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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Communist back at the helm of Ukraine's State Archives



Zenon Zawada

Olha Ginzburg, who has been reappointed as director of Ukraine's State Archives.

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Olha Ginzburg is back at the helm of Ukraine's archives.

The Cabinet of Ministers voted on January 21 to reinstate the lifelong Communist functionary and ideologue, who filed a complaint that she had been unfairly dismissed in April 2008 as director of the State Archives Committee of Ukraine.

While the Cabinet of Ministers press service cited a Kyiv district court ruling as the basis for her reinstatement, it was obvious to political observers that Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko had struck a deal with the Communist Party of Ukraine to give back the archives' reins in exchange for political favors.

"We all know that here most court decisions related to personnel issues are made to order, with a political or corrupt component," said Volodymyr Fesenko, board chairman of the Penta Center for Applied Political Research, a consulting firm that serves various political clients.

"We can suspect a certain political component here. From time to time, situational alliances arise between the

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Security Service of Ukraine to release documents on Soviet-era repressions

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – By the end of the year, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) will make publicly accessible all the government's classified documents on Soviet-era repressions, a collection that encompasses about 800,000 items that range from persecution campaigns in western Ukraine to files kept on rock music enthusiasts.

A January 23 decree issued by President Viktor Yushchenko ordered all government organs to disclose all the remaining Soviet repression-related documents issued between 1917 and 1991 that were classified as secret or top secret.

President Yushchenko issued the decree just two days after Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko led the Cabinet of Ministers in voting to approve the return of Communist Olha Ginzburg as chair of the State Archives Committee of Ukraine.

However, SBU Acting Chair Valentyn Nalyvaichenko didn't draw a connection between the two events, stressing the decree is the latest step in a three-year campaign to make Ukraine's archived Soviet documents more accessible to Ukrainians and foreigners alike.

"The president's position lies in that



Zenon Zawada

Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) Chair Valentyn Nalyvaichenko discusses the January 23 presidential decree declassifying all documents related to secret Soviet repressions.

crimes against people's freedoms and rights, and the criminal actions of government organs, shouldn't be and can't be concealed behind a classification of secrecy," he said at

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UNA surpasses \$10 million goal for annuities in 2008

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Ukrainian National Association Inc. reached a major milestone, surpassing its \$10 million goal for annuity sales in 2008.

"We are very proud of this achievement and celebrate this historic accomplishment, said Christine E. Kozak, UNA national secretary.

The steady growth of annuity sales, according to Ms. Kozak, was due to a greater sales efforts by the UNA Home Office sales staff, branch secretaries and independent sales agents. Another contributing factor to the success of the annuity sales was the favorable rates offered by the UNA versus certificate of deposit (CD) rates offered by other financial institutions, she added.

The UNA has been selling annuities since 1992 and offers very competitive interest rates. Additionally, the UNA offers qualified (traditional IRAs), Roth, Simplified Employee Pension Plan (SEPs) and non-qualified plans (after tax dollars) which can be set up with a \$1,000 deposit. A Coverdell Educational Savings Account is also available.

For 2009 the UNA's goals are to surpass the \$10 million mark once again, by offering very competitive interest rates for new business and a Loyal Membership Program for its existing members whose annuities will mature.

For more information, readers may contact the UNA Home Office at 800-253-9862 and ask for the Annuity Department.

Lviv's Dzherelo Center serves disabled children

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – The Dzherelo Rehabilitation Center and School in Lviv traces its beginnings to Nadiya (Hope), an association of parents of children with cerebral palsy. In 1993 the Dzherelo Center was opened to provide rehabilitation for children with physical and intellectual disabilities. Today, more than 240 children with special needs and their parents take part, free of charge, in the daily programs offered by Dzherelo.

During the recent fund-raising art exhibit organized in Toronto by Friends of Dzherelo, Zenia Kushpeta, a Dzherelo board member, gave a presentation about the development and work of this unique center in Ukraine.

Ms. Kushpeta, a native of Thunder Bay, Ontario, received a music education (in piano performance) at the Toronto and John Hopkins universities. She worked as a lecturer in piano performance at Queens University and took part in concert tours throughout Canada, the United States and Europe. But, when she became acquainted with the work of the organization l'Arche (Ark), she found her true calling and changed her life.

l'Arche is an international network of communities for the mentally disabled, founded in 1964 by Canadian Jean Vanier.



Dzherelo Center

The Dzherelo Center building in Lviv.

Today l'Arche unites 132 communities in 35 countries. In a world that often sees the mentally disabled as being outside society, the organization's charter says: "... l'Arche attempts not to provide a solution but to show that society, to be truly humane, should welcome and respect the weak and the oppressed..."

For one year, Ms. Kushpeta lived as a

volunteer in a l'Arche community in Richmond Hill, near Toronto, after which she decided to devote herself totally to social work. She asked the l'Arche community to sponsor her as a volunteer in Ukraine and went to Lviv in 1991, where she still lives and works today.

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ANALYSIS

Moscow-Kyiv gas dispute could redraw Europe's energy map

by Bruce Pannier
RFE/RL

There is no quick way for the European Union to penalize Russia and Ukraine for the gas dispute that led to a frosty two-week cutoff in natural-gas supplies in January. So, for the time being, the European Union continues to receive one-quarter of its gas supplies from Russia – and four-fifths of that via pipelines in Ukraine – just as it did before the feud began.

But the 27-member bloc has already signaled that it will neither forgive nor forget, with EU officials exploring new energy alternatives that circumvent Ukraine or Russia altogether.

In that sense, said Federico Bordonaro, an energy-security analyst with the Italian-based group *equilibre.net*, both Moscow and Kyiv lost something in the dispute. Moreover, with other transit countries like Belarus at the ready, one party's loss could well prove another's gain.

He said officials in Minsk are eager to "enhance the role" of the Yamal-Europe pipeline, a major route that stretches from western Siberia to Europe through Belarus, and adds that a second leg "could be carried out in a year or 18 months from now."

"It remains to be seen if everyone agrees with that," Mr. Bordonaro said, "but it's important to note that Belarus is trying to get some benefit from the Ukraine-Russia row in order to try and enhance its role as a key transit country, which could actually put it in competition with Ukraine."

Belarus has proven to be a difficult transit partner in its own right. During a pricing dispute in January 2007, Russia briefly suspended oil shipments through Belarus's Druzhba pipeline amid claims that Minsk was siphoning off shipments destined for Europe.

That row was quickly resolved, but for Russia the ultimate goal remains a pipeline

that runs directly to Europe interrupted by potentially quarrelsome post-Soviet neighbors.

For Moscow, the best possible consequence of the gas fiasco with Ukraine could be a stepped-up commitment to its South Stream and Nord Stream pipeline projects. South Stream is projected to run from Russia's Black Sea coast to Italy via Bulgaria and Greece, crossing Ukraine's continental shelf but bypassing its soil.

Arguably greater hopes are invested in Nord Stream, which is designed to pipe gas directly from Russia to Germany via the Baltic Sea, and is already nearing completion. Combined, the South and Nord Stream lines would have a capacity of under 90 billion cubic meters (bcm) a year – far less than the 280 bcm currently piped through Ukraine.

But Chris Weafer, a Moscow-based strategist with UralSib bank, said growing interest in the projects could prove profitable for Russia's Gazprom monopoly.

"You could say that Gazprom is a long-term winner from this, because there should be more momentum on the export pipelines like Nord Stream and South Stream, to get them done," Mr. Weafer pointed out. "They will go on a fully commercial basis from 2010. And it should mean that if the deal is done properly, then they perhaps can avoid this sort of annual dispute with Ukraine."

Russia-free solution?

If the EU were to proceed on work with Russia on a Nord Stream-South Stream strategy, then Ukraine might emerge as the greatest loser from the recent dispute. But momentum is growing in Europe for the bloc to circumvent Russian gas altogether – meaning the long-stalled Nabucco project is suddenly back in the spotlight.

Nabucco proposes to pipe gas from

(Continued on page 20)

Nabucco conference in Budapest: twin sides of gas supply diversification

by Vladimir Socor
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The high-level conference in Budapest on the Nabucco gas project (see *Eurasia Daily Monitor*, January 20, 22, 23, 27, 29) underscored a reality that seems to slip from the conceptual grasp of some influential Western European circles. This reality is that diversification of supply sources and transport routes are twin aspects of energy security. The planned Southern Corridor, including Nabucco, is the sole large-scale European project that would meet both criteria. As a counterexample, the Russo-German Nord Stream meets only one of those criteria and even this only half-way.

With regard to supplies for the Southern Corridor to Europe, a senior RWE company executive in Germany noted the decisive factor during the Budapest conference: Caspian and Middle Eastern gas reserves, untapped, are almost twice the size of Russia's proven reserves. Thus, Nabucco and related gas projects are amply justified in terms of resource back-up. To open access to those reserves, Europe must build close partnerships with Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Iraq; and ultimately it cannot afford to exclude Iran from energy partnerships, RWE executive Stefan Juedisch wrote in an article timed to the Budapest

event (*Financial Times Deutschland*, January 27).

RWE, a member of the six-party Nabucco consortium, seeks to open a trans-Caspian outlet for Turkmen gas and supports diversification of German supplies away from overdependence on Russia. It regards the Russia-Ukraine gas crisis as an "opportunity to open a new chapter in the history of supplying Germany and Europe with energy" in both aspects of energy security – diversifying sources and routes.

Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek of the Czech Republic, the current holder of the European Union presidency, delivered key remarks to the Budapest conference. Noting that the Nabucco project was a test of the EU's capacity for integration, Mr. Topolánek warned that the EU would risk its freedom unless it drew its energy supplies from a variety of sources. Independence would become illusory without diversification of sources, Mr. Topolánek noted in his address to the conference and to the media on the sidelines. Nabucco would succeed only if treated as an absolute priority by the EU and as part of a common energy policy. Projects such as Gazprom's South Stream or Nord Stream threatened Nabucco while reinforcing the EU's dependency on Russia, Mr.

(Continued on page 16)

NEWSBRIEFS

Conference on NATO-Ukraine cooperation

KYIV – A conference on Euro-Atlantic and European security opened in the Ivan Kozhedub Kharkiv University of Air Forces of Ukraine on February 4. Participating in two-day meetings were experts at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, the Department for Euro-Atlantic Integration of the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, teachers and cadets of the university, officials of the U.S., German and Slovak embassies in Ukraine, representatives of the NATO Information and Documentation Center in Ukraine and others. A meeting of U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Taylor and the head of the Kharkiv Regional State Administration, Arsen Avakov, was held on the premises of the university. The administration building was picketed by activists of the Ukrainian Communist Party and the Ukrainian Socialist Party carrying banners with the slogan "NATO-Stop!" (Ukrinform)

PRU blocks Rada rostrum

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn on February 3 opened a morning meeting of the fourth session of the Ukrainian Parliament. National deputies of the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU) blocked the rostrum and the presidium of the Verkhovna Rada. The deputy leader of the PRU faction, Anna Herman, said, "We will not allow the opening of a new session of the Verkhovna Rada until the president, the prime minister, the heads of oblast councils and the chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine come to Parliament today to report to their people from the rostrum." She added, "We will block the Parliament's work until they come to Parliament." The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, part of the parliamentary coalition, asked the Verkhovna Rada to consider a draft resolution on a vote of no confidence in the government at a Parliament meeting on February 3. The PRU insisted that the government and the president present a joint report, according to faction leader Viktor Yanukovich, in order to "hear the truth from the prime minister and the president, first and fore-

most, about the economic situation in the country and regarding the [state] budget [for 2009]." The Rada chairman announced a break in the Parliament's session to hold a meeting of the conciliatory council. (Ukrinform)

Writer Pavlo Zahrebelny dies

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko expressed condolences on the death of renowned Ukrainian writer Pavlo Zahrebelny, the presidential press-service reported on February 3. "Pavlo Zahrebelny, the renowned Ukrainian writer, Hero of Ukraine, laureate of the State Prize of the USSR, holder of the Shevchenko Prize, national deputy of Ukraine of a great number of convocations, has died at 84. His outstanding works were the favorites of several generations," Mr. Yushchenko said, adding that about 20 novels were written by Mr. Zahrebelny over 40 years of his literary work. "His civic stand will always serve an example for the Ukrainians, while his creative work will inspire action," the president said. (Ukrinform)

Reaction to alleged "selling" of orphans

KYIV – The Family, Youth and Sports Ministry has released a statement to the Ukrainian president, the Security Service of Ukraine and the Procurator General's Office with regard to groundless statements by politicians and journalists about the allegedly continuing practice of "selling" orphaned children to foreign adoptive parents. Family, Youth and Sports Minister Yurii Pavlenko told a press conference on February 3 that all channels have been completely blocked for structures engaged in the international adoption of Ukrainian children. The minister expressed hope that, jointly with the Security Service, the Procurator General's Office and the Internal Affairs Ministry, the state will not permit the renewal of mediator schemes for international adoption. "The most important thing for us is ensuring the rights of every child for an upbringing in his or her native country and in a Ukrainian family," Mr. Pavlenko noted. He said that by a decision of the government and in accor-

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The Holodomor 75 years later: The Sumy Oblast

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Evidence of the Holodomor in the Sumy Oblast reveals that the Soviet government created a hell on earth, destroying even the most basic values that form healthy human societies – trust, cooperation, justice and love.

Through systemic violence and imposed starvation, absurdity became logic and logic became absurdity; the truth became lies, and lies became truth; good became evil, and evil became good.

In August 1932 the Soviets passed a law criminalizing the possession of even a handful of grain, or “socialist property,” which was punishable by 10 years of hard labor or death.

At the same time, “party activists gained the legal – just ponder this word – right to confiscate grain from farms,” said Liudmyla Pokydychenko, a state archivist in Sumy who in 2006 published “The Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Sumschyna.”

That is to say “common theft and robbery were legalized,” she pointed out, while feeding oneself and one’s family was illegal.

A brief summary of what Ms. Pokydychenko uncovered in her research was compiled in a booklet organized by Sumy State Archives Director Hennadii Ivanuschenko, “Prychyna Smerti: Ukrayinets” (Cause of Death: Ukrainian), which can be viewed on the Sumy State Archives website: http://daso.sumy.ua/images/stories/books/reason_ua/book.pdf.

After food was confiscated and stored in silos, villagers like Musiya Shaposhnyk of Budyłka attempted to take it back to feed his family of nine, only to be arrested.

It was legal for authorities to confiscate food for the state, but illegal for peasants to take it back to feed themselves.

The Holodomor turned the most essen-



Hennadii Ivanuschenko is director of the Sumy Oblast State Archives.

tial element of parenting, feeding one’s children, into a crime, for which 26-year-old Paraska Hvozdetzka was sentenced to five years because she stole a cow and slaughtered it to feed her three children.

The Communists destroyed trust within communities, rewarding starving villagers with bread for informing on those neighbors they knew had buried food in pits or hidden grain elsewhere.

Amidst the collectivization and hunger of the summer of 1932, farmers such as Ivan Stadnyk marveled at the absurd taxes still being imposed. In a statement to district officials, he explained he couldn’t pay a 90-ruble food rations tax because “the land isn’t sown, because



State archivist Liudmyla Pokydychenko compiled “Holodomor 1932-1933 in the Sumschyna,” published in 2006.

there was nothing, and the grain was taken.”

He was levied a 57-ruble bazaar tax, though he sold nothing at the bazaar, where he had only bought a loaf of bread. Furthermore, a 200-ruble income tax was imposed, though Stadnyk stated he paid such taxes at work, as well as membership dues, cultural dues and loan payments.

“I am left barefoot and naked, and the children are swollen from hunger,” Stadnyk said.

As the government’s policies became more absurd and quotas unrealistic, so did the officials’ demands and behavior.

The Svatkivsk Village Council Chair,

The Holodomor in the Sumy Oblast

48,006 established casualties*
52,497 known survivors remaining
1,487 population centers affected
110 known mass graves

* This preliminary figure is incomplete and will increase with ongoing research, said Hennadii Ivanuschenko, director of the Sumy Oblast State Archives.

for example, demanded that collective farmers fulfill the annual meat quota in a single day, threatening them with arrest, according to an archived document.

The genocidal fervor left the Communist leaders bereft of even a basic sense of right and wrong.

In March 1933 the Nedryhailiv District leaders charged their fellow Communists for the “difficult state” of the village of Rubanka, singling out Comrade Yukhymenko for not informing them of massive deaths from “exhaustion.”

They duly punished him, with a rebuke.

The incident epitomized the Communists’ absurd attempts to enforce a moral system amidst an amoral genocide – in committing the crime of following genocidal orders too effectively, Yukhymenko was merely rebuked.

At the same, the Communist leadership of the Romenskyi District was tossed from the party for “insufficiently applying repressions.”

Inevitably, the peasants themselves lost their sense of right and wrong.

When teacher Denys Bakhtin was executed for agitation and undermining col-

(Continued on page 16)

NEWS ANALYSIS: Ukraine’s chief banker in legal limbo

by Pavel Korduban
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The Ukrainian Parliament has exacerbated both the political and economic crises in Ukraine by voting to dismiss National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) chairman Volodymyr Stelmakh. Consequently, it is not clear who is running the central bank in a country that has been among the hardest hit by the global financial crisis.

The move was orchestrated by Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who has been demanding Mr. Stelmakh’s removal for months. President Viktor Yushchenko, her main rival, has refused to recognize Mr. Stelmakh’s dismissal, and the law is apparently on his side.

Ms. Tymoshenko holds Mr. Stelmakh responsible for the devaluation of the national currency, the hryvnia, by some 60 percent against the dollar since summer 2008. She also believes that the NBU decision to issue loans worth billions of dollars to several ailing banks from November 2008 through January 2009 was illegal. Ms. Tymoshenko is especially unhappy about the refinancing of Ukraine’s seventh-largest bank, Nadra, which she accused of involvement in illegal currency speculations, an allegation denied by the bank (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, December 17, 2008; UNIAN, January 24).

Mr. Yushchenko’s team views Ms. Tymoshenko’s motives differently. Oleksander Shlapak, the president’s chief economic advisor, has claimed that Ms. Tymoshenko wants to eliminate Mr.

Stelmakh because he opposes her plan to sell government bonds to the NBU in order to cover a huge budget deficit in 2009. Mr. Shlapak warned that if the NBU started printing money in order to eliminate the deficit, Ukraine’s economy would be thrown back into the 1990s (Kommersant Ukraine, January 27). In the 1990s Ukraine’s GDP shrank dramatically, and inflation reached five-digit figures by 1994.

The Verkhovna Rada, which has been dominated by a pro-Tymoshenko coalition since late last year, voted no-confidence in Mr. Stelmakh twice – in December 2008 and January. That did not impress Mr. Yushchenko, who flatly refused to dismiss Mr. Stelmakh, his ally since the 1990s when Mr. Yushchenko himself chaired the NBU and Mr. Stelmakh was his deputy. According to the Constitution of Ukraine, it is the president who has the authority to dismiss the NBU head, and Parliament is only able to reject or approve his decision.

Since the Verkhovna Rada cannot directly dismiss Mr. Stelmakh, it opted for a bizarre alternative. On January 26 a majority voted to invalidate Parliament’s approval of Mr. Stelmakh’s appointment as NBU chief in December 2004. Ms. Tymoshenko’s team tried at the same time to replace Mr. Stelmakh with Serhii Tyhypko, who led the NBU in 2004. The Communists and defectors from Mr. Yushchenko’s camp who voted to oust Mr. Stelmakh refused, however, to back Ms. Tymoshenko’s choice for his replacement (Ekonomicheskije Izvestia, January 27).

This probably means that the NBU will

be formally steered by Mr. Stelmakh’s first deputy, Anatolii Shapovalov, as long as Mr. Stelmakh’s status is unclear; but Ms. Tymoshenko also wants Mr. Shapovalov out. Justice Minister Mykola Onyschuk, who is loyal to Mr. Yushchenko, said that Parliament’s vote on Mr. Stelmakh had no legal basis (UNIAN, January 27). Mr. Yushchenko’s legal adviser Ihor Pukshyn said that the president would appeal Parliament’s decision to the Constitutional Court (Ukrayinska Pravda, January 26).

Arseniy Yatsenyuk, a former deputy of Mr. Tyhypko and Rada chairman in 2007 and 2008, suggested that if one accepts Parliament’s logic on Mr. Stelmakh’s dismissal, one should also accept the possibility that Parliament could replace Ms. Tymoshenko with one of her predecessors in the post of prime minister (UNIAN, January 26). In a television interview, Ms. Tymoshenko conceded that Parliament had no legal powers to dismiss Mr. Stelmakh (ICTV, January 26).

The uncertainty about the NBU leadership may make matters worse for Ukraine’s ailing banking sector. Prominvestbank, the country’s fifth largest bank and the first to send out bad signals last fall, has apparently been rescued as the NBU managed to find a buyer for it in Moscow—Vneshekonombank, which is chaired by none other than Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin (Ekonomicheskije Izvestia, January 16). Rodovid, another one of Ukraine’s top 20 banks seriously weakened by the financial crisis, is about to be sold to ISTIL, a company belonging to a British national, Mohammad Zahoor

(Kommersant Ukraine, January 12). Several other large banks are on the brink of disaster.

Tycoon Dmytro Firtash has reportedly lost interest in the Nadra Bank after RosUkrEnergo, his joint venture with Russia’s Gazprom, was eliminated from the gas trade between Ukraine and Russia under the recent agreements between Prime Ministers Tymoshenko and Putin. Mr. Firtash declared his interest in Nadra last November (Segodnya, January 27). Nadra is seriously short of cash, and the Fitch international rating agency recently gave it the lowest rating among post-Soviet banks (Kommersant Ukraine, January 21).

Mr. Shapovalov, speaking in Parliament, accused the Tymoshenko Cabinet of sinking Nadra, because at the Cabinet’s request a court in Kyiv forbade the NBU to continue refinancing the bank (Ukrayinska Pravda, January 26). Prime Minister Tymoshenko insists that Nadra is being refinanced illegally on President Yushchenko’s orders (Ukrayinska Pravda, January 22).

The NBU has appointed a temporary administrator for another large cash-strapped bank, Ukrprombank (RBK-Ukraine, January 21). Ukraine’s largest private bank, PrivatBank, denied rumors that it was going to buy Ukrprombank (www.finblog.com.ua, January 12).

The article above is reprinted from Eurasia Daily Monitor with permission from its publisher, the Jamestown Foundation, www.jamestown.org.

Panel discusses development of independent media in Ukraine

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON – The development of independent media in Ukraine and the prospects of its future development were the subjects of a luncheon panel discussion here on January 29.

Organized by the International Forum for Democratic Studies at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), the panel featured Ihor Lylo, one of Ukraine's leading political reporters and director of two popular Lviv radio political talk shows.

In his presentation, Mr. Lylo outlined some of the problems faced by independent media and made some recommendations about how its future development could be helped, among them with the creation of a public broadcasting system. He is currently in Washington as a Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow at the NED.

He was joined at the podium by Myroslava Gongadze, a journalist with experience both in Ukraine and internationally, as a television correspondent of the Voice of America Ukrainian Service. Ms. Gongadze's husband, Heorhii Gongadze, the editor of the independent online publication *Ukrayinska Pravda*, was killed near Kyiv in 2000, presumably for his critical reporting about the government. His reporting and how to deal with it was the subject of discussion secretly tape recorded in the office of then-President Leonid Kuchma.

His still-unsolved murder — one of nine Ukrainian journalists killed since independence, as Dr. Lylo pointed out — is one of the problems in trying to develop independent media in a country that has basically four types of media: state-owned, local-community, private and the Internet.

In addition to his journalistic career, Mr. Lylo teaches Ukrainian history and culture at Ivan Franko National University and the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv.

Among the other problems facing the news media, he said, were instances of the rich "buying" journalists and news outlets or threatening to sue them for libel. The latter includes what he called "libel tourism," in which the suit is brought in a foreign country, as in the

case of Ukraine's richest businessman, Rinat Akhmetov, who is suing the *Kyiv Post* not in Ukraine but in Great Britain.

As for the public's trust of journalists, Dr. Lylo noted that the results of a public opinion poll about the most trustworthy professions in Ukraine placed teachers at the top of the list, prostitutes at the bottom, and journalists in the middle. Politicians came in just above the prostitutes on that list.

Among Dr. Lylo's suggestions for the creation of an independent media in a democratic Ukraine were the creation of a "viable" public broadcasting system, expanding the use of the Internet "as an alternative to dependence on state and media owners," and developing university-based media outlets.

Ms. Gongadze said she agreed with some of his recommendations but pointed out that past attempts to create public broadcasting systems have failed. "The reason for that is very simple: The big political players prefer the status quo situation under which they can use influential media resources in their own interests," she added.

On the positive side, Ms. Gongadze pointed to the availability of foreign news sources within Ukraine — broadcasts, like VOA, and information on the Internet, which is very popular with the younger generation. Unfortunately, she added, Ukrainian society, on the whole, is poor and most of the people cannot afford Internet access. Television remains the primary source of media communication, and — again unfortunately — an increasing number of TV stations are opting out of news coverage and concentrating more on entertainment.

In her conclusion, Ms. Gongadze said: "I have to admit that for someone who paid a big personal price for press freedom in Ukraine, I, as many Ukrainians today, feel disappointed and frustrated."

Seventeen years after independence and four years after the Orange Revolution, she added, "Ukrainians are still denied a basic freedom, as declared in Article 19 in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 'to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any medium regardless of frontiers.'"

She recommended that NED and similar organizations support education pro-



Ihor Lylo discusses the future of the independent media in Ukraine. Next to him is Nadia Diuk of the National Endowment for Democracy, the moderator of the discussion.



Voice of America Ukrainian television correspondent Myroslava Gongadze discusses media problems in Ukraine.

grams for journalists, help them with legal support, provide leadership and professional development programs, and support local radio and television programming in Ukraine as well as interna-

tional broadcasting, like VOA.

The discussion was moderated by Nadia Diuk, senior director for Europe and Eurasia at the National Endowment for Democracy.

Ukraine experiences small 'baby boom'

RFE/RL

KYIV – For the first time in many years, birthrates have outpaced mortality rates in three Ukrainian regions.

Record of Ukraine's Minister of Justice show there were 513,997 children born in Ukraine in 2008 – a 7 percent increase over 2007.

Births outpaced deaths in the Zakarpattia Oblast, in the capital, Kyiv, and the Rivne Oblast.

Many attribute the small "baby boom" to the child benefits paid by the state.

Ukraine gives parents 12,500 hrv (about \$1,500) for a first child, 25,000 hrv for a second, and 50,500 hrv for a third child.

But demographer Ella Libanova told RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service that the baby boom is simply cyclical, with more babies usually being born after a leap year.

Ukraine's population has been greatly reduced since the dissolution of the USSR, and the World Bank estimates the country's population will shrink from today's 46 million people to some 37 million by 2025.

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Parsippany, NJ 07054.

UCCLA begins campaign for "No KGB in Canada!"

OTTAWA – The Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association said on January 22 that it is ramping up its campaign to get all NKVD, KGB and other Communist secret police veterans out of Canada.

UCCLA's "No KGB In Canada!" campaign involves thousands of its supporters mailing in pre-printed postcards to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Minister of Immigration and Citizenship Jason Kenney and the Minister of Public Safety Peter Van Loan.

The cards carry the message: "Veterans of Soviet secret police formations like the NKVD, SMERSH and KGB should not be allowed to enter Canada nor to remain here. No exceptions. Denaturalize and deport them all, immediately."

UCCLA's chairman, Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, explained: "For years we have alerted the government of Canada, the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] and others to the illegal pres-

ence in our country of veterans of the Soviet secret police. We don't know how many there are, but some openly boasted about their participation in torture and mass murder."

"While we have always championed the principle that any person found in Canada alleged to be a war criminal should be tried in a criminal court, politics is the art of the possible," Dr. Luciuk continued. "Since the federal government insists upon using denaturalization and deportation for dealing with persons who should not be in Canada, we call upon Ottawa to apply its preferred standard in every case, without exceptions. There should be no KGB men in Canada – not now, not ever. Indeed, Canada should not be a haven for anyone who admits that they were involved in war crimes, regardless of their ethnic, racial or religious heritage, their ideological convictions, or the period or place where they committed or enabled such crimes against humanity. Justice cannot be selective."

Ukrainian Orthodox Church begins construction of museum

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — Construction began on January 19 for the Patriarch Mstyslav I Ukrainian Orthodox Museum as part of the Historical and Educational Complex of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

The complex, which includes the museum, was approved in 2001 during the 15th Sobor of the UOC-U.S.A. Groundbreaking for the museum was in the summer of 2007 and the costs expended to date exceed \$1.6 million.

Generous bequests for the museum, from individuals such as Mykhailo Werbiany, Sviatoslav Kybaliuk, John Kozel, Marie Krotiuk, George Chaplenko and others, have helped make the project a reality.

Other donations have been received from Self-Reliance New

York Federal Credit Union, the Ukrainian Orthodox League, St. Mary Protectress Sisterhood in South Bound Brook, N.J., the Ukrainian Information Bureau, Virginia Farrah Foundation and many others. The United Ukrainian Orthodox Sisterhoods of the UOC-U.S.A. raised over \$350,000 for the museum.

In addition to construction costs, the UOC-U.S.A. is raising funds for the expected \$2.5 million cost to furnish the museum. The museum will serve to preserve the Church's past and educate future generations. For more information on making a donation, at the supporter, founder or benefactor level, readers may contact Dr. Stephen Sivulich, development officer, at 412-276-1130 or ssivulich@juno.com.



A view of the construction site of the Patriarch Mstyslav I Ukrainian Orthodox Museum.

Communist...

(Continued from page 1)

Tymoshenko Bloc and the Communists in Parliament," he added.

Ms. Ginzburg's return to the State Archives has raised alarm bells among nationally conscious Ukrainians, as well as professional archivists, who point out that she had no archival experience or humanitarian education prior to her first appointment on September 7, 2006, a tenure that lasted 19 months.

Vice-Prime Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Ivan Vasiunyk said no Our Ukraine Cabinet ministers voted to support Ms. Ginzburg's return, and the Ministry of Justice has filed an appeal of the court decision.

"Considering she's in the pews of the Communist Party, an anti-Ukrainian political force which should have been banned long ago, then it's not worth expecting objectivity from her work in such an important position in a time of establishing Ukrainian statehood," said Mykola Kulchynskiy, an Our Ukraine national deputy from the "For Ukraine!" group loyal to the president.

After announcing on January 27 that all of Ukraine's secret Soviet documents would be declassified, Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) Acting Chair Valentyn Nalyvaichenko said, although Ms. Ginzburg's appointment was "counter-productive," it won't threaten the State Archives' resources and access to them. "Any changes in the state archives' leadership won't stop us in executing this [January 23 presidential] decree in any way," he said.

Ms. Ginzburg's harshest critic, Hennadii Boriak, resigned from his post as first assistant chair in March 2008, stating "the archivists' code of ethics doesn't permit me to hold a high position and execute my professional responsibilities under the leadership of the 'red commissar,' placed in her post by her party."

With no education or experience in the social sciences, Ms. Ginzburg was tapped by the Communists because of her Marxist convictions, said Serhii Hrabovskiy, a veteran Kyiv journalist and political observer.

After earning an engineering degree from the Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute, Sumy branch, in 1981, she served as a Communist Party secretary at the Konotop Reinforcements Factory for 12 years, becoming its assistant director in 1989.

"She was practically a party worker in the nomenklatura," Mr. Hrabovskiy said. "There are certain positions where you don't need to necessarily know anything

but lead various meetings. It's a parody of management."

Once she became a national deputy in 2002, Ms. Ginzburg proposed numerous resolutions to celebrate the anniversaries of Soviet heroes.

For Ms. Tymoshenko, a native of Dnipropetrovsk, such convictions aren't particularly offensive, Mr. Hrabovskiy said. "She truly believes it doesn't matter all that much, and if the economy improves, then Ukraine will do fine," he said. "Socioeconomic matters are primary for her, a view that shares essential points with Marxist ideology."

Ms. Ginzburg's predecessor, history professor Dr. Oleksander Udod, confirmed he had been replaced. "I have certain thoughts, but my moral principles don't allow me to speak about this person," Dr. Udod said. "I refrain from any judgments."

Among Mr. Boriak's accusations against Ms. Ginzburg is that she excluded obituaries of Soviet dissident Nadia Svitlychna and Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute Founder Omeljan Pritsak from the State Archives' publications, as well as a publication on Hnat Khotkevych, the legendary artist and bandurist executed by the Soviets in 1938.

Ms. Ginzburg also attempted to transfer the Institute of National Memory, created by President Viktor Yushchenko, under her jurisdiction within the State Archives, including its budget, he alleged.

"For a year and a half, true archivists were forced to spend the lion's share of their time not on their field of expertise, but on their struggle with 'commissars,'" Mr. Boriak said.

They forced her to execute the presidential decree ordering the State Archives to conduct campaigns and events honoring the victims of the Holodomor and the Communist terror, he said. They also succeeded in preventing a joint project with Russian ideologues who offered a different interpretation on the Holodomor, he said.

In the State Archives' web exhibit titled "Occupation 1941-1944: Uncertain War, Uncertain Life," Ms. Ginzburg allegedly excluded a chapter, "Between Two Totalitarianisms: Ideological Propaganda on Occupied Territory," displaying both Nazi and Communist propaganda placards.

The Weekly did not succeed in contacting Ms. Ginzburg, who is already working at her post, for comment.

In a June 2007 interview on the Channel 5 (5 Kanal) television network, Ms. Ginzburg said among her priorities would be limiting public access to the

archives, particularly documents on the Soviet repressions, since revealing the identities of the responsible officials could negatively affect their descendants. She also wanted to renew secret classification on documents on land that was confiscated by the Communists.

In the same interview, Ms. Ginzburg said she would not lend archives to the Museum of the Soviet Occupation in Kyiv. "Such a museum shouldn't be in our country at all, which is why the archives didn't transfer materials for this museum," she explained. "If they turn to us, then I will regard it absolutely negatively. Who needs this? My generation doesn't need this. Which generation needs to be told about the Soviet occupation?"

Responding to accusations that she attempted to conceal Soviet documents, Ms. Ginzburg told the Kommersant newspaper in April 2008 such measures can only be done by a special expert commission. Such accusations "could only be asserted by a dilettante, or someone spinning political circles," she said.

However Kyiv political insider Ivan Lozowy said there are many creative ways to conceal or destroy documents, such as claiming to have lost them while moving offices or performing renovations.

In an August 2007 interview with a Communist newspaper, Ms. Ginzburg spoke at length about the need for renovations to the main archival complex, also indicating work had already begun.

When asked by The Weekly whether the SBU was aware of any destruction of documents or limitation of access to them under Ms. Ginzburg's leadership, Mr. Nalyvaichenko said his organ is responsible for preserving archives throughout Ukraine, it will perform a review and report its results to the public.

"We don't tie this situation with the surname of a particular official who had chaired, is chairing or will chair," he said. "Most importantly, what currently remains in the archives must be urgently publicized and copied [onto digital form]. Then the process is irreversible."

The Communists are trying to maintain their influence on the consciousness of Ukrainians and their perception of history, said Svitlana Kononchuk, the director of political programs at the Ukrainian Independent Center for Political Research in Kyiv.

"The Communists will support any initiative in exchange for positions for its members," she said. "This post preserves its influence, and access to archived documents is a great strength."

Since the Orange Revolution, Ms. Tymoshenko had struck numerous deals with the Communists, most notably when she survived a no-confidence vote initiated in the Parliament by the Party of Regions of Ukraine in July 2008.

In return, Communist Vasyl Marmazov became vice-minister of internal affairs and Communist Mykola Tymoshenko became chair of the State Forestry Committee.

Most recently, the prime minister recruited the Communists to support the January 26 vote to dismiss Volodymyr Stelmakh, the chair of the National Bank of Ukraine.

After Ms. Tymoshenko became prime minister in December 2007 and the Democratic Forces Coalition was formed, President Yushchenko demanded Ms. Ginzburg's dismissal on April 3 and Our Ukraine politicians kept up the pressure.

"The Communist Party representative is abusing her official status to interfere with the state policy of establishing historical justice, and experienced professionals are forced to leave the State Archives," the president stated. "Is the Communist Party a coalition member, that its representative feels so sure of herself in a government post?"

Sure enough, Ms. Ginzburg was dismissed a week later on the basis that her post fell under the quota of Our Ukraine — People's Self-Defense in the coalition agreement.

However the dismissal resolution contained no references to statutes that allow for such dismissals, the Kommersant newspaper reported in January.

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Tymoshenko and the archives

Among her key strengths is Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's talent for reaching across aisles, finding common ground and forging alliances, even among diverse interests.

Yet, this time, Ms. Tymoshenko has gone too far.

While it's accepted that Orange leaders can find compromise and form situational alliances with the pro-Russian Party of Regions of Ukraine, the Communist Party of Ukraine is off limits.

Might we remind Ms. Tymoshenko that the Communist Party is responsible for the murder of untold millions of Ukrainians (some estimate as many as 20 million), and continues to insist that historically established facts are fabricated or exaggerated? This is the same political force that physically tortured and psychologically battered Ukrainians for 70 years, depriving them of their ability to create wealth, and convincing them it's shameful to be Ukrainian and speak the Ukrainian language.

That Ms. Tymoshenko struck a deal with the Communists – a suspicion accepted as fact in Kyiv – is an outrage. Trusting the Communists with Ukraine's State Archives is tantamount to trusting an accused murderer with the crime scene evidence.

Olha Ginzburg, the re-instated State Archives Committee director, denies the Holodomor was an artificial famine or a genocide, and has publicly stated that she wants to limit public access to the archives – particularly documents related to Soviet repressions. She acknowledged that during her 19-month tenure between September 6, 2006, and April 10, 2008, she refused to lend incriminating documents to the Museum of the Soviet Occupation in Kyiv.

Dedicated archivists accuse her of turning the State Archives into a Communist propaganda arm, censoring publications and websites, impeding the search for historical justice and truth, and poisoning the atmosphere.

Ms. Tymoshenko's willingness to accept Ms. Ginzburg's return reveals she isn't particularly disturbed by the death and destruction the Communists inflicted on Ukraine, and is unconcerned about giving them control of influential organs, such as the State Archives.

Doubts cast by her opponents upon her national consciousness and allegiances are more credible now.

Like former President Leonid Kuchma, Ms. Tymoshenko comes from the Dnipropetrovsk "technocratic intelligentsia" that views historical and cultural matters as secondary, explained Serhii Hrabovskyi, a veteran Kyiv political observer and journalist. The top archives post merely was merely a bargaining chip for Ms. Tymoshenko, who overlooked their historical and emotional significance. "She views cultural positions as second-rate, and not a large payment for the loyalty of the Communists," Mr. Hrabovskyi commented.

Two days after Ms. Ginzburg's appointment, President Viktor Yushchenko issued a decree requiring the declassification and accessibility to the public of all remaining documents pertaining to Soviet repressions and persecutions – about 800,000 materials previously classified as secret and inaccessible.

Though it's not clear whether the timing of such an announcement coincided with Ms. Ginzburg's return, President Yushchenko has shown that he will stand up for the cause of historical truth that most Ukrainian politicians don't care about. Had it not been for his presidency, Ukraine likely would not have achieved most of its cultural and historical gains in the last four years.

While President Yushchenko has demonstrated his own political pragmatism during his presidency, he's got his limits, Ms. Tymoshenko, meanwhile, can take such pragmatism to extremes. It appears that Ms. Tymoshenko subscribes to the Soviet saying, "If there is bread, there will be songs."

But we must never forget that it was the Communist Party that took bread out of the mouths of millions of Ukrainians during the Holodomor, leaving them to die of torturous starvation.

And we won't forget Ms. Tymoshenko's cavalier attitude with the Communists. Considering the prime minister has shown she is willing to trade away Ukraine's heritage, she'd better hope she puts bread on the table. What other reason would remain for Ukrainians to cast their votes for her?

Feb.
8
2007

Turning the pages back...

Two years ago, on February 8-10, 2007, President Viktor Yushchenko met with German Chancellor Angela Merkel to build stronger ties between Ukraine and Germany, and Ukraine and the European Union.

"There is no doubt Ukraine will be a member of the European Union, but we understand that this ambition is not immediate. ... Our priorities are economic association and political integration into European structures," Mr. Yushchenko said during a joint press conference on February 8, 2007.

Mr. Yushchenko hoped that a new agreement with the EU would "determine Ukraine's goals and aspirations in its dialogue with the European Union."

Chancellor Merkel explained that the document would "support Ukraine's desire for reforms" and confirmed her intention to visit Ukraine during the Ukraine-EU summit later that year.

Ukraine and the EU must first create condition to liberalize visa procedures, launch scientific and cultural exchange programs, and sign a free trade agreement, Ms. Merkel said. "We will start with simple things like visas and will then proceed to signing a free trade agreement," she explained.

The two leaders also agreed to formulate new energy policies, ensuring that European consumers get oil and gas transparently and on time.

"Ukraine understands its important role in the formation of Europe's energy security policy and is conscious of its responsibility. I know that last year's story perhaps

(Continued on page 19)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Year in Review: a good reference

Dear Editor:

I agree with Peter Woloschuk (Letters to the Editor, January 25). Your "2008: The Year in Review" is fantastic. Although they're yellowing, I keep the previous years handy.

May I suggest that the Ukrainian National Association publish this review in its annual almanac? This English-language reference source would greatly increase its value and supplement the Ukrainian text. In book format the review would be more durable.

Since copies of the UNA Almanac eventually make their way to libraries and individuals in Ukraine, the review would provide a much-needed source of information on Ukrainian life at home and abroad.

College and university libraries throughout North America would certainly collect them since there is nothing comparable available in English.

Jurij Dobczansky
Silver Spring, Md.

EDITOR'S NOTE: While we appreciate Mr. Dobczansky's suggestion as a very worthwhile one, production scheduling renders this idea almost impossible to realize. While the UNA Almanac for 2009 (presumably the one that would have carried the "2008: The Year in Review") went to press in December 2008, the yearender was completed in early January of 2009. Thus, the annual almanac always goes to print well before the year in review issue is prepared.

However, all year in review issues ever published are available online on The Ukrainian Weekly's website (www.ukrweekly.com). Click on "Archive" at the top of the homepage and then go to "Special Issues"; or go to the pull-down menu for years and click on the issue date. Year in review issues for 1976 through 1999 traditionally appeared in the last issue of the year; beginning with the year in review for 2000, such overviews have appeared in the first issues of the new year.

Chronicle of events, plus good reading

Dear Editor:

Thank you for providing the annual year in review issue of key events. I can imagine it is a significant undertaking on the part of your team.

However, it does serve two broader objectives: 1) it chronicles events from the Ukrainian perspective, both native and diaspora, rather than having someone else yet again write a history of a Ukraine from a point of view that relies on belittling or ridiculing our great nation; 2) also, it provides interesting reading as we walk almost day by day through the past year, re-living the emotions of the time.

Arriving at the last word of the section, we reach the conclusion that much more needs to be done to secure Ukrainian borders, promulgate the Ukrainian language (yes, even here in the U.S. when we speak to our children, something that I notice that many of my "rovesnyky" do not do)

and preserve our culture.

Obviously, Ukraine is going through troubled times and, unless we and the world know the "rest of the story" through your documentation of it, we are not likely to be able to influence results. Also, as I read the articles, ideas about people to contact and initiatives to start seep into my mind, and then I start reaching out to people who share the same goals as I do and try to pull in the people who don't.

Our Plast fraternity has a motto that we use and I feel it can easily be used by everyone, not just Plast members: "Yak ty aktyvnyi v Plasti, tvoji dity budut aktyvni" ("If you are active in Plast, your children will be active in Plast"). Taking that to the next level: "If we are active in helping Ukraine, our children will be active in helping Ukraine."

Dr. Oleh Denysyk
Morris Plains, N.J.

New York Times, Duranty and Stalin

Dear Editor:

It was 1932 when one of The New York Times's favorite political figures, Joseph Stalin, began to starve Ukrainians.

In 1932-1933, Times correspondent reporter Walter Duranty wrote that Comrade Stalin was feeding the hungry in Ukraine rather than causing their doom. Duranty was on the payroll of The New York Times and, it seems, the NKVD payroll at the same time.

To this day The New York Times remains devoid of any ounce of hollow shame and refuses to rebut the reporting of its Soviet propaganda mouthpiece.

Perhaps The New York Times feels unobligated to apologize to Ukrainians globally for its integral involvement with Stalin's maniacal plans some 75 years ago. That would be a big mistake. Ukrainians united have power, including economic power.

The Ukrainian people are tolerant, and we are waiting for an apology from The New York Times. The Ukrainian people also speak with one voice when they are served a great injustice. Stalin and The New York Times have not and will never break our indomitable spirit and our determination to seek and recover the truth for our millions of starved Ukrainian children, women and men.

Alexander Balaban
Roselle Park, N.J.

We welcome your opinion

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

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

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PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



CROSSCURRENTS

by Andrew Sorokowski

Our new president

If I'd had my way, we would have watched the inauguration of President Obama on TV from the comfort of our home, but our children insisted we go to Washington – “to be part of history,” they said. So, we drove the family van the six-plus hours to D.C., where we endured long lines and painfully crowded Metro stations for the privilege of standing on the Mall in the bitter cold, hemmed in by masses of people on all sides.

The proceedings were broadcast on loudspeakers, the words resounding and then coming back as an echo a half second later. People focused on the Jumbotron nearby to see what was happening on the steps of the Capitol more than a quarter mile away. Our view was partially obscured by tree branches and the six-foot-six guy standing in front of us. And that was one of the better spots: the ticketed Silver Area between the statue of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, the 18th president and the National Gallery of Art.

But the kids were right: it was historic, and I'm glad we went. With 1.8 million people, including several other Ukrainian families that I know, it was the largest crowd ever assembled in Washington and by far the largest one I've ever been part of. Given the huge inconvenience of closed streets and bottlenecks at entrances to the narrow security corridors where hundreds of thousands of people were funneled for individual screening after hours in line, it was also unusually friendly, good-natured and well-behaved. Like Woodstock, which I missed 40 years ago, this experience will only get better with each re-telling of the story.

Not surprisingly, many black folks from all corners of America came to witness the culmination of an astonishing transformation in our society: an African American sworn in as president. The occasion included lots of references to Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King in speeches, exhibits and T-shirts on sale at the ubiquitous sidewalk vendor stands.

Without dwelling on the racial aspect of his identity, Mr. Obama noted how special it was that “a man whose father less than 60 years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath.”

For me, it was special not only because Mr. Obama is the first African American president, he's also the son of an immigrant and, as far as I know, that makes him the only first-generation American to become president. He referred to his immigrant origins when he extended our country's hand in friendship to people throughout the world, “from the grandest capitals to the small village where my father was born.”

Given his background – an African father; a mother whose ancestors hailed from County Offaly in Ireland; a half-sister who's half Indonesian; a Chinese Canadian brother-in-law; a half-sister in Kenya; and a wife descended from American slaves – it's no surprise that President Obama views what he calls America's “patchwork heritage” as a strength, not a weakness.

He bowed his head to America's diverse forebears: “...for us, they packed up their few worldly possessions and traveled across oceans in search of a new life...” And my thoughts went to my own immigrant parents, just as the black citizens watching all over America no doubt connected when he spoke of those who “endured the lash of the whip.” Mr. Obama

remembered those who “toiled in sweatshops and settled the West... and plowed the hard earth” and acknowledged America's religious and ethnic diversity: “Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus, and non-believers. We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this earth.”

A speech, of course, is only words. What matters is how you govern. That's why I was gratified the next morning, when I attended a meeting with 30-plus representatives of various ethnic groups – Irish, Polish, Arab, Serbian, Croatian, Greek, etc. – where Brian Bond, national constituency director for the Obama-Biden campaign, told us he would be deputy director of public liaison in the Obama White House and since his constituency included “hyphenated Americans,” he wanted to “listen and receive.” And for two hours that's what he did. We talked about the nuts and bolts of communicating with the administration to make sure our concerns – whether domestic or foreign policy – would be heard.

Among those attending the meeting was Marilyn DiGiacobbe, an Italian American, who was responsible for ethnic outreach in the Clinton White House and now works in academia. During her tenure in the 1990s she convened regular meetings for ethnic representatives as a group, as well as specific briefings for each community individually, including Ukrainians whose leaders – Republicans, Democrats and Independents – came to the White House, Old Executive Office Building or State Department to consult on America's policy toward Ukraine.

On occasion, the meetings included President Bill Clinton himself or Vice-President Al Gore. For me, the most memorable was with Mr. Gore before he left for Kyiv and Chernobyl in 1998 and he outlined the agenda for his trip. When he finished, he asked, “What am I missing?” Michael Sawkiw, head of the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), spoke up: “Mr. Vice-President, you can't go to Ukraine without bringing up the Famine-Genocide.”

“Okay,” Mr. Gore said, “Tell me more.” And so we did, and sure enough the vice-president included the Famine in his speech at Chernobyl a week later, probably the first high-ranking U.S. government official to do so.

Unfortunately, this was a model the administration of George W. Bush discontinued. The Obama administration would be wise to follow it. They're off to a promising start.

All in all, it was fun for our family “to be part of history” at the inauguration, but the real history will be made in the months and years to come. Mr. Obama assumes office with as tough a set of challenges that any president has ever had. Focusing narrowly on Ukraine, he said all the right things as a candidate and surrounded himself with knowledgeable advisors who genuinely support Ukraine's young democracy.

Now, as president, the weight of the world is on his shoulders. He begins his presidency with the support and prayers of billions of people throughout America and the world. May he also have God's help with his task. He'll certainly need it.

Andrew Fedynsky's e-mail address is fedynsky@sbcglobal.net.

Doubt and denial

Are you a Ukrainian genocide doubter? It's all right; there's nothing dishonorable about it. Doubt is part of the human condition. As long as it doesn't become a paralyzing mental block, foreclosing any apprehension of truth, it's normal. In questions of historical interpretation, a healthy skepticism is essential. Besides, some very reputable lawyers and historians doubt that the Holodomor of 1932-1933 was genocide.

Denial, however, is a different matter. It requires the same degree of certainty as affirmation. If you merely find that the facts are ambiguous or incomplete, or that they fail to satisfy all the elements of the crime as defined in the Genocide Convention, then you are a genocide doubter. To be a genocide denier, on the other hand, you must believe that the facts suffice not just to raise a doubt about genocide, but to absolutely disprove it. That's not easy. It's not surprising, then, that genocide deniers rely on shrill accusations, not facts and reason.

The prime genocide deniers are Russia's Foreign Affairs Ministry and United Nations representation. As U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin boasted on December 18, 2008, they have succeeded in blocking Ukraine's attempt to place a resolution qualifying the Holodomor as genocide on the agenda of the U.N. General Assembly (ITAR-TASS, December 19, 2008). What are their arguments?

First, they accuse Ukraine of politicizing the Famine of 1932-1933. But you cannot be guilty of politicizing what was already an essentially political program aimed at breaking Ukrainian national resistance to Soviet rule.

Second, they assert that the Famine was not directed at the Ukrainian people, but at the Soviet peasantry as a whole. Yet the context of the Bolshevik war on Ukraine along several fronts in the late 1920s and 1930s – cultural, intellectual and religious, as well as political and economic – shows that the entire Ukrainian people was targeted. In fact, the Holodomor may have constituted only one phase – though certainly the most horrendous – of the Ukrainian genocide. Whatever the Famine of 1932-1933 may have meant for the rest of the Soviet Union, in Ukraine it was genocidal (see Stanislav Kulchytskyi, “U Chomu Sut Ukrainko-Rosiiskoi Superechky?” Den [The Day] No. 13, January 29).

Third, the deniers object that calling the Holodomor a genocide of Ukrainians is a slight to the Russians who also starved, implying that their lives were less valuable. But no such differentiation of the dead is asserted. Similarly, no one would argue that classifying the Holocaust as genocide devalues the lost lives of Hitler's other victims.

Finally, the deniers allege that the genocide campaign is directed against the Russian state and people, with the aim of fomenting inter-ethnic strife. The evidence is hardly convincing. What many Ukrainians object to, however, is the current Russian regime's attempt to rehabilitate Joseph Stalin as a hero, not a hangman; to whitewash the party that carried out his will; and to glorify the Soviet regime as a shining chapter in Russian history.

If no argument can justify genocide denial, there are several factors that help

to explain it. First, the deniers cannot accept the notion that the Ukrainians were ever victimized. For this would cast doubt on the unity of Rus' – Russia, Ukraine and Belarus – as a close-knit family of peoples. In particular, it would overturn the belief that inclusion in the USSR (and, before that, in the Russian empire) brought the Ukrainians nothing but benefits.

Second, admitting to a genocide in the USSR could open the way to admitting to genocide in contemporary Russia – namely, in Chechnya. The notion that genocide is always committed by someone else protects Russians from uncomfortable facts not only about their Soviet past, but about their post-Soviet present.

At the same time, denying that the Holodomor was genocide removes an obstacle to the current regime's glorification of Soviet history. It saves Russian historians from the kind of agonizing controversies about the 1930s and 1940s that have plagued their German colleagues. Instead of breeding a rebellious generation of youth revolted by its forebears' complicity in mass murder, as in West Germany, a Russia free of genocide guilt can produce generations of conformist youth proud of everything in their past. And willing to repeat it.

Outright genocide denial serves a fourth important purpose, beyond Russian state interests. As long as there is a possibility that the Holodomor was genocide, the view that Soviet communism was benevolent, or in any case not as bad as German fascism, must remain in question. One can argue that both communism and fascism brought benefits as well as burdens to their societies; what distinguishes the Nazi regime as intrinsically evil is genocide. But if the Stalin regime committed genocide too, then it was truly, in Ronald Reagan's words, an “evil empire,” not morally distinguishable from Hitler's Germany.

This, in turn, would raise the unpleasant question of why millions of Russians and Ukrainians look proudly to the Soviet past, and why so many Western intellectuals still see Stalin's dictatorship as morally distinguishable from Hitler's. Why is communism hip, if fascism is taboo? If no one would be caught dead sporting a swastika, why are hammers and sickles in good taste? (See Alexander Motyl, “Why Is the KGB Bar Possible: Binary Morality and Its Consequences,” Transit, summer 2008).

In short, the Ukrainian genocide thesis threatens a panoply of received opinion. Quite possibly, what motivates the genocide deniers in both East and West is the fear that their imaginary political universe will be shattered. As with other types of deniers, discovering the truth couldn't be farther from their interests.

Where does this leave the genocide doubters? In the above-cited article, historian Stanislav Kulchytskyi wrote that although we cannot yet conclude that the Holodomor was genocide, before we abandon this thesis we should insist that the Russians give us access to all the relevant documents. It is a reasonable position. The honest doubter, after all, is always open to the possibility that some day his doubts may be resolved.

Andrew Sorokowski can be reached at samboritanus@hotmail.com.

NEWS AND VIEWS

“Alice in Wonderland” Myths and realities of the great gas war

by Roman Kupchinsky

How does one begin to describe the chaotic, contradictory and irrational events that occurred in January when Ukraine, Russia and the European Union declared war on each other and upon themselves?

The conflict appeared to be a blend of Marx Brothers anarchy and “Alice in Wonderland” gobbledygook, as Alice said: “If I had a world of my own, everything would be nonsense. Nothing would be what it is because everything would be what it isn’t.”

After Russia turned off the gas valve to Europe on January 7, during a severe cold spell, the Balkans – to Russia’s profound surprise – began freezing. Vladimir Putin naturally blamed the Ukrainians; the Ukrainians, in turn, swore on stacks of bibles that they were innocent and denounced the Satan behind the Kremlin walls and all his works. The Europeans, numbed by the byzantine maneuverings in the East, were dumbfounded – they did not have a clue why they were being victimized because they had been told by reasonable, but highly naïve, EU officials that this was a mere contractual misunderstanding between two gas companies that had soured.

As pressure in the pipelines collapsed, the EU was screaming for the two countries to end the dispute forthwith. The Ukrainian and Russian prime ministers met once again (they had come to an earlier understanding on the gas contract in October 2008), and in two days negotiated the terms for a 10-year gas supply and gas

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transit contract.

Once the contract was signed and sealed, the hapless Ukrainian president, Viktor Yushchenko, decided that it was a terrible agreement and that his country came out the loser. Ukraine demands a cheaper price for Russian gas, President Yushchenko told anyone still willing to listen to him. This naturally upset the Europeans even more, for they understood perfectly well that the roots of the 2009 gas war lie in the terrible 2006 contract negotiated by Mr. Yushchenko’s team. Had Mr. Yushchenko insisted on a long-term take or pay contract in 2006 and refused to bow to Russian pressure to allow RosUkrEnergo (RUE) in on the deal, there would be fewer commercial misunderstandings in 2009.

The fact was that Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko had negotiated a far better agreement than President Yushchenko’s Ukrainians wanted to admit. The EU was outraged that the Ukrainians, who spent years pleading for membership in the EU, resisted paying more or less the same price for gas as EU countries were paying. Was the Ukrainian president an honest broker or was he delusional? Was he a sly “khakhohol,” or merely a person who had heeded bad advice from his dubious advisors? Was Mr. Yushchenko corrupt, as Russian Prime Minister Putin cynically claimed without batting an eyelash?

The macabre fight between the former imperial power, Russia, and the former colony, Ukraine, became wackier when the head of Gazprom, Alexei Miller, announced that one of the major reasons why the negotiations between Gazprom and Naftohaz Ukrayiny broke down on December 31, 2008, was that the sleazy intermediary company, RUE, had offered

to pay a greater price for gas than the one agreed upon between the two contracting parties.

Mr. Miller, however, failed to mention that RUE was 50 percent owned by his company, Gazprom. Why would it attempt or dare to undercut Gazprom? Who invited them to participate in the gas negotiations in the first place, and what did they bring to the table?

RUE had five employees shackled up in Zug, Switzerland. It owned no gas fields, no pipelines and did not add any value to the price of gas. It was merely a middleman, widely suspected of money laundering and links to organized crime. It was created in July 2004 by Mr. Putin and the infamous former president of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma, both of whom solemnly pledged that day in Yalta that RUE would be a poster child for transparency in the gas trade business.

Mr. Putin, as well as Dmitry Medvedev, the current president of Russia who was formerly the chairman of the board of Gazprom, went on to claim that the Russian side had been hoodwinked and did not even know the identities of the “Ukrainian partners” in RUE. These individuals were “forced on us,” Mr. Putin cried on television. As the Mock Turtle quipped: “Well, I never heard it before, but it sounds uncommon nonsense.”

Can anyone in their right mind imagine the Ukrainians forcing anything upon Russia! Could Dmytro Firtash, a rather colorful Ukrainian businessman who began his career by selling “horilka” to Moldova, become the 45 percent owner of RUE without the consent of Messrs. Putin, Medvedev and Miller?

RUE nonetheless was unceremoniously removed from the Ukrainian gas trade in

January at the insistence of Ms. Tymoshenko.

Meanwhile, back in Kyiv, the unfortunate President Yushchenko was terrified. His instincts told him that he had made a cardinal error of judgment by protecting Mr. Firtash and RUE. He had foolishly believed Mr. Firtash’s cock and bull story that RUE had kept the price of gas low for his beloved Ukraine. Mr. Firtash, a western Ukrainian from Chernivtsi, was, in Mr. Yushchenko’s born-again Ukrainian mind, a kindred soul, a man who, after all, had spent his own money to fund a chair of Ukrainian language studies in Britain and who swore on his mother’s grave that he was only interested in protecting “Nenka” (Mother) Ukraine from the greedy Russian Satan.

It was a very beguiling scenario that President Yushchenko bought hook, line and sinker, and which Mr. Firtash took advantage of during his January appearances on Russian and Ukrainian media outlets, pleading virginity in a desperate attempt to keep his enormous profits intact. Without RUE, Mr. Firtash was poo.

For Mr. Yushchenko the archenemy throughout the gas war was never RUE, Mr. Putin or the Kremlin, it was Ms. Tymoshenko, the prime minister of Ukraine whom he had appointed to this post twice, succeeded in removing once and was determined to do so again.

This elaborate and confused labyrinth of mirrors will continue to play out for months to come. What then led to the gas war? The truth is buried beneath layers of rhetoric and disinformation, and it is unlikely that we will ever learn what really took place or why. As the Duchess said: “Tut, tut, child! Everything’s got a moral, if only you can find it.”

The Katyn massacre: Moscow turns a blind eye to history, again

by Myroslaw Smorodsky

In early 1940, on the direct order of Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Politburo, thousands of Polish officers, military and even Polish intellectuals, were brutally executed and secretly buried in a mass grave in the Katyn Forest in the USSR. In 1943, invading German forces discovered the grave site, but the Soviet government adamantly insisted that these mass executions and crimes were committed by the Germans themselves and not by Soviet forces – despite substantial evidence to the contrary.

In 1990, during the last days of the Soviet Union, the truth about the Katyn Forest massacre was reluctantly admitted by the Soviet government. Since then, the Polish government and victims’ families have been steadfastly prodding the Russian government not only to disclose more details about the crimes, but to prosecute the guilty and to give a modicum of compensation to the families of the murdered. Toward this end, victims’ families instituted legal actions in the Russian court system.

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Mass graves of the victims of the Katyn Forest massacre of 1940. Smolensk Memorial (Alyeksyey Melkin)

On January 29 the Supreme Russian Military Court affirmed the 2004 trial court decision dismissing the legal actions of the Polish claimants. Throughout the appeals process, the trial court record was kept under seal and the press was barred from the trial court hearings. Today’s press reports on the Appellate Court’s affirmance shed some light on the government defense rationale during the trial of this matter: The fact that thousands of bodies were found in a mass grave, each riddled with bullets, could not conclusively establish the crime of mass murder. It only proves that these persons died as a result of bullet wounds!?

In affirming the dismissal, the Appellate Court concluded that the statute

of limitations under a 1926 Soviet statute bars prosecution of the present-day legal actions.

The Russian court did not seem to be phased by the fact that for 50 years the Soviet government had deceitfully denied any complicity in these crimes; by its actions had acknowledged that these crimes constituted crimes against humanity and genocide; and tried to blame Nazi Germany for them. The Soviets even attempted to have Germans tried as war criminals for the Katyn Forest massacre at the Nuremberg trials. The Russian appeals court also ignored the fact that, under international law – to which both the Soviet Union and Russia subscribed – there is no statute of

limitations for such atrocities.

The results of this Russian legal process regarding the Katyn Forest massacre did not come as a surprise. The Russian government has over the years consistently attempted to whitewash the sins of the past, and it refuses to acknowledge them so as to rebuild its moral credibility in the international community. Maybe that is the reason why Stalin has been voted as the third most popular historical figure in Russia.

The matter will now go to the European Court of Human Rights. It will be no surprise to anyone if Russia merely ignores the matter and the judgments and opinions of the international community.

COMMENTARY

Russia and Ukraine: territorial claims can work two ways

by Taras Kuzio

Eurasia Daily Monitor

The majority of Western comments on territorial claims arising from the break-up of the USSR focus on Russia's demands against its neighbors. The best known, such as those related to Crimea and frozen conflicts in the Caucasus, are frequently mentioned in the Western media. Added to this are Russian comments that repeatedly have focused on the alleged "artificiality" of post-Soviet borders. Ukraine, in particular, is pointed to by Russian officials as an allegedly "artificial" and thereby "fragile" state.

These Western media reports and Russian comments overlook two facts: first, potential territorial revisions exist throughout the former USSR; and second, all of the borders of the post-Soviet republics, especially the Russian Federation, are "arbitrary" and "artificial." Countless post-colonial frontiers throughout the world are of a similar nature,

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and this is more the rule than the exception.

Belarus made territorial claims against Lithuania in the 1990s, and Estonia and Russia have sparred over their border, the treaty for which was signed but never ratified by the Russian State Duma. The Transdnestr region of Moldova, a frozen conflict since 1992, was part of the inter-war Ukrainian SSR as the Moldovan Autonomous Soviet Republic. Similar potential territorial disputes abound in the North Caucasus (e.g., Chechnya and Ingushetia), the South Caucasus (Georgia and Armenia), and Central Asia (Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan).

The most "artificial" post-Soviet republic is Russia, which was established as the residual home for what remained of the tsarist empire after the non-Russian republics were created. Post-Soviet Russia could not return to the borders of a pre-imperial Russian nation-state because none had ever existed. Unlike England and France, which were nation-states before becoming empires, Russian city-states merged into Muscovy before it emerged as an empire in the 18th century.

Russia, therefore, resembles the Ottoman Empire inasmuch as the Turks also had no pre-imperial nation-state to fall back on when their empire collapsed after World War I. The difference between the Turks and the Russians is that a nationalist leader,

Kemal Ataturk, came forward and forged a new Turkish nation-state, while no "Ataturk" appeared in late Soviet Russia and, unlike his Turkish or Ukrainian counterparts, President Boris Yeltsin never prioritized nation-building.

Alone of the Soviet republics, the Russian SFSR has never declared independence from the USSR. Russia's annual "Independence Day," therefore, is a myth, as it derives from the June 1990 declaration of sovereignty within the USSR.

Three decades prior to the transfer of Crimea in 1954 from the Russian SFSR to the Ukrainian SSR, larger territories were transferred from Ukraine to Russia. The Ukrainian-Russian border was the subject of confrontation between the collapse of the Russian Empire in 1917 and the territorial adjustments made in the two years after the creation of the USSR in 1922.

Ukraine's pro-independence governments fought with the White and Bolshevik forces who both opposed the creation of an independent Ukraine. Although the Volunteer Army of the Whites was dominated by the liberal Kadets, they defended Russia's unity and indivisibility, opposed a federally reconstituted empire and especially denounced "Little Russian" (Ukrainian) autonomy, let alone an independent state separate from Russia.

The Starodub region northeast of Chernihiv Oblast was part of Ukraine under the 1918 Treaty of Brest-Litovsk but was transferred to Russia. Other areas with ethnic Ukrainian majorities transferred to Russia were the Kursk and Voronezh Oblasts east of the Ukrainian oblasts of Sumy, Kharkiv and Luhansk. The Taganrog region of Russia's Rostov Oblast, east of Ukraine's Donetsk Oblast, also was contested by Ukraine and Russia. These areas adjacent to the border of the Ukrainian SSR were claimed by Kyiv, because they were 65 to 75 percent ethnic Ukrainian and, together the Kuban, contained 2 million Ukrainians (see three maps in Vasyly Boyechko et al, "Kordony Ukrainy: Istorychna Retrospektyva ta Suchasnyi Stan," Kyiv, 1994).

The Kuban region of Russia's northern Caucasus had been populated by the Ukrainian (Black Sea) Kozaks from the 18th century. After the Ukrainian Kozak State

was absorbed under Catherine the Great into the tsarist empire, Ukrainian Kozak forces were disbanded, except in the Kuban. There, Ukrainian Kozaks were permitted to maintain the only Ukrainian Kozak unit (the "Kuban Cossack Host") until the end of Tsarist rule; it was one of 12 Cossack armies in the Russian Empire.

From 1917 to 1920 political forces in the Kuban supported opposing tendencies, some backing the White armies, while others called for unification with independent Ukraine. The large ethnic Ukrainian majority in the Kuban gave rise to territorial demands by Ukrainian national Communists who ran Ukraine until the imposition of Joseph Stalin's Great Terror in the late 1920s and early 1930s and the Famine in Ukraine in 1932-1933.

The Famine was permitted to spread from Ukraine and devastated the largely ethnic Ukrainian Kuban region. This, coupled with the replacement of Ukrainian by Russian in the schools starting in 1934, transformed the Kuban's ethnic composition. The Kuban became Russified during the course of subsequent decades, although Ukrainian-language pronunciations can still be heard in local spoken Russian (for example, Mikhail Gorbachev's Russian).

The 1989 Soviet census gave a total of 44.2 million Ukrainians in the USSR of whom 37.4 million lived in the Ukrainian SSR. Of the 6.8 million living elsewhere, the largest group was 3.7 million in the Russian SFSR.

Aside from 247,000 Ukrainians who were living in Moscow, a similarly large number lived in the Tyumen Oblast of western Siberia. They had arrived in the Leonid Brezhnev era to provide technical expertise in gas exploration. (Ukraine was an important center of gas expertise in the former USSR, especially in western Ukraine, where gas storage facilities are located).

Russia, in recognizing the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, has opened up a potential Pandora's Box of territorial claims throughout the former USSR that could backfire on Moscow.

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World Court rules on dispute over Ukraine-Romania sea border

RFE/RL

PRAGUE – The International Court of Justice in The Hague on February 3 delivered its ruling on the long-running dispute between Romania and Ukraine over an islet in the Black Sea – called Serpents Island – with access to potentially large reserves of oil and gas.

The court delivered a compromise decision that awarded part of the disputed sea floor to each country, but the biggest share went to Romania.

A Romanian member of the European Parliament, Adrian Severin, welcomed the decision in comments to RFE/RL. "From now, Romania is able to exploit its full territory, including the continental shelf, and also has a better perspective for better relations and economic cooperation with Ukraine," Mr. Severin said.

The ruling means that the maritime border between Romania and Ukraine must be drawn up without consideration of Serpents Island.

At stake are oil exploration and drilling rights in a 12,000-square-kilometer area of the Black Sea.

Romania has previously estimated that the disputed continental shelf there may contain reserves of 100 billion cubic meters of natural gas and more than 10 million tons of oil. Foreign oil majors have expressed interest in more fully exploring the area, and potentially investing in extraction.

Romania brought the case to the world court in 2004, after both Kyiv and Bucharest agreed to submit to the court's arbitration after years of fruitless bilateral negotiations.

Romania's case was that Serpents Island should be defined only as a rocky outcropping, and therefore need not be considered important enough to be a factor in drawing the Romanian-Ukrainian maritime border.

Ukraine's case was that Serpents Island

should be defined as an island, as its name suggests, which would mean that the continental shelf around it would fall to Ukraine's possession.

The court's decision ignores the island as a factor in establishing the common boundary, and draws an equidistant line from the Ukrainian and Romanian shorelines. That awards the majority of the disputed territory to Romania.

Bogdan Aureescu, the head of the Romanian legal team, welcomed the result. "The boundary clearly separates the territories that can be used by Romania and Ukraine," Mr. Aureescu said. "It is a better line [for Romania] than any solution that could have been obtained through negotiations, better than anything Ukraine has offered."

Serpents Island was owned by Romania until 1948, when the Soviet leadership ordered it transferred to Ukrainian control. Romania has not contested Ukraine's ownership, but it has complained that Kyiv has been developing the island in order to bolster its undersea claim at the world court.

European parliamentarian Mr. Severin said the settlement imposed by the court has benefits for the whole region. "There are two major benefits," he said. "Number one is that a dispute between two neighboring countries is over, and this dispute was a burden on their bilateral relations; the second benefit is that Romania has a clear definition of its rights."

Presently the island has a population of about 100 people, mostly border guards, but also scientists and shopkeepers. It has a lighthouse, and a harbor is under construction.

Ukraine's representative to the court, Volodymyr Vasylenko (a member of the AZEast Group of international consultants), said before the ruling that his side expected a compromise decision that would give something to both appellants.

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Lviv's Dzherelo...

(Continued from page 1)

In 1994 the Lviv municipal government gave Dzherelo an unfinished school building, and in 1996, with funds collected by the Toronto chapter of the Children of Chernobyl Canadian Fund, renovations were begun to make the building accessible to the disabled.

The Dzherelo Center has developed various services for the disabled: early intervention and child development programs, preschool and school education programs, and activity workshops for young people. Each service is enriched

with rehabilitation therapy. Social events and programs at the Dzherelo Center encourage children to gain confidence and form friendships.

Last year, thanks to funds from grants and individual sponsors, the renovation of most of the school was completed and now all Dzherelo programs are held in one building.

Ms. Kushpeta is very proud of the fact that in March 2007 the workshop program of Dzherelo was officially accepted as a project of the international federation of l'Arche communities, under the name l'Arche-Kovchek (the Ukrainian word for ark).



Residents in the computer workshop.



A volunteer feeds a disabled child.

Stars for Dzherelo

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – Traditional Ukrainian Christmas celebrations include groups of carollers carrying a decorated “koliada” star, going from house to house, singing carols and collecting donations for those in need.

In that spirit, Friends of Dzherelo invited 50 artists to participate in an exhibit and sale of wooden stars of their own creation. The funds collected from the sale of the stars were designated for the support of the Dzherelo Rehabilitation Center

and School in Lviv.

The exhibit and sale took place on December 20 and 21, 2008, at the Ukrainian Canadian Art Foundation gallery. It was possible to buy the one-of-a-kind wooden stars, as well as drawings, Christmas decorations and cards created by the children of Dzherelo and other art works donated by artists for the support of Dzherelo.

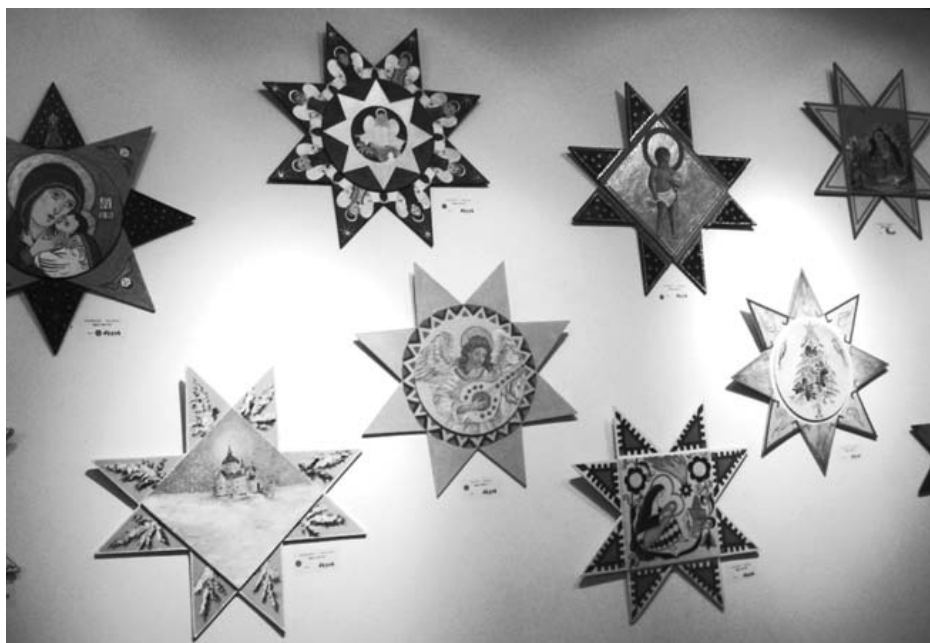
Visitors to the exhibit had the opportunity to hear Dzherelo board member Zenia Kushpeta speak about the children, people and programs of Dzherelo.



Zenia Kushpeta, board member of Dzherelo.



Drawings by the children of the Dzherelo Rehabilitation Center and School.



A view of the exhibit of stars for carolling.

INTERVIEW: Alexander Motyl, political scientist-turned-novelist

A resident of New York City, Alexander J. Motyl is a writer, painter and professor. His novels include "Whiskey Priest" and "Who Killed Andrei Warhol" (which was nominated for the Pushcart Prize in 2008); his art is represented by The Tori Collection (www.toricollection.com); and his scholarly writing includes six authored books and over 10 edited volumes. He is a professor of political science at Rutgers University-Newark.

Dr. Motyl was interviewed by Dzvina Orlowsky, the author of four poetry collections published by Carnegie Mellon University Press. She currently teaches at the Solstice Low-Residency MFA Creative Writing Program of Pine Manor College in Boston.

Once, after giving a reading, when asked when you wrote, you responded that you wrote when you were bored. It reminds me of poet Frank O'Hara's reply when asked how he knew a poem is finished: "When the phone rings." I can't help but feel both you and O'Hara were winking at us with your answers. If I'm right, what's behind the wink?

Winking aside, tedium is a good reason for doing anything, isn't it? For instance, I know when a work is finished, whether non-fiction or fiction, when I get bored editing it. I usually go through some 20-30 edits, and most of them are either exasperating or exhilarating, but when they get tedious, I know it's time to move on.

By the same token, part of the reason I took to writing fiction was that academic writing had stopped being a challenge. Once you know what your argument will be, the rest pretty much follows. In contrast, fiction was a whole new universe for me. You think it's easy: after all, it's all made up, right? But making it all up turned out to be incredibly difficult. And making it all up for some 200 pages or more was terrifying – but also exhilarating.

You finish the draft, whether first or last, and you wonder, "Where did that come from?" In that sense, fiction is like painting: I always look at the finished painting with a sense of awe and mystery: "Did I do that?" On the other hand, it's true that I'm always winking, that I can never take anything too seriously – especially my own work. The universe is so big, history is so big, God is so big – and we're so ridiculously small. How can you not wink?

As a professor of political science, how did you become interested in writing fiction?

A bunch of things happened in the 1990s that led me to fiction. The Soviet Union collapsed, Ukraine became independent, and the struggle – and I had been involved in the anti-Soviet struggle since the early 1970s – was suddenly over. At the same time, my own academic writing had become increasingly theoretical and meta-theoretical and meta-meta-theoretical, and at some point I began wondering what the point of so much unremitting self-reflection and navel-gazing was.

Searching for more concrete alternatives, I returned to painting after a hiatus of about 15 years and began reading novels with a vengeance. And then I had my first epiphany. I still recall the day I visited the galleries in Soho and thought, "Heck, my work is at least as bad as most of this." And if they could exhibit, why couldn't I? Something similar happened with fiction writing.

The more I read, the more I thought: "Heck, I can do no worse than this." Fiction then became a new challenge, and it's remained that since.

What was your first literary publication?

That was actually a short story that appeared at the very end of my high-school senior yearbook. I had always struggled with English class, probably because I believed that writing had to "mean" something deep and important. Then, in my senior year, I accidentally stumbled into a creative writing class and, much to my surprise, did extremely well – mostly, I suspect, because I just threw all that meaning stuff out the window and let my imagination guide my hand.

The teacher of that class asked me to write some appropriately serious conclusion for the yearbook; instead, I produced a silly story and he liked it. But that was an anomaly. It took me many, many years to feel confident about my creative writing and to get rid of that meaning albatross and to realize that writing is, first and foremost, about writing – just as painting is about painting. All that interpretation and meaning stuff is at best a bit of icing, at worst too much confectioner's sugar.

Do you have a favorite anecdote to share about your days as an emerging or just-published author?

That happened several years ago, when I was trying to find an agent for "Whiskey Priest." I sent out hundreds of jazzy cover letters, with a neat synopsis and a brief cv outlining all my very many academic publications, prizes, etc. One agent sent back my letter, with a scribble at the



Interviewee Alexander Motyl

bottom: "Interesting, but we don't represent unknown authors." Ouch.

Professor and writer Vasyl Makhno has remarked that you belong to a unique generation of Ukrainian writers who were born in the 1950s outside Ukraine and who write on Ukrainian topics in English. Who are some of the other writers of this generation and have they influenced your work in any way?

That's an easy question. Irene Zabytko has shown that a writer can tell great stories and still have a Ukrainian point of view. Askold Melnyczuk has shown that a Ukrainian writer can be concerned with questions of morality and identity without falling into Ukrainian clichés. And Marina Lewycka has shown that it's possible to be Ukrainian and still retain a sense of humor, as you have through your poetry. I only wish that Ukraine's writers would stop writing about their sexual awakening and personal angst and turn to some of the themes and styles employed by Zabytko, Melnyczuk and Lewycka.

I understand that as a political scientist you are also interested in the Soviet KGB as well as the Ukrainian nationalist Security Service. Tell us how the plot for your first spy-novel, "Whisky Priest," evolved.

I've always been fascinated by spies. I'm not sure exactly why, though I suspect that it has something to do with the moral ambiguity of their world. My first exposure to fictional spies was in the sixth grade, when I got two paperbacks by Eric Ambler (who, by the way, is a terrific writer) from a friend for Christmas: "Judgment on Deltchev" and "Cause for Alarm." That started the addiction.

It was compounded by my own interest in the Ukrainian nationalist movement and my experiences with the KGB, which made several attempts to recruit me – and they, in turn, led to attempts by the FBI to recruit me. That sounds hilarious now, but then, back in the late 1970s, it was an extremely unpleasant experience, especially as it wasn't clear which side was more heavy-handed. Believe me, John le Carre's "Smiley's People" is an uncannily accurate depiction of the world of anti-Soviet émigrés and could have been written about Ukrainians.

The idea for "Whiskey Priest" began with a hunch about the ending. It occurred to me one day back in the summer of 2001 – and I have no idea why – that having a secret agent first save someone and then betray him would be an interesting twist with all sorts of morally ambiguous implications. I even imagined the last line, in which the agent says, "You can have him," to the killers closing in on their prey and just walks away. The next step was to write everything leading up to the last line. As I did so, my own experiences with the world of espionage began intruding and structuring the characters, the dialogues and, of course, the plot.

How long did it take you to write it? Do you set for yourself a daily or weekly page requirement of writing? At the end of a single day of writing, what makes you feel like you've had a successful day's worth? I know for me it can sometimes be capturing a single, resonant image.

I wrote the first draft of "Whiskey Priest" in about three-four months. I get somewhat obsessive while I'm writing and can spend anywhere from two to six hours a day, every day, writing whatever comes to my mind. That's generally how long it takes me to write any book-length manuscript, whether fiction or non-fiction. But that's the easy part. I then spend another year or more rewriting, editing and re-editing – until that feeling of tedium comes over me and I know I'm done. My first drafts are usually pretty awful, but once they exist – once there's a real live text – that first hurdle is overcome and



Interviewer Dzvina Orlowsky

the real fun – the rewriting and editing – can begin.

Graham Greene has also been an influence on your work. Can you elaborate?

I love Greene. I love his crisp, compact writing; I love his concern with ethical-political issues and moral ambiguity; I love his interest in spies; and I love his story-telling. Greene makes writing look easy. But, of course, all good writers do. He also proves that a writer can be deep and complex and meaningful without having to resort to self-consciously deep and complex and meaningful prose. That's the trick – to say important things without seeming to say important things.

Shevchenko was able to pull that off. As did Beckett, whose first line in "Murphy" – "The sun shone having no alternative on the nothing new" – has got to be one of the best in literature. That's why I love Morandi's simple bottles, Modigliani's portraits and Matisse's still lifes, and detest the pretentiousness of painters like Dali, Damien Hirst and Julian Schnabel. That's also why I love writers such as Arthur Schnitzler, James Agee, William Faulkner, Vladimir Nabokov, Albert Camus and Peter Schneider – and hate Dostoevsky. Or why I'm completely blown away by Antonioni's "L'Eclisse" and "L'Avventura" (of course, I'm also madly in love with Monica Vitti) and think he then went off the deep end. That's also why I think your poetry is so compelling.

Thank you, Alex. I sincerely appreciate that. But getting back to your work, your second novel, "Who Killed Andrei Warhol," has received well-deserved critical acclaim and continues to do well. Did you have a strong interest in the New York City '60s Warhol scene prior to writing the novel, or did it develop as you researched Warhol's life and circle of artist friends?

Well, don't forget that I was born and raised in New York, on the Ukrainian Lower East Side, which is just a few blocks away from Warhol's Factory on Union Square. But I was too young, and too strait-laced, to have experienced the '60s in New York. I do remember, very, very unclearly, walking along St. Mark's Place and seeing posters for some of Warhol's musical events. I also remember that "Chelsea Girls" played at the St. Mark's Theater and that it was rated adults only. I vaguely recall seeing articles in Time or Life about Warhol's scene, and I do remember when he was shot in 1968. But none of that meant much to me. It was all taking place in the larger "American" world, and I, like many of my Ukrainian friends, was much more interested in rebelling against the Ukrainian establishment. Besides, I was a complete square. I resisted wearing bell bottoms until straight-leg pants went out of style, and I thought that Woodstock was just a big hoo-ha.

My specific interest in Warhol began with seeing, back in 2001 or so, a documentary about his relatives in eastern Slovakia, "Absolut Warhola." I was struck by how familiar they seemed, especially as I have Ukrainian relatives not far from his parents' home town. I suddenly realized what I had sort of known all the time – that Warhol was a Slav and that he grew up in an immigrant neighborhood, went to church every Sunday, celebrated Christmas on January 7, and then eventually broke out of the ghetto and came to the big city. His story was my story – well, sort of – and that piqued my interest in his life and career and work.

Writers, particularly those who write from a researched subject, are often faced with the challenge of finding the right balance between presenting too much back ground information or too little. Do you have a specific reader in mind when you write? How do you establish authority on your subject?

(Continued on page 17)

Gene Chyzowych to be inducted into National Soccer Hall of Fame

by Nicholas Skirka

ST. LOUIS – The 62nd annual National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) convention was held in St. Louis on January 14-18. This soccer convention had many practical clinics, workshops and educational sessions for professional growth and development.

This year, again, there were clinicians or coaches from all over the world that made presentations on various soccer topics. Featured coaches were from Scotland, Brazil, England, the United States, the Netherlands and Argentina.

I had the pleasure of attending a presentation by Argentinean coach Enrique Hrabina (of Czech descent) on "Technical, Tactical and Psychological Training in Small Places." I played in Argentina for one year so I was especially thrilled to get a picture taken with Mr. Hrabina, assistant director of coaching, Argentina Coaches Association, soon to be the coach of Los Andes in Argentina. We had a good conversation about Argentine soccer and exchanged e-mail address to keep in touch.

At the convention, on Friday night, there is an NSCAA awards banquet. Every year honorees are named to the National Soccer

Nicholas Skirka teaches at Kingsborough Community College in the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department and coaches youth soccer. He holds an undergraduate degree in physical education and an M.A. in sports psychology from New York University, as well as a doctorate in sports administration and management from the University of Maryland.



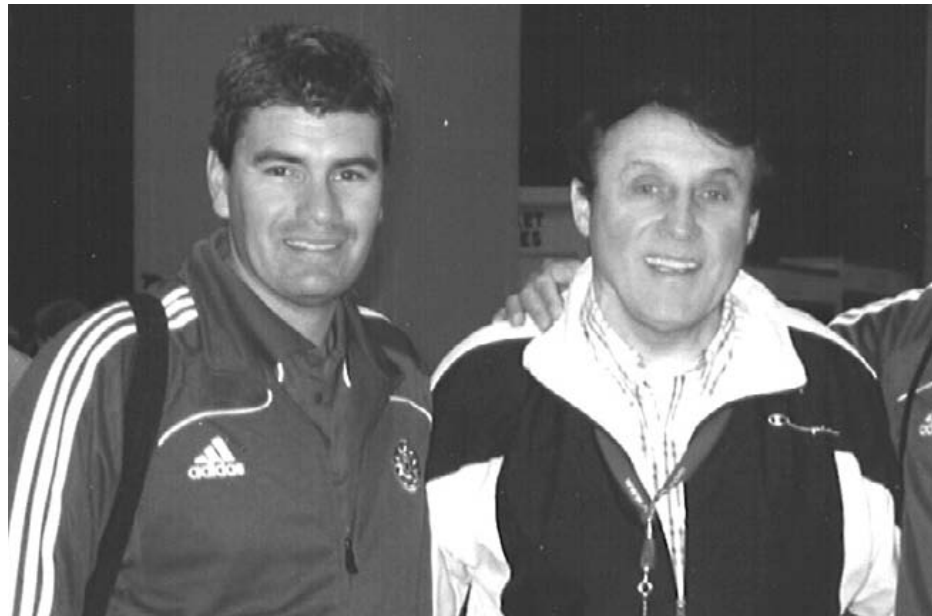
Coch Gene Chyzowych in a file photo.

Hall of Fame. This year was very special for Ukrainians, especially for Gene Chyzowych, who was named to the National Soccer Hall of Fame – not an easy accomplishment.

Mr. Chyzowych, who lives in New Jersey, is as a soccer coach and is dedicated to the development of soccer in the United States. He and his brother Walter have made a significant contribution to soccer in this country. Walter Chyzowych was the U.S. National Soccer Team's coach and head of the coaching association.

Gene and Walter Chyzowych are the only brothers to be inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame.

Mr. Chyzowych has quietly, without self-aggrandizement, spent 45 years



Nicholas Skirka (right) with Argentinean coach Enrique Hrabina at the 62nd annual National Soccer Coaches Association of America convention in St. Louis.

coaching soccer and still does so. He graduated from and played soccer at Temple University. He coached the United States National Soccer Team in 1973 and had a 3-2 wins/losses record during his tenure. Also, he was an assistant national soccer coach for the National and Olympic teams.

During his illustrious soccer coaching career at Columbia High School in Maplewood, N.J., Gene Chyzowych compiled a record of 718 wins, 180 losses and 69 ties. He is the second most winning active boys' high school soccer coach in the country.

Gene Chyzowych's teams have won four New Jersey State Championships as well as

24 conference titles. The NSCAA has twice awarded Mr. Chyzowych the Boys High School Coach of the Year award, in 1986 and 1990. He also received the NSCAA's Robert W. Robinson Award (1999) for long-time service to interscholastic soccer in the United States.

Gene Chyzowych is one of only 46 NSCAA members to be inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame. This is truly a great accomplishment and should not go unrecognized.

I was thrilled to have attended the awards banquet to see Gene Chyzowych receive this cherished award. He will officially be inducted on August 1 in Oneonta, N.Y., home of the National Soccer Hall of Fame.

Security Service...

(Continued from page 1)

a January 27 press conference at SBU headquarters in central Kyiv.

"The decree once and for all removes the barrier of secrecy, declassifying and publicizing the archives – that is, giving access to all, not just privileged historians, but all citizens," he noted.

The documents, to be declassified in the nearest future, include criminal reports, legal dockets, maps, statistics, special communiqués and internal memos of the Communist Party, the Soviet KGB (Committee for State Security) and the Soviet NKVD (People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs).

The decree applies to the SBU, the State Archives Committee, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Defense, the Procurator General's Office, the Foreign Reconnaissance Service and the State Department of Executing Penalties.

As an example of the type of materials now declassified, the SBU displayed a seven-foot high map drawn by Soviet military planners to execute the vicious "Operatsiya Zapad" (Operation West) offensive during a week in October 1947.

In what was described by SBU advisor Volodymyr Viatrovych as the Soviet version of Akcja Wisla, the 1947 operation directed at Ukrainians in Poland, more than 77,000 residents of western Ukrainians oblasts who had relatives or ties to the liberation struggle were herded up by the Soviets in the course of a single week and deported to Siberia.

The map marked in detail how many trucks and soldiers each city and oblast needed to deport Ukrainians, as well as how many individuals were ultimately deported.

"This happened at the same time they told us everything was wonderful and the Soviet Union is blossoming," Mr. Nalyvaichenko commented.

Declassified documents also reveal that, as late as 1963, the Soviet government was still launching operations in the Ternopil

Oblast in which Soviet agents committed crimes and blamed them on the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), he said.

In conjunction with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Procurator General's Office, the SBU said it plans to offer legal advice to citizens wishing to defend their legal rights if statutes of limitations have not yet expired, Mr. Nalyvaichenko said.

Average Ukrainian citizens will be able to gain more access to Soviet crimes that targeted them, their relatives or ancestors, enabling them to pursue possible legal action, such as criminal prosecution.

However, Mr. Nalyvaichenko made no mention of retrieving property confiscated by the Soviets.

Neither will the declassified archives solve all the nation's mysteries, many of which will be forever concealed because of destroyed documents. Other secrets are sealed in Moscow.

Top Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) scholars are still trying to find out where the corpse of Commander-in-Chief Roman Shukhevych was buried, Mr. Viatrovych said.

Recently declassified photographs enabled UPA researchers to conclude that Gen. Shukhevych indeed shot himself because his enemies had reached him.

As for the Ukrainian pop singer Volodymyr Ivasiuk, believed to have been killed by the Soviets in 1979, Mr. Viatrovych said those documents are still classified as secret in Moscow.

No Ukrainian government official or public authority is immune from any Soviet-era skeletons that the declassified documents may reveal, Mr. Nalyvaichenko said. "No secret service matter or information, which possibly includes information on currently active politicians, will impede the process of de-classification."

A Russian television journalist at the press conference skeptically asked Mr. Nalyvaichenko about the timing of the president's decree.



Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) advisor Volodymyr Viatrovych demonstrates a declassified secret map detailing "Operation Zapad" (Operation West), in which 77,000 western Ukrainians were deported to Siberia in October 1947.

It arrived two days after Ms. Ginzburg's reappointment as State Archives Committee chair. Furthermore, campaigning for the January 17, 2010, presidential election has already informally begun.

Calling Ms. Ginzburg's appointment "counter-productive," Mr. Nalyvaichenko stressed she would have no ability to subvert the president's decree. "Any changes in the state archives' leadership won't stop us in executing this decree in any way," he said.

The Russian reporter also asked whether such decrees would serve only to exacerbate the strained tensions among Ukrainians.

Mr. Nalyvaichenko welcomed anyone, including foreigners, to visit the SBU archives to fill out a request form, research materials in the reading room and make copies.

The SBU is also seeking the help of volunteers, particularly scholars and students, to help in creating a central Internet database, which would include all of Ukraine's Soviet-era documents.

Students from Taras Shevchenko National University in Kyiv and the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy will be involved, he said.

Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

The 2008-2009 NHL season: familiar faces in new places

The prevailing key to winning in today's National Hockey League continues to be successful management of the league's salary cap. Due to a limit on payroll dollars, a team can afford only a few, high-priced core players. These stars are then surrounded by affordable secondary players, usually on one or two-year contracts. The result is a revolving door of player turnover.

For proof, take a look at 17 Ukrainian pucksters who skate regular NHL shifts. Eight of them were either traded, signed new free agent contracts or were bought out this past summer. Throw in another four minor leaguers and the percentage of off-season movement jumps to well over 50 percent.

As for the comings and goings, six Ukrainians relocated to more promising surroundings, two went the European route, being exiled to Russia's new Kontinental Hockey League. Then, to offset the departure of the two veteran cap-heavy Ukes, one young Ukrainian was actually brought back to the NHL from Russia. The details follow.

Welcome to Broadway, Nikolai Zherdev, your talent level and artistry should play well with the New York Rangers. Think Ruslan Fedotenko looked forward to playing on a line with Sidney Crosby after a year on Long Island playing with a bunch of nobodies? Glen Metropolit parlayed a solid comeback season with Boston into a two-year deal with the Eastern Conference finalist Flyers. Tough guy Todd Fedoruk is still in demand, witness his acceptance of a three-year deal to protect Wayne Gretzky's young Coyotes. Boasting a pair of Stanley Cups on his resume got Brad Lukowich a new home in San Jose, as the Sharks overhauled their defense by going after proven winners. Vancouver brought in feisty Darcy Hordichuk to handle fourth line/enforcer responsibilities.

On the minus side, Alexei Zhitnik saw General Manager Don Waddell buy out the remainder of his lucrative contract, forcing the mid-30s blueliner to seek employment in the Russian league. In some creative accounting work to stay under budget, Devils GM Lou Lamoriello took a minimal cap hit by jettisoning Vitaly Vishnevski over to Russia. In a major surprise move, Carolina imported Anton Babchuk back to the NHL after a most successful year with Omsk (9-17-26 in 57 games). The goal was to build a more mobile, younger, more offense-minded blueline.

Aspiring NHLers Ryan Potulny (Philly to Edmonton), Johnny Boychuk (Colorado to Boston), Darren Haydar (Atlanta to Detroit) and Zenon Konopka (Columbus to Tampa Bay) were four additional Ukrainians filling out change-of-address cards with the post office.

Zherdev playing center stage on Broadway

Ukrainian Nikolai Zherdev and another forward were acquired by the New York Rangers in a swap for two defensemen going to the Columbus Blue Jackets. The 23-year-old Zherdev was Columbus' first-round choice, fourth overall, in the 2003 NHL Entry Draft. He played in all 82 games with the Blue Jackets last season, notching 26 goals and 61 points with 34 penalty minutes. He led the team with 35 assists, while he finished second in goals,

points and shots on goal (254).

Zherdev tallied seven times on the power play (third on the team) with three game-winning goals (also third). He set personal bests in games played, assists, points and shots. This Kyiv native recorded 13 multiple-point games, including a four-point effort (two goals and two assists) in a game against Carolina.

The young man clearly has star potential, but needs to overcome the pattern of inconsistent play he has shown thus far. Coming off a career year, he also started to progress on the defensive side of the game in an attempt to be a more responsible player. New York's attraction to the young Kyivan is obviously his ability to put the puck in the net with a 40-goal season possible in the future. Zherdev is getting lots of quality ice time since New York chose to cut ties with veterans Jaromir Jagr, Brendan Shanahan, Martin Straka and Sean Avery. Zherdev's upside is potentially huge.

Pens add power forward Fedotenko

Having locked up core players with long-term contracts, Penguins management set out to fill a few holes on the top forward lines by scanning the free agent wire this past summer. In need of a power winger to play on Sidney Crosby's left, Pittsburgh signed Ukrainian Ruslan Fedotenko.

The 29-year-old Fedotenko scored 33 points (16G,17A) in 67 games with the lowly New York Islanders in 2006-2007. He did lead the team with a career-high eight power-play goals. He also dished out 104 hits, placing him fourth on the Isles.

"I think Ruslan is going to be able to play as he has throughout his NHL career, on the top three lines," GM Ray Shero said at a press conference on July 3, 2008. "He can play anywhere in the line-up, so I think that's going to be a good addition for us. He has size (6-2,195-pounds), and he's won a Stanley Cup and been a good contributor in the league."

As with the Islanders two summers ago, Fedotenko signed only a one-year deal with the Penguins. GM Shero went on to explain the rationale behind signing secondary players to short-term contracts.

"This is a one-year deal, so I think, motivationally, he will really push himself and it can be invigorating for his career to get with a group of guys with a lot of skill. He should be able to help us out. By signing Fedotenko, I think it gives balance to our line-up. We have eight defensemen at this point and our goaltending is all signed up. At this time, we have 10 NHL forwards and I think we're in good shape now. We'll make sure we have the right complement of players before we go too fast."

Metropolit earns two-year deal with Philly

Unrestricted free agent center Glen Metropolit, 34, signed a two-year contract with the Philadelphia Flyers on July 1, 2008, the first day of signings. The 5-foot-10, 195-pound Metropolit recorded 11 goals and 22 assists for 33 points and 36 penalty minutes in 82 over-achieving games for the Boston Bruins last season.

Metropolit struggled to get a firm foothold in the NHL ranks, persevering for

many years in the American Hockey League and Europe. Prior to the current season, he has played in 262 NHL regular season games over the course of six campaigns, beginning with the Washington Capitals (1999-2003), Tampa Bay (2001-2002), Atlanta Thrashers (2006-2007), St. Louis (2006-2007) and Boston. His career scoring totals are 35 goals with 78 assists and 96 minutes in penalties through 2007-2008.

Metropolit is described as a gritty competitor and an adept penalty killer who can play on the second through fourth forward lines. He's a solid face-off guy who'll chip in with an odd goal and is not afraid to tackle the defensive assignment of checking the opposition's top scoring unit.

Fedoruk inks three-year deal with Coyotes

Fighters retire and unretire – usually more than once or twice. They take a licking, but keep on sticking (to it) against youngsters trying to earn a reputation or a fellow veteran heavyweight trying to get that title belt. Sometimes they need to be wheeled out on a stretcher or be pronounced too medically dangerous to be allowed to continue. Pardon the analogy with boxing, but hockey enforcer Todd Fedoruk is not yet there. His services are still in demand.

To the tune of a three-year contract tendered by and signed with the Phoenix Coyotes. General Manager Don Maloney got Fedoruk's signature last July 1, on the first day of free agency.

"Todd will add a physical presence to our line-up next season (2008-2009)," said Maloney. "He is a tough, intimidating player who will give support to our younger players."

The 29-year-old veteran of the hockey wars scored 6G-7A-13PTS and 139PIM's in 69 regular season matches with Dallas and Minnesota last season. This was a career-best for goals in a season for Fedoruk, who, especially with the Wild, saw much quality ice time on the team's top forward unit where he protected franchise star Marian Gaborik. Fedoruk suited up in all of Minnesota's six playoff games, getting a goal, two points and 16 penalty minutes.

Sharks seek champion defense

San Jose GM Doug Wilson's patience finally ran out. Playoff failures in the last several years forced changes in two key areas of the Sharks' organization. The first was to bring in a new coach, one who experienced winning Stanley Cups in Detroit. The second was to overhaul the defense corps by bringing in two experienced blueliners who've also won Stanley Cups. Get the message?

One of the champion defenders brought on board in a trade with Tampa Bay was Brad Lukowich, a member of two Stanley Cup-winning squads – the first with the Dallas Stars in 1999, the second with Tampa Bay in 2004.

The 31-year-old Lukowich played in 59 games with the lowly Lightning last season, leading the team with 153 hits and coming in third in blocked shots with 108. The proto-typical defensive defenseman garnered a mere six points. He may take offense to an opposing forward's body in his crease, but he will never be labeled offensive.

"Brad is a tough competitor who isn't afraid to give up his body for the sake of the team," said GM Wilson in an official San Jose Sharks media statement on July 4, 2008. "He has won two Stanley Cups and he knows that everyone on a team needs to play a role in order to achieve the ultimate success."

Canucks take a chance on Hordichuk

Further demonstrating there is still a place and demand for fourth line agitators/pests/pugilists was the news the Vancouver Canucks signed free agent Darcy Hordichuk to a deal. In a surprise move, new GM Mike Gillis moved quickly in acquiring the part-time, fourth-line winger whose games played and time on ice significantly decreased in the past three seasons.

Hordichuk, 27, joins Vancouver via Nashville, where in 2007-2008 he managed a mere three points (one goal) and 60 penalty minutes in only 45 games. He did suit up in five Predators playoff games, where his sole statistical entry was a minor penalty.

His NHL career includes stops with Atlanta, Phoenix, Florida and Nashville. He has seen action in 302 games, recording 26 points (13 goals) and 747 PIM's. The 6-foot-1, 212-pound Kamsack, Saskatchewan, native originally entered the league in the 2000 NHL Entry Draft's sixth round.

Babchuk imported back to Carolina

After identifying an aging defense as the primary reason for their lack of recent success, the Carolina Hurricanes set out to remodel their blueline. They made a major trade with Edmonton, then a few minor tweaks in hopes of righting the past two seasons' wrongs. The goal was to build a more mobile, younger, more offense-minded defense corps.

One of the above tweaks was to bring Anton Babchuk back to Carolina. Babchuk was lured back from Russia with a one-year contract for \$1 million. The 24-year-old Babchuk spent 2007-2008 playing with Avangard Omsk of the Russian Superliga. He led all Omsk defensemen and ranked fifth among all Superliga defensemen in scoring with 26 points in 57 games. The Kyiv native added a goal and an assist in four playoff games.

"Anton had a good year in the Russian Superliga," GM Jim Rutherford said in a July 2008 team press release. "He played well at times with us two seasons ago, and, now, at 24 years old, it is time to mature into a consistent NHL defenseman."

Thus, Ukrainian NHL stars are getting acclimated to their new surroundings as the 2008-2009 season skates well past the midway point. You can't tell the players without a program in most hockey rinks in this new NHL era of the salary cap.

Coming up in future updates: yours truly one-on-one with the Dallas Stars' top draft choice, Tyler Beskorowany, at the 2008 NHL Entry Draft in Ottawa, plus a mini-feature on Carolina's first-round pick, Zach Boychuk.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

dance with the law, workers of the State Department on Adoption and Protection of Children's Rights are banned from communicating with mediators proposing paid services for foreign adoption. Mr. Pavlenko said that in 2000-2005 interstate adoptions in Ukraine prevailed over national adoption. But measures realized by the state in 2006-2008 ensured quantitative and qualitative changes in the protection of children's rights. Thus, 1,419 children were adopted in 2005 and 2,087 in 2008; 131 children were placed in foster families and children's homes of the family type in 2005, and 2,303 in 2008. Adoption trends over the past two years, and in particular in 2008, testified to the fact that children under age 6 and having no physical or mental defects successfully find parents in Ukraine. Interstate adoption remains the route only for children under age 6 having special needs, for children over age 10, for disabled children and for children having two or more brothers and sisters. (Ukrinform)

Chernomyrdin on Russia's intentions

KYIV – Russia does not intend to privatize the Ukrainian gas transit system (GTS), but is seeking to manage it along with Ukraine, Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin said on February 2. He claimed that Russia is interested in having the Ukrainian GTS be operational. "We need it to work. And we are ready to use this system and manage this system along with Ukraine," the diplomat underscored. Mr. Chernomyrdin also said Russia has nothing against expansion of the number of participants in a consortium to manage Ukraine's GTS. President Viktor Yushchenko earlier expressed his opinion that Russia's geopolitical interests lie at the root of the recent gas conflict, as well as its desire to control the Ukrainian GTS. At the same time he did not rule out the involvement of Russia in modernizing this system. During the recent gas quarrel the Russians had repeatedly claimed that Ukraine's GTS was unreliable. A working group at Ukraine's Fuel and Energy Ministry is preparing suggestions for an investment conference on modernizing the Ukrainian gas transit system. The Ukrainian GTS encompasses gas pipelines, compressor stations and underground gas storage. The total length of Ukraine's gas pipelines is 283,200 kilometers. The system includes 13 underground gas storage facilities with Europe's largest active volumes of gas (after Russia) – more than 32 billion cubic meters. (Ukrinform)

"Europe hostage to Russian politics"

KYIV – Europe has become a hostage to Russian politics, as Russia resorted to blackmailing the European community in order to achieve its goals, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said in an interview with the Euronews TV Channel on January 29, while commenting on the causes of the recent gas conflict between Ukraine and Russia. "Europe needs to know the truth about what happened. There's one thing I want to stress: Ukraine did not stop deliveries. All the transit pumping stations are located on the Russian side, and it is Russia that's responsible for gas supplies to Europe being blocked," he said. "As the president of Ukraine, I can say that neither in 2008 nor in 2009 was a single cubic meter of gas destined for Europe used by Ukrainians to meet their needs. Once again, I emphasize, Ukraine has met its pipeline obligations." He added, "This isn't just about economics – there is also a political component as well." Mr. Yushchenko said that Russia, in fact, wants to "repeat what has been done with the gas transit systems of Moldova and Belarus in recent years." He noted,

"Obviously, there exists a similar plan for the Ukrainian gas transit system to be put under the control of Gazprom. For us this is unacceptable." Mr. Yushchenko expressed confidence that the gas crisis would have no negative impact on future cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union. "I am convinced that already this year, Ukraine will sign an agreement on the reunification of energy systems. I am confident that this year we will sign a treaty on energy partnership. I am convinced that the Brussels conference, which will be held in March, will be a good place for reflection on the integration of Ukraine's transit capabilities in the European gas market," he said. (Ukrinform)

Nemyria at Ukrainian luncheon in Davos

KYIV – Vice-Prime Minister of Ukraine for European and International Integration Hryhorii Nemyria on January 30 participated in the Ukrainian luncheon at the World Economic Forum in Davos. He informed luncheon attendees of the efforts taken by Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko to mitigate the fallout from the global financial turmoil in Ukraine. Another topic of discussion was the gas deals brokered between Ukraine and Russia. Mr. Nemyria stressed that Ukraine strongly adheres to its international commitments. He noted that Ukraine remains a reliable transit country of Russian gas to European Union countries. (Ukrinform)

New checkpoint at border with Russia

KYIV – A new checkpoint has been opened across the Ukrainian-Russian border in Velyka Pysarivka, Sumy Oblast, in northeastern Ukraine, it was reported on January 30. The checkpoint is designated for international automobile cargo-passenger movement and will function around the clock. (Ukrinform)

Common heritage of Lithuania, Ukraine

KYIV – Lithuania's history is closely tied with that of Ukraine and the two countries' scholars are working on research projects intended to restore the historical roots of cooperation between the two nations, said Lithuania's ambassador to Ukraine, Algirdas Kumza, during the January 30 presentation of the book "Ukraine: The Lithuanian Epoch 1320-1569." He noted, "In Soviet times we did not have the possibility to study and speak freely, much less publish books about our common history. We have such an opportunity today. For us, our spirituality, the development of our cultures it is of great importance," Mr. Kumza said in an interview with Ukrinform. According to the ambassador, the Lithuanian Embassy has financed a joint project to present this unique scholarly book that focuses on the 14th-16th centuries. He pointed out that the integrity of Ukrainian lands within the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was significantly strengthened over that period, but these facts were distorted or held back by the Soviet historical school. Mr. Kumza also stressed that the leaders and diplomats of the two countries are now paying special attention to their common heritage. (Ukrinform)

SBU gives documents to Poland

KYIV – The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) delivered to the Polish Institute of National Remembrance (INR) electronic copies of documents about repressions of the Communist totalitarian regime directed against the Poles in 1930-1940. The materials were handed over during a February 4 meeting in Kyiv of SBU Acting Chair Valentyn Nalyvaichenko with a delegation of the Polish Institute of National Remembrance led by its president, Janusz Kurtyka. The

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

parties agreed that the SBU and the INR would shortly sign an agreement on joint study of archival documents related to the famines and political repressions of the totalitarian Communist regime between 1917 and 1991. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine remembers Holocaust victims

KYIV – On January 28 Ukraine commemorated the Holocaust with the events arranged by the Jewish Foundation of Ukraine. Kyiv hosted a memorial action, “Six Million Hearts,” attended by school-children, teachers, veterans and former prisoners of concentration camps. According to the leadership of the Jewish Foundation of Ukraine, the “Six Million Hearts” action dedicated to the memory of Holocaust victims will become an annual event in Ukraine. The United Nations General Assembly declared January 27 as the International Day in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust to be marked annually. (Ukrinform)

MFA outlines major goals

KYIV – One of the major priorities of the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 2009 is the signing of an Association Agreement with the European Union, Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko announced at a press conference on January 26. “We want to complete all the procedures and sign this instrument late in 2009 during the Swedish EU presidency,” he noted. The Foreign Affairs Ministry also expects to sign a road map in the second or third quarter of 2009 on the terms of introducing a visa-free regime of travel by Ukrainian citizens to countries of the Schengen zone. Mr. Ohryzko said that Ukraine this year is planning to sign bilateral agreements to facilitate visa-free regimes with Great Britain, Ireland and Switzerland. The MFA also intends to complete the process of contractual formalities for the state border of Ukraine. Mr. Ohryzko said Ukraine is planning to complete demarcation of the Ukraine-Moldova border at the Transnistria region, focus on border demarcation with Russia and launch border talks with Belarus. Mr. Ohryzko also reported that, following recent talks with the foreign ministers of Poland and Romania, an agreement was reached indicating that these two countries will execute in a month all necessary domestic procedures to implement local border movement agreements with Ukraine. The operation of local border agreements with Poland, Romania, Hungary and Slovakia after they come into force will allow around 3.5 million Ukrainians living in the border area to have visa-free entry to the territory of these neighboring EU countries. The minister also said that in 2009 Ukraine intends to sign an agreement with nine countries on the protection of rights of Ukrainian citizens working there. Another priority of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, according to Mr. Ohryzko, is economic cooperation: supporting the interests of Ukrainian companies when entering the international market, as well as attracting investment. “We have selected 30 countries we intend to cooperate with at most and focus our efforts on. This is a preliminary list so far. Our embassies were given clear instructions to make particular efforts to ensure economic cooperation and attract investments,” Mr. Ohryzko explained. The ministry also announced plans to pay attention to the creation of the Baltic-Black Sea-Caspian energy transit corridor and join the energy community treaty, he said. Ukraine is also planning this year to seek compensation from Russia of losses incurred after the environmental disaster in the Kerch Strait in the autumn of 2007 and intends to complete an inventory of the properties being used by the Russian Black Sea Fleet. (Ukrinform)

Ohryzko congratulates Clinton

KYIV – Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko on January 22 congratulated Hillary Clinton on her confirmation as secretary of state by the U.S. Senate. The message of congratulations expressed confidence that Ukraine-U.S. strategic relations, reinforced by the signing on December 19, 2008, of the Strategic Partnership Charter, will further develop and deepen. Mr. Ohryzko also noted that Kyiv considers the United States one of the main supporters of Ukraine’s Euro-Atlantic integration, which is an integral part of the democratic and prosperous future of this country. The minister invited Secretary Clinton to pay an official visit to Ukraine at any time convenient to her. (Ukrinform)

Memorial plaque to Stetskos unveiled

KYIV – A memorial plaque to two leaders of Ukraine’s national liberation movement, Yaroslav and Yaroslava Stetsko, was unveiled on January 21 in Munich. This was done in accordance with the presidential decree dated May 16, 2007. “Unveiling, on behalf of the Ukrainian state, this memorable plaque, we pay tribute to the living deeds of Yaroslav and Yaroslava Stetsko and commemorate them,” said Yurii Yarmilko, Ukraine’s consul general to Munich, at the ceremony. The memorial plaque was consecrated by priests of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church and Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church. Addressing numerous representatives of the Ukrainian organizations in Bavaria and guests from Ukraine were the head of the Ukrainian Institute of Education Policy in Munich, Andrii Kutsan; the head of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (B) Andriy Haidamakha; a leading member of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists (CUN) Stepan Boytsiun; and Yaroslava Stetsko’s niece Lesia Boytsiun. The Stetskos were active figures of the OUN. They had been living abroad since 1944 and were involved in underground activity intended to liberate Ukraine from Communist occupation. After the murder of Stepan Bandera in 1959, Mr. Stetsko chaired OUN(B); his wife later led the organization. Mrs. Stetsko returned to Ukraine from forced emigration and was actively involved in the country’s political life. She died on March 12, 2003, in Munich. (Ukrinform)

Charges brought against separatists

KYIV – The Security Service of Ukraine (known by its Ukrainian acronym as SBU) has completed pretrial proceedings against activists of the Sevastopol-Crimea-Russia Popular Front. On January 19 the Security Service of Ukraine completed pretrial proceedings, and filed with the court a criminal case against two activists of this unauthorized group. The proceedings were instituted pursuant to Article 110 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine on charges of violating the territorial integrity of Ukraine. On December 26, 2008, within the framework of the criminal proceedings launched on the same charges against activists of the unauthorized Donetsk Republic organization, its leader was accused of violating the territorial integrity of Ukraine and ordered not to leave the country. Earlier, the SBU department in the Zakarpattia Oblast opened a case against Rusyn separatists for their public calls to redraw Ukrainian borders and violations of Ukraine’s constitutional system. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine to build ships for Norway

KYIV – The Zaliv shipyard in Crimea has signed two contracts with the Norwegian holding company Ulstein for the construction of hulls for offshore ships. The ships will have the following parameters: total weight – about 2,000 tons; length – 88.8 meters; width – 19 meters;

depth – eight meters. Work on these orders will start in June, and the commissioning is planned for May 2010. It should be noted that the ships are for Statoil-Hydro, the largest Norwegian oil and gas corporation. In 2007 the Zaliv shipyard and the Ulstein signed a memorandum on long-term cooperation in the sphere of shipbuilding to service gas and oil production platforms. The OJSC Zaliv Shipyard is one of the largest shipbuilding and ship repair enterprises of Ukraine; it is engaged in the construction of tankers and container vessels, as well as in repairs of ships of various sizes and functions. (Ukrinform)

New ski resort in Zakarpattia

KYIV – Skiers, mostly guests from Kyiv and other Ukrainian regions, are using the services of the new winter resort Krasia, which opened in the village of Vyshka, Zakarpattia Oblast. The tourist base has two ski runs, 1,200 and 1,800 meters long, and chairlifts on the slopes of Mount Krasia, as well as snowmaking machinery. About 3,000 people can be accommodated on the slopes every hour. Many Ukrainians with good incomes who used to vacation in Europe have headed for the Carpathians, where prices are lower and the service is equal to European standards. Last year 16 tourist resorts opened in Zakarpattia; another 40 are supposed to be put into operation in one to two years. The number of tourists visiting the region last year increased by almost 40 percent from 2007. (Ukrinform)

CPU leader may be prosecuted

KYIV – The leader of the Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU), Petro Symonenko, might be prosecuted for his failure to observe a court ruling, Kyiv’s Pecherskyi District Court said on January 24. The Communist Party has yet to implement the Pecherskyi District Court’s decision obliging the party to refute misleading reports posted on its website regarding the involvement of the Ukrainian president’s family in gas machinations. The state executive service’s office of the Podilskyi District department for justice in Kyiv has fined the Communist Party of Ukraine for ignoring the court ruling. On May 12, 2008, Kyiv’s Pecherskyi District Court fully upheld an appeal lodged by National Deputy Petro Yushchenko against Mr. Symonenko and the CPU regarding the protection of his honor, dignity and business reputation, and the refutation of misleading reports. The issue concerned misleading statements made by the Communist leader at a press conference and posted on his party’s official website about the alleged involvement of President Viktor Yushchenko and his family in the joint venture UkrHaz-Energo and other companies operating on the gas market. (Ukrinform)

President declassifies documents

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on January 24 issued a decree on declassification of archival documents related to the Ukrainian liberation movement, political repressions and famines in Ukraine, the presidential press service reported. The Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Security Service of Ukraine, Foreign Intelligence Service, Procurator General’s Office, State Archive Committee and State Department for Execution of Sentences were ordered to analyze the relevant documents accumulated during the Soviet period. Agencies were instructed to lift restrictions on dissemination and access to information in archival documents if they contain no state secrets. The Cabinet of Ministers was ordered to elaborate, along with the Ukrainian Institute of National Memory and the Security Service of Ukraine and with the participation of the National Academy of Sciences, a plan of activities to disclose and study declassified documents for 2009-2011. The decree envisages the creation of an archive of national memory in

an electronic database; the holding of permanent expositions, exhibitions of archival documents and photo materials about the liberation movement, political repressions and famines throughout Ukraine; the publication, reprinting and distribution of relevant scholarly, popular and journalistic works, collections of documents and materials, as well as translations of declassified documents in foreign languages to inform the international community via foreign diplomatic establishments of Ukraine. The Ministry of Education and Science was instructed to ensure an all-around study of the declassified documents, carry out scholarly research and use its results in academic programs for secondary schools. The Security Service and State Archive Committee were ordered to provide free access to the declassified documents for public figures, scholars and citizens, and the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting was directed to provide for broad media coverage of events related to the declassification, disclosure and study of archival materials. (Ukrinform)

Chubynsky anniversary is marked

KYIV – Celebrations are being held in Ukraine on the occasion of the 170th birthday of Pavlo Chubynsky (1839-1884), outstanding folklorist, ethnographer, poet, lawyer and ardent devotee of Ukraine’s national rebirth. In his address to a meeting President Viktor Yushchenko noted: “Pavlo Chubynsky is a representative of the glorious cohort of Ukrainian cultural workers of the 19th century. His legacy is striking due to its variety and profundity. The monumental scholarly work by Chubynsky ‘Works of the Ethnographic-Statistical Expedition to the West-Russian Region,’ in which numerous treasures of folk culture were gathered and preserved for descendants, received recognition both in Ukraine and abroad. Pavlo Chubynsky entered the history of our country as the author of a poem ‘Ukraine’s Glory Has Not Perished’ that became the state anthem of independent Ukraine.” Mr. Yushchenko expressed his sincere gratitude to those who attended the January 26 celebrations honoring the memory of this glorious son of the Ukrainian people. (Ukrinform)

Average salary up 34 percent

KYIV – The average salary in Ukraine in December 2008 grew by 9.8 percent, totaling 2,001 hrv, while in November 2008 it was 1,823 hrv, in October – 1,917 hrv and in September – 1,916 hrv, the State Statistics Committee reported. In 2008 the average salary increased by 33.7 percent as compared with 2007, reaching 1,806 hrv. The largest level of incomes in 2008 was registered in Kyiv, where the average salary was 3,074 hrv a month. In December 2008, as compared with November 2008, the average salary in the system of public administration went up by 19.1 percent; real estate and engineering – 15.3 percent; health care – 11.5 percent; transport and communications enterprises – 10.9 percent; education – 10.3 percent; culture and sports – 9.1 percent; finance and industry – 6.4 percent; construction – 4.1 percent. At the same time, the level of salaries in agriculture dropped by 0.4 percent for the same period. (Ukrinform)

Customs officials seize \$4.5 million

KYIV – Agents of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) and border guards have seized a total of \$ 4.5 million (U.S.) that was to be smuggled to Russia, according to a February 4 report from the press service of the SBU. The driver of a minibus, who was trying to cross the Ukrainian-Russian checkpoint without passing customs procedures, was detained at the Hotivka checkpoint in the Kharkiv region. The \$4.5 million was founded following an inspection of his vehicle. (Ukrinform)

Nabucco...

(Continued from page 2)

Topolanek observed (Lidove Noviny, Pravo, January 27, 28).

At the moment, Azerbaijan, with its Shah-Deniz oil field, is the only guaranteed source of supply for the planned Nabucco pipeline's first stage (and, concurrently, for the existing Turkey-Greece Interconnector to be extended to Italy). President Ilham Aliyev projected the image of a successful, energy-producing, Western-oriented state at the Budapest conference. Noting that Azerbaijan had become a significant contributor to the EU's energy security, Mr. Aliyev confirmed Azerbaijan's interest in connecting the Caspian basin with Europe through Nabucco and other projects, through which Azerbaijan would export its own resources as well as transport eastern Caspian gas to Europe. Azerbaijan would export its gas on competitive terms, Mr. Aliyev stated, alluding to other standing offers and urging the EU to intensify its involvement if the Nabucco project were to be implemented (APA, January 26, 27).

Mr. Aliyev was alluding to Gazprom's offer to buy all of Azerbaijan's available export volumes of gas at European netback prices, a move that would stop the Nabucco project. Norway's StatoilHydro company, in charge of marketing gas from Azerbaijan's Shah Deniz, was absent from the Budapest conference. StatoilHydro is said to have entered into tentative discussions with Gazprom about a possible export outlet to Russia for Shah Deniz gas, in case Nabucco fails to provide a westbound outlet in time for the second phase of Shah Deniz development. Under such circumstances, and after its long neglect of the Nabucco project, the EU must not take Azerbaijan for granted indefinitely.

Turkmenistan made a rare, high-level appearance at the Budapest conference. The head of the Turkmen State Agency for

Management and Use of Hydrocarbon Resources ("attached to the President of Turkmenistan"), Yagshygydy Kakayev, reaffirmed Ashgabat's policy on gas exports. Turkmenistan sells its gas at its borders, to buyers who come up with commercial offers and transport solutions. It favors diversification of export routes in multiple directions, and it seeks commercially attractive purchase prices (that is, not the Russian monopoly's below-market purchase prices through 2008). Citing the recent Gaffney Cline audit of Turkmenistan's South Yolotan-Osman gas field, estimated at 6 trillion cubic meters of likely reserves (in a range from 4 trillion at the low estimate to 14 trillion at the high end, not including other unexplored Turkmen fields), Mr. Kakayev stated that Turkmenistan could supply several pipeline projects, including Nabucco, at the same time (MTI, January 27, 28). The implicit challenge to Brussels and Washington is to support rapid development of Turkmen resources by Western companies, a task that Washington dropped in 2001 and Brussels never undertook.

Egyptian Petroleum Minister Sameh Fahmy and Iraqi Oil Ministry's State Secretary Motasam Keek told the Budapest conference that their countries could supply gas for the Nabucco pipeline – Egypt, as soon as the pipeline via Syria reached Turkey; and Iraq, within five years, pending field development and a transport solution from western Iraq to Turkey. The Egyptian and Iraqi volumes remain unspecified, but are likely to be small and the transport solutions, therefore, hardly attractive in terms of cost. Turkmenistan and Iran, however, are indispensable to Nabucco, the Southern Corridor and Western energy security in general.

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Philadelphia's Ukrainian Selfreliance meets with Ukrainian orphans

by Andrea Zharovsky

PHILADELPHIA – Representatives of the Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union filled the first pew of the Ukrainian Evangelical Pentecostal Church of Philadelphia on December 21, 2008, to take part in the Sunday service and meet with children – orphans of Agape, a mission visiting from Kherson, Ukraine.

During Pastor Yaroslav Pristatsky's service, the talented children put on "The Old Shoemaker," a superb musical performance. This performance taught the audience the concept of giving – that by helping someone, even a total stranger, we are helping Jesus Christ.

After the performance, Halyna O. Keller, CEO of Ukrainian Selfreliance FCU, and Ihor Sydoriak, credit union's representing the board of directors, presented a donation of \$2,500 to Oleksandr Fedorchuk, the founder of Agape. They also brought smiles to each child with gifts of toys and candy.

Founded in the spring of 2003, Agape began its missionary work in the Kherson Oblast of Ukraine. Today, Agape works in seven Oblasts in Ukraine including: Kherson, Mykolayiv, Zaporizhia, Sumy, Dnipropetrovsk, Kyivska and Zakarpattia. Forty-four representatives of the mission provide daily Bible lessons in 32 orphanages/schools, reaching approximately 6,000

orphans and children who have been abandoned by their parents or guardians.

Agape's purpose and mission is to spread the word of God's love to children-orphans through Christian ethic lessons and socialization. Volunteers from local churches assist 65 full-time employees of "Agape" and teach graduates of the orphanages/schools practical skills in independent living based on Christian ideals.

The Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union of Philadelphia founded as a union of people of common heritage, is financial institution that has served the interests of its members since 1952. The credit union provides members with professional and up-to-date financial services while working to create a caring environment for those members. It fosters cooperation, promotes ethnic strength and interest, and provides long-term stability for the Ukrainian American community. Unlike a bank, which exists to make profits for its stockholders, the credit union's profits go back to its members and to support Ukrainian institutions and organizations.

Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union's main branch is located at 1729 Cottman Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111 and can be reached at 215-725-4430 or 1-888-765-8282. For more information readers may log on to www.ukrfcu.com.

The Holodomor...

(Continued from page 3)

lectivization, a fellow villager wrote officials that he "welcomed the decision," adding, "There can't and shouldn't be another pardon for enemies of the working class and kolhosp peasants."

Residents of the village of Yaroshivka were so traumatized that they began persecuting each other, enforcing the depraved laws used to torture to them.

When a starving 22-year-old, Maria Chernenko, was caught stealing potatoes in April 1933, her fellow villagers beat and tortured her throughout the night, leaving her for dead in the morning.

Revealing their descent toward moral nihilism, authorities sentenced her murderers to a mere three to eight years in prison – less punishment than had they

stolen a handful of grain from the collective farm, because "she was of weak health and hungry, dying despite not having been beaten much."

Though the Soviets distorted morality and justice, the Holodomor proved these notions are essential to humanity and can't be eradicated from human consciousness. For even the atheist Communists who executed the Holodomor knew deep down inside they were committing evil, just by the fact that they attempted to conceal it, said Mr. Ivanuschenko, director of the Sumy Oblast State Archives.

"The (listed) causes of death for tens and hundreds of people in a single book, such as 'unknown' and 'from illness,' as well as the absence of a written reason, indicates the Communists intentionally hid the truth and, therefore, entirely realized the criminality of their actions," he said.

"What's past is prologue."

– William Shakespeare
(carved on the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C.)

1933



2009

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To request pre-registration forms please send an e-mail to: virapopol@aol.com
(this will help expedite the registration process)

Alexander Motyl...

(Continued from page 11)

I assume that my readers will know a thing or two about literature and life, but I don't assume – or insist – that they know what I know or as much (or as little) as I do. I firmly believe that every artwork can be enjoyed – and must be enjoyed – on several levels.

The most obvious level is the “surface” story or image. I firmly believe that has to be there, and it has to be persuasive to the reader or viewer. The surface level is arguably the most important. It's the structure, it's the meat and potatoes, it's the foundation – use whichever metaphor you like.

And then there are other, supposedly “deeper” levels, where metaphors, jokes, inter-textual references, meanings, symbols, portentous implications and all sorts of supposedly profound stuff come into play.

A work that consists only of these deep levels is never persuasive; it's often just second-rate philosophy masquerading as art. A work that consists only of the surface may never be great, but, like Mickey Spillane's bone-crunching prose, it is what it is, and that's often enough. Then again, what the heck do I know?

E.L. Doctorow said writing a novel is like driving across country at night. You can only see as far as the headlights, but you can make the whole journey that way. Tell us something about your writing process. Do you work from an outline?

I start with hunches or insights – never, ever from an outline. “Whiskey Priest” started with the notion that it would be interesting to explore just why a spy who saves someone would then turn on him. “Who Killed Andrei Warhol” was born when, while reading about Warhol's life, I came upon a reference to the fact that his Factory was located in the same building as the Communist Party USA. That coincidence struck me as surreal and tailor-made for an absurdist novel.

My latest novel, “The Jew Who Was Ukrainian,” started in the most unlikely fashion. I was reading some German-language novel a few years ago and came upon the word, *Frauenzimmer*, an antiquated version of *Frau*, or woman. For some reason, I started rhyming *Frauenzimmer* with Volodymyr and was amused by the flow and silliness of the name. And then I knew I had a hero for my next novel: Volodymyr *Frauenzimmer*, a man who has a Ukrainian mother who hates Jews and a Jewish father who hates Ukrainians. And once I had the name, I was able to construct something like a story around it.

To continue with interesting observations made by well-established authors, “Mystic River” and “Gone Baby Gone” author Dennis Lehane once said that given complex characters, the plot will find itself. Do you agree?

Absolutely. The one thing I've learned about writing fiction is that, somewhere along the way, you lose control and the characters take over. I had read about that, but never quite believed it, but it's quite true. You start a scene between X and Y, and you think you know what they're going to say and how the scene will end, but more often than not, they just start blabbering and, before you know it, the characters have mutinied and taken hold of the ship.

At best, you then try to keep the ship on course, although that sometimes doesn't work and then you have no choice but to change direction. You can't beat the characters. They always win – or should win.

Which of the three novels proved more challenging to write, and why?

They've all been hard, but “The Jew Who Was Ukrainian” was by far the hardest. “Whiskey Priest” is, after all, a story. There are flashbacks and internal monologues, but it is a story with a beginning, middle and end. So, too, is “Who Killed Andrei Warhol,” though there the challenge was twofold: to make the encounter between the Soviet Ukrainian journalist and Andy seem natural, and not contrived, and to turn a curious encounter into something with dramatic tension, a story.

But “The Jew Who Was Ukrainian” takes the cake. It doesn't really have a plot; it doesn't really have a beginning, middle and end; and it incorporates third-person narrative, first-person reflections, two-person, three-person and five-person interrogations, and actual texts from published sources. Stitching all that together into something that flows (I hope) and is tight (I pray) was extremely challenging.

Tell us something about your revision process. Do you have writers with whom you share early drafts of your work? How deep into a work do you feel you need to be before exposing it for feedback?

For me, writing is editing. The first draft is, as I've already said, pretty lousy, but that doesn't matter, because the real writing takes place only after that first draft is in place. So I never share first drafts with others; that would be an insult to their intelligence. But I tend to share works about two-thirds of the way through the editing process. By then, I usually feel fairly comfortable with the text and, although I know it's not quite there yet, it's no longer embarrassing.

By the way, I do my academic writing in exactly the same way. I also paint that way. You start with some smears, vague outlines, hints of something or other. And then you refine the whole picture by continually adjusting something here in light of the whole or the whole in light of something there.

I suppose you could say I'm obsessed with composition – with the relationship of the words to words, with the relationship of lines and colors and forms to lines and colors and forms. As far as I'm concerned, the artwork is inside the artwork – not outside. I'm with Susan Sontag in being, as she put it in her famous essay, “Against Interpretation.” The New York art critic Clement Greenberg also had it right. When he first looked at a painting, he'd stand with his back to it and then suddenly pivot to view it, thereby hoping to acquire as direct, and meaning-less, a relationship with the artwork as possible.

No one will deny the solitary act of writing. Building a community of writers, however, is of critical importance, and it's just plain fun. You and Irene Zabytko co-run the popular “Ukrainian Literary Night” series, first at the Bowery Club, and more recently at Cornelia Street Café. Can you tell us more about how that series evolved?

That was all Irene's inspiration and work. It would never have occurred to me that one could just contact the Cornelia people and suggest a Ukrainian literary anything. Irene said, “Why not?” She sent them an e-mail – not even a formal letter or anything like that – and they said, sure, you're in. And that was that. I was totally floored by how simple and obvious the whole process was. Of course, Irene is fearless and smart and experienced, and she knows how to get things done. I'm just a neophyte.

Alex, you are also an accomplished painter with work represented by The Tori Collection specializing in international contemporary fine art. Does one activity resonate with the other, or do you keep the two muses separate?

I do paint and write at the same time, all

the time, but I'm not sure I see any cross-fertilization, certainly not thematically. My fiction is very much “Ukrainian,” while my paintings have, as far as I can tell, nothing Ukrainian or Slavic or East European about them. But the two activities do overlap and, I'm tempted to say, are identical in one way. Being obsessed with composition, I want my texts and artworks to “hang together.” And that means that, ideally at least, no word and no brushstroke should ever be extraneous. Of course, that's an impossible goal, but it is possible, I think, to prevent texts and artworks and films from “sagging” – from feeling like wet blankets. I wouldn't remove a single word from Edith Wharton's “Ethan Frome,” Kurban Said's “Ali and Nino,” or Volodymyr Vynnychenko's “Na Toy Bik,” or a single drip from a Pollock, or a single scene from Dovzhenko's “Zemlia.” Most of Fellini's later films, on the other hand, could easily be cut by half – any half – and you'd never know the difference.

Since editing a text is like “editing” a painting, I suppose there's some sort of resonance going on between these two activities.

Warhol states everyone is entitled to 15 minutes of fame. How will you know when you've achieved yours? Or, perhaps you already have?

You know, he never said that it was supposed to be 15 consecutive minutes. And since 15 minutes make for 900 seconds, I suspect I've had just about that many moments of extremely transitory fame. But my major claim to fame took place back in late 1993, when I was on Charlie Rose together with David Remnick and some Russian journalist. I couldn't figure out just why I had been invited, until, at one point, Rose turned to me and said, “Now you're from the Ukraine, Mr. Motyl,

aren't you?” I'm usually at a loss for repartees, but this time I managed to blurt, “No, I'm just a New York boy,” and watch his jaw drop as he realized that I wasn't the Ukrainian complement to the American and Russian. I haven't been invited back.

I understand you are currently working on a play with one of Warhol's Factory Superstars, Ultra Violet. Can you tell us more about that?

I met her at one of my readings about two years ago, at the Ukrainian Institute of America. We exchanged cards, she said to call her – and, naturally, I didn't. And then, last spring, I received several telephone calls and e-mails from her in one day. She invited me to lunch, I came – having no idea just why and feeling completely intimidated – but she turned out to be one of the sweetest and warmest and funniest people I know, and we hit it off immediately.

She then showed me a text – featuring a dialogue between Warhol and Hitler – and, after a few more meetings and some to-ing and fro-ing, we agreed that I'd help her make a play of it. It's called “Wintertime for Warhol.” Meeting her has been quite an experience, especially for a Ukrainian boy from the Lower East Side. She's an excellent artist in her own right and she's very religious. She's a Mormon, and I even accompanied her one Sunday morning to the Mormon Church on East 87th Street in Manhattan.

Speaking of 15-plus moments of fame, should we announce our next Ukrainian Literary Night at the Cornelia Cafe? It promises to be a particularly good one...

It'll be on April 25, – but this time there'll only be one session, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. And with you, Askold Melnyczuk and Irene Zabytko in the spotlight, I think we'll have a super-duper show and a standing-room only crowd.



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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Plast's Spartanky sorority hosts St. Andrew's Eve gathering

by Vera Chuma-Bitcon

WHIPPANY, N.J. – The New Jersey chapter of the Spartanky sorority of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization on December 10, 2008, organized a very special evening for Ukrainian youth: "Andriyivskiy Vechir." As part of a long-standing tradition in Ukraine, on the eve of St. Andrew's feast day, young people get together for fortune-telling activities.

Spartanky Vera Gorloff and Ariadna Holynsky organized the event, and over 40 boys and girls participated, catching a glimpse into their future.

Setting the atmosphere with dim lights and candles, the Spartanky dressed in gypsy attire and served as fortunetellers. They read tea leaves and palms, and told fortunes using poured wax and tarot cards. Numerology, and a crystal ball also provided some fun.

Everyone especially enjoyed the traditional games, including trying to bite the hanging "kalyta." As the player jumped to take a bite out of the big bagel, another person pulled the kalyta out of reach with a ribbon.

The participants also got to bake their own "bublyky" in the kitchen. Then Stella, the hungry little dog, arrived in the room. According to superstition, the person whose bublyk the dog eats first, will be the first to marry.

Spartanky thoroughly enjoyed planning and running this special event for Ukrainian youths. They believe that it is very important to keep Ukrainian customs and traditions alive, and share them with the next generation. Andriyivskiy Vechir allowed the youths to get together for some fun and, at the same time, enrich their knowledge of Ukrainian traditions.



Petrusia Paslawsky reads fortunes using melted, floating wax.

Dumka Chorus performs concert at St. Volodymyr Cathedral in NYC



NEW YORK – The Dumka Chorus of New York performed a Christmas concert on Sunday, January 18, at St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in New York. Seen above, seated before the choir, are: (from left) the Rev. Teodor Mazur, the Rev. John Lyszyk and Archbishop Antony, as well as Vasyl Hrechynsky, conductor of the chorus, and Laryssa Hutnykevych, its concertmaster.

– the Rev. John Lyszyk



Plast Spartanky fortunetellers at "Andriyivskiy Vechir."

Branch 241 welcomes St. Nicholas



Roman Klufas

WOONSOCKET, R.I. – Ukrainian National Association Branch 241 of Woonsocket, R.I., sponsored a special celebration of St. Nicholas Feast Day on December 14, 2008. Msgr. Roman Golemba started the program with a prayer and the children presented a Nativity story play that was programmed by Lydia Tkach, who was assisted by the children's mothers. Afterwards St. Nicholas presented gifts. John and Marko Tkach and Yuri Minyisliuk added musical entertainment and a luncheon followed.

– Janet Bardell

Turning the pages back...

(Continued from page 6)

wasn't always presented [in the media] with complete objectivity, but I want to stress that Ukraine fully complies with its obligations under the European Energy Charter," Mr. Yushchenko said at the press conference.

During his visit to Germany, Mr. Yushchenko visited the Flossenburg concentration camp, where his father, Andrii, was held during the second world war. Mr. Yushchenko also attended the 43rd Munich Conference on Security Policy.

Source: "Yushchenko meets with Merkel during three-day visit to Germany," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, February 18, 2007.

Take a look at the past

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Daughter seeks help to secure life-saving surgery for physician from Ukraine

by Mary Lynn Potenteau

MIAMI – University of Washington graduate student Irina Snare is seeking help for medical treatment in the U.S. for her father, Chernivtsi (Ukraine) lung doctor Anatoliy Shevchenko who has stage two prostate cancer.

Through extensive Internet research, Ms. Snare connected with South Florida surgeon Dr. Arnon Krongrad, a pioneer in prostate surgery treatments. Although he is doing what he can to keep the costs as low as possible, much of the hospital and laboratory costs are beyond his control. The total cost of the surgery, including testing and hospitalization are estimated at \$32,700.

Ms. Snare and her family are turning to the Ukrainian community for help in raising these funds.

Dr. Shevchenko has served at Chernivtsi Regional Hospital and Emergency Room for almost 30 years and for more than 10

years at Chernivtsi Children's Regional Hospital. He has helped save the lives of thousands of lives of Ukrainian children.

A few months ago, Dr. Shevchenko was diagnosed with stage two prostate cancer. His condition can be curable if the prostate surgery is done before the cancer metastasizes to other organs. This type of surgery is not available in Ukraine, and Dr. Shevchenko was advised by his physicians to travel abroad for treatment.

After finding his website on the Internet, Ms. Snare contacted Dr. Krongrad of the Krongrad Institute in Miami. He is also the founder of the Prostate Cancer Mission, a U.S.-based charitable organization focused on expanding knowledge about prevention and cure of prostate cancer and management of issues that result from diagnosis of this disease. Dr. Krongrad and The Prostate Cancer Mission are striving to help men with prostate cancer gain access to life-saving medical procedures, despite their

ability to pay.

According to Ms. Snare, her father "is the only doctor [bronchologist] in his region of Ukraine who works with the sickest patients. Patients with AIDS contract pneumonia easily, and my father never refuses treatment to them and at this time Ukraine has an epidemic of AIDS."

"My father also works with a big number of TB patients," she continued. "In Eastern Europe a new TB has evolved over the last 15-20 years that is highly resistant towards the strongest antibiotics. Other doctors in his field are afraid to work with TB patients, due to personal risks of contracting the disease and spreading it to their family members. Many nurses that worked with my father over the years had quit or transferred to safer working environments, but my father never quit. So, without him working there, many people will have no treatment."

Ms. Snare added: "Also, due to his skill

level, he is the only one in region who can save young children. There are other bronchologists in his region and only my father is called to work when complex cases with young children and adults arrive. I personally witnessed for many years the response he gets from his patients and co-workers. They all say that without him, there is no hope and I believe it, because younger doctors do not want his job (there are easier ways to make \$150 per month)."

Donations should be sent to: Jackson Memorial Foundation, account for the benefit of Anatoliy Shevchenko, 901 NW 17th St., #G, Miami, FL 33136. (Wire transfer instructions are available upon request.)

Dr. Krongrad will perform the surgery at Jackson North Hospital in Miami. Once/if the needed amount is reached, fund-raising efforts will stop and the foundation will report to the public. If the total amount needed is not collected, the money that has been received will be returned to donors.

Moscow-Kyiv...

(Continued from page 2)

Central Asian and Azerbaijani suppliers directly to Europe via Turkey, and is seen as a direct competitor to South Stream.

"Apparently this gas row between Ukraine and Russia has revived this so-called pipeline geopolitical battle between the Nabucco route and the South Stream route," Mr. Bordonaro said. "Nabucco is still attractive to the Europeans because Nabucco would ease the dependency on Russian gas as its main sources should be the Turkmen and the Azeri gas fields, and in the future Nabucco could also try to exploit the Iranian gas fields."

Turkmenistan and Iraq signaled inter-

est in the Nabucco project by arranging to send delegations to a Budapest conference of shareholders and potential suppliers to the pipeline on January 26-27. The conference was scheduled since late last year, but coming on the heels of the recent gas dispute, interest in the project is high.

If the EU were to throw its weight behind Nabucco, Turkey could well prove to be a major beneficiary of the Russia-Ukraine dispute. Ankara has long sought membership in the European Union, but has seen those negotiations stall.

Sensing an opportunity, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan attempted to use Nabucco as a bargaining chip, telling officials in Brussels he will "review" his

support for the pipeline if Turkey's accession talks remain blocked.

Mr. Bordonaro said the gas dispute has given several transit countries an opportunity to use alternative schemes to their advantage.

"Turkey said [on January 19] that if the European Union does not show more goodwill in the general framework of EU-Turkey talks about Turkish accession to the EU, Turkey could withdraw its support for the Nabucco project – and this could spell the end of the Nabucco project," Mr. Bordonaro said. "So, as you see, it's kind of interesting because all players are now trying to reposition themselves – Belarus, Ukraine and also Turkey."

Clear losers

RosUkrEnergo, the shadowy intermediary company that has managed all Russian-Ukrainian gas deals for the past several years, would appear to be an immediate loser from the dispute.

The stalemate ended with the signing of a deal brokered by the prime ministers of Russia and Ukraine, respectively, Vladimir Putin and Yulia Tymoshenko. Under the terms of the agreement, RosUkrEnergo would be eliminated as an intermediary.

The company, which is co-owned by Gazprom and two Ukrainian businessmen, Dmytro Firtash and Ivan Fursin, has been at the murky center of questions about the Russian-Ukrainian gas dispute and the opaque nature of Ukraine's gas accounts.

RosUkrEnergo first came under particular scrutiny in 2006, when it was accused of acquiring gas from Turkmenistan and reselling it, at a substantial profit, to Ukraine.

"There have been a lot of rumors in the media about who this company might be linked to," said Tom Mayne, a Central Asia expert with the British watchdog Global Witness, which has tried to follow RosUkrEnergo's activities. "Our research showed that there are certain politicians and gas officials in Ukraine who seem to be close with Mr. Firtash and Mr. Fursin." The potentially divisive role of RosUkrEnergo is reflected in the deepening gap in Ukraine's domestic politics. Ms. Tymoshenko has long advocated for RosUkrEnergo to be eliminated.

But her political rival, President Viktor Yushchenko, criticized Ms. Tymoshenko's gas-deal stipulation that the intermediary be shut out, and on January 22 even granted Mr. Firtash, a trader and one of Ukraine's richest men, a state award.

The move was sharply criticized by Ms. Tymoshenko, who accused Mr. Yushchenko of "planning today to give a third-degree state award to a most corrupt individual."

"I guess Mr. Firtash has yet to earn a first-

degree award and do more to finance the political activities of Ukrainian elites – just as Yurii Boiko, who in effect ruined the entire system of gas supply to Ukraine when he was head of Naftohaz and energy minister, was awarded the title of Hero of Ukraine," Ms. Tymoshenko added.

Cost of credibility

There are also signs that Gazprom, even with the newfound emphasis on South Stream and Nord Stream, will suffer as a result of the gas dispute.

Jonathan Stern, the director of gas research at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, said that in addition to the hundreds of millions of dollars in revenues lost during the two-week shutoff, there may be additional shortfalls on the way if Europe carries through with its threat to take Russia and Ukraine to court for the billions of dollars its own countries lost to the crisis.

"Directly, [Gazprom] lost somewhere between \$1.2 billion and \$1.5 billion, and indirectly they may well be sued for damages," Mr. Stern said. "They already have penalty clauses in their contracts for nondelivery. So they have a lot of other financial problems."

Russia's reputation as a gas supplier, Mr. Stern added, has also suffered.

"The real longer-term damage is that up until now everyone was able to say that for 40 years, pretty much, the Soviet Union and Russia delivered gas to Europe in a completely secure and uninterrupted way," he said. "Nobody can say that any longer."

A final loser, clearly, is the European Union. Brussels, which has remained fractured on energy policy, had little leverage against either Ukraine or Russia in dealing with the dispute.

Apart from frantic shuttle diplomacy and hotter-than-usual rhetoric, there was little the EU could do other than wait for Russia and Ukraine to resolve their differences.

Mr. Bordonaro calls it a weak moment for the EU. Unless the bloc moves quickly to implement strategies for alternative solutions like nuclear energy, he adds, there is potential for it to get even worse.

"The EU has proved unable up to now to ease its foreign energy dependence [on Russia]. Moreover, if current trends continue, by the year 2030 [Russia] may supply more than 60 percent of EU gas import demands," Mr. Bordonaro said. "The basic fact is that the European Union is still divided when it comes to dealing with Russia, and Europe has not forged a common Russia policy."

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OUT AND ABOUT

- | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------|---|
| February 13
New York | Concert with Julian Kytasty and Mike Andrec, "The Third Eye: Festival of Retro-Futurism," The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 | | 212-854-4697 |
| February 14
Parsippany, NJ | Presentation of debutantes, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Parsippany Sheraton, www.cym.org | February 18
Ottawa | Film screening, "Stepan Bandera: the Price of Freedom," Embassy of Ukraine, 613-230-2961, ext 105 |
| February 14
Chicago | Presentation of debutantes and ball, featuring music by Good Times, Ukrainian Medical Association of North America - Chicago Branch, Palmer House, 312-282-7017 | February 19
Stanford, CA | Lecture by Joseph Coleman Carter, "Crimean Chersonesos from Independence to the Present: Archaeology, Cultural Heritage and Politics," Stanford University, 650-723-3562 |
| February 14
Ethnika,
Yonkers, NY | Valentine's Day Dance, featuring music by Vox Ukrainian Youth Center, 914-424-4583 | February 20
Washington | Lecture by Ihor Lylo about Lviv's Greek heritage, Shevchenko Scientific Society, Embassy of Ukraine, 240-205-1889 or olex@ukremb.com |
| February 14
Perth Amboy, NJ | Valentine's Day Dance, Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 732-826-0767 | February 20-22
Toronto | 51st national congress, Ukrainian Canadian Student's Union, 416-951-2440 |
| February 14
Toronto | Bandura recital with Taras Komanichenko and Yuri Fedynsky, St. Vladimir Institute, 416-923-3318 | February 21
Los Angeles | Presentation of debutantes and ball, California Association to Aid Ukraine, Manhattan Beach Marriott, 800-228-9290 or 818-783-9773 |
| February 14
New York | Lecture by Jaroslaw Martyniuk, "The Media and Public Opinion in Ukraine," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130 | February 21
New York | Book presentation by Vitaly Chernetsky of Yuriy Andrukhovych's "Moskoviada," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130 |
| February 14
Buffalo, NY | 1950's Rock & Roll Dance Party, Ukrainian Cultural Center Dnipro, 716-856-4476 | February 21
Miami, FL | "Vyshyvani Vechornytsi" zabava, Miami Educational and Cultural Group, Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary hall, 305-798-0190 or 954-536-2213 |
| February 15
New York | Lecture by George Gajecy, "Ukrainian Queens in Medieval Europe," Ukrainian National Women's League of America - Branch 64, UNWLA Art Gallery, 212-260-4490 | February 22
Colebrook, CT | Winterfest ice skating party, Bobrivka, 860-883-1391 or 203-932-4376 |
| February 17
Washington | Panel discussion, "Energy Security Challenges to Europe and America in Eurasia," Jamestown Foundation, The National Press Club, 202-483-8888 | | |
| February 18
New York | Film screening "Persona Non Grata" by Krzysztof Zanussi, Ukrainian Film Club, Columbia University, | | |

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. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.

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Mayor meets with Chicago Sister Cities program leaders



Brooke Collins, City of Chicago

CHICAGO – Mayor Richard M. Daley and Maggie Daley met with members of the Chicago Sister Cities board and executive committee, as well as special guests during the International Breakfast hosted by the Chicago Sister Cities International Program on January 15 in downtown Chicago. “Urban centers are where the greatest concentrations of people will be living during the 21st century. We must make cultural connections and expand our working relationships with global partners so we can continue to collaborate for the long-term,” said Mayor Daley. “The future well-being of cities like Chicago depends to a large degree on how we plan for and deal with that global inter-connection.” Chicago has 27 international sister city agreements, making it the largest and most active sister cities program in the United States. Seen in the photo is The Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International (from left): Gina Montalbano Goodrich, Maria Klymchak, Michael Kos, Bohdan Watral, Marta Farion (executive committee member of Chicago Sister Cities), Mayor Daley, Vera Eliashevsky (Kyiv Committee chair of Chicago Sister Cities), Lidia Devonshire and Ukraine’s consul general in Chicago, Kyrlyo Kalyta.



Natalia Kudryk
Clinton, NJ



Victoria Mosuriak
Morris Plains, NJ



Solomia Pylypiw
Randolph, NJ



Andrea Kolinsky
Newington, CT



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UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Students present festive Christmas concert at St. Nicholas School

by **Natalka Doblosky**

PASSAIC, N.J. – On Wednesday, December 17, 2008, St. Nicholas School held its annual Christmas concert. The joyful program consisted of a children’s Christmas musical, traditional Vertep and many Ukrainian and English Christmas carols and poems.

The show began with the school’s youngest performers: the pupils of pre-K and kindergarten. After singing three Christmas carols together, the pre-kindergartners recited the holiday poem “The Candy Cane” and the kindergartners recited “The Gift.” With twinkling lights in hand, the kindergartners ended the first act with the holiday song “We Are Christmas Lights.” They were directed by their teachers, Lydia Loukachouk and Anna Diduch.

First grade angels and second and third graders dressed in Ukrainian embroidered shirts sang Christmas carols and recited the poem “Rizdviani Podarunky.” Third grader Adrianna Oliver played a musical introduction on

keyboard. They were directed by the school’s musical director, Maria Bereza, and Ukrainian teacher Tetyana Fedak with Olha Yarkin.

The Vertep was performed by students from the fifth, sixth and eighth grades. King Herod and his wife, their Roman guards, three kings, angels and prophets told the timeless tale and sang four Ukrainian Christmas carols. They were directed by Mrs. Fedak with music by Mrs. Bereza.

Grades 4 through 7 performed the finale, a children’s Christmas musical called “The Legend of the Christmas King.” Directed by Mrs. Bereza and Lecia Stec-Peltyszyn, the cast of shepherds, wise men, innkeepers, angels, sheep and a children’s choir of townspeople sang and recounted the story of the Christ Child’s birth.

All acts were accompanied by the school’s music teacher, Olesia Hryvna on piano.

Throughout the evening, the school’s PTA served borsch, hot dogs, sweets and beverages.

At program’s end, gifts and pointsettias were handed out to the Rev.



Fifth graders in costume for the Christmas concert.

Andriy Dudkevych, pastor; Sister Anne Roman, SSMI., principal; Sister Zenovia, SSMI; and all the teachers. Father Dudkevych concluded the evening with warm appreciation and thanks to all pro-

gram directors for organizing the festive concert.

To learn more about St. Nicholas School, readers may log on to <http://home.catholicweb.com/stnicholas-ukrainian/>.

Bishop visits with Palatine children



PALATINE, Ill. – Bishop Richard Stephen Seminack visited Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church in Palatine, Ill., on October 5, 2008. While at the parish, the bishop spoke to the children of the parish about the importance of prayer. He engaged his young audience in a discussion about what we should pray for.

– *Stefko Kuropas*

Mishanyna

To solve this month’s Mishanyna, look for the names of the months of the year – the first six months in Ukrainian and the second six months in English – hidden in the grid. (Yes, that the reverse of last month’s Mishanyna) Bonus: find an old Ukrainian name for the 11th month of the year: PADOLYST.

SICHEN	TRAVEN	SEPTEMBER
LIUTYI	CHERVEN	OCTOBER
BEREZEN	JULY	NOVEMBER
KVITEN	AUGUST	DECEMBER

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W	S	U	R	O	A	S	E	P	T	E	M	D	B	T
I	L	G	O	K	V	I	T	E	N	O	A	O	M	C
N	A	U	V	E	N	D	R	T	O	D	O	L	I	H
T	N	A	I	V	O	R	A	T	V	E	I	Y	T	E
E	D	E	S	O	O	N	V	R	E	N	A	S	A	N
R	D	E	C	E	M	B	E	R	M	E	S	T	N	O
G	C	L	O	W	N	E	N	O	B	Z	E	E	R	O
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, February 13

NEW YORK: The Center for Traditional Music and Dance presents "The Third Eye: Festival of Retro-Futurism," an evening of musical responses to The Ukrainian Museum's exhibition "Futurism and After: David Burluk, 1882-1967," at 7 p.m. at the museum, 222 E. Sixth St., between Second and Third avenues. The New York Bandura Ensemble's Mike Andrec and Julian Kytasty will join vocalist Nataka Honcharenko and special guests Gisburg and Michael Alpert in a program of new works inspired by Burluk, the Ukrainian painter renowned as the father of Futurism. Tickets are \$15. For reservations call 212-228-0110 or 212-571-1555, ext. 35.

Saturday, February 14

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a talk by Jaroslaw Martyniuk on the subject "The Media and Public Opinion in Ukraine." Mr. Martyniuk is the regional research manager, Eurasia and Eastern Europe, at InterMedia/Open Media Research Institute in Washington. His presentation will first focus on the research and media environment in Ukraine. Using results from a survey conducted in Ukraine in September 2008, he will then offer an overview of opinions and attitudes of Ukrainians on key issues. The program will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Avenue (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

YONKERS, N.Y.: Branch 2 of the Organization for the Defense of Lemko Western Ukraine in Yonkers, N.Y., invites all to a "Valentine's Dance" starting at 9 p.m. at Ukrainian Youth Center, 301 Palisade Ave., Yonkers, NY 10703. Music will be by Vox Ethnika under direction of talented musician Jurij Matolak. Tickets: adults, \$25; children up to age 14, free (if accompanied by parents). Buffet-style food and bar drinks will be available for cash purchase; coffee and home-baked pastry will be provided free. Also featured: a lottery and surprises. For table reservations call Steven Howansky, 203-762-5912, Darko Dzwonczyk, 914-424-4583, or Marko Gazda, 914-760-0815. Everyone is welcome.

Sunday, February 15

NEW YORK: Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 64 presents "Ukrainian Queens in Medieval Europe," a program featuring a lecture by Prof. George Gajecy, who will talk about Kyivan princesses in 11th century Western Europe. The lecture will include a slide presentation. The program will take place at 2 p.m. at the UNWLA Art Gallery, 203 Second Ave., fourth floor, New York, NY 10003. Donation: \$5. The "Yalynky" Christmas tree exhibit will also be on view. For more information, call 212-260-4490, log on to <http://www.unwla.org> or e-mail ukrartlitclub@yahoo.com.

Wednesday, February 18

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Film Club of

Columbia University invites all to "Meet Krzysztof Zanussi," the internationally renowned Polish film director who will screen his feature film "Persona Non Grata" (2005) and discuss Polish-Ukrainian-Russian relations since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the challenges these nations are facing today. The event is organized by the Polish Studies Program, the Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University and the East Central European Center and co-sponsored by the Harriman Institute and the Film Division of the Columbia School of the Arts. The event, which is free and open to the public, begins at 8 p.m. in Room 501, Schemerhorn Hall, 1190 Amsterdam Ave. The event will be mediated by Prof. Anna Frajlich and Prof. Yuri Shevchuk of the department of Slavic languages. For information call 212-854-4697 or e-mail sy2165@columbia.edu. (Read Mr. Zanussi's thoughts on Ukraine at: http://www.columbia.edu/CU/UFC/news/news_2005_3_24.html.)

Friday, February 20

WASHINGTON: The Shevchenko Scientific Society (Washington, D.C. branch), the Embassy of Ukraine and The Washington Group present a lecture by Ihor Lylo on Lviv's Greek heritage at 6:30 p.m. at the Embassy, 3350 M St. NW. The talk will be in Ukrainian. Admission is free; donations are welcome. For further information call 240-205-1889. RSVP requested, preferably by e-mail, to olex@ukremb.com (Oleksandr Mykhalchuk, 202-378-8700) or voloshyn@ukremb.com (Viktor Voloshyn, 202-631-8608).

Saturday, February 21

MIAMI: The newly organized Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center of Miami welcomes everyone to a dance – "Ukrayynski Vechornytsi" – at the hall of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Church, located at 39 NW 57th Court. The program will feature a theatrical presentation of Ukrainian traditions, a display of historical Ukrainian regional attire, music and delicious Ukrainian food. Admission is \$25 for adults; free for children age 14 or younger. For reservations call Dr. Iryna Dzubnisky, 954-536-2213, or Oksana Piaseckyj, 305-798-0190.

Sunday, March 1

NEW YORK: A "Kostiumivka," or costume party, for children organized by the New York branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization will begin at 2 p.m. This year's theme: "Morska Tsarivna" (Sea Princess). Children are encouraged to dress up in sea-themed costumes (sea horses, mermaids, etc.). The party takes place at St. George School auditorium at 215 E. Sixth St. There will be organized games following the presentation of a short story, and food will be available. Admission: adults, \$10; children, free. For more information call 212-982-4530.

Being Ukrainian means:

- Malanka in January.
- Deb in February.
- Sviato Vesny or Zlet in May.
- Soyuzivka's Ukrainian Cultural Festival in July.
- "Uke Week" at Wildwood in August.
- Back to Ukrainian school in September.
- Morskyi Bal in New Jersey in November.
- Koliada in December.
- A subscription to The Ukrainian Weekly all year round.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be **no more than 100 words long**; longer submissions are subject to editing. Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated.

Information should be sent to: preview@ukrweekly.com or Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, 973-644-9510. **NB: If e-mailing, please do not send items as attachments; simply type the text into the body of the e-mail message.**