussions.

She also stated that she isn’t interested in running for the presidency in 2009 and will support Mr. Yushchenko’s candidacy.

“We will be depending on Viktor Yushchenko to lead the discussions from the Our Ukraine side, in order to clean away those who are torpedoing the creation of an Orange coalition,” she said.

The Protocol for the Procedure of Forming a Coalition of Democratic Forces is a brief, six-point document that establishes the procedure for forming a coalition of democratic forces.

Its sixth point states, “Agreement on the coalition will be based on principles foreseen in the draft memorandum on creating a coalition of democratic forces.”

That memorandum, in the view of Ms. Tymoshenko and her ally Oleksander Moroz of the Socialist Party, clearly states that the bloc winning the most votes selects the prime minister.

However, Mr. Bezsmertnyi claimed there are several versions of the memorandum, some of which allow for a veto of the prime ministerial nomination while others don’t.

Mr. Yekhanurov said that three versions of the memorandum exist.

Furthermore, Our Ukraine is against distributing positions, Mr. Yekhanurov said. Instead, coalition partners should be forming principles and establishing how the coalition will work, he said.

“The negotiation process has to take place under the concepts of a strategy and program,” Mr. Yekhanurov said at an April 20 meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers. “This can’t be a program of personal interests of even very eminent people. In Ukraine, the era of kings and princesses has passed.”

Mr. Moroz called upon President Yushchenko to accept the protocol agreement and allow Ms. Tymoshenko to become prime minister.

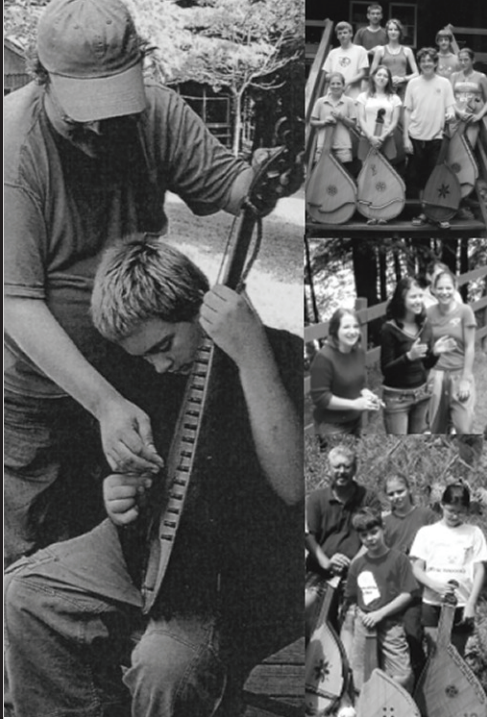
In return, Ms. Tymoshenko has voiced her support for Mr. Moroz’s candidacy for the position of Verkhovna Rada chairman which he held from May 1994 to April 1998.

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In Polissia's...

(Continued from page 8)

absence of key nutrients they need to survive, plants readily absorb radionuclides in their root systems. Among the most dangerous is cesium-137 which mimics potassium and can easily be absorbed into the human body.

In her first months in office, Ms. Zalipska devoted a great deal of energy to training local farmers in new planting techniques, introducing new strains of crops that were more resistant to radiation uptake and working with local geologists to identify tracts of land that were uncontaminated and safe for farming.

She also fought for the allocation of 97 million hryvnia (about \$19 million U.S.) for the distribution of clean food products among children in the contaminated villages. Prior to her tenure, this money was squandered, if not siphoned off by government officials and local racketeers who provided substandard food to the children. Ms. Zalipska hired new staff and implemented tough new anti-corruption measures to assure quality controls and accountability for the program, and personally visited each community to ensure that the food was actually reaching the children.

These extraordinary measures are needed to provide clean food and protect public health, said Ms. Zalipska. Local veterinarians in Zarichne District are reporting that milk from local cows is contaminated with low levels of radiation, and 75 percent of the dairy animals in some settlements suffer from bovine leukemia. The Chornobyl administration in Rivne had to replace dozens of heads of cattle last year.

Even in small doses, cesium and other radioactive particles that slip into food products can settle in bone and soft tissue

and create hot spots that can result in cancer in children and adults. Last year, through bulk purchases, Ms. Zalipska's office secured 700,000 hryvnia in discounts on cancer medication for Rivne's Radiation Health Dispensary, where two out of three children undergoing treatment for leukemia are from the less populated, but more contaminated districts of northern Rivne oblast. In the contaminated areas of the Zhytomyr Oblast, doctors have established an increase and a link between acute lymphoblastic leukemia and radiation exposure in a study funded by the U.S. Naval College.

Unlike other rural areas of Ukraine where the young people flee to cities or move abroad, the towns in the northern Rivne Oblast have had greater success in keeping their youth, and young professionals who went elsewhere to complete their education are moving back to help improve the quality of life in their hometowns.

Among the Zarichne natives who returned is the chief doctor of the Zarichnianskyi District Hospital, Dr. Andrii Lototsky, who received his medical degree in Uzhhorod.

Dr. Lototsky is deeply concerned about the number of unusual birth anomalies that have appeared in newborns and older children. "We have seen an increase in congenital heart defects, blindness or severe ocular disorders and deformed limbs."

During our visit to the Zarichne hospital, we met a talented 10-year-old boy who suffers since birth from a life-threatening aortic valve defect and a severely clubbed foot. The Ukrainian American Association for the Prevention of Birth Defects under a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has been tracking anomalies in the 14,000 infants born each year in Rivne and 12,000 in Volyn (104,000 over the past four years). The association found an epidemic of spina

bifida at rates four times higher than European averages, and many other severe birth defects which would occur rarely, if at all, even in a much larger population. Researchers identified cataracts, microcephaly, babies born without abdominal walls, and documented the first photographed case of otocephaly (an infant born without a lower mandible).

Despite the lack of adequate funding, local government officials and medical officers are working to improve the quality of health care and diagnostic services for local residents.

In the nearby town of Volodymyrets, local leaders capitalized on the success of the Orange Revolution to obtain funding for a new maternity hospital which is now completed. Volodymyrets is located within the 30-kilometer zone of the Rivne Atomic Energy Station in Kuznetsovsk, which has also experienced radioactive releases, exposing local residents to multiple sources of radiation. Obstetricians are hoping to bolster their hospital's resources to treat pregnancy complications and newborns with respiratory distress. Here too, local doctors are concerned about the lack of fetal heart monitors and other diagnostic equipment for identifying cardiac defects that need immediate surgical intervention.

Another critical problem is the lack of ambulances or intensive care equipment to transport infants from remote towns like Zarichne to the provincial capital of Rivne. Even without snowy or inclement weather, this requires a six-hour round-trip on unlit back roads from Rivne to the remote villages, making it virtually impossible to save a child with emergency needs.

The energetic new medical director of the Rivne Regional Children's Hospital, Dr. Anatolii Boiko, is also a strong advocate of strengthening the medical infrastructure of his region. Until last June, he served as Dr. Lototsky's predecessor in

the Zarichne District Hospital, and he appreciates the critical health care needs of his entire province.

In his first six months in his new position, Dr. Boiko has established partnerships with First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko's foundation Ukraine 3000 and the Amosov Institute of Cardiac Surgery in Kyiv. His hospital has also received aid from the Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund and the John Wood Medical Ministries from Waco, Tex.

Dr. Boiko is designating several of his most promising doctors to study English and German so they can take full advantage of training opportunities in the West, and then help to train other physicians throughout their province in their respective disciplines.

With a network of young, progressive health care workers and a dynamic regional coordinator in Ms. Zalipska, the Chornobyl-impacted communities in northern Rivne Oblast are developing a common vision and a strategic plan to give their children the best health care possible.

On April 20, the Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund was planning to deliver a large shipment of aid to Rivne as part of its airlift commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Chornobyl disaster. Among other supplies and technology, the fund will deliver a Fresenius blood cell separator that will greatly enhance the treatment of children with leukemia at the Rivne Regional Children's Hospital.

To further support these hospital partnerships, tax deductible contributions may be sent to: CCRDF, 272 Old Short Hills Road, Short Hills, NJ 07078. For more information call Alexa Milanytch at 973-376-5140 or visit the CCRDF website at www.childrenofchornobyl.org.



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Ukrainian Engineering Education discussed at Shevchenko

by Orest Popovych

NEW YORK – The Mathematics-Physics-Technology Section of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) on February 25 hosted a program featuring a lecture by Dr. Oleh Tretiak on the topic “Ukrainian Engineering Education at a Crossroads,” followed by a presentation by Dr. Roman Kuc on the new ABET Engineering Criteria 2000, which have been adopted for engineering education in the U.S.

The program was organized and introduced by Dr. Roman Andrushkiw, the first vice-president of NTSh, and the director of the MPT Section. It was chaired by Prof. Vasyl Makhno.

Dr. Tretiak, professor of electrical and computer engineering at Drexel University in Philadelphia, based the lecture on his experiences as a Fulbright visiting professor at the Kyiv and Lviv Polytechnic institutes, which enabled him to examine higher technical education in Ukraine and to compare it with American education in the same areas. Another objective of his was to establish contacts with professors and administrators of Ukrainian institutions of higher learning with the possibility for collaborative undertakings with their American counterparts.

The rationale underlying a comparison of the educational systems is related to the ongoing reorganization of the universities in Ukraine, with the objective of achieving recognition of the equivalency of degrees offered by Ukrainian and European universities.

Dr. Tretiak compared how Ukrainian and American institutions of higher learning differed in their teaching and research missions, their degree requirements, as well as administrative approaches. Following is

a summary of what he related.

In a typical American school of engineering, students progress by passing individual subjects, which they can repeat, should they first fail. After four years, they attain their bachelor’s degrees in one of five engineering majors. Jobs for graduates are relatively easy to get. Schools of engineering include large and small institutions, funded both from private and public funds; they focus heavily on research. The faculty at U.S. universities is composed of tenured and non-tenured members. Among the successful tenured members, progress toward the rank of full professor is generally rapid, on the average attaining it at about age 40.

In a typical Ukrainian school of engineering, students’ progress is annual, based on passing a whole year’s worth of required subjects; thus, advancement to the next year may require multiple attempts. Their degrees are earned after five years (six years for a master’s) in one of about 100 engineering majors. For the graduates, the chances of getting a job in their specialty at this time are poor. The institutions of higher learning are generally large (the Kyiv Polytechnic Institute has about 35,000 students) and their curricula are centrally controlled by the Ministry of Education.

Research in Ukraine has always been primarily the province of the institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, and not of the universities. Since independence, there has been a further decline in the amount of research carried out by the universities. Academic professionals in Ukraine are paid relatively low salaries (about \$200 a month), but enjoy high employment security, i. e., in American parlance, they all have “tenure.” However, progress to the rank of full professor is very slow.

According to Dr. Tretiak, there is at this

time no evidence of any serious commitment to structural reforms in the academic institutions of Ukraine. He said that Ukrainian education could benefit from contacts with the rest of the world, to which end the knowledge of English among the faculty and students needs to be improved.

A small step toward establishing such contacts was taken when three students from the Kyiv Polytechnic Institute visited Drexel University at Dr. Tretiak’s invitation for two weeks in August 2005. Other inter-institutional exchanges are being planned by Dr. Tretiak.

“Changes in Engineering Education in the U.S. and the World” was the topic tackled next by Dr. Kuc, professor of electrical engineering and associate dean of engineering educational programs at Yale University. Dr. Kuc discussed the new Engineering Criteria (EC) 2000, which were introduced in the year 2000 by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET). The goal of the ABET has always been to make sure that all engineering programs in the U.S. meet the same high standards.

The reason new educational criteria became necessary stems mainly from the general problem that the U.S. industry is becoming less competitive in the global marketplace, according to Dr. Kuc. One solution, continued the lecturer, is to produce engineers who can work effectively in the local economy immediately upon graduation, without years of on-the-job training.

Thus, rather than mandating the same criteria for engineering programs throughout the country, the EC2000 approach provides individual engineering programs with the flexibility to establish their own curricula, adjusting the criteria to conform to local needs, while constantly taking into account the feedback received from the students, professors, industry and parents involved, said Dr. Kuc. He felt that the adoption of EC2000 for education in Ukraine would allow Ukrainian programs to compete in the international arena.

After the presentations there was a lengthy and substantive discussion focusing on the level of higher education in Ukraine and the challenges it is presently facing.

Shevchenko Society presentation focuses on medical schools in Ukraine

by Vasyl Lopukh

NEW YORK – The Medicine-Biology (MB) Section of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) on March 18 sponsored a program in which Dr. Marta Kushnir, secretary of the section, gave a lecture titled “The History and the Significance of the Medical University in Lviv.”

Dr. Kushnir shared her impressions of the medical schools and clinics in Lviv and Ternopil as she reported on her recent trip to Ukraine, undertaken together with her sister, Dr. Lesia Kushnir, director of the MB Section.

In his opening remarks, NTSh Vice-President Dr. Orest Popovych welcomed the development that the leadership of the MB Section has been taken over by two physicians who represent the younger generation, and who have demonstrated considerable activity from the start. Prof. Vasyl Makhno introduced the speaker and chaired the proceedings.

Dr. Marta Kushnir traced the history of the city of Lviv, with emphasis on the development of higher education there. Medical education in Lviv dates back to 1784, when medicine became one of the faculties at the Lviv University. In 1939 medicine was transferred from the university to a separate Medical Institute, which in 2003 acquired the status of a National Medical University.

Drs. Marta and Lesia Kushnir conferred with some of the professors and administrators of the Lviv Medical University, trying to learn ways in which the NTSh could be helpful to them. One of the answers was their need for modern medical books, which Dr. Marta Kushnir has begun to fulfill. The lecturer said she was very impressed with the students and



Dr. Marta Kushnir speaks at the Shevchenko Scientific Society.

facilities in Lviv. In Ternopil, however, both the university hospital and the two clinics she visited had rather antiquated equipment, albeit in working order.

This exploratory visit by Drs. Marta and Lesia Kushnir, attempting to establish contacts and pave the way for possible collaboration between NTSh and Ukrainian medical schools, follows in the footsteps of Dr. Paul Dzul, the preceding director of the NTSh MB Section. Dr. Dzul as well as Dr. Michael Cehelsky, also an NTSh member, have co-authored and co-sponsored a number of medical books and other projects with their colleagues in Ukraine.

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on
June 11-16, 2006 – Senior Citizens' Week

**Ladies and Gentlemen! 2006 is already well on its way.
We wish you good health and invite you to visit SOYUZIVKA!**

On behalf of the UNA Seniors Club, we would like to invite all seniors to participate in our annual UNA Seniors Club Week, which will be held from Sunday, June 11, to Friday, June 16, 2006. For your general information, please note that the Seniors Club was organized over 30 years ago. The purpose of the UNA Seniors is to support UNA endeavors, to preserve and cultivate the Ukrainian heritage, promote unity within the community, develop social activities and maintain Ukrainian community life in America. We have finally reached a time in our lives when Ukraine is independent and living a democratic life. Ukraine will always have our thoughts and support. But there is a time when we must concentrate on maintaining our own Ukrainian community. There is much that can be done. We will try to make the week interesting and fun. As you may have read in our publications, last year we had over 60 participants, seven interesting speakers and entertainment in the evenings. Fun was had by all. Again, we have an interesting program scheduled and hope that you will be able to join us for an interesting, inexpensive weekend. Follow the press for further information about Seniors Citizens' Week.



Make your reservations for the UNA Seniors' Conference, which will be held at our mountain resort SOYUZIVKA, beginning Sunday, June 11, starting with a buffet dinner, through Friday, June 16, including brunch. All inclusive: five nights, all meals, banquet, entertainment, special speakers.

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We pray ...

(Continued from page 7)

become the symbol that educates us all that technological and scientific advances should ensure us and future generations of peace, calm and progress rather than grief and troubled times.

Spiritually uniting our prayers at this 20th anniversary with the prayers of people all over our planet, we beseech our Almighty Father for His blessings during these difficult days of commemoration.

We commend the souls of those who perished and the lives of those who continue to suffer, including the families of those who perished, to the healing power of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for He is the Helper of the helpless, the Hope of the hopeless, the Savior of the storm-tossed, the Haven of the voyager and the Healer of the sick. We stand before Him in humility and beseech His eternal blessings upon the victims of one of the worst disasters the world has known. May He grant eternal rest to those who perished in a place where there is no more suffering, nor sorrow, nor sickness, but only life eternal. May He extend His healing touch into the lives of those who survived, still suffering and ease their pain, raise them up and grant them fullness of life.

We ask our Lord to enable us to reach out to our brothers and sisters in compassion and with an understanding of their needs and fears. May He utilize us as His "Royal Priesthood, a holy nation" to affect their lives positively – most especially the lives of the children. He is the

Author of Life and we pray at this anniversary for the very life of Ukraine.

May the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. We assure you of our continued prayers for your spiritual welfare and express our constant need of your prayers in our behalf.

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

In our Lord's all-encompassing Love,
+ Constantine, Metropolitan
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the
U.S.A. and Diaspora

+ John, Metropolitan
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ Antony, Archbishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the
U.S.A.

+ Vsevolod, Archbishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the
U.S.A.

+ Ioan, Archbishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora
Eparchy of Australia and New Zealand

+ Yuriy, Archbishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ Jeremiah, Bishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of South
America (UOC of U.S.A.)

+ Andrew, Bishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Church in
Diaspora – Eparchy of Great Britain and
Western Europe

The "zone..."

(Continued from page 9)

like a lot, but based on the Przewalski's horses' past reproductive rates, they calculate that there should actually be 96 horses. That means that a huge number of horses – over one-third – either died, or never born.

Did that mean the release program's opponents were right? Or could it be that radiation was affecting the horses' health?

When I asked Ms. Zharkikh, she was cautious in her response. But after studying the evidence, her answer was direct, dire – and depressing.

"The horses are being poached," she said, adding, "massively." The scientists uncovered clear evidence of eight horses that were poached, plus one more horse about which they aren't certain. Of course, poachers don't usually leave evidence and clearly many of the other "missing" Przewalski's horses are making it into trophy rooms and sausage factories.

Poaching has always been a problem in the zone. But if a handful of wild boars or roe deer are killed, it little affects their Chornobyl populations –

which number in the many thousands. Poaching of moose and elk, which are protected species, has more serious implications, but not quite as serious as killing even a few Przewalski's horses. They may number 1,500 worldwide but there are only about 150 in Ukraine. It is a very fragile population.

Hunting is forbidden in the zone to protect people from radioactive game, and not to protect the animals from people. That prohibition is what has made the zone a de facto wildlife sanctuary. But there is no particular punishment for poaching there. It is treated like poaching anywhere in Ukraine.

The massive killing off of Przewalski's horses shows that it is time to make the zone an official wildlife sanctuary, with the highest levels of legal protection and security. Poachers should suffer stiff fines and criminal liability. The zone may also qualify as a United Nations' Biospheric Reserve or a World Heritage site, which would make it eligible for certain international aid.

The zone of alienation has become a vast, beautiful and thriving radioactive wilderness. There is nothing else like it on the planet. It demands protection.

the devastating effects of Chornobyl, and it is important for the international community – both governments and non-governmental organizations – to remember that Chornobyl is not just a Ukrainian, Belarusian or Russian problem. The fallout will require continued international attention and commitment.

We also need ongoing support for organizations like CCRDF that has worked for 16 years to provide state-of-the-art medical technology, physician training and humanitarian aid to give Ukrainian children a fighting chance to overcome cancer and leukemia. Clearly, there is much work that remains to be done. Again, I commend the devoted leadership, staff, volunteers and supporters of CCRDF for your tireless work and deep commitment to a most noble cause.

Rep. Smith's...

(Continued from page 13)

was caught off guard by the massive 80-fold increase in thyroid cancer among Chornobyl children in Belarus in 1993, and the world community needs to remain vigilant for other forms of cancer that may begin to emerge now that the 20-year latency period has ended.

We need to remember that the half-life of radioactive cesium is 30 years. Thousands of children are still being exposed to dangerously high levels of radionuclides in contaminated areas of southern Belarus and northern Ukraine, as well as far-flung areas in Scandinavia and Central and Eastern Europe that also suffered from radioactive fallout. There is still much that remains to be done to overcome

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News items sent without a copy of the new release will not be published.

Send new releases and information (where publication may be purchased, cost, etc.) to: Editorial Staff, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.



TENNIS CAMP AGES 10-18

Kick off the summer with 2 weeks of intensive tennis instruction and competitive play directed by George Sawchak. Room, Board, 24 Hour Supervision, expert lessons and a life time of memories are included!

June 25– July 7, 2006

\$540- UNA Members, \$590- Non UNA Members + \$130 Instructors Fee/Per Student

EXPLORATION DAY CAMP AGES 7-10

A day camp for boys and girls ages 7-10, with daily supervised day fun in the outdoors!

Session #1: June 26– June 30, 2006

Session #2: July 3– July 7, 2006

\$100.00 Per Week/Per Child OR \$25.00 Per Day/Per Child

DISCOVERY CAMP AGES 8-15

Calling all nature lovers for this sleepover program filled with outdoor crafts, hiking, swimming, scuba, organized sports & games, bonfires, song and much more. Older kids will participate in overnight campouts with focus on wilderness survival skills. Room, Board, 24 Hour Supervision, and a life time of memories are included!

Session #1: July 9– July 15, 2006

Session #2: July 16– July 22, 2006

\$400– UNA Members, \$450– Non UNA Members

CHILDREN'S UKRAINIAN HERITAGE DAY CAMP AGES 4-7

Formerly known as Chemney Camp, this day camp exposes kids to their Ukrainian heritage through daily activities such as dance, song, crafts and games, ending w/a performance.

Summer Camps 2006

Price includes tee-shirt and daily lunch.

Session #1: July 16– July 21, 2006

Session #2: July 23– July 28, 2006

\$150 Per Camper, \$190 Per Camper If Not Overnight Guest

SCUBA DIVING COURSE AGES 12-ADULTS

This one week course will complete your academic, confined water and open water requirements for PADI open water certification. Classes are given by George Hanushevsky, scuba-diver instructor. Space is limited so sign up now!

July 16– July 22, 2006

\$400 for Course (\$120 Deposit Required)

UKRAINIAN "SITCH" SPORTS CAMP AGES 6-18

This is the 37th Annual Ukrainian "SITCH" Sports Camp that will take place here at Soyuzivka for the 1st time. Run by the Ukrainian Sitch Sports School, this camp will focus on soccer and tennis and is perfect for any sports enthusiast. Registration for this camp is done directly by contacting Marika Bokalo at 908/851-0617.

Session #1: July 23– July 29, 2006

Session #2: July 30– August 5, 2006

\$340 Per Camper, \$145 for Day Campers

GOLF DAY CAMP AND BEACH VOLLEYBALL DAY CAMP AGES 8-ADULTS

Instructional golf sessions w/golf instructors, between 8-11am & evening beach volleyball w/professional instruction by All American Volleyball Player between 6:30-8:30 pm. Session #2 SITCH campers may participate– call for details.

July 31– August 4, 2006

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Directed by Ania Bohachevsky-Lonkevych (daughter of Roma Pryma Bohachevsky). This sleepover camp has been a Soyuzivka favorite for over 25 years, offering expert instruction for beginning, intermediate and advanced dancers. Attendance is limited to 60 students. The camps end with a grand recital which is always a summer highlight!

Session #1: July 23– August 5, 2006 (NEW ADDED WEEK)

Session #2: August 6– August 19, 2006

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Ukrainian university students seek summer employment

WASHINGTON – Employers in the United States have an outstanding opportunity to meet their summer 2006 staffing needs by hiring highly motivated university students from Ukraine.

Through a new program being implemented by the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to building peace and prosperity through shared democratic values, employers and sponsoring organizations are being matched in their summer hiring needs with available, qualified students by the foundation. There is no cost to employers in allowing the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation help in this recruitment.

The foundation currently has an application with the U.S. Department of State in order to receive the designation of an official sponsor of summer work/travel exchange programs. The foundation hopes to become a sponsor and to work directly with employers and students. However, if the designation is not received on time for this summer, the foundation will continue in its present course of matching the hiring needs of employers with designated sponsors.

Ukrainian university students, who are eager to work and experience life in the U.S., are seeking short-term (up to four months), entry-level, seasonal positions with employers under the U.S. Department of State's Summer Work and Travel USA Program 2006. The students qualify to work and travel in the U.S. under a J-1 visa through a sponsoring organization.

Employers benefit in these ways:

- They meet seasonal hiring requirements.
- As students are allowed to work for four months during the period of May 1 through mid-October; employers will still have Ukrainian student workers when American students head back to school.
- Students will be interviewed and tested for English proficiency.
- Students will be pre-screened and

interviewed to meet employer expectations.

- Students will have pre-paid health insurance; employers will not have this cost.
- Students are not required to contribute to Social Security or Medicare; employers are therefore not required to contribute the employer portion.
- Students will be working at the same wage level as other summer students.
- Employers will find the students highly dedicated to their summer program.

An employer's summer hiring needs may include a whole host of entry-level positions, whether they be retail shop workers, cashiers, amusement ride attendants or short-order cooks.

To learn more about hiring university students from Ukraine for this summer, readers may contact the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation through Bogdan Kovalchuk at 202-223-2228 or bkovalchuk@usukraine.org.

Edmonton school slates reunion

EDMONTON – The Ivan Franko School of Ukrainian Studies (IFSUS), Edmonton's oldest Ukrainian language school, is inviting students, alumni, former teachers, directors and friends to its 50th anniversary celebration.

In the past five decades, over 500 students have graduated from IFSUS. In addition, hundreds more have attended the school to expand their knowledge of the Ukrainian language and culture within Canadian society.

The school offers a demanding educational program, and the curriculum is now accredited by Alberta Education, via which the students are able to earn credits toward their high school diploma. In 2000 the curriculum was further enhanced and presently includes a trip to Ukraine for each year's graduating class.

The event will be marked by a champagne reception, gala dinner and dance with live entertainment, and an art exhibit on Saturday, November 11, at the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex in Edmonton.

For further information readers may contact: Ivan Franko School of Ukrainian Studies, 10611-110 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta T5H 2W9; telephone, 780-421-0900; e-mail, kyrcu50@telus.net.

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World-famous café slates “Ukrainian Night”

NEW YORK – For the first time in its 29-year history as a world-famous performance venue in New York City’s West Village, the Cornelia Street Café will present a “Ukrainian Night,” on Saturday, April 29, at 6-11 p.m. The entire evening will showcase Ukrainian-related films, poetry, music and fiction in English and Ukrainian.

Irene Zabytko, fiction award-winning author of “The Sky Unwashed” and “When Luba Leaves Home,” and Alexander Motyl, author of “Whiskey Priest” and professor at Rutgers University, will host the evening.

Filmmaker Damian Kolodiy will show excerpts of his documentary, “The Orange Chronicles,” highlighting the exciting events of the Orange Revolution. A special feature presentation of the film short, Ihor Strembitsky’s “Wayfarers” (from Ukraine with English subtitles), winner of the Palme

d’Or at the 2005 Cannes Film Festival, will also be screened. Yuri Shevchuk of the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University will introduce the film.

The musical portion of the program will be provided by Andriy Milavsky and Halyna Remez of the Cheres musical ensemble, who will play Carpathian Hutsul music. Readings by Shevchenko Scientific Society resident poet Vasyl Makhno and the hosts, Prof. Motyl and Ms. Zabytko, will also be featured throughout the evening.

The first two-hour set will start at 6 p.m., the second at 8:45 p.m. Admission is \$10 per set, which includes one house drink. CDs and books will be available for purchase. The café is located at 29 Cornelia St. For more information log on to www.corneliastreetcafe.com or e-mail ajmotyl@andromeda.rutgers.edu

The Cornelia Street Café is an award-winning restaurant and New York City landmark that also houses a famous performance space in the downstairs section where the tradition of theater, performance, music and poetry is alive and well. The café has presented an enormous variety of artists, from singer-songwriter Suzanne Vega to poet-senator Eugene McCarthy, from members of Monty Python to the members of the Royal Shakespeare Company. It has also offered a performance home to the Songwriters Exchange, the Writers Room, the Writers Studio, the Greek-American Writers Association, the Italian-American Writers Association, the New Works Project/Theater and many others.

The Cornelia Street Café is presenting the inaugural “Ukrainian Night” as two separate sets instead of the usual one set. As its website says, “once is not enough.”

Corrections

In the story headlined “Airlift to mark 20th anniversary of Chornobyl disaster” by Yaro Bihun (April 16), a proofreading error made it seem as if Reps. Marcy Kaptur of Ohio and Christopher Smith of New Jersey addressed the press conference held on April 5 at the Embassy of Ukraine. In fact, their remarks were read by Andre Kravchenko, congressional fellow in Rep. Kaptur’s office, and Orest Deychakiwsky, senior staff advisor at the U.S. Helsinki Commission, which is co-chaired by Rep. Smith.

Maya Gregoret’s story “ ‘Iskry’/‘Living Embers’: an exhibit of the art of Orysia Sinitowich-Gorski” (April 16) provided the wrong web address for the site where the artist’s works may be viewed. The correct address is www.iskryart.ca.

The Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation in coordination with The 7th St. Ukr. Festival invite you to the first ever “Ukrainian Music Invasion”

NEW YORK CITY
Friday May 19th, 2006

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*The Council of Bishops and Consistory
of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA
cordially invite all Christ-loving faithful,
in particular our youth of all ages
to participate in this year’s
SAINT THOMAS SUNDAY PILGRIMAGE.*

*Come and share in the light, grace and
Gospel of the risen Lord with others!*

Bright Saturday: April 29, 2006

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy in Saint Andrew Memorial Church.

6:00 PM Vespers and Confessions in Saint Andrew Memorial Church.

Sunday: April 30, 2006

9:00AM Greeting of the Hierarchs.

9:30AM Eucharistic Liturgy. His Beatitude Metropolitan Constantine, Archbishops Antony and Vsevolod and pastors of local parish communities followed by:

11:30AM A procession to the Cemetery’s Great Memorial Cross for the celebration of a Panakhyda for the repose of the souls of the departed servants of God, His Holiness Patriarch Mstyslav, His Beatitude Metropolitan John and all departed hierarchs, clergy and faithful of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of USA, along with the victims of Stalin’s genocidal famine of 1932-33, the victims of the Chornobyl disaster, those who sacrificed their lives for the freedom and independance of Ukraine and the USA and the victims of the 11th September 2001 terroristic attack upon America.

*May the souls of our beloved
find rest and their memory be eternal!*

St. Thomas Sunday Провідна Неділя



Youth Activities

1-2:30PM: Teens and Young adults.

2:00-2:30PM: Children 4-12 years of age.

2:30-3:30PM: Meet our Father Bishops during an Ice Cream Social (*all ages*).

PARKING REGULATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS

As directed by the Consistory, all parking on Memorial Church and Cemetery grounds is strictly prohibited on Saturday, 29 April and Sunday, 30 April 2006. Parking is permitted only on Consistory grounds located at 135 Davidson Avenue, Somerset, NJ (Cultural Center lot and grounds). Round trip transportation of pilgrims to the Memorial Church and Cemetery will be provided.

Cultural exhibits and all commerce will take place on Saturday, 29 April from Noon to 6 pm and Sunday, 30 April from Noon to 6 pm in the main auditorium of the Cultural Center. Permits for sales must be obtained from the Consistory. No business will be transacted during the Liturgy and Panakhyda. Any individuals conducting unauthorized sales will be removed from the property.

The Museum and Library will be open for visitors at 3PM.

The Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, the clergy and the Office of Youth Ministry encourage children and youth of our Holy Metropolia to enrich their lives by participating with their parents and family members in the various liturgical services, especially the Holy Mystery of Confession and the Holy Eucharist during this year’s Holy Pilgrimage. Youth activities scheduled for Sunday, April 30 will emphasize a relationship based on our relationship to Christ.

All other Panakhydy (Memorial Services) are permitted only after the conclusion of the above Panakhyda at the Great Cross.

PLEASE NOTE: MEMORIAL SERVICES ARE NOT PERMITTED DURING BRIGHT WEEK -MONDAY TO FRIDAY (24 APRIL - 28 APRIL 2006). THESE DAYS ARE RESERVED FOR GRAVE CLEANING AND CEMETERY PREPARATION FOR ST. THOMAS SUNDAY (PROVIDNA NEDILA).

Tymoshenko...

(Continued from page 1)

firm attending the meeting asked Ms. Tymoshenko whether she had truly considered re-privatizing more than 3,000 companies, which had been widely reported in the media.

She said she never made the claim that as many as 3,000 properties may become re-privatized, a notion that was artificially created in the mass media.

However, after President Yushchenko had dismissed Ms. Tymoshenko as prime minister, even he accused her of considering re-privatizing 3,000 businesses.

In fact, Ms. Tymoshenko said the following at a February 19, 2005, press conference: "The government is to review the legality of the privatization of more than 3,000 enterprises, of which inspection results had been set aside by Ukraine's procurator general for five years."

She later added: "Nobody today can state the number of properties that will be returned to state ownership. It has been established that violations during privatization occurred, and there are courts that

should investigate these issues."

At the American Chamber of Commerce event, Ms. Tymoshenko said nowhere near 3,000 properties would be re-privatized, and repeated her commitment that courts would decide all re-privatization efforts.

Responding to the claim that some Ukrainian bankers are concerned about her prime ministership, Ms. Tymoshenko said the only bankers who are concerned or scared are those who don't pay taxes.

They are also the ones who have given her three labels – re-privatizer, populist and unshakable person – in order to create fear of her policies.

"If you will see that our internal environment fears me, then this kind of prime minister is needed for investors because they know I will change things, and change things so that there won't be a closed space and they won't have a Ukraine that's a closed type of stockholder association."

As for her plans to improve Ukraine's investment climate, Ms. Tymoshenko led off with the need for "complete, deep and effective reform of the judicial system."

Judges need to be freed from their dependency on the executive government and the Presidential Secretariat so they

can make independent rulings, she said.

A system of accountability also must emerge to hold judges responsible for unjust rulings, Ms. Tymoshenko said. No such accountability of judges exists today.

Ukraine needs a stock market that protects the rights of minority shareholders, Ms. Tymoshenko said, noting that they are currently very vulnerable.

Ensuring such rights will encourage foreign investment, which is needed in the electrical energy industry, as well as drilling for oil and mining natural resources, which are abundant in Ukraine.

"We will absolutely pass a law that will ensure for minority stockholders absolutely guaranteed rights that exist in the civilized world," she said. "Today, this is an absolutely ruined, undeveloped sphere in Ukraine."

Ms. Tymoshenko criticized Ukraine's restricted access to foreign banks, accusing Ukrainian bankers of intentionally creating a closed market where they're able to charge annual interest rates on business loans as high as 20 percent.

These Ukrainian banks have their powerful interests represented in the Verkhovna Rada to protect their busi-

nesses, she said.

"Offering 15 percent for annual credit is not a bad profit," Ms. Tymoshenko said. "But it doesn't allow the private entrepreneur to develop adequately."

As a result, foreign banks with access to larger resources of financial resources can only monitor Ukraine's banking activity or perhaps buy a Ukrainian bank, instead of participating in the market.

Ms. Tymoshenko acknowledged complaints from Western investors regarding the cancellation of free economic zones that offered tax breaks to foreign businesses invested in them.

However, the free economic zones eventually became abused by Ukrainian businesses for which they weren't created. Access to these zones eventually bred corruption in which businessmen paid bribes to access the zones in order to evade taxes.

"So if an oil refinery located in Donetsk operated in a free economic zone, and a meat-processing plant in Dnipropetrovsk didn't, they ended up working in entirely different conditions," Ms. Tymoshenko said.

"One didn't face taxes on the domestic market, while the other paid taxes on the domestic market. That's why I believe we made a colossal step forward to make all business structures equal before the law," she explained.

Free economic zones should be strictly limited to Ukrainian companies that export goods.

Ms. Tymoshenko also addressed the difficulty foreign investors face in acquiring land for their business. At least 127 signatures are needed for a business land purchase in the Kyiv Oblast, she said, requiring a wait of at least three years.

"On top of that, the bribes that you would have to pay out increased the cost of this land by almost double," she said.

Ms. Tymoshenko said she wants to pass legislation that would speed the land acquisition process to require five permits and one month of waiting.

To deal with corruption in the Verkhovna Rada, Ms. Tymoshenko said a strong opposition is needed to publicly reveal which officials are engaging in corruption.

If she joins the coalition government, Ms. Tymoshenko said she'd give all the necessary tools to the opposition to act as a watchdog for the government.

Furthermore, "if I form the government, I won't allow anybody who took a bribe."

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OUT AND ABOUT

March 12-May 28 New York	Exhibit "Chornobyl 20+: This Land is Ours ... We Still Live Here," The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110	May 5 New York	Taras Berezovsky performs the one-man play "Catch 86" on the theme of Chornobyl, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110
April 21-May 13 New York	Art exhibit "Nature's Palette" featuring Rina Koshkina, Agora Gallery, 212-226-4151	May 5 Warren, MI	Wine and Cheese Recruitment Party, UNWLA Meeting House, 586-939-8286
April 25 New York	"Commemoration of the Chornobyl Disaster: The Human Experience," Columbia University, 212-854-4697	May 6 Warren, MI	Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus auditions, Ukrainian Cultural Center, 734-658-6452
April 25 Washington	Screening of "Atomic Lies," followed by discussion about Chornobyl, Goethe-Institute, 202-289-1200, x 168	May 6 New York	Dr. George Grabowicz presents the works of Pantelimon Kulish, Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130
April 26 Washington	"Commemoration of the Chornobyl Disaster: The Human Experience," Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars, 202-691-4000	May 7 Farmington Hills, MI	Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus concert, Nardin Park United Church, 248-476-8860
April 26 Ottawa	20th anniversary of Chornobyl commemoration, Parliament Hill, 613-733-7000 or 613-738-1724	<div>Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in The Ukrainian Weekly. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers; please send e-mail to staff@ukrweekly.com. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows; photos will be considered. Please note: items will be printed a maximum of two times each.</div>	
April 26 Washington	Photo exhibit, "Chornobyl 20," Rayburn House Office Building, 202-229-4424		
April 26 Washington	Chornobyl Requiem and Candlelight Vigil, Taras Shevchenko Monument, 202-514-1822		
April 28 Philadelphia	Ukrainian League of Philadelphia Spring 2006 Wearable Art Show, Ukrainian designers Zoriana Sokhatska and Maria Woznyj, 215-684-3548		
April 28 & May 7 New York	Film screening, "Chernobyl Heart," The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110		
April 28-30 Kerhonkson, NY	Spa Weekend organized by UNWLA Branch 95, Soyuzivka, 845-626-5641		
April 28-29 Mississauga, ON	Ukrainian Youth Association Volleyball Tournament, Burnhamthorpe Community Center, 416-953-9950		
April 29 Chicago	Conference "Chornobyl: The Next Generation," University of Illinois, 847-359-3676 or 773-883-9737		
April 29 New York	"Ukrainian Night" of poetry, fiction, music and film, Cornelia Street Cafe, 212-243-4207		
April 29 New York	Lecture by Dr. Larissa M. L. Zaleska Onyshkevych, "Events at Chornobyl as Reflected in Ukrainian Literature," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130		
April 29 Etobicoke, ON	Baturyn Marching Band Auction, Taras Shevchenko Hall, 647-272-7661		
April 29 Buffalo, NY	50th Anniversary of Ukrainian Cultural Center, Dnipro, 716-668-6294		
April 30 Silver Spring, MD	Screening of "Chernobyl Heart," Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, 301-421-1739		
April 30 Philadelphia	Fairmount Arts Crawl, featuring Andriy Korchynsky, Halyna Kostyuk, Levko Mikhalevetch and Natalia Karbach, Gypsy Jazz performance by Crossing Paths, 215-684-3548		
April 30 Jenkintown, PA	Gala Benefit Banquet by the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 215-663-1166		
May 5 Washington	The Washington Group's Ukrainian social, Leopold's Kafe and Konditorei, 240-381-0993		

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

April 23, 2006

Traditional Ukrainian Easter Day
Brunch, doors open at 11:30 a.m.

April 28, 2006

Ellenville High School Junior Prom

April 28-30, 2006

Spa Weekend organized by
UNWLA Branch 95

April 29, 2006

Birthday Party Banquet
TAPS New York Beer Festival
at Hunter Mountain, round trip
bus from Soyuzivka, \$20;
special room rate - \$60/night

May 5-7, 2006

Ukrainian Language Immersion
Weekend offered at SUNY
New Paltz

May 14, 2006

Mother's Day Brunch

May 20, 2006

Wedding

May 21, 2006

Communion Luncheon Banquet

May 26-29, 2006

UNA Convention

June 2-4, 2006

Ukrainian Language Immersion
Weekend offered at SUNY
New Paltz

June 3, 2006

Wedding

June 5-9, 2006

Eparchial Clergy Retreat

June 10, 2006

Wedding

June 11-16, 2006

UNA Seniors' Conference

June 16-18, 2006

3rd Annual Adoption Weekend

June 17, 2006

Wedding

June 18, 2006

Father's Day Luncheon and Program

June 23-24, 2006

Plast Kurin "Shostokryli" Rada

June 24, 2006

Wedding

June 25-July 2, 2006

Tabir Ptashat Session #1

June 25-July 7, 2006

Tennis Camp

June 26-June 30, 2006

Exploration Day Camp



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Wednesday, April 26

WASHINGTON: The Washington Group, in cooperation with The Embassy of Ukraine and area Ukrainian churches, invites you to a 20th Anniversary Chernobyl Commemoration Candlelight Vigil and Requiem beginning at 7 p.m. Venue: Taras Shevchenko Monument, 22nd and P streets NW, near Dupont Metro Station. Please bring candles. For more information contact Andrew Sorokowski, 202-514-1822, or Adrian Pidluskyy, 240-381-0993, or visit www.TheWashingtonGroup.org.

HARTFORD, Conn.: "Remember Chernobyl - Commemorating 20 Years of Chernobyl" is the theme of an event organized by the Council of Ukrainian American Organizations of Greater Hartford. A candlelight vigil and commemorative program begin at 6:30 p.m. on the grounds of the State Capitol. Preceding the vigil, a moleben service will be offered at 5 p.m. at St. Michaels Ukrainian Catholic Church, 125 Wethersfield Ave. For additional information call 860-537-4051 or e-mail irudko@rudko.com.

Saturday, April 29

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society will commemorate the 1986 Chernobyl disaster with a lecture at 4 p.m. on "The Chernobyl Disaster as Reflected in Ukrainian Literature" (with special emphasis on Vasyl Barka's "The Wormwood Star") by Dr. Larissa M. L. Zaleska Onyshkevych, president of the society. The society's library will also hold an exhibit of selected publications dealing with technical aspects of the Chernobyl disaster, as well as works of Ukrainian literature reflecting the disaster. The exhibit will be held on April 24 - May 7. The lecture and the exhibit will take place at the Shevchenko Scientific Society, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets), New York City. For information call 212-254-5130.

CHICAGO: The Chernobyl Conference Committee invites the Chicago community to the "Chornobyl: The Next Generation" conference marking the 20th anniversary of the world's worst nuclear power plant disaster. The conference will examine the ongoing health and social effects of the disaster on Ukraine and Belarus, the international relief efforts to contain the damage and new findings on nuclear safety. The distinguished panel of experts includes: Dr.

David Marples, professor of history, University of Alberta; Dr. Ihor Masnyk, director of the Chernobyl Research Project, U.S. National Cancer Institute; Dr. A. E. Okeanov, vice-rector, International Sakharov Environmental University, Belarus; Dr. Pavlo Zamostyan, project manager, U.N. Chernobyl Recovery and Development Program, Kyiv; Dr. Andrew Sowder, U.S. Department of State; Gordon Fowler, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Alex Kuzma, Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund; and Karim and Daria Khan, Shelter Implementation Plan. The conference will be held at 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois in Chicago. It will be preceded by an evening reception on Friday, April 28, at the Ukrainian National Museum of Chicago, which will be showing a special Chernobyl exhibit. Pre-registration by April 26 is required. The registration fee is \$35, general public, \$15, students; \$10 for box lunches. To register and pay by credit card call 312-996-6904 or log on to <http://128.248.232.70/glakes/ce/register.asp?gid=369>. For additional information call 773-883-9737.

Saturday, May 6

PARSIPPANY, N.J.: The Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons Association of New York and New Jersey invites the public to hear Prof. Yaroslav Hrytsak speak on the topic "How Ivan Franko Became a Genius" at 7:30 p.m. in the atrium of the Ukrainian National Association Corporate Headquarters, 2200 Route 10. Prof. Hrytsak teaches history at Lviv University and has also taught at Columbia University and the Central European University. He is the author of over 400 publications on history and current affairs; his new biography of Franko is scheduled to appear in September. For information on the event call Oksana Trytjak, 973-292-9800, ext. 3071.

Friday, June 16

ROCK HALL, Md.: The Ukrainian American Nautical Association Inc. (UANAI) will hold its annual three-day Chesapeake Sail on June 16-18. If you have your own boat, we'd love to have you join us. We have chartered two sailboats. A few crew spots are still available (cost is \$300 person). For further details call Petro at (610) 225-0211 or e-mail usail2006@comcast.net

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

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

Being Ukrainian means:

- ☐ Malanka in January.
- ☐ Deb in February.
- ☐ Sviato Vesny or Zlet in May.
- ☐ Tabir in July.
- ☐ Volleyball at Wildwood in August.
- ☐ Labor Day at Soyuzivka in September.
- ☐ Morskyi Bal in New Jersey in November.
- ☐ Koliada in December.

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