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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a fraternal non-profit association

Vol. LXXVIII

No. 45

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2010

\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Systemic violations, falsifications reported in Ukraine's local elections

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The October 31 local elections were held in Ukraine amidst evidence of systemic violations and vote falsifications, resulting in the refusal by most of the major political forces involved, including the Communist Party of Ukraine, a coalition partner, to recognize them as legitimate.

Only the pro-Russian Party of Regions of Ukraine said the elections were conducted transparently and honestly, and conformed to international standards. Those parties hedging their bets, such as the People's Party of Ukraine led by Parliamentary Chair Volodymyr Lytvyn, withheld any statement.

Though the official vote counts were not expected to be released until November 6 (after this issue of The Ukrainian Weekly goes to press), exit polls indicated that the Party of Regions of Ukraine, President Viktor Yanukovich's party, was leading in the voting with 36 percent nationwide. The Batkivschyna party, led by opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko, had 13 percent.

Several high-profile contests were too close to call, such as the battle for the Kharkiv City Council Chair between Hennadii Kernes of the Party of Regions and Arsen Avakov of Batkivschyna.

Batkivschyna demanded on November 2 that Parliament consider and approve legis-

lation providing for new elections, a request that was denied by Mr. Lytvyn.

"The elections were conducted in complete chaos and confusion," Tymoshenko Bloc National Deputy Andrii Kozhemiakin said from the parliamentary tribune. "Now the government is doing everything to bide its time and falsify the results for certain election districts."

Svoboda nationalists alleged total falsification in the Kyiv Oblast vote and demanded arrests and prosecution of those involved. Meanwhile the Communists called for nationwide protests, and it remained unclear whether enough Ukrainians would heed the call once the Central Election Commission announces final results. (Thousands of small businessmen were already protesting on November 4 in Kyiv and Lviv against the government's proposed tax code.)

Ukraine's leading independent election-observing organization, the Western-financed Opora citizen's network, issued one of the most disapproving statements on the elections on November 4, based on reports made by its 1,550 election observers.

"The local elections in Ukraine occurred with violations of international standards and failure to uphold the appropriate practices of organization and conducting elections," the statement said.

"Opora's conclusions are based on the results of short- and long-term observation



Zenon Zawada

Oleh Zinkovskiy, a precinct election commission chair in the village of Bondari, Poltava Oblast, dumps ballots from a mobile box for counting.

and the criteria and principles of democratic elections outlined in the documents of the [Council of Europe] Venice Commission, the Copenhagen Conference and the Organization for Security and Cooperation

in Europe," the statement noted.

The chaotic, often brutal, way in which the elections were conducted should put to

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NDI notes deterioration in Ukraine's election environment, urges improvements

KYIV – The environment surrounding Ukraine's October 31 local elections has deteriorated compared to the situation during the presidential election earlier this year, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) said on November 2.

NDI's concerns are based on its ongoing assessment of the election environment. NDI said it shares the concerns of credible observers such as Opora, the largest independent election monitoring organization in Ukraine. Opora observers highlighted an atmosphere of mistrust and said the new local election law fostered confusion.

As Opora outlined in its extensive long-term observation reports, legislative and political issues – and particularly interference by state authorities – have had a negative impact on public confidence in Ukraine's electoral process. Opora also noted that the voters' lists have improved since the presidential election.

Legal framework

A new local election law with significant flaws was rushed into service in July. Some favorable amendments were made in August in response to domestic and interna-

tional concerns, but serious problems related to timing and content remained, which combined with a shortened campaign period to foster confusion, NDI said.

Most notably, the law resulted in the creation of election commissions in which the parties of the ruling coalition had a large, disproportionate representation and leadership roles, fueling doubts about their ability to administer the elections impartially.

State interference

Opora and other observers reported incidences in which: law enforcement and security authorities pressured candidates not to run and observers not to monitor; election officials barred or removed candidates from the ballot and refused accreditation to credible citizen observers on spurious grounds; and prospective voters were subjected to intimidation and bribery.

Further, there is little evidence to date that the authorities have conducted rigorous inquiries into complaints of such violations, NDI said, noting that a climate characterized by such claims can undermine voters' confidence that their political rights will be

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U.S. says elections did not meet standards for openness, fairness

The following statement by the U.S. government was released on November 3 by the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine.

Preliminary reports from election monitors suggest that Ukraine's October 31 local elections did not meet standards for openness and fairness set by the presidential elections earlier this year. Domestic and international election observation efforts, most notably those led by the widely respected domestic, non-partisan monitor Opora, reported numerous procedural violations on election day.

While election observers recognized improvements in the accuracy of voter lists since the presidential contest, they also noted shortcomings, such as insufficient training for electoral commission members, which contributed to the procedural violations and to organizational problems.

Ukraine's local election law, passed in July, was cited as a source of prob-

lems on election day by election observers and international experts. Some difficulties precipitated by the new law, such as blocking the participation of new parties, were lessened or ended by the revisions ordered by President [Viktor] Yanukovich in September.

However, other aspects of the law and of pre-election regulations and procedures challenged the placement of the names of some candidates on ballots, allowed for reported cases of improper use of administrative resources during the electoral campaign, established unbalanced electoral commission membership, and created complicated registration and voting procedures.

President Yanukovich has recognized the need to bring electoral legislation into line with international standards through a consultative process. The United States is prepared to assist Ukraine in support of electoral code reform.

ANALYSIS

Bomb explosions hit Kirovohrad ahead of Yanukovich's visit

by Taras Kuzio

Eurasia Daily Monitor

In the early hours of October 22, three bomb explosions occurred in the central Ukrainian city of Kirovograd, an opposition stronghold. President Viktor Yanukovich visited the city later that morning. The explosions targeted the Procurator General's Office, Internal Affairs Ministry (MVS) and a court building. The bombs were crude and consisted of artillery shells, clocks and batteries (Ukrayinska Pravda, October 22).

Mr. Yanukovich commented that, "If somebody wanted to say something, for example, to me [through these explosions], I am ready to listen. If they wanted to say it in such a manner they will be brought to justice" (Ukrayinska Pravda, October 22). A senior MVS official told the Kyiv Post (October 22) that the explosions were not connected to Mr. Yanukovich's visit to the city, but were the work of local criminal gangs ahead of the October 31 local elections. Vice Minister of Internal Affairs Vasyl Farynyk told Ukrainski Novyny on October 23, that a struggle between organized criminal gangs was one of three possible theories — the other two being "hooli-

ganism" and political terrorism.

Although the explosions are being investigated separately, Mr. Farynyk said he believes they could be merged into a single investigation. "If the expertise identifies that the explosions are linked to one another then we, most likely, will unite the three investigations into one case" (Ukrainski Novyny, October 23). "The terrorism version also has a right to exist," Mr. Farynyk said. This version is the most controversial theory, as it signifies either real discontent channeled into violence or the authorities themselves organizing "terrorism" to justify unspecified ends.

The MVS Department on the Struggle Against Organized Crime is undertaking the investigation. If the terrorism theory becomes the most prominent, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) would take over the investigation. After the presidential guard (UDO — Directorate on State Protection) was informed about the explosions it ordered the presidential route and location of meetings to be changed. Mr. Yanukovich planned to open a new international terminal at Kirovograd airport (<http://censor.net.ua>, October 23).

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Yanukovich's assassination phobia deepens

by Taras Kuzio

Jamestown Foundation Blog

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich's assassination-phobia is reaching the level of hysteria (Eurasia Daily Monitor, June 28). Three bomb explosions in Kirovograd on the eve of his visit to that city will undoubtedly increase the president's long-standing paranoia (EDM, October 26).

This is the only manner in which one can analyze recent purchases of equipment for his protection. The president is to be protected by a surface-to-air, anti-missile battalion of spetsnaz, who are to use two Zenith Buk rocket complexes.

There are plans for the construction of a helicopter pad in central Kyiv and at Mr. Yanukovich's suburban mansion that would end the daily traffic jams caused by his 15-mile drive to the Presidential Administration in downtown Kyiv. Each day President Yanukovich races from his mansion to the center of Kyiv, causing traffic jams. The Kyiv City Council is donating one hectare of unused land to build a heliport for two helicopters.

Presumably, the president's helicopter will be fitted with a wide array of defense devices — in case of an attack by the opposition (or more likely an angry and frustrated motorist trying to get to work).

The Directorate on State Affairs, the

supplier of every manner of goods to Ukraine's state elites, has purchased three jeeps at the cost of 4.2 million hryv. The jeeps are specialized Toyota Sequoia 4 by 4s fitted out as Rescue Fast 1 vehicles to provide assistance in the event of attack or accident.

Anatoliy Grytsenko, defense minister from 2005 to 2007 and head of Parliament's Committee on National Security and Defense, commented in a tongue-in-cheek response that the president needs to be defended from all angles "from his own people."

There is, therefore, a need, Mr. Grytsenko says, to purchase "two submarines and then to carefully camouflage them with duckweed and conceal them somewhere in the Dnipro and Desenko river bays along the route from the president's house to work," Mr. Grytsenko said. As for a potential attack from land, Mr. Grytsenko recommends that one mechanized brigade from the Internal Affairs Ministry's Internal Troops be transformed into a cavalry unit. These cavalymen would sit on horseback with automatic weapons along 50-meter intervals guarding the entire 15-mile route between Mr. Yanukovich's mansion and office.

If this advice is implemented, and Mr. Yanukovich is therefore protected "from his own people" from every possible angle, Mr. Grytsenko will rest assured that "Yanukovich could then fully concentrate on running the state."

Perhaps.

President Yanukovich's entourage, heavily penetrated by Russian security officials (see EDM, October 13), is undoubtedly convinced that the best way to keep him under full control is to feed his assassination-phobia. This is the real reason for this additional equipment and perhaps the October 22 explosions.

The article above is reprinted from the Jamestown Foundation Blog published by the Jamestown Foundation, www.jamestown.org.

NEWSBRIEFS

President sees no systemic violations

KYIV — President Viktor Yanukovich of Ukraine noted the absence of systemic violations in the country's local elections. Speaking during a working visit to the Donetsk region on November 3, he said, "There were almost no systemic violations. This was pointed out by both international observers and law enforcement agencies." The president said that the technical problems arising during the voting were related to imperfections in the legislation. "We will work over it to adopt appropriate legislation, which then will be compiled in the Electoral Code. It will work at elections of all levels," he said. (Ukrinform)

Our Ukraine says elections valid

KYIV — The Our Ukraine Party considers the elections to local councils valid and is not planning to challenge their results, the party's honorary chairman, Viktor Yushchenko (president of Ukraine in 2005-2010), said at a briefing in Kyiv on November 1. Mr. Yushchenko noted that he was satisfied with the level of his party's preparations for the elections. "I am satisfied with how the Our Ukraine team worked," he said, adding that his political group had demonstrated proper dynamics for two months, despite the fact that two months ago it was impossible to speak optimistically about the results that Our Ukraine could expect to achieve. "I know and am convinced that we'll have our mayors in many villages and towns, and in some districts we'll even have our own majority, or a majority that we'll be able to form with democratic political groups," Mr. Yushchenko said. He noted that Our Ukraine considers the local elections a new page in its activities and as the start of preparations for parliamentary elections. (Interfax-Ukraine)

Opposition wants probe into irregularities

KYIV — The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc blocked the Verkhovna Rada on the morning of November 3, demanding that a special investigative commission probe into irregularities at the October 31 local elections. As reported earlier, the opposi-

tion bloc claims massive fraud in the elections to the Lviv and Kyiv oblast councils, the councils of some towns in the Kyiv region, as well as irregularities in the elections to the city councils of Lviv, Ternopil and Luhansk. This fraud serves as a reason to declare the elections illegal, the bloc noted. (Ukrinform)

Lytvyn not ruling out rerun

KYIV — Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn said he does not rule out that the Parliament will order a rerun of elections to the Lviv and Kyiv oblast councils, as well as the Ternopil, Lviv and Luhansk city councils if courts issue rulings declaring the October 31 elections of these local government bodies invalid. He announced this at a Parliament meeting on November 2. Mr. Lytvyn ordered the Rada's Committee on Rules of Procedure and Deputy Ethics to consider a draft resolution on the creation of an interim commission to investigate the possible blockage by public institutions of the participation of opposition representatives in the election process and provide its recommendations on the document. The draft resolution was submitted by the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. (Ukrinform)

CIS observers satisfied with elections

KYIV — A mission of observers from the inter-parliamentary assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) said on November 1 that it believes the violations recorded in the local elections in Ukraine will not throw their legitimacy into question. The head of the mission, Deputy Chairman of Russia's State Duma Alexander Babakov also noted the satisfactory organization of the local elections. He added that the international community expected the strengthening of political stability in Ukraine after the conduct of the elections. (Ukrinform)

Azarov sees new political traditions

KYIV — Local elections in Ukraine were held democratically, and people

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY FOUNDED 1933

An English-language newspaper published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a non-profit association, at 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.
Yearly subscription rate: \$55; for UNA members \$45.

Periodicals postage paid at Caldwell, NJ 07006 and additional mailing offices.
(ISSN 0273-9348)

The Weekly: UNA:
Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 644-9510 Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 292-0900

Postmaster, send address changes to:

The Ukrainian Weekly
2200 Route 10
P.O. Box 280
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Editor-in-chief: Roma Hadzewycz
Editors: Matthew Dubas
Zenon Zawada (Kyiv)

The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: www.ukrweekly.com; e-mail: staff@ukrweekly.com

The Ukrainian Weekly, November 7, 2010, No. 45, Vol. LXXVIII

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Correction

In the story "Ukrainian American trio presents works of Ukrainian composers" (October 24), Halyna Strilec Schatiloff, Nestor Cybriwsky and Tom Hrynkiw were mistakenly described as the initiators of the Music at the Institute (MATI) concert series at the Ukrainian Institute of America. In fact, the artists were the first performers to appear in an earlier music series at the UIA, the Ukrainian Composers Series directed for four years by veteran Met Opera baritone Andrij Dobriansky.

Ukraine Roundtable XI spotlights relations with Germany and Russia

WASHINGTON – Washington was the venue on October 20-21 for the 11th annual convening of the “Ukraine’s Quest for Mature Nation Statehood” roundtable series. This year’s forum focused its attention on two bilateral relationships – between Germany and Ukraine and between Russia and Ukraine – that have, for better or for worse, helped shaped Ukraine’s past and present and are bound to influence its future.

The location for the first day of the gathering, sponsored by Sen. Richard Lugar, was Russell Senate Hearing Room 325, the walls of which have witnessed everything from the Watergate investigations to the Anita Hill-Clarence Thomas hearings. The location for the second day, sponsored by Sen. John Kerry, was Dirksen Senate Hearing Room G50, home to many of the activities of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

To appropriately conduct a discussion about the subject on hand, the forum was divided into several proceedings: opening remarks, six plenary sessions, three keynote focus sessions and closing remarks.

The Ukrainian side of the discourse displayed a remarkable spectrum of opinions due to the participation of many of its leading political lights: Hryhoriy Nemyria and Yuri Shevchuk (Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc), Valentyn Nalyvaichenko (Our Ukraine), Borys Tarasyuk (Rukh), Oleh Rybachuk (Novyi Hromadianyn), Yuri Shcherbak (Committee in Defense of Ukraine), Yuri Myroshnychenko (Party of Regions), Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Oleksander Horyn and Ambassador to the U.S. Oleksandr Motysk.

German discussants included noted historian Dr. Andreas Umland and Nico Lange, director of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Ukraine, while the Russian speakers included noted constitutional specialist Dr. Alexander Berdnikov and Gennady Shorokhov, Senior Advisor to the Russian Duma Committee on CIS Affairs.

The American participants, who asked to

take on the role of objective observers/side-line commentators, included an impressive cast of speakers: Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Dan Russell, Taras Kuzio (Johns Hopkins), William Courtney (CSC Corp.), Sam Charap (Center for American Progress), Bruce Jackson (Project on Transitional Democracies), Nadia Diuk (National Endowment for Democracy), Orest Dechakiwsky (Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe), Steve Blank (U.S. Army War College), Judge Bohdan Futey, Ilan Berman (American Foreign Policy Council), Ariel Cohen (Heritage Foundation) and Steven Larrabee (RAND Corp.).

The sense of the conference was perhaps best expressed in the remarks delivered by the last named presenter. Dr. Larrabee, a highly respected expert on European security, who began by noting two facts. Fact one was that Ukraine had recently badly stumbled on its “road to democracy.” Fact two is that Ukraine remains a key geo-political pivot point in the world, capable of having potentially critical impact on regions extending from Eastern and Southern Europe to the Near East and Central Asia.

Dr. Larrabee commented that the Russians were exclusively interested in the second fact (they had absolutely no interest in the first) and were therefore fully engaged in creating deeper ties with Ukraine.

The Germans – and with them, the West generally – were instead focused on the first and hence were in the process of distancing themselves from Ukraine; indeed, they were succumbing to “Ukraine fatigue.”

In the short term Dr. Larrabee noted that the German approach might have something to recommend for itself and the Russian approach might warrant censure as callous cynicism. But in the longer term, German (and generally Western) disengagement might prove more censurable; Ukraine might just “prove to be too important to lose” – especially to the “tender embrace” of Russia.

After the forum, the event’s Steering



A view of the proceedings during the Ukraine Roundtable XI conference.



Dr. Yuri Shcherbak (right) participates in the Washington conference.

Committee and the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington hosted a patrons reception to honor the supporters of the Quest roundtable series. Representatives of perennial donating entities like Self Reliance New

York Federal Credit Union, Cleveland Self Reliance and the Ukrainian Defense Consulting Group spoke to the assembled audience and were, in turn, feted by the participants for their generosity.

NEWS ANALYSIS: Europe concerned about democracy, while Kyiv prefers to focus on trade

by Pavel Korduban
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The European Union is ready for compromises with Ukraine in all matters except democratic freedoms, EU Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Fuele has stated (UNIAN, October 25).

Such words from an EU official, who is viewed as friendly in Kyiv, confirmed that the condition of democracy after Viktor Yanukovich’s February election as president may spoil Ukraine’s European integration. Even without this factor, talks on an association agreement and free trade with the EU have been difficult. The October 31 local elections, which the opposition claims will not be fair, will be a serious test for Kyiv ahead of the Ukraine-EU summit scheduled for November 22.

The recent reversal of the 2004-2006 constitutional reform by President Yanukovich (Eurasia Daily Monitor, October 15), a reform which had been among the main achievements of the pro-democratic 2004 Orange Revolution, alerted Europe to the fact that democracy is in danger in Ukraine.

Mr. Yanukovich went out of his way to dispel this concern in personal meetings and telephone conversations with the leaders of the United Kingdom, France and Germany, as well as EU officials in early October. For example, he told UK Prime Minister David Cameron that he was “interested more than anyone that the [election] processes in Ukraine should be transparent and demo-

cratic and that the principle of the rule of law should be observed” (Interfax-Ukraine, October 6).

Nonetheless, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), the European human rights watchdog, adopted a tough resolution on democracy in Ukraine on October 5. PACE warned that the consolidation of power by the presidency should not lead to the monopolization of power by Mr. Yanukovich’s party.

PACE opined that the current political stability in Ukraine is fragile and that the government has been implementing reforms “in a hasty manner.” PACE denounced “pressure on journalists and party and civil society activists and their relatives” by the security service, and expressed its concern over reports of possible electoral fraud ahead of the local elections (Kommersant-Ukraine, October 7).

An unabashed President Yanukovich, addressing French scholars and businessmen in Paris, reaffirmed Kyiv’s bid to join the EU. Moreover, “Ukraine has the right to expect more from the EU,” he suggested (Interfax-Ukraine, October 8).

The European Parliament (EP), unlike PACE, decided to adopt its own resolution on Ukraine after the October 31 local elections. Following heated debates on October 20, in which European leftists opposed the center right’s intention to take a tough line on Kyiv, the EP limited itself to hearing a statement authored by Mr. Fuele and the EU’s foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton.

The statement, while praising recent eco-

omic reforms and political stability in Ukraine, expressed concern at reports of the “deterioration in respect for fundamental freedoms and democratic principles” in Ukraine. The Foreign Affairs Ministry hailed the EP’s decision as “a victory of common sense” and expressed hope that EP would eventually pass “a balanced resolution” (Interfax, October 21).

A tough resolution may spoil the November 22 summit in Brussels for Ukraine. Even without that, Kyiv will not achieve at the summit as much as it hoped. Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, speaking in Brussels on October 13, admitted that a free-trade agreement would not be signed on November 22 (Kommersant-Ukraine, October 14), and a week later he said the agreement would not be signed this year (RIA Novosti, October 25).

Messrs. Azarov and Yanukovich had hoped that the document would be signed this year, but talks with the EU have been difficult. Speaking to the Russian government news agency RIA Novosti on October 25, Mr. Azarov noted that Ukraine is more interested in compromises than the EU, given the fact that the EU accounts for 30 percent of Ukraine’s foreign trade, while the share of Ukraine in the EU’s trade is only around 1 percent.

Ukrainian Vice-Minister of the Economy Valery Pyatnytsky, in an interview with Zerkalo Nedeli on October 16, listed the most difficult issues in the trade talks. These are: EU sanitary norms, which Ukraine has been slow to adopt; the EU’s reluctance to

open its energy and transportation markets; the EU’s unwillingness to either lower import duties or increase agricultural import quotas; and Ukraine’s reluctance to remove export duties on agricultural commodities.

The situation is exacerbated by the EU’s suspicions that Ukraine may opt in favor of the customs union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. The Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry tried to dispel these suspicions, saying in a statement on October 12 that Ukraine had no intention of joining the customs union. Mr. Pyatnytsky noted in the interview that membership of the EU and of the customs union would be mutually exclusive goals.

Free travel is an issue on which Kyiv may progress at the summit. For its part, Ukraine cancelled visa requirements for EU citizens in 2005. A readmission treaty aimed to combat illegal migration was concluded with the EU in 2008, and Ukraine is ready to make biometric passports as required by the EU, so Kyiv believes it is up to the EU to adopt a political decision on free travel for Ukrainians.

However, another problem which is played down by Kyiv is the existence of a transparent border with Russia. Consequently, much will depend on the outcome of visa talks between Brussels and Moscow.

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

UKRAINE'S LOCAL ELECTIONS

Joint statement by the opposition: Elections 'neither democratic, nor free'

The following joint statement on the October 31 local elections in Ukraine was issued on November 2 by 10 opposition parties: *Batkivschyna*, the *Reform and Order Party*, *Rukh*, *People's Self-Defense*, *Motherland Defenders Party*, *Ukrainian Platform Party*, *Civil Position Party*, *Ukrainian Republican Party Sobor*, the *For Ukraine Party* and *United Center*. The statement appeared online in the *Kyiv Post*.

The local elections that took place on October 31 were neither democratic nor free. They do not conform to the generally accepted European standards, and their results are deliberately disfigured.

Today it is already obvious that the official election results will have nothing to do with the real mood of the people, nor reflect their real choice. The vote-rigging in Ukraine has been a long process that has embraced every stage of the election campaign.

The new government began the erosion of democracy with the elimination of elections and then attacked a major component of the democratic process by curtailing freedom of speech in all its manifestations. As a result, the international media watchdog Reporters Without Borders downgraded Ukraine by 42 places in its 2010 annual index of media freedom. There is no need to add anything.

All opposition forces were discriminated in their right to be present in the national and many regional media. The main reason behind the situation is the total control of the mass media by the clan groups in the president's circle. The people's understanding of the real situation in the country, in all spheres of life, is deliberately and significantly distorted because of the manipulation of the media.

The violations that give us grounds to conclude that the elections were biased and undemocratic arose before the election campaign with the unlawful postponement of the elections, which, according to the Constitution, should have been held in May. Today it is obvious that the postponement of

the voting date was driven by the desire to finalize the formation of administrative resources, to take control over law-enforcement structures, to subordinate the judicial system and to rewrite legislation to satisfy the needs of the Party of Regions and its allies.

The adoption of the law "On Elections of Deputies of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Local Councils and Villages, Town and City Heads" was the next stage in the process for systemic vote-rigging. It was designed in the interests of the Party of Regions that acted under the principle of "playing with rules" rather than "playing by the rules."

The law facilitated the flagrant disproportional representation of the composition of the territorial and district election commissions. In practice, it permitted the president to grab control of the territorial election commissions and their heads, and form exclusive district election commissions that became a major element in facilitating vote-rigging. The completely subordinated law-enforcement agencies provided a mechanism for protecting vote-rigging facilitated by the commissions at different levels.

With the law on local elections, the Party of Regions deliberately prohibited party blocs from taking part in the electoral process two months before the elections. It was a conscious act of discrimination against the largest opposition force, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. Due to the short period of time available before the elections, and because of the deliberate blackout of party information in the national media, it was impossible to inform all of Ukraine's citizens about the change of name of the largest opposition force.

In the elections, the government used a new technique for vote-rigging: the creation of bogus opposition party organizations. This was realized on the president's order by the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Internal Affairs, and by the subordinated courts and territorial election commissions.

On the night before election day, the illegality of the bogus *Batkivschyna* party orga-

nizations was proved in courts, but it changed nothing. As a result, the largest opposition party, *Batkivschyna*, and other opposition forces were effectively barred from running in Kyiv, Lviv, Kirovohrad, Ternopil and some other regions. Thus, millions of citizens were deprived of their right to choose.

Furthermore, for the first time in the history of Ukraine's independence, the mass printing of false ballot papers was organized throughout the country.

According to Part 2 of Article 66 of the law on local elections, ballot papers are limited-issue documents. Paragraph 17, Article 9 of the law "On Licensing of Certain Types of Economic Activity" clearly states that the production of securities and limited-issue documents is subject to obligatory licensing. The ballot papers were printed at 487 printing houses. However, the website of the Ministry of Finance confirms that only four

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UCCA concerned about elections: Ukrainian democracy in danger

Editor's note: The statement below, dated October 29 was e-mailed on October 30, on the eve of Ukraine's local elections. It is being published here for the historical record as part of our coverage of the October 31 elections.

KYIV – The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), an organization with long-term experience in observing elections, is taking an active part in the upcoming local elections in Ukraine slated for Sunday, October 31, by hosting a delegation of international election observers.

As one of the few non-governmental organizations, and the only Ukrainian American community organization, registered with Ukraine's Central Election Commission (CEC), the UCCA has been actively involved in sending international election observers to Ukraine since 1991.

The UCCA supports Ukraine's commitment to OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] standards for free and fair elections that accurately reflect the will of the electorate. Therefore, we are concerned and troubled by these recent reports from around Ukraine:

1. That the ruling party has been stacking local election commissions and the Territorial Election Commissions with their people in an effort to manipulate the election results. This is being done in collusion with "technical parties," political parties existing on paper only. The most troubling reports are from the city of Odesa.
2. It has been reported, that in the Lviv

Oblast, the Territorial Election Commission (TEC) today is poised to un-register and remove candidates from the *Nasha Ukraina* [Our Ukraine] and *Front Zmin* [Front for Change] parties. The TEC is also poised to remove all oblast commission members from these two opposition parties.

3. In the Kyiv and Lviv oblasts, and other oblasts of Ukraine, the authorities are forbidding the electorate from exercising their constitutional right to vote as *Batkivshyna* party lists were not registered by the authorities despite numerous requests by both domestic and international political leaders and organizations.

4. There has been a return to pre-2004 usage of administrative resources. In some regions such as Cherkasy, the Governor (who is also a candidate for mayor) is blatantly making use of administrative resources to try to win the election in spite of President [Viktor] Yanukovich's decree prohibiting such usage.

5. It has been reported that several Territorial Election Commissions have printed more ballots than Ukrainian election law permits. All ballots in excess of 110 percent of the number of voters in a region should be immediately destroyed, and authorities should openly and transparently allow independent verification of the actual number of ballots.

We cannot allow fraudulent elections to return to Ukraine. And thus, as in the past, the UCCA will be observing in cities throughout Ukraine, to ensure free and fair elections.

Preliminary statement of the UCCA's international Election Observer Mission

Following is the text of the preliminary statement issued on November 2 by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), which took an active part in the October 31 local elections by hosting a delegation of international election observers.

Having registered 29 individuals with Ukraine's Central Election Commission, the UCCA deployed teams of international election observers to monitor the local elections in the following oblasts: Cherkasy, Crimea, Kyiv, Lviv, Odesa and Poltava.

After monitoring the elections at more than 100 polling stations in six oblasts, the UCCA Election Observer Mission made preliminary observations and is concerned with several systematic violations witnessed on election day: insufficient number of ballots delivered to many polling stations, ballot boxes missing seals, unstamped ballots, pre-signed protocols and many candidates being unlawfully excluded from election lists. The most troubling violation experi-

enced by the UCCA Election Observer Mission was that several members were threatened, intimidated and even not allowed into polling sites to monitor the election process.

The UCCA's delegation of international election observers believe that the above-mentioned violations are cause for concern, could have a systemic character, and may have influenced the outcome of the October 31 local elections. The UCCA supports Ukraine's commitment to OSCE standards for free and fair elections that accurately reflect the will of the electorate, and sincerely hopes that any and all violation complaints will be reviewed and resolved objectively.

The UCCA's final Observer Report will be issued in the coming days. For further information about the UCCA's international election observer program please contact the National Office, either by email at ucca@ucca.org or telephone at 212-228-6840 or the Kyiv Office at ucca@i.kiev.ua.

Quotable notes

"These local elections are the dirtiest elections in Ukraine since independence."

– Hryhoriy Nemyria, Yulia Tymoshenko's top aide, as quoted by *The Associated Press* on November 1.

"There were so many violations that we cannot say that it was democratic, fair and open."

– Opora spokesman Dmitry Hnap, as quoted by *The Associated Press* on November 1.

"I am deeply concerned with the continuing deterioration of the domestic situation in Ukraine, particularly in light of the local elections scheduled for Sunday, October 31. Despite the strong and clear messages of the European People's Party (EPP) to President [Viktor] Yanukovich and Ukraine's government, anti-democratic actions continue and have already become systematic. State authorities failed to remedy the seriously flawed legal framework and implement urgent measures needed to ensure transparency and build voter confidence."

"The most obvious and outrageous examples include unbalanced composition of election commissions with clear domination of the ruling party, creation and support of bogus party structures and refusal to register legitimate branches of the *Batkivschyna* party in a number of regions, most notably in Kyiv and Lviv. These unacceptable developments make practically irrelevant the voting day, as both – the questionable legal basis and the fraudulent electoral process – make it impossible to conduct free and fair elections that correspond to European standards."

– Elmar Brok, member of the European Parliament and the European People's Party coordinator on foreign affairs, in a press release circulated by the EPP press service on October 29.

"Did Yanukovich pass the test? As far as the process of voting is concerned – Yes. As far as the legislation changes – rather not. And we still have to wait for the third phase to be completed [vote counting]."

"If you intensively work for two months, September and October, on making the life of your opponents hard, then two weeks of eased pressure do not matter."

– An unnamed official of the European Union, as cited by *euobserver.com* on November 2.

UKRAINE'S LOCAL ELECTIONS

Systemic violations...

(Continued from page 1)

rest any remaining misconceptions – largely held by Western governments and officials not closely monitoring Ukraine – that the administration of President Yanukovich is committed to building democratic institutions and Western values in Ukraine, particularly the rule of law, said Ivan Lozowy, a Kyiv lawyer.

“We haven’t seen this type of violence since 2004,” said Mr. Lozowy, president of the Institute of Statehood and Democracy in Kyiv, referring to the presidential vote of 2004 in which the current president, Mr. Yanukovich, was determined by the Supreme Court of Ukraine to have falsified the election.

“The number and frequency of reported violations presents a spike as compared to previous elections. That in itself is sufficiently worrisome. These elections were significantly worse and reversed a general trend towards a slow improvement,” Mr. Lozowy added.

The U.S. State Department issued a carefully worded statement on November 3 that declared the October 31 elections “did not meet standards for openness and fairness set by the presidential elections earlier this year.”

The biggest violations it cited were “adminresurs” (abuse of government resources), unbalanced election commissions, and complicated registration and voting procedures.

All that the European leadership could offer was deafening silence in the four days after, with the European Parliament deciding to delay its resolution on the election.

Visibly concerned, Verkhovna Rada Vice-Chair Mykola Tomenko made a public plea to the press on November 4 – before a hearing of the Parliamentary Committee on European Union-Ukraine Cooperation – that the European Parliament’s resolution be “objective and realistic, not political.”

“If it doesn’t objectively reflect what happened in the local elections, then the next parliamentary elections, which will be held as a mixed system more than likely, won’t adhere to democratic standards,” said Mr. Tomenko, a leader in the Batkivshchyna party.

“Today, like never before, it’s necessary to stop this process that characterized these local elections, in which anyone could have become a deputy with the help of power and money,” he stated.

Building Western political institutions and values isn’t a priority for the European leadership, and Mr. Tomenko’s own party leader, Yulia Tymoshenko, is partly to blame, Mr. Lozowy said.

“There’s a fixation on stability after the Yushchenko-Tymoshenko chaos,” he said. “They’ve got a team in the Yanukovich administration that can communicate and organize well, and that’s good enough for a lot of people in the West who look at Ukraine superficially and aren’t terribly concerned about Ukraine.”

The elections gained little notice beyond Ukraine because the Yanukovich administration decided to hold them, for the first time, separate from the major votes, namely for president and Parliament.

As a result, only about 500 international observers arrived, with Poland sending the most at 36, Opora reported. The Russian Federation sent the second-most, 29, and 28 observers arrived from the U.S., most of whom represented the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA).

The local elections were critical for Mr. Yanukovich as the final lap in a 10-month race to solidify authoritarian rule in Ukraine, building a strict chain-of-command of loyal bureaucrats that extends from the Presidential Administration building on

Bankova Street in Kyiv to the smallest, remote villages.

For instance, Poltava Oblast State Administration Chair Oleksander Udovichenko was immediately informed when The Ukrainian Weekly arrived to observe the elections in the village of Bondari in the Poltava Oblast.

[Editor’s note: Ukraine’s state oblast administration bureaucracy is a holdover from the Soviet era that enables the Ukrainian president to promote his policies in the nation’s regions.]

The most contentious election battles were fought in the central Ukrainian oblasts, which the Party of Regions was desperate to bring under its command after consolidating control in its traditional stronghold regions of eastern and southern Ukraine.

“Eastern Ukrainians are used to fear and intimidation, and largely buckled over,” Mr. Lozowy said. “They live in an atmosphere of constant fear and intimidation there, which is an extension of life in the Donbas. In the Kyiv Oblast, however, people feel their power as citizens, and protest and take action.”

Indeed, in the weeks leading to the vote, intense legal and even physical fighting erupted throughout cities and towns of Ukraine’s central regions – Kyiv, Cherkasy, Poltava and Vinnytsia.

Systemic violations

The leading independent election observation group in Ukraine, the Opora civic network led by board chairman Olha Aivazovska, confirmed systemic election violations during the 50-day campaign stretch, on election day itself, as well as in subsequent days.

In the weeks leading up to the vote, the most egregious systemic violations included the creation of more than a dozen clone parties that were registered instead of the real parties, especially Batkivshchyna; and the denial to hundreds of Ukrainian citizens of their constitutional right to compete in the elections, whether ahead of time or at the last minute.

It’s likely the Yanukovich administration issued vote quotas per oblast and district, which commissioners were eager to fulfill or exceed, often at the expense of abiding by the law, Mr. Lozowy said.

The groundwork for systemic violations was laid when Parliament approved election law amendments just weeks ahead of the campaign’s September 11 start – a violation of European norms – and with provisions that were often vague, incomplete or contradictory.

The election law also granted the three coalition parties – the Party of Regions, the Communist Party and the People’s Party of Ukraine – nine out of 15 local elections commission seats, enabling them to dominate decision-making and to make rules in their favor when the rules weren’t clear.

In those commissions where conflicts surfaced among the three parties, the Party of Regions had commission members from other parties who were chosen to vote in their favor, said Dmytro Hnap, Opora’s press secretary.

On election day itself, Opora received scores of reports of election commissioners rewriting election protocols after they had been completed and submitted.

[Editor’s note: Election protocols are documents submitted to the territorial election commissions (TEC) that tally the final vote count in detail.]

In the Cherkasy, Kyiv and Vinnytsia oblasts, hundreds of candidates arrived at polling stations to find stamps next to their names – placed the night before – that indicated their expulsion from the election contests, said Mr. Hnap.

Scores, if not hundreds, of journalists, party-affiliated observers and international

election observers were either forbidden to enter polling stations, or expelled either in the day or during the overnight vote count, Mr. Hnap added.

The Weekly was expelled from Precinct Election Commission No. 11005 in the village of Bondari in the Poltava Oblast at about 5:30 a.m. on November 1, accused of interference after this reporter made a second attempt to draw closer to the counting of ballots that was occurring on the far end of the table.

Minutes earlier, this reporter made his first attempt to squeeze through a narrow aisle to video-record the vote count, accidentally brushing against and displacing 10 ballots placed along the aisle, and drawing the first warning from the commission chair to not attempt to draw closer.

All the observers in the polling station at the time – except for the commission members themselves – were denied the ability to view the ballot count from up close.

Thousands of voters were denied their right to cast votes in secret because of poor organization and a remarkable lack of voting booths to accommodate the number of voters, Mr. Hnap said, referring to this technique as “managed chaos,” which was created by the poor election law.

Those not interested in waiting, particularly the elderly, cast their votes while leaning on windowsills.

Several observers of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America said thousands of ballots were missing at certain polling stations, particularly in the Cherkasy Oblast. They also noted missing ballot box seals in the Poltava and Cherkasy oblasts; commissioners reported they didn’t receive these basic supplies.

Mr. Hnap charged that the Yanukovich administration intentionally cut the campaign season short to 50 days in order to create the “managed chaos,” in which a lack of supplies or poor organization would appear accidental, not intentional.

Initial reaction

As early as three hours before the 10 p.m. closing time for the polling stations, Committee of Voters of Ukraine (CVU) Board Chairman Oleksander Chernenko had already declared that the local elections were conducted in a “free atmosphere,” with no more violations than the presidential elections and not of a “systemic character.”

He also said, again before the polls closed, that the election results couldn’t be rejected at any level except individual election commissions.

These statements contradicted all objective accounts prepared by independent election observers, as well as statements issued several days later by Opora, the European People’s Party (the largest party in the EU), the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Kyiv led by Niko Lange, and the U.S. State Department.

Mr. Chernenko’s premature statements became merely the latest in a string of controversies that have plagued the CVU ever since it lost funding from the National Democratic Institute in 2007.

[Editor’s note: the NDI is currently among the main financiers of Opora, which is widely accepted as the legitimate election-monitoring organization.]

Both sides of the conflict, including Mr. Chernenko, refused to comment on what the conflict with the NDI was about, yet political insiders told The Weekly it involved alleged financial misdealings.

The CVU was also responsible for rubber-stamping the highly scandalous March 2009 pre-term elections to the Ternopil Oblast Council, which involved numerous violent incidents and attempts at sabotage. The final vote count in that race was rejected by the Tymoshenko Bloc, which was warring with the Presidential Secretariat at



Zenon Zawada

Interfax reported that EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee Chairman Pawel Kowal of Poland said at a November 1 press conference that the elections were conducted in a “calm atmosphere.”



Zenon Zawada

An elderly villager in the Poltava Oblast casts her ballot during the October 31 local elections.

the time, and enabled Presidential Secretariat Chair Viktor Baloha to gain a faction in the Ternopil Oblast Council for the Single Center party that he launched.

Ihor Popov, the CVU board chairman at the time and a close partner of Mr. Chernenko, was hired to work in the Presidential Secretariat soon after the vote and currently serves as the head of the Single Center party.

Mr. Chernenko’s positive statements on the 2010 local elections also conflicted with those of his Odesa Oblast organization chair, Anatolii Boiko, who said the violations and conditions in his city were even worse than during the 2004 presidential vote.

Another controversial statement was allegedly made by Pawel Kowal, the chairman of the European Union-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, who stated the elections were conducted in a “calm atmosphere, with generally positive impressions from observers.” The statement was reported by Interfax at a morning press conference on November 1.

Meanwhile, 10 opposition parties – Batkivshchyna, the Reform and Order Party, Rukh, People’s Self-Defense, Motherland Defenders Party, Ukrainian Platform Party, Civil Position Party, Ukrainian Republican Party Sobor, For Ukraine Party and United Center – issued a joint statement on the elections, characterizing them as “neither democratic, nor free.” (The text of the statement appears on page 4 of this issue.)

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Elections and authoritarianism

Perhaps the still unsolved disappearance of Kharkiv journalist Vasyl Klymentyev wasn't convincing enough. Neither were the scores of incidents in which Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) agents stormed government offices, arrested unsuspecting officials and incarcerated them without bail. Or the scores of media organizations raided, their property confiscated. Or the droves of politicians suddenly joining the Party of Regions during the election campaign. Maybe even the Constitutional Court's sudden declaration that the 2006 Constitution of Ukraine was null and void wasn't convincing enough.

In which case, the October 31 local elections made painfully obvious what many of us in the Ukrainian diaspora had feared ever since President Viktor Yanukovich took office in February. His administration has no intention of supporting Western political institutions such as free and fair elections and the rule of law, which contribute to peace and harmony in society. Nor does the Yanukovich administration have any interest in individual rights, including the rights to run for office and to vote.

This weekend's election was the worst in Ukraine since the 2004 falsification debacle that laid the groundwork for the Orange Revolution. It's no coincidence that the man in charge of both elections was Mr. Yanukovich and his Party of Regions.

"He's a person who's pathologically not capable of honest elections," as opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko aptly put it. "He hasn't led a single honest campaign throughout his lengthy political career, which began when he was appointed governor [oblast state administration chair] in Donetsk in 1997. And he consistently falsified all the elections along his life path."

It was already evident from the unreasonably short 50-day election campaign that these elections were predetermined to be mired in what some Kyiv journalists are calling "managed chaos." The last-minute rewrite of the election law itself was wholly inadequate, consisting of too many vague provisions and blatant contradictions. It ensured the Party of Regions and its coalition partners would dominate most, if not all, election commissions throughout the country. Hundreds of polling stations reported not receiving the necessary number of ballots, seals for ballot boxes and voting booths, exacerbating the chaos.

Both domestic and international observers reported widespread intimidation and bullying carried out by election commissioners against anyone who tried to observe on a serious level, ask questions and report violations. Hundreds of observers and journalists were denied entry to polling stations, or expelled at some point. This sharply contrasted with the relatively transparent presidential vote earlier this year.

The systemic violations had begun during the campaign. Among the most significant of them was the fact that hundreds of candidates were improperly denied their constitutional right to run for office or vote. At least five of these candidates were thrown in prison. And, fake political parties, or "clones," were created in key battleground contests in the cities of Kyiv, Lviv and Ternopil. Violent assaults were carried out against campaigners, mostly from pro-Western parties.

The reaction from Europe – or should we say no reaction – was disappointing, but we have to face the reality, no matter how disconcerting it is, that Europe is still feeling Ukraine fatigue after the Yushchenko-Tymoshenko debacle. Thus, the West is sacrificing the promotion of its values – rule of law and individual rights and freedoms – in the quest for stability and as part of a reset policy that appeases Russia.

Also distressing was the fact that Oleksander Chernenko, chair of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine (CVU) – once a highly respected NGO – offered a full, ringing endorsement of the vote on election day itself, even before the polls had closed. At the same time, he stated unequivocally that the elections can't be overturned or redone.

The post-election performance of Adrian Karatnycky, the New York native who as president of Freedom House was a defender of Western values and institutions in Ukraine, was disgraceful. Today, as a senior fellow of the Atlantic Council, he has become an apologist for the Yanukovich administration. "Despite widespread anxiety about massive fraud, intimidation of opposition parties and massive media manipulation, Ukraine's most recent vote – while a step back in terms of best practices – was hardly a descent into managed democracy or political tyranny," he wrote in a November 4 commentary.

Mr. Karatnycky's statement conflicts with the reality on the ground, where at least four incumbent mayors were thrown into prison and scores, if not hundreds, of candidates were prevented from registering or eliminated from ballots on the eve of the elections. He claims that's not "managed democracy," and neither is stacking election commissions with Party of Regions officials and coalition partners, who took advantage of the rigged registration process so that they could ensure the Regions were No. 1 on most ballots.

It is hoped that all of Ukraine's political parties wronged by the elections are busy preparing for their next move after collecting falsification evidence and filing thousands of lawsuits. There could be a mass demonstration in Kyiv if there's enough momentum to sustain the rightful outrage. Then we'll have a better idea to what extent Ukrainians have lost their constitutional rights under Mr. Yanukovich's authoritarian fist.

WINDOW ON EURASIA

Siberian nationalists seek alliance with ethnic Ukrainians in Far East

by Paul Goble

A group of Siberian nationalists has called on ethnic Ukrainians living in the Far East – a community the Siberians note that currently has fewer opportunities to preserve its national culture than do the indigenous Siberian peoples – to join the Siberian nationalist movement.

In an indication of seriousness, the Siberian Popular Assembly, fresh from its effort to have people east of the Urals declare "Siberian" as their nationality in the just-completed Russian Federation census, has published an appeal to the Siberians of the Russian Far East and done so in the Siberian, Ukrainian and Russian languages.

"Brother Ukrainians," the appeal begins, "at this historic moment of the awakening of the Siberian nation, we Siberians extend to you the hand of friendship. There are scarcely any other peoples closer than we are by their historical fate," one of colonization, persecution, and Russification.

The appeal continues by saying that "we intend to build our future in peace and cooperation with all peoples, respecting the right of every nation to self-determination," and that includes respecting the "many-thousand-strong" Ukrainian diaspora in the Far East, known historically as "Gray and Green Ukraine."

At the present time, the appeal states, Ukrainians there are "deprived of the right even to education in their native language, not to speak of the use of their tongue in business and legal affairs." That is because, the appeal says, "the Russian powers that be consider any citizen of the Russian Federation 'a Russian.'" In this respect, Ukrainians and Siberians are in the same boat.

The self-proclaimed Council of the Siberian People, the appeal says, is "a political organization which seeks the establishment of a future flourishing Siberia and the happiness of all Siberian peoples, including the Ukrainians and the Siberians themselves," and insists on the right of Siberian Ukrainians to have schools in their native language.

And the appeal concludes with an appeal to the Ukrainians of the Far East to disseminate further information about this cause and to join with the Siberian nationalists in this cause. To that end, it calls on the Far Eastern Ukrainians to get in contact with the Siberian nationalists via the e-mail address, sibveche@gmail.com.

The Ukrainians of the Far East came into existence as a distinctive community

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at the end of the 19th century when the tsarist authorities provided free transportation and free land to Ukrainians suffering from famine. Several hundred thousand Ukrainians took advantage of that offer and called the land they settled in the "Zelenyi Klyn," or Green Triangle.

The population grew rapidly, and by the time of the first Soviet census in 1926 ethnic Ukrainians formed almost half of the population in the area within the triangle formed by Vladivostok, Nakhodka and Khabarovsk, and in the years of the Russian Civil War, it played a key role.

Indeed, one of the causes of the defeat of the Russian White Movement in the Far East was the opposition of its leaders to any concessions to the non-Russians and especially to the Ukrainians, who most of the White leaders refused to acknowledge were a separate and distinct nation.

The Bolsheviks exploited that and promised the Ukrainians in the Far East native language schools and broad cultural autonomy. But, having defeated the Whites, the Soviet government reneged and promoted the thorough-going Russianization and Russification of the ethnic Ukrainians.

As a result, by the end of the Soviet period, the percentage of people in the Russian Far East who declared themselves to be Ukrainians as opposed to Russians had declined to the single digits in most places, but the share of the population in that region as a whole with Ukrainian roots is certainly more than half.

The Zelenyi Klyn Ukrainians, however, even at that time did claim one remarkable distinction. In the mid-1980s for a brief time, the United States broadcast to them in Ukrainian – the only time during the Cold War when the West broadcast to an area not defined by the Soviet system as being of that language community, at least formally.

In the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union, some Ukrainians in Kyiv attempted to reach out to the Zelenyi Klyn and some Ukrainians there organized, but little came of either effort – the victim of more pressing immediate problems and the enormous distance separating Ukraine proper from the Ukrainians in the Far East.

The new Siberian nationalist appeal may not be crowned with immediate success, but this effort to form a supranational Siberian identity represents a challenge to the way Moscow has been doing business for almost a century. As a result, it is likely that this move by the Siberians will provoke a greater response from the center than anything the Siberians have yet done.

Author's note: The most important study of the Ukrainians of the Zelenyi Klyn is Ivan Svit's "Zelena Ukraina. Korotky Istorchny Narys Ukrainskoho politychnoho i Hromadskoho zhyt'ia" in Ukrainian, New York, 1949. For an English-language introduction, see especially John J. Stephan's "The Russian Far East," Stanford, 1994.

Nov.
12
2009

Turning the pages back...

Last year an influenza epidemic swept over Ukraine, claiming the lives of 117 people between November 5 and 12, 2009. The death total at 213 was a 120 percent increase from the week prior.

More than 1.2 million Ukrainians were infected with the flu or acute respiratory virus infection (ARVI). Authorities at Ukraine's Health Ministry explained that the situation was the result of two seasonal flu strains in addition to the H1N1 virus. Ukraine had 32 confirmed H1N1 cases by November 6, 2009.

Approximately one-quarter of those hospitalized with influenza or ARVI in Ivano-

(Continued on page 8)

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NEWS AND VIEWS

Yanukovich's personal war against the Holodomor

by Askold S. Lozynskyj

On October 4 President Viktor Yanukovich issued a decree regarding Ukraine's Taras Shevchenko State Prize, which is recognized as the most prestigious award for creative work in the area of cultural development. The decree was largely unnoticed, except perhaps by those who continue to expect the worst from Mr. Yanukovich.

New presidents in Ukraine routinely redact the procedural issues regarding the award upon coming to office. Viktor Yushchenko made amendments to the award process in force during President Leonid Kuchma's administration. Since additions/deletions are generally of a procedural nature, there was no alert when Mr. Yanukovich issued his revisions.

Except with this one difference: Mr. Yanukovich went beyond procedure. In December 2007 President Yushchenko expanded the subjects for the Shevchenko Prize consideration by inserting the following language, "works which serve to enlighten the topic of the Holodomor 1932-1933..." Apparently this was a major problem for his successor. Mr. Yanukovich decreed to strike the Holodomor reference. He did not address any other substantive issues in the award criteria.

Certainly Mr. Yushchenko's initiative can only be perceived as part of an agenda to enhance the study of the Holodomor. Likewise, Mr. Yanukovich's reaction three years later can only be interpreted as an attempt to undermine that initiative.

Mr. Yanukovich's personal war against the Holodomor has become legendary in Ukraine and beyond its borders. A week ago he bizarrely and rudely did not accompany Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper to the Holodomor Memorial in Kyiv. Is all this simply sycophantic pandering to Moscow?

President Yanukovich's opening salvo against the Holodomor was delivered on the very day of his inauguration, when reference to the Holodomor was deleted from the presidential website. On April 27, in Strasbourg, Mr. Yanukovich stated to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: "We consider it incorrect and unjust to consider the Holodomor a fact of genocide of a certain people." He then proceeded to replace the highly respected Dr. Ihor Yukhnovsky as chair of the Institute of National Memory with communist Valeriy Soldatenko, who not only dates his Communist Party membership well into the period of Leonid Brezhnev and Volodymyr Scherbytsky, but also flaunts the fact that he has not renounced his communist

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membership to this day.

Mr. Soldatenko has not only stated the Holodomor is not a genocide of the Ukrainian people, but has on more than one occasion mentioned that draft legislation is ready to be introduced in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to repeal Ukraine's law from November 2006, which declared the Holodomor to have been genocide.

Mr. Yanukovich's denouncement of the Holodomor has been tendentious and gratuitous. Were he simply passively intellectually opposed to characterizing the Holodomor as genocide, he would not have acted as expeditiously in deleting the website reference; he would not have made a special effort to address PACE only to denounce the Holodomor; and, certainly, he would have replaced Dr. Yukhnovsky with a moderate. However, in all these instances he went out of his way to manifest that he was waging an unconditional war on the Holodomor.

Over the past few years Ukraine, together with the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), has been organizing Holodomor commemorative events at the United Nations in New York. This year the UWC received no signal of any interest in this topic from Ukraine as it had in the past.

The UWC, on its own, then attempted to reserve a conference room at the U.N. headquarters in New York for such an event. Going back and forth over several weeks, the U.N. Economic and Social Council, with which the UWC has consultative status, declined the UWC's request, ostensibly based upon its opinion that commemorating the Holodomor does not fall within its purview and suggested that the UWC seek the sponsorship of a U.N. member-state. It should be noted that the head of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs NGO office is a Russian.

The UWC turned to Ukraine's permanent representative to the U.N. Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev, who responded: "The Permanent Mission together with individual activists from Ukrainian organizations in the United States for several months now have been preparing a commemorative assembly at the U.N. to honor the memory of the victims of the Holodomor, as had been done in prior years. Representatives of the UWC, the UCC [A], WFUW [O], Ukrainian National Association, New Wave will be invited for this event."

The ambassador did not include the UWC, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations or the Ukrainian National Association in the planning, leaving us to presume that it, i.e., the administration of President Yanukovich, will handle all of the arrangements. We'll see what happens. Hope springs eternal!

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY

**Encyclopedia of the resistance movement**

I never thought I'd be in an encyclopedia, but there I am on page 681 of "Resistance Movement in Ukraine 1960-1990," edited by Osyp Zinkewych and just released by Smolokyp Publishers in Kyiv. There's even a picture: 1970s wide-rim glasses, long hair and a beard, and young. Allow me to explain.

This Ukrainian-language encyclopedia documents an extraordinary period when a small group stood up to totalitarianism and changed the course of history.

In 1960, the Holodomor, the Great Terror and World War II were still vivid memories. In the wake of such trauma, Ukraine as a nation was dying. The Kremlin – in total control of every aspect of society (hence the term totalitarianism) – was waging a campaign to erase cultural and linguistic differences among the Soviet peoples and merge them into a new "Soviet" identity with the Russian language serving as the unifying glue. It was driven by all-encompassing censorship and suffocating pressure to conform, enforced by a network of informers and backed by an army of secret police.

And just then, a literary-cultural movement emerged, challenging the system: "Shestydesiatnyky" (the Sixtiers), creative young people, led by poet Vasyl Symonenko, who assertively and unapologetically expressed themselves as Ukrainians. Caught by surprise, the authorities soon adjusted censorship rules and cut off their access to print.

Undeterred, the most assertive of the Sixtiers turned to a new form of publishing: "samvydav." Authors typed their poems and essays with three to four carbon copies and then passed them along, asking readers to make additional copies and pass those along in turn.

The regime struck back, first with harassment and eventually mass arrests. The names of the victims became bywords in the West, synonymous with courage, defiance, integrity: Chornovil, Moroz, Karavansky, Strokata, Dzyuba, Shumuk, Grigorenko, Stus, etc. They were "dissidents," nearly all of whom ended up in jail cells, psychiatric prisons or labor camps for so-called "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda."

That was 1972 and I was just 24. Growing up in the Ukrainian community, I was in Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, attended Saturday school and was inspired by song and verse to work for Ukraine's liberation – only no one had a formula on how to do that. A generation of Ukrainian diaspora kids had similar experiences.

And that's when committees began springing up to organize letter-writing campaigns, demonstrations, vigils, etc., directed toward the media, public officials, professional groups and others with the aim of defending the dissidents in Ukraine and promoting their cause.

It could not have been easy in Ukraine to write and distribute an essay, a petition or a poem, knowing that a visit from the KGB would inevitably follow. People who did had a high sense of purpose and steely determination; only a very small percentage were willing to make that sacrifice, yet numerically many did.

The newly released encyclopedia documents their lives, most of which were punctuated with five, 10, sometimes 15 or more years of imprisonment. These include familiar names like attorney Lev

Lukianenko or mathematician Leonid Plyushch, as well as more obscure ones like Oleksander Nazarenko, an electrician, Mykola Kucher, a humorist, Ivan Konevych, a construction worker... The book has their photographs and hundreds more, many in color, along with bibliographies of the writings for which people were sentenced.

There are also articles about the defense committees and the people who volunteered their time and talents – many are friends I grew up with or met working for the cause: the Deychakiwsky brothers from Cleveland, Ulana Mazurkevich from Philadelphia, George Sajewycz from Washington, Kateryna Chumachenko from Chicago, the late Ihor Olshaniwsky from New Jersey, the late Sen. Paul Yuzyk from Saskatchewan and many, many more. And, there's Osyp Zinkewych, founder and head of Smolokyp. Now 85, he's still working hard on behalf of Ukraine.

I first met Mr. Zinkewych in 1973 at a forum about the resistance movement. He immediately asked me to translate an essay. I agreed and, as soon as I'd finished, he gave me another assignment and then another. I got to know him as a tireless and selfless organizer, fund-raiser, editor and author who put together a network of volunteers to smuggle dissident literature out of Ukraine to the West for publication and distribution, even as he inspired and coordinated defense groups which were publicizing the dissidents' message and letting them know their sacrifice was making a difference.

In 1975 the United States, the USSR and more than 30 other countries signed the Helsinki Accords, recognizing Soviet-imposed post-World War II borders and political systems, in return for a promise to respect human rights and engage in citizen exchanges. Almost immediately, so-called "Helsinki groups" were set up in Ukraine, Russia, Lithuania and elsewhere to press their governments to honor the provisions of the accords. Predictably, the authorities responded with arrests, which only served to further discredit their rule. Bolstered by an international agreement and encouraged by pressure groups, Western governments for the next decade put human rights on the agenda of every meeting with Eastern Bloc officials.

The rest of the story is well-known. Recognizing that the old ways were leading to disaster, Mikhail Gorbachev adopted glasnost and perestroika in a last-ditch effort to save the Soviet Union. To no avail: the movement launched 30 years earlier had entered the mainstream and huge demonstrations forced the break-up of the Soviet empire and independence for Ukraine and other "republics."

Smolokyp, which did so much to create and drive the resistance movement, has done a great service publishing an encyclopedia documenting the era when people across four continents came together in a 30-year campaign to defeat one of the most evil regimes in history and fulfill a dream Ukrainians had held for centuries.

Still, impressive as the encyclopedia is, at 800 pages it cannot possibly capture the full scope of the activity. Fortunately, Smolokyp is considering a

(Continued on page 20)

Opinions in The Ukrainian Weekly

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.

Joint statement...

(Continued from page 4)

of 487 printing houses had licenses, which is less than 1 percent of the total amount.

The ballot papers were produced without sufficient control and protection, as provided by the law. This was proved when representatives of different parties and international observers discovered large batches of false ballot papers in different regions (Kharkiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Khmelnytskyi, Odesa) several days prior to the elections. It leaves no doubt that the technique was used nationwide. Ukraine's law enforcement agencies, instead of putting an end to the process, took it under their control. The opposition has the evidentiary materials and videotapes confirming this large-scale crime.

The campaign itself was marked by strong pressure applied to the opposition parties, their candidates and representatives on election commissions.

The most widespread trick against undesirable candidates was intimidation of election participants by law enforcement agencies, and threats to those opposition candidates working in the state sector (doctors, teachers, functionaries) to deprive them of their jobs.

In some towns, there were cases of the authorized detention of mayoral candidates who had a good chance to defeat Party of Regions candidates. In many cases, opposition candidates were pulled out of the electoral race as a result of decisions made by commissions that had an overall majority of government representatives. In general, over 2,000 candidates for deputies, candidates for village, town and city heads were barred from participating in the elections because of repressions by law enforcement agencies, or as a result of ordered court decisions, or illegal actions by the subordinated territorial election commissions.

Some regional political parties were barred from participation in the elections in the same way – only because they had a good chance to be elected to local councils as a counter to the ruling party. We have the detailed lists of all candidates and parties illegally deprived of their right to participate in the elections, as well as the illegal court decisions that formalized this lawlessness. We are going to publish them.

The abuse of home voting, without proper cause, was also widespread. It is an instrument of vote-rigging in Ukraine that first emerged before 2004, and which has now been restored by the government. In some regions, the number of people voting at home sharply increased even in comparison to the second round of the presidential elections in 2004.

One could only describe the local elections as "fair and democratic" if unduly biased or in an information vacuum.

The organization of voting on election day and afterwards deserves separate assessment. As of 10 a.m. on November 2, there is no official information published on the turnout. This is again indicative of the vote-rigging taking place at full pelt all over the country at the level of uncontrolled district and territorial election commissions. In all previous elections there were no such violations.

The opposition forces have thousands of evidentiary reports drawn up in accordance with Ukrainian legislation. They confirm the availability of final protocols in the commissions, with or without signatures, filled in before the election campaign started; numerous cases of excessive ballot papers at polling stations; and the stuffing of ballot papers into ballot boxes or them being thrown onto tables for vote counting after the voting was over. All these abuses were taking place simultaneously with the closing of district and territorial election commissions to escape the control of election

observers and the media. In some instances, the latter were removed from polling stations by unidentified persons of criminal appearance.

The current government has put an end to the tradition of fair elections established after the Orange Revolution. It is rolling back democracy in Ukraine and, in the process, is consciously dismantling the mechanism of free and fair elections which it will replace with regular farces offering a foregone result.

We consider these elections to be unfair, and held with mass and systemic vote-rigging that violates the fundamental rights of Ukraine's citizens for free choice. Fifty-nine percent of citizens agree with us, according to an IFES [International Foundation for

Electoral Systems] survey; they consider the elections rigged and that is why they did not vote. According to the same survey, only 8.5 percent of citizens think that the elections are fair. Ukrainian society has issued its verdict.

These local elections are training for and a trial of systemic vote-rigging to be used during the next parliamentary and presidential elections. If we, Ukrainian and international forces, do not take action now, at this early stage, the government will take it as *carte-blanche* for further attacks against democracy, human rights and freedoms, and for the establishment of authoritarian rule in Ukraine – rule that is alien both to Ukraine's people and the whole of Europe.

NDI notes...

(Continued from page 1)

respected.

These elections were seen as a test of the new administration's commitment to democratic reforms, the NDI noted. President Viktor Yanukovich pledged repeatedly and forthrightly that the elections would be democratic, abuses of state resources and violations of the law would not be tolerated, and state authorities would be held accountable for conducting a fair and transparent process.

These are commendable goals that, while not realized in the local elections, provide a foundation for future improvements, the NDI continued. In addition, representatives of the government and ruling party have expressed interest in revising Ukraine's election laws and introducing a unified electoral code.

NDI therefore urged that:

- Any electoral law revisions should ensure partisan balance in the composition and leadership of election commissions at all levels and provide an adequate timeframe for administrators and observers to prepare, parties and candidates to campaign, and voters to inform themselves. All revisions should be conducted through a process that is participatory, transparent and deliberative, with the aim of rebuilding public confidence in the Ukrainian electoral system. Only a process that allows for meaningful input from the full spectrum of Ukrainian political parties, as well as civil society organizations, will be successful.

- The president's statements calling for strict adherence to electoral laws and democratic norms should be scrupulously followed for all future elections. Employees of the government must refrain from interfering in the elections, influencing the courts or exercising administrative pressure. All candidates must be accorded equal access to the ballot and equal rights to campaign without interference. Individuals responsible for violating laws or infringing voters' rights should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. A mechanism for publicly tracking complaints and their resolution should be established.

From October 28 through November 2, NDI participated in a joint expert mission to the October 31 elections. That mission plans to issue its findings in the coming weeks. NDI's ongoing assessment of Ukraine's local election process has also included analysis of the legal framework, which was issued jointly with the International Republican Institute (IRI), and a pre-election assessment issued jointly by NDI and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). These efforts were supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

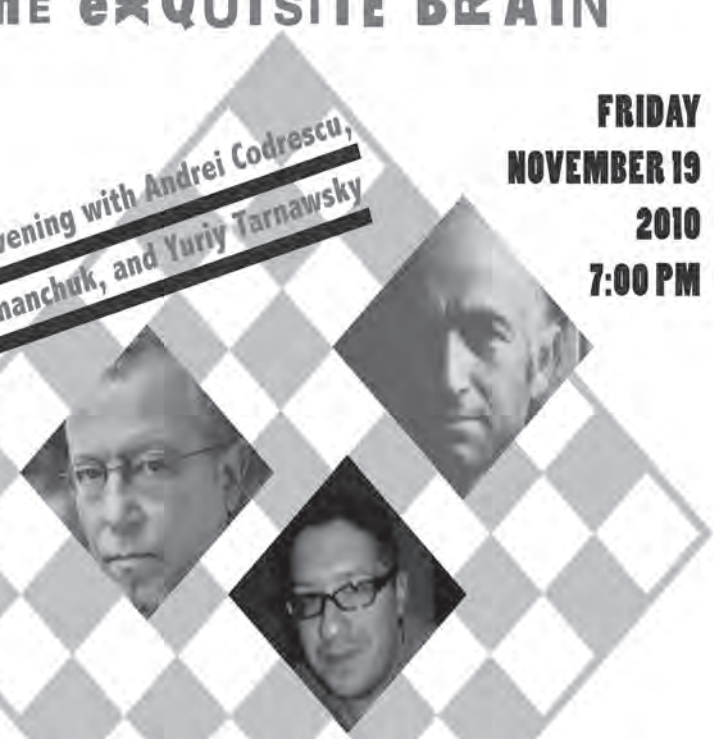
The National Democratic Institute is a non-profit, non-partisan organization working to support and strengthen democratic institutions worldwide through citizen participation, openness and accountability in government. More information is available at www.ndi.org.

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Andrei Codrescu: The new book "The Poetry Lesson" could have never been written if Lenin had immigrated to America like he wanted to, instead of letting the Germans buy him a one-way armored-train ticket back to Russia.

Robert Romanchuk: The immobility of the Lenin-object (the corpse in the mausoleum) ultimately compels the internationalist poet to seek relief in the Lenin-double that knots him to the nation - his "Soviet Passport."

Yuriy Tarnawsky: The strange and far-reaching consequences resulting from the purchase of a nondescript package at a Greenwich Village discount store are the topic of the story "Lenin's Brain."

Reception to follow
Tickets: \$15, \$10 for students and seniors. The authors' books will be available for purchase.
For more information contact The Ukrainian Institute of America
2 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075 Tel: 212-288-8660 www.ukrainianinstitute.org

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

Frankivsk were children. "Children, currently on recess, are walking the streets without anyone watching after them," said Zoya Tsykhon, a health official at the Ivano-Frankivsk State Oblast Administration.

Conflicting information came from the government as well. Health Minister Mykola Polischuk dismissed the outbreak as largely a typical seasonal flu outbreak, no worse than in prior years. Others insisted that Ukrainians be vigilant and wear masks in public places.

Vaccinations for seasonal flu, which were scheduled to be offered the following month, were received from Canada and the Russian Federation, but the medicine was not yet registered in Ukraine, said Oleksander Bilovol, Ukraine's chief state medical doctor, on November 11.

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko demanded that President Viktor Yushchenko sign legislation for 1 billion hrv, and overwhelmingly passed by Parliament, to buy medical equipment to combat the flu.

"Until the law is signed and the government receives the necessary financial resources, we can't sign a single contract and fight the epidemic," Ms. Tymoshenko said on November 11, 2009, during a Cabinet of Ministers meeting. "We believe

it's activity directed against Ukraine when the president doesn't sign – consciously for eight days – the law to allocate money to fight the epidemic, when it was supported by almost the entire Parliament, more than 400 national deputies. The president holds the personal responsibility for every person who falls ill or dies."

The delays in funding, Mr. Yushchenko said, was due to a lack of printed money. "To perform a [currency] emission means officially announcing today that we are proceeding with further devaluation of the national currency," the president said. "I won't be the author of such politics. When the National Bank gave the government 32 billion hrv for the third quarter and our hryvnia deeply suffered, the cost was a drop in real wages by 13 percent."

The U.S. donated 25 million doses of vaccines valued at \$10 million to the World Health Organization. Ukraine was scheduled to receive 930,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine in early December 2009, the U.S. Embassy reported in a press release.

The U.S. also offered equipment and test supplies to improve the diagnostic and response capabilities of Ukraine's Central Sanitary Epidemiological Station.

Source: "Flu continues to spread in Ukraine: Over 1.2 M ill from flu, respiratory infections," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, November 15, 2009.

French priest documents the “Holocaust by Bullets”

by Orest Zakydalsky

MONTREAL – When one thinks of the Holocaust, which saw the murder of some 6 million European Jews, one thinks first and foremost of images of the gas chambers of Auschwitz-Birkenau and Belzec, and of the ghettos of Warsaw.

Yet there is another side of the Holocaust: the killing fields of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. Before the gas chambers and crematoria at Auschwitz roared, some 1.5 million Jews were shot in occupied Soviet territory by German killing squads. Centuries of Jewish culture and Jewish life in Ukraine were destroyed.

It is this side of the Holocaust, the “Holocaust by Bullets,” that the Rev. Patrick Desbois, a French Roman Catholic priest, has dedicated the last eight years of his life to documenting.

Father Desbois visited Canada recently, speaking in Sidney Smith Hall at the University of Toronto, the Beth Tzedec Congregation in Toronto on October 4, and the Centre Mont Royal in Montreal on October 5, at the Azrieli Foundation’s launch of its third series of Holocaust Survivor Memoirs.

Since 2002 Father Desbois, who is president of the Yahad-In Unum organization, has identified more than 800 extermination sites and interviewed 1,550 eyewitnesses; he has covered more than 60 percent of the territory of Ukraine. In his addresses in Canada, Father Desbois described his work and spoke of the evidence collected through his efforts.

His methods are simple: Father Desbois arrives in a Ukrainian village with his team, which includes a translator, a cameraman and a ballistics expert, and knocks on the doors of villagers, asking them if they know what happened to the village’s Jews.

The responses are mixed; some of the elderly don’t want to talk about what they saw, but many, who have been silent for decades, readily show Father Desbois the sites of mass graves and describe how the Jews of their village were murdered.

In the last years of their life, the witnesses to these crimes are grateful for the opportunity to describe what they have seen. Much of the testimony is harrowing.

Father Desbois recalled the testimony



Oksana Zakydalsky

The Rev. Patrick Desbois

of one eyewitness, who said that after the pit where the Jews had been shot was covered, the earth moved for three days. Because of a Wehrmacht order to save ammunition, only one bullet per person was used – so many of those who fell into the pits were buried alive.

Why has a French Catholic priest spent the better part of eight years documenting and collecting evidence on the murder of Ukrainian Jews? His grandfather was a French POW sent by the Germans to a prison camp in Ukraine, in the town of Rava Ruska not far from Lviv. During the priest’s youth, his grandfather spoke very little about his experiences in the camp and what he saw, saying only that outside the camp it was much worse.

When Father Desbois went to Rava Ruska, he could not find a single memorial to the Jews murdered in the vicinity of the town. Soviet propaganda and histo-

riography presented the war through the lens of the suffering of the Soviet people, mostly disregarding the specific plight of Soviet Jewry. In the 19 years since independence, the Ukrainian state has continued the Soviet line and has done little, if anything, to identify and memorialize the sites of mass executions of Ukraine’s Jews.

This chapter of the Holocaust, Father Desbois realized, had been largely ignored. “This is, to me, one of the great mysteries in Eastern Europe: it has been my repeated experience that things pertaining to the war are officially invisible,” he said.

When Father Desbois asked one witness if this was the first time she had spoken about what she saw, she answered “yes.” When he asked her why this was, she said that before Father Desbois came, nobody had asked. He was overcome with a sense of obligation to make known to the world the facts about this “Holocaust by Bullets.”

And so he has worked tirelessly to document the extermination of Soviet Jewry. Speaking with this writer after his address in Montreal, Father Desbois mentioned that he is very interested in meeting with and discussing possibilities for cooperation with the Ukrainian diaspora in North America. Our community should take this opportunity to assist the work of this extraordinary French priest.

Not only we Ukrainians, but indeed the entire world owes Father Desbois a debt. For we cannot hope to build a civilized, humanist Ukraine without learning of, acknowledging and remembering the terrible crimes that were committed on Ukrainian soil. As Father Desbois said in his address in Montreal, “A war is over when the last victim is buried.”

The killing fields of Ukraine

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – “Holocaust by Bullets (A Priest’s Journey to Uncover the Truth behind the Murder of 1.5 Million Jews)” was published in English in 2008 and written by the Rev. Patrick Desbois, a Catholic priest born in France in 1955 and ordained in 1986. An encounter with the fate of the Jews during the war in Eastern Europe occurred when he went to Poland in 1990 to prepare for a gathering of young people convened by Pope John Paul II.

In the subsequent years, he studied Jewish history, learned Hebrew and attended seminars at Yad Vashem. In 1999 he was appointed Secretary of the Episcopal Committee of French Bishops for Relations with Judaism.

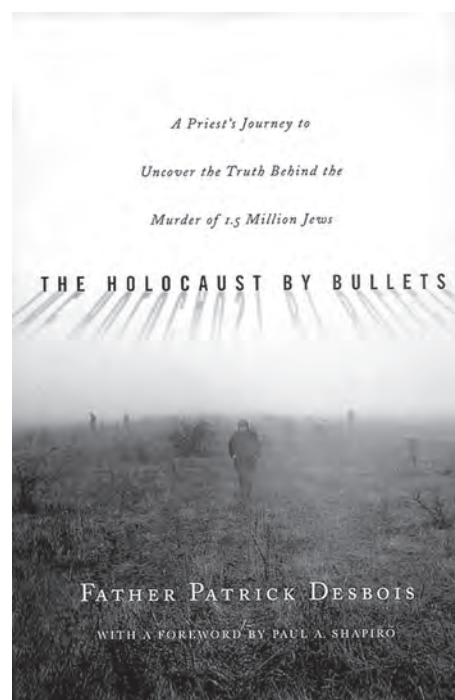
In June 2002 Father Desbois went to Rava Ruska and started asking about the fate of the 10,000 Jews who had once lived there, but he received no cooperation from the mayor or the people he asked. He went back to Rava Ruska a year later, this time, he writes, he had made up his mind to find out what had happened to the Jews of the town. A chance encounter with a man who was interested in the former Jewish inhabitants of the region set him on the journey of locating the mass graves of Jews in Ukraine.

“Holocaust by Bullets” weaves together the story of Father Desbois awakening to the plight of the Jews in Ukraine during the war, and plotting out the methodology of the German operations to annihilate the Jews. The book contains excerpts of testimonies of witnesses who fill in many details of the process.

The Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington estimates that 1.5 million Jews perished on Soviet territory during World War II (most of them in Ukraine). Until Father Desbois’ search for their graves, they seemed to have disappeared from human consciousness.

His understanding of the extent of the massacres grew gradually – at first he thought he would explore at most 100 villages in the region of Lviv and he went to Ukraine with only an interpreter and a journalist friend who took photographs and filmed the witnesses.

But as his task became bigger – they located 800 sites and interviewed over 1,500 people – he assembled a bigger team which included an interpreter, ballistics expert, photographer, researcher, transcribers and drivers. The group also acquired a metal



detector to search for cartridges and record distances between the cartridges and the burial pits. This method confirmed that the graves could only have been created via executions.

Before venturing into a specific region in Ukraine, Father Desbois’ group did preparatory research: they searched the archives and gathered preliminary information about the region. The Holocaust took different forms according to whether it was in one or another German district. The Germans behaved differently in the regions into which they had divided the Ukrainian territories. The largest territory was the Reichskommissariat Ukraine; the eastern edge was under military rule; western Ukraine became part of the Generalgouvernement; Romania occupied the Odesa region and Hungary occupied Carpatho-Ukraine. It was important to provide the proper German context.

The investigators researched other details: whether the front had crossed the region, whether the villages were bombed or burned, which German units were based there. Thus, when meeting with witnesses, they approached them with a framework already in place. In the interviews, Father Desbois writes, they tried to evoke and recreate the atmosphere of the time and stuck to a very concrete account of the events in

(Continued on page 22)

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GENERATION UKE

Edited and compiled by Matthew Dubas and Yarema Belej

Champion dancer Denys Drozdyuk wins "So You Think You Can Dance Canada"

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Denys Drozdyuk, a native of Ukraine and resident of Toronto, won the title of Canada's Favorite Dancer in the third season of CTV's "So You Think You Can Dance Canada" dance competition on Sunday, October 24. Another dancer of Ukrainian descent, Jeff Mortensen, won third place.

"I didn't think it was going to be me," the 25-year-old Mr. Drozdyuk said after the show. After 1.5 million votes, the Ukrainian edged out runner up, Amanda Cleghorn, a 19-year-old dancer from Mississauga, Ontario. Mr. Drozdyuk was awarded \$100,000 and a new car, while Ms. Cleghorn received \$10,000 and a new car.

"I couldn't believe it. It was kind of like an out-of-body experience," Mr. Drozdyuk said. "Suddenly, all of the things that you've done on the show and all of the hard work that you've done in the past is being rewarded."

"If [Drozdyuk] wants a career, he's already going to get the jobs," said Mary Murphy, ballroom dance expert and guest judge. "I've seen some [dancers] who decided that it was best to go off to conventions and teach for a year when they had other opportunities made available to them. You see their time come and go. The top four really need to capitalize on this moment and do whatever they can." (www.nationalpost.com)

Mr. Drozdyuk won high praise, the newspaper The Toronto Star noted, from the show's judges all season long, which



Denys Drozdyuk is hoisted by his fellow competitors after being named Canada's Favorite Dancer on October 24.

began in August, for excelling in every style he danced, not only the genres he was familiar with, such as tango and paso doble, but unfamiliar ones such as house.

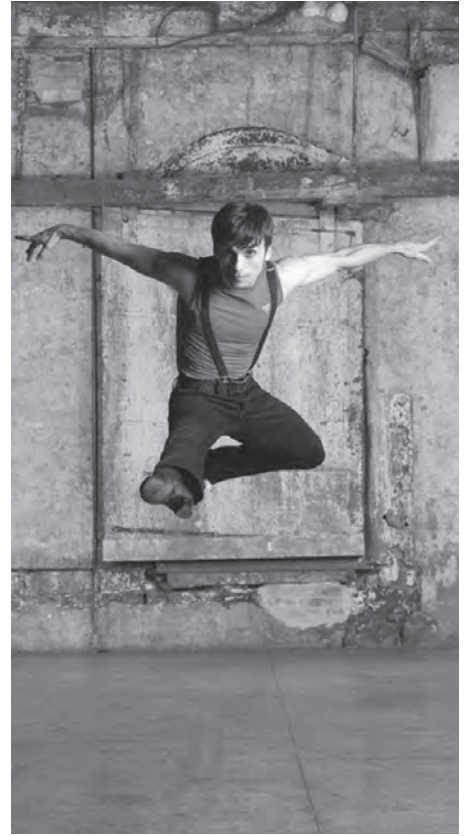
Highlighting the dancer's ability to filter all of the praise, Mr. Drozdyuk said, "I take it in a way as it just proves to me that I am on the right path in the kind of discipline and the work that I'm doing ... It doesn't mean that you stop doing anything you've done. You just have to work harder." (www.thestar.com)

Mr. Drozdyuk said he is set to begin training for a ballroom dance competition in the United Kingdom in January 2011.

He said he will use the prize money to pay off his student loans and to treat himself to more dance training courses. "My treat for me would be to take a little vacation and not work but just take class."

Both dancers work professionally. Mr. Drozdyuk is a Juilliard graduate and world champion ballroom dancer, and Mr. Mortensen, has performed with the Shumka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of Edmonton. In the second season of the show, Mr. Mortensen advanced to the Top 40 before being eliminated from the competition.

The show has been renewed for a



Denys Drozdyuk

fourth season, with auditions already being held on November 6 in St. John, New Brunswick, and at the Metro Toronto Convention Center on November 20. Readers can visit www.dance.ctv.ca for more information.

Second annual Social Awards set to be bigger and badder

by Yarema Belej

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Awards, speeches, skits and plenty of laughs are on the horizon as Verkhovyna Mountain View Resort is set to host the second annual Social Awards on November 13. This event will build on the success of the inaugural installment that really exceeded everyone's expectations.

"Normally award shows are organized to reward certain professions, skills or lifetime achievements," said Roman Lukiw, the chief organizer of the Social Awards. "We realized to achieve such success can take a long time and a lot of effort. We decided to reward each other for funny flaws, bad habits and just plain silliness."

With a formal dress code, high production elements, set scripts and roles for over 50 people to play, the event is something truly unique and in a league all unto its own. However, this night is actually meant to make light or even poke fun and embarrass.

"This event was created for our group of friends," said Mr. Lukiw. "Our friends' wit and comedy make the awards as funny as they are. This year we have all new cat-

egories and an international superstar from a small village in Ukraine. It's going to blow the roof off the place."

Attendance to the event is expected to increase as well, with over 100 people slated to attend this year. The organizers – Mr. Lukiw, Marko Kindrachuk and Danusia Chernyk – are eager to make the show even bigger and better than last year's, which awed the more than 70 attendees.

Some of the new categories this year will include: "Funniest Female," "Best Laugh," "Most Tolerant Boyfriend" and "Most Tolerant Sibling." The more than 20 categories and their nominees were decided by an Academy, which is composed of a select group within those friends mentioned. The winners, however, are voted on by friends from all over the United States, many of whom will attend the event.

Readers can cast their votes online at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/SocialAwards2010. Facebook users can RSVP to the event at: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/event.php?eid=12126818459547>. (If interested

in attending, you must RSVP.)

"We've been getting a lot of positive feedback about the awards," says Mr. Lukiw. "Seeing how eager our friends are to attend this year's awards really motivates us to continue having the Social Awards and to produce an amazing show. I think we can continue having the awards as long as we are all friends and we don't lose our immaturity... hopefully forever."

This is very true as there has been constant chatter about last year's event, with much attention and suggestions continuing from Thanksgiving 2009 through Halloween this year. Many of the winners have displayed their trophies and often gloated about their honors.

"I didn't realize how much I deserved this award," said Ula Tatunchak, 2009 winner of "Most Tolerant Girlfriend." "That was until my boyfriend rushed the stage and pushed me out of the way to receive the award himself."

Another winner still boasts about his win: "It was hard to show how happy I was for winning the award because my smile was covered by the 'Best Moustache for 2009,'" said Taras Puzyk, the unani-

mous winner of that award.

This kind of good humor is what the evening is all about. This large group, made up mostly of Ukrainian Americans, is set on getting a ton of laughs, making fun of their dearest of friends and having an overall good time at Verkhovyna.

The organizers are very quick to thank the management at Verkhovyna for their eagerness and support in hosting the evening. "Verkhovyna is a great venue for the Social Awards," said Mr. Lukiw. "Verkhovyna adds an elegance to the awards that really creates a great atmosphere."

"I feel like we really beat the system here. It is much easier to be bad at something than to be great at something," noted Mr. Lukiw. Indeed these Social Awards are a great way to highlight the funny and not so glamorous moments that often go unnoticed by many. Luckily, for this group of friends, the Academy does not forget your embarrassing traits or moments.

For information about accommodations at Verkhovyna, readers may call 845-856-1105, or visit the Verkhovyna website, www.mvmanor.com.

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Ukrainian Canadian Congress launches Holodomor awareness campaign

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – The Ukrainian Canadian Congress has launched a new campaign to ensure that the 1932-1933 Famine in Ukraine is remembered and properly recognized as a genocide of the Ukrainian people.

“We must never waiver in our commitment to the memory of the millions of victims of Stalin’s campaign of terror and a deliberate attempt to destroy the Ukrainian nation,” stated UCC National President Paul Grod. “What Ukraine, Canada and many other governments around the world have recognized in legislation is intended to ensure no one forgets.”

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress will be marking the 77th anniversary of the Holodomor with several initiatives, including:

- An information and advocacy campaign targeting deputies of Ukraine’s Verkhovna Rada, where legislation has been introduced to diminish the tragedy of the Holodomor by removing any references to its genocidal nature. The campaign highlights the international support for Ukraine in its endeavor to carve out a national identity and forge ahead with democratic initiatives.

- Participation in the international project

initiated by the Ukrainian World Congress titled “Svichka Molinnia” (Remembrance Candle). The Remembrance Candle, which began its journey in Kyiv in June, is currently travelling through all regions of Ukraine and 33 countries worldwide to raise Holodomor awareness in a display of global unity. In Canada, the Remembrance Candle will be introduced during the 23rd Congress of Ukrainian Canadians in Edmonton in November and will be an integral part of local commemorations later that month.

- Launching the third annual National Holodomor Awareness Week on November 22-28, including a range of commemorative activities throughout the country.

- Completion of the documentation of Holodomor survivor testimonies, excerpts of which are the focus of a website called “Sharing the Story,” located at <http://www.holodomorsurvivors.ca/>.

- Support for the new documentary film about the Holodomor, “Genocide Revealed,” by renowned Canadian film producer Yuriy Luhovy.

Mr. Grod noted that “The organized death by starvation of the Ukrainian people is an unfathomable crime against humanity, and he cited the words of Canada’s Prime

Minister Stephen Harper in reference to the Holodomor: “...remembering those who died, and why they died, is our best hope against history repeating itself.”

Backgrounder

The artificial Famine of 1932-1933 in Soviet Ukraine orchestrated by the totalitarian government of Joseph Stalin resulted in the deaths of 5 million to 10 million Ukrainians.

With the de-classification of documents in Ukraine and eyewitness accounts, the world has learned of a horrific crime against humanity about which little was previously known or officially confirmed. The confirmation was made by Ukraine itself in its quest for historical truth and national identity. It is fact that the Holodomor: a) occurred; b) was deliberate; and was c) designed to destroy a nation.

Ukrainian historian Yuriy Shapoval wrote, “The deliberate destruction of Ukrainian peasant farmers, intellectuals, government officials and anyone accused of Ukrainian nationalism provides additional grounds to consider the Kremlin’s actions as genocide.”

Canadian historian Dr. Roman Serbyn has written: “Stalin’s efforts to transform conquered Ukraine into a ‘fortress’ lead to the genocidal Famine against Ukrainian peasants and the extermination of Ukrainian cadres who opposed it.”

British historian Donald Rayfield stated: “One’s conclusion is that the word genocide has to be applied to the Ukrainian Famine, the Holodomor, for if it is not, then the word genocide loses all useful meaning.”

Ukraine’s Verkhovna Rada voted in 2006 to recognize the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-33 as an act of genocide by enacting the law “On the 1932-1933 Holodomor in Ukraine.”

Following Ukraine’s lead, supported by the wealth of information available, the international community joined in recognizing the Holodomor.

The government of Canada recognized the Holodomor in May 2008 with an act declaring the Famine an act of genocide, and it established a national Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day. Similar legislation was passed by the provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec.

NEWS AND VIEWS: Canadian PM’s visit to Kyiv and Lviv

by Jurij Klufas

LVIV – As all who read the reports in earlier issues of The Ukrainian Weekly would agree, the visit of Canada’s Prime Minister Stephen Harper to Ukraine was a resounding success.

In the article I would like to provide more detail to the Lviv part of the trip and outline the key involvement of Canada’s Ukrainian community in this success.

In Kyiv, the focus of the trip was on Canada’s partnership with Ukraine and the message to Ukraine was that the doors to the West are open. Mr. Harper’s emotional visit to the Holodomor Memorial, with Canada’s Ambassador to Ukraine Daniel Caron, made it clear that Canada considers the Holodomor a genocide.

It is quite important to point out that during his meeting with the prime minister of Canada the prime minister of Ukraine, Mykola Azarov, spoke in Russian and displayed the old Soviet “lack of interest in being here demeanor.” The man is a dangerous has-been. The contrasting warmth and attentiveness displayed by opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko in the subsequent meeting with Mr. Harper was quite palpable.

In Lviv, the point of the prime minister’s visit was to demonstrate Canada’s commitment to support the development of democracy and defend the freedoms of speech and the press around the world.

It is hard to overestimate the role of the Ukrainian community as far as identifying the symbolic foci for this part of the trip. On one hand, we have the Prime Minister’s Office that is willing to engage the Ukrainian community in Canada in the planning of this visit. On the other side we have a community leadership headed by the president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Paul Grod, that was ready to step up to the challenge, prepared all the convincing documentation supporting Ukrainian diaspora concerns about the deterioration of human rights and freedom of speech in Ukraine, and ultimately earned the respect of the Prime Minister’s Office.

When you match this planning to Prime Minister Harper’s deep mistrust of totalitarian regimes as demonstrated in his fiery speech, at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, (see page 13 of this issue) and you have a winning combination.

Other than the prime minister, the leaders of Canada’s official delegation on the gov-

ernment side were politicians of Ukrainian background Sen. Raynell Andreychuk, Member of Parliament (MP) Marc Warawa, chair of the Canada Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group; and MP James Bezan, secretary of the Canada Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group and also the author of Canada’s parliamentary bill on the Holodomor as genocide.

Leading the community portion of the delegation were Mr. Grod of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress; Eugene Czolij, president of the Ukrainian World Congress; and Bohdan Onyschuk, president of the Canada Ukraine Foundation. Other members of the official delegation included Taras Pidzamecky, CEO of the Ukrainian Credit Union and president of the Ukrainian National Federation; Zenon Potichnij, president of the Canada Ukraine Chamber of Commerce; Borys Potapenko, executive director of the League of Ukrainian Canadians; Margareta Shpir, president of the Canadian Friends of Ukraine (CFU); Lesia Shymko, also of the CFU; and a few members of the Ukrainian Youth Association (known by its Ukrainian acronym as SUM). Traveling with the Prime Minister were members of the Canadian Press, including Serhiy Kostyuk, editorial assistant at the Ukrainian News of Edmonton, and Andriy Rawlik and Jurij Klufas of Kontakt Ukrainian TV Network.

The points of interest selected for the Lviv part of the trip for the Ukrainian Catholic University, the National Memorial Museum Prison on Lontsky, St. George Cathedral and the Taras Shevchenko monument in the city center.

As, Lubomyr Markevych, a Canadian now residing in Ukraine, wrote in an e-mail commentary: “The visit to the UCU and Tiumna na Lontskoho in Lviv was a stroke of genius and will be sure to reinforce moral and national backbone among the locals in that city. Given that the Ukrainian government was less than enthusiastic about Harper’s choice of Lviv venues, his appearance at these locales was as significant as [Canadian Prime Minister Brian] Mulroney’s visit to Kyiv in 1989, or Pope John Paul II’s visit to the Bykivnia forest outside of Kyiv in 2001. In both cases the challenge to the regime was obvious, and a new line in the sand was drawn.”

The Prison on Lontsky Museum of particular significance since the director of the museum, Ruslan Zabilyi, who was working



Office of the Prime Minister of Canada
Prime Minister Stephen Harper during a visit to the crypt in St. George Cathedral, where leaders of the Ukrainian Catholic Church are buried.

on uncovering Soviet crimes committed in that very prison, upon the arrival of a new government in Ukraine was arrested and detained for allegedly betraying state secrets. This has become a cause célèbre for those concerned about the return of Soviet-era tactics or the Putinization of Ukraine.

The overall success and international significance of this visit to Ukraine by Canada’s Prime Minister Harper lies in the fact that it pointed out that the doors to the West are open to Ukraine as long it heeds international concerns about human rights and freedom of speech.

The trip underlines the fact that the leadership of the Ukrainian community in Canada, having earned the trust of the Prime Minister’s Office was able to contribute in a significant way on an intergovernmental international level.

The visits to the Ukrainian Catholic University and the Prison on Lontsky Museum underscored Canada’s commitment to the issue of human rights and freedom of speech.

The Rev Borys Gudziak, rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University, and Museum Director Zabilyi had access to the Canadian press that is denied to them on a local level. In turn, the Canadian press had direct validation of the human rights and freedom of speech issues brought forth to them by the Ukrainian community in Canada.

For readers’ understanding of Canada’s deep commitment to this issue, I include the

brief provided by the Prime Minister’s Office to the accompanying news media.

Backgrounder

Memorial Museum Dedicated to Victims of Occupying Regimes “Tiumna na Lontskoho” (Prison on Lontskoho Street, Prison No. 1)

1 Bandera Street

The Prison on Lontskoho Museum in Lviv was established in June 2009 in memory of those detained and killed there during the Soviet and Nazi occupations during and after WWII. It was designated a national museum in October 2009.

Unchanged since the secret police vacated it in the early 1990s following Ukraine’s independence, the prison displays the conditions in which detainees were kept and where mass executions took place. Of the prison’s 3,638 detainees, the museum believes that 1,700 were executed in June 1941 by Soviet secret police during the first Soviet occupation (1939-1941). When the Germans took Lviv, they used the massacres as propaganda and allowed the International Red Cross and other agencies to document them. However, the Germans soon began their own executions of Ukrainians, Poles and Jews at the prison.

After Soviet power was consolidated in western Ukraine in 1944, the prison became a center where Ukrainian nationalists were detained before being shipped to Siberian labor camps. In the 1960s and 1970s, the prison housed some of Ukraine’s leading dissidents.”

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FOR THE RECORD: Harper address at Ukrainian Catholic University

Following is the text of remarks delivered by Prime Minister Stephen Harper on October 26 at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. The text was provided by the Office of the Prime Minister.

Well, thank you very much, everybody, for that really warm welcome. Thank you, Father [Borys] Gudziak, for allowing me to come and be here today. It's a pleasure to be with all of you here.

I would also like to just begin by recognizing some of my parliamentary friends and colleagues who have come from Canada to be with us today. First of all, Sen. Raynell Andreychuk, who led an observer mission in the last Ukrainian election. The chairman of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group and Member of Parliament Mark Warawa, and secretary of the same group, Member of Parliament James Bezan.

Now as Father Gudziak mentioned, there are strong people-to-people links between our two countries.

Ukrainians have been emigrating to Canada for more than 100 years and one and a quarter million Canadians have Ukrainian roots. That's about 4 percent of the total population. And that percentage is much higher on the Canadian prairies where I reside. It's a part of Canada that looks like parts of Ukraine and where you would recognize many of the surnames, as you would for members of the distinguished Ukrainian delegation that is travelling with me here.

So this is like a homecoming for them. And, of course, everywhere we go, we are seeing that wonderful hospitality for which Ukrainians are rightly famous.

Now we've had some productive talks with your government. I will come to one part of those discussions that may be of particular interest to you a little later. But before that, I'm really here to speak to you about some other things, deeply important things, values and principles that Canada and Ukraine share.

When Ukraine first declared independence in 1991, the first Western country to recognize your status as a sovereign independent country was Canada. And you might ask why were we so quick to do that? What was the hurry? For we didn't wait very long. You affirmed your independence on December 1. On December 2, we recognized your government and your statehood. Even before, in fact, the Soviet Union had officially ceased to exist.

Why? Now, some of you here certainly won't remember the Cold War. But I can tell you, certainly tell those of us who do, we heaved an enormous sigh of relief when Soviet communism was finally and irrefutably discredited. The communist ideology had purported to be the cure for all that ails humanity. It had just one problem. Before it could work its miracles, it had to jail or kill every living soul who disagreed. And so millions were murdered and millions more were starved. It is a past that must not be forgotten, that must never be swept under the carpet.

Yesterday, I visited the Holodomor memorial.

Holodomor was of course officially recognized as a genocide by Canada's Parliament two years ago, largely thanks to the work of my caucus colleagues, in particular James Bezan, who in fact introduced the legislation. Now as you know, almost as many or as you may know almost as many Ukrainians died in the Holodomor during the 1930s as there were Canadians alive at that time. To contemplate an act of malevolence on that scale truly focuses one's mind on the nature of this evil. So much for communism's supposed ideals.

Of course, through it all for years, for decades, thousands of Ukrainian Canadians demonstrated at every reasonable opportunity to raise awareness in the West of Soviet oppression. They did so because they knew all too well that their brethren back in Ukraine had no such freedom. And among the leaders of this Ukrainian Canadian van-



Office of the Prime Minister of Canada

Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada speaks at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv.

As Canadians, we believe that a government must work in the interests of its people, not the other way around. We believe that countries which respect the rights of their own people are more likely to respect the rights of other nations and to be good world citizens.

guard was a parliamentarian from Toronto, named Yuri Shymko, a descendant of Ivan Franko who I know is revered in this city and throughout western Ukraine.

So, yes, Canadians did rejoice when we saw that ideology of Soviet communism consigned to history's scrap heap. And when Ukraine reclaimed its freedom, we were more than ready to reach out to those who had lived under communism for all those horrible years.

Besides the bonds of kinship that exist between Canada and Ukraine, there are important values and principles to promote. As Canadians, we believe that a government must work in the interests of its people, not the other way around. We believe that countries which respect the rights of their own people are more likely to respect the rights of other nations and to be good world citizens.

And we believe that countries where citizens know what their governments are doing and can hold them accountable are less likely to make war on their neighbors than those where power is the possession of an exclusive ruling class responsible to nobody. There are exceptions. There have been exceptions. There always will be. But the exceptions of anything prove the general

rule. If peace is your goal, then a free and democratic society is the way to go.

Therefore, the cornerstone of Canada's foreign policy is the promotion of such values: freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and all the institutions that come with them: property rights, an impartial judiciary, and above all, freedom of expression and a free press. The freedom for which [Heorhii] Gongadze became a hero.

In fact, we do not believe that you can have any one of these things: freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law, without the others. But the first is freedom. So that when Ukraine rejoined the brotherhood of the free, we in Canada were among the first to cheer.

And we have tried to be more than mere spectators. As a friend of Ukraine, we have done a few things intended to widen your road to democratic reform. These have been both done at the governmental level and informally through community and trade organizations. First was the establishment of embassies and consulates immediately after Ukrainian independence. It tells you something about your Canadian cousins, that when the Ukrainian Embassy opened in

(Continued on page 20)

UCC thanks Prime Minister Harper

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – The Ukrainian Canadian Congress congratulated Prime Minister Stephen Harper on a successful trip to Ukraine and for his commitment to human rights, democratic development and free and fair elections in Ukraine as expressed during his recent official visit to Kyiv and Lviv.

"The Ukrainian Canadian Congress wishes to thank Prime Minister Harper for accepting our advice to travel to Ukraine and for working with the congress to develop the itinerary and messaging which were transmitted to the government and people of Ukraine," stated UCC National President Paul Grod.

"The prime minister spoke with conviction and authority to the government of Ukraine. He underscored our long friendship, but insisted that friends must be able to speak honestly with one another in addressing concerns about local elections, Ukraine's democratic development and eroding freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and clampdowns on media and academics," Mr. Grod noted.

The UCC president also noted the role of the news media: "Hats off to all the Canadian journalists who travelled with the Prime Minister for providing the Ukrainian media a lesson in independent journalism. They posed tough questions to both Prime [Viktor] Minister Harper and President Yanukovich, investigated the various human rights violations and addressed the difficult issues facing Ukraine," said Mr. Grod. "The Canadian media were an outstanding example of the value of a free mass media, and some-

thing that we hope to see in Ukraine soon."

Ukrainian World Congress President Eugene Czolij pointed out: "In addition to the working meetings with government leaders, Prime Minister Harper acknowledged the horror of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933 at the Holodomor memorial and the tragic events at Babyn Yar."

"This was not a case of a politician going through the motions – the prime minister was deeply touched at the monument commemorating the millions of Ukrainians who perished during the Holodomor, and expressed the solidarity of Canadians with the longstanding struggles of the Ukrainian people against the Soviet and Nazi totalitarian regimes," Mr. Czolij added.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress has advocated for a strategy by the government of Canada to engage Ukraine, and the visit by Prime Minister Harper is an important step in this process. The UCC strategy for engaging Ukraine will be further discussed and elaborated at the Triennial Congress of Ukrainian Canadians taking place in Edmonton, Alberta, on November 5-7.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress is the voice of Canada's Ukrainian community. The congress brings together under one umbrella all the national, provincial and local Ukrainian Canadian organizations. Together with its member-organizations, the UCC has been leading, coordinating and representing the interests of one of Canada's largest ethnic communities – 1.2 million Ukrainians – for 70 years and has been instrumental in shaping Canada's social, economic and political landscape.

Quotable notes

"This is a grim and moving symbol of Ukraine's oppression.

"It is important that the terrible things here not be forgotten or repeated.

"We are reminded that the heart can be broken, the body can be destroyed, but the spirit of the oppressed is eternal and grows stronger."

– Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada, writing on October 26 in the guestbook of the National Memorial Museum of Victims of Occupation Regimes, Prison on Lontsky, in Lviv, as reported by Canada's Honorary Consul in Lviv Oksana Wynnnyckyj.



Office of the Prime Minister of Canada

Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the Prison on Lontsky Museum.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

were able to cast their votes for a candidate or a political force they liked most, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said at the Cabinet of Ministers meeting on November 3. "People trust the policies of the president and the government, and trust the policy of the coalition. This is the most important result of these elections," Mr. Azarov said. He noted that the results of exit polls roughly corresponded to the latest opinion polls, which were held a week before the local elections. Mr. Azarov noted that a new political tradition is being born in the country: "A candidate who, after the parallel vote count, knows that he has lost, congratulates his opponent. For example, like the candidate of the Party of Regions did in Zaporizhia. These are sprouts of a new political culture. We have finally demonstrated that the elections are not a war, but a competition of programs and per-

sonalities." (Ukrinform)

Ukraine invites experts from U.S., EU

KYIV – Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of President Viktor Yanukovich, invited American and European experts to join efforts to develop and improve the Ukrainian legal framework within the working group on the improvement of electoral legislation, which was created by a presidential decree of November 2. The Foreign Affairs Ministry said it expects that in the near future partners in the U.S. and the EU will be on a list of experts on electoral matters to be sent to Ukraine to participate in the work, which should be completed by May 2011. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovich on freedom of speech

KYIV – President Viktor Yanukovich said on October 26 that the status of freedom of speech has not significantly changed in Ukraine during his presidency. Speaking at a meeting with foreign

ambassadors and heads of observer missions in Kyiv, he said, "Today I see no difference on the TV or on the columns of newspapers between what had been the last five years, and what is now." He added that politicians from different political parties are on TV just as before. "Why is there the issue of freedom of speech in Ukraine? Is there a general warning? I would say: yes, there is. And are there examples that freedom of speech is suppressed in Ukraine? I would say: no. If you have such information, please give it to me," he said. The president assured his audience that this is a question of principle for him "because I have advocated and advocate the principles of democracy and democratic processes in Ukraine." (Ukrinform)

Kolomoysky heads European Jewry

KYIV – Ukrainian businessman Ihor Kolomoysky, a Privat Group co-owner, has been elected chairman of the European Council of Jewish Communities (ECJC) for the next five years at the Pan-European Conference of Presidents of Jewish Communities in Berlin, it was reported on October 25. Another Ukrainian oligarch, the president of the All-Ukrainian Jewish Congress, Vadym Rabinovich, has kept his post as ECJC vice-president. The forum of Jewish leaders was attended by representatives of 25 European countries, Israel's ambassador to Europe, Israeli government ministers, as well as leaders of the American Jewish Council. (Ukrinform)

Council on Ukraine-Russia relations

KYIV – With a view toward further development of Ukrainian-Russian cooperation, the Council of Experts on the Ukrainian-Russian Relations to the President of Ukraine has been established as an advisory body. It was reported on October 27 that a decree to this effect was posted on the official website of the president. The head of the Presidential Administration, Serhiy Lyovochkin, was appointed council chairman. Among the main tasks of the newly created council is to outline proposals for the development of bilateral relations between Ukraine and Russia, to facilitate identification of the main directions of bilateral cooperation and predict their future development, to prepare proposals for addressing problems in Ukrainian-Russian cooperation, and to promote the activity of Ukrainian sections of the working bodies of the Ukrainian-Russian interstate commission. According to the presidential decree, the council shall meet at least once every two months. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine to send more peacekeepers

KYIV – In the near future, Ukraine will increase the number of its peacekeeping personnel in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Defense Minister Mykhailo Yezhel said on October 20 at the 59th Meeting of the CIS Council of Defense Ministers in Yalta, Ukraine. Eight military men will join those 13 Ukrainians currently stationed in Afghanistan with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). The minister noted that Ukraine is involved in peacekeeping missions in 10 countries. Speaking about the participation of the armed forces of Ukraine in peacekeeping operations and international exercises, Mr. Yezhel also stressed that the Ukrainian naval corvette Ternopil will soon participate in patrolling the Mediterranean as part of the NATO-led Active Endeavour antiterrorist operation. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine joins anti-trafficking convention

KYIV – President Viktor Yanukovich has signed into law the bill ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Action

against Trafficking in Human Beings, the press service of the head of state reported on October 15. The objectives of the convention are to prevent and counter human trafficking, while ensuring gender equality, human rights protection for trafficking victims, development of a comprehensive framework to protect victims and witnesses, effective investigation and prosecution, as well as international cooperation in combating human trafficking. The convention applies to all forms of trafficking in people, both national and transnational, connected with organized crime or not. (Ukrinform)

Monument to Pope John Paul II unveiled

KYIV – The ceremonial unveiling of a monument to history's first Slavic pope, John Paul II, took place on October 16 in Vinnytsia. The Polish Consulate General in Vinnytsia was an initiator of the monument, which stands 2.4 meters high monument near the Mother of God Roman Catholic Church located on the city center's Soborna Street. Participating in the ceremony were hierarchs of the Roman Catholic Church from Ukraine, guests from Poland and Belarus, and representatives of the Polish Consulate General in Vinnytsia. The unveiling of the monument took place on the anniversary of the day Polish Cardinal Karol Wojtyla became pope: October 16, 1979. (Ukrinform)

Ukrainian is Miss Teen World 2010

KYIV – Ukrainian Olena Mekhailyshyna, 12, has been crowned Miss Teen World 2010 in Turkey. it was reported on October 19. According to the winner, the contest, which was attended by representatives of 13 countries, was no less intense than similar competitions among adults. The contestants paraded in their national costumes and presented performances in a talent show. Earlier this year Olena won the Teen Miss Zaporizhia and Teen Miss Ukraine titles. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine's poor: 26.4 percent

KYIV – Ukraine's poor make up 26.4 percent of the country's population, or 12.5 million persons, First Vice Minister of Labor and Social Policy Lidiya Drozdova said, according to news reports of October 16. "Families with children (33.1 percent) are most subject to poverty, families with many children (76.4 percent), families with a double burden, those having children and the unemployed, 26.4 percent," she noted. The number of poor families in rural areas exceeds those in urban areas. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine's population: 45.8 million

KYIV – In August, the population of Ukraine was reduced by 0.04 percent or by 19,500 persons as compared with July and as of September 1 the country's population was 45.831 million, the State Statistics Committee reported on October 18. The urban population as of September 1 amounted to 31.428 million (0.05 percent or 16,600 persons less than as of August 1); the rural population was 14.403 million (0.02 percent or 2,900 less than the previous month. In 2009, the Ukrainian population decreased by 0.4 percent or by 180,800 persons as compared with the beginning of the year. According to the nationwide census held in December 2001, Ukraine's population was 48.415 million: out of that number, 32.538 million was urban population and 15.877 million was rural. (Ukrinform)

12.9 M regular Internet users

KYIV – There are 12.9 million regular Internet users age 15 and over in Ukraine, according to a study carried out by the

(Continued on page 15)

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

InMind company for the Internet Association of Ukraine. Thirty-three percent of the country's residents, or 12.9 million, use the Internet no less than once a month. The study also revealed that 8.3 million Internet users reside in large cities with populations of over 50,000, 4.6 million users reside in localities with populations of less than 50,000. Out of all Ukrainian Internet users over age 15, 8.7 million use the Internet daily. The highest level of Internet use is seen among younger age groups: 61 percent of Internet users are age 15-29 years old, 39 percent are age 30-44 years. Seventy-five percent of regular Internet users get access through home computers. (Ukrinform)

3,000 to study abroad in 2012

KYIV – In 2012, the Ukrainian government will send 3,000 students to study abroad at the expense of state funds, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said during his meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper on October 25. "We decided to send our

300 students to study in the best European and world universities next year at the expense of state funds. In a year, we will send 3,000 students," Mr. Azarov underscored. The prime minister noted that the government has developed a 10-year program for reforming education. (Ukrinform)

Company to build recycling plants

KYIV – The Romanian company Mentor Group Holdings has offered to implement in the Mykolaiv region of Ukraine an investment project for financing and turnkey construction of six plants for sorting and thermal processing of solid domestic waste. News of the offer was reported on October 16. Chairman of the Mykolaiv Regional State Administration Mykola Kruhlov disclosed this after his meeting with Mentor Group Holdings Vice-President Stanislav Groape. The project is part of the Eco Verde environmental program, which provides for full funding of private resident companies in the region with no guarantees of local authorities, but with land concession rights for those companies. (Ukrinform)

Laborers in Greece ready to return

KYIV – The majority of Ukrainian labor migrants in Greece are ready to return home. This is evidenced by a very small number of appeals of Ukrainian citizens to obtain citizenship in the Republic of Greece, said Valerii Lobach, an official at the Department of Consular Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during a press club meeting on the topic "The Ukrainian Greece: Labor Migration and Human Trafficking." Mr. Lobach said this is a positive trend. The diplomat also cited official figures on the number of Ukrainian labor migrants in Greece received by the Ukrainian diplomatic mission, which indicate that the vast majority of labor migrants from Ukraine in the last five to six years have legalized their status in the host state. According to official data provided by Greek migration authorities, as of October about 17,500 Ukrainian nationals legally reside in the country, enjoying most of the rights of citizens, including the right to protect their interests in the country's courts. Children of Ukrainian labor migrants in Greece have the opportunity to receive education free of charge, without any restrictions – the

only requirement for enrollment is the legality of their stay in the country. "So there is reason to believe that Greece as regards the citizens of Ukraine has steadily and consistently adhered to the European Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers," Mr. Lobach stressed. The number of illegal Ukrainian migrant workers in Greece is about 3,000, the Foreign Affairs Ministry representative reported. At the same time, he said, our compatriots in Greece are in no hurry to register at the consular office of the Ukrainian Embassy in Greece: only 718 people are permanently on the books, and 4,357 nationals are temporarily registered. (Ukrinform)

Number of Ukrainians in Italy up 13.1%

KYIV – The Ukrainian community in Italy is fourth in terms of growth in that country over the past year, according to data provided in mid-October by Italian statistical office ISTAT. Among foreign communities of Italy, the biggest growth was shown by the Moldavan (+18.1 percent), Pakistani (+17.1 percent), Indian (+15.3 percent) and Ukrainian (+13.1 percent) communities. (Ukrinform)



With sadness we inform you of the passing into eternal life, at age 89, of our beloved mother, grandmother, aunt, great-aunt

Jaroslawa Popovich

Born July 23, 1921, in Stanislaviv, Ukraine.
Died August 28, 2010, in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Funeral services were held September 2, 2010, at Epiphany of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church in St. Petersburg, Florida. Interment was held on September 7, 2010, at St. Andrew's Cemetery in South Bound Brook, NJ.

Remaining in grief:

- Son – Anatole with wife Irene
- Son – Alex with wife Marta
- Granddaughters – Andrea Popovich, Christina Popovich
- Nephew – Michael Sawchak with wife Annie
- Great nephew – Markian Kupchinsky

May her memory be eternal!
Вічна пам'ять!



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Catherine Zborowski

died unexpectedly on Saturday, October 23, 2010, in Montclair, NJ.
She was 76 years old.

She was born in Werchrata, Lviv region, Ukraine, the second of four daughters born to Ivan Smut, Ukrainian patriot and activist, and mother Maria Baran. Catherine completed her studies in Poland, and held a prestigious position in the state accounting office.

After marrying her beloved husband, Theodore Zborowski, she moved to the U.S. and settled in Windsor, CT, to raise a family. Catherine and her family were active members of the St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church community. She retired in 2001 after working for 20 years at Bank of America. Catherine fulfilled her dream to raise her children to be highly educated and patriotic Ukrainians. She leaves behind her son Orest Zborowski, daughter-in-law Olya and grandson Nicholas in Philadelphia, PA; her daughter Lydia (Lesia) Golub, son-in-law George and grandchildren Alexandra and Michael in Montclair, NJ. She also leaves behind her three sisters, Jaroslava Kleban and Maria Poroznik and families in Toronto and Olga Szczerba and family in Poland, her cousin's family in Oshawa, Canada, and many relatives and friends in Ukraine and elsewhere in the world.

Funeral was held on Saturday, October 30, at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Hartford. Interment followed at St. John's Cemetery in Glastonbury. Panakhyda service was held at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel in Wethersfield. In lieu of flowers, donations in Catherine's memory may be made to "Our Life Press Fund." Please make checks payable to Our Life or UNWLA and mail to: Our Life, 203 2nd Avenue, New York, NY 10003. For online expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopo.com.



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СВ. П.

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- діти – Богдана Войтович Пужик з мужем Богданом і сином Александром
- Тарас Войтович з дружиною Мері Бет та сини Никола і Стефан
- Ліда Войтович Шлихтинг' із сином Михайлом Дикий
- родини – Мацук, Гадзаман, Беркгаймер, Войтович, Тиндал і Панович та ближча і дальша родина в США, Канаді та Україні

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Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

NHL Ukrainians on the move during the offseason

CONCLUSION

The 2010-2011 pre-season has come and gone with some 46 hockey players of Ukrainian origin having earned invitations to training camps with NHL clubs in September. Approximately 20 of them have earned spots on NHL rosters, while the majority of the hopefuls have been assigned back to their junior teams or to minor league affiliates. Some of the minor leaguers may see action with their parent clubs later this year as an emergency call-up.

Before the new season gets into full gear, let's conclude our preview where we focus on another Ukrainian who stayed put, two returning from Russia's KHL, a pair of vets who retired from the game and one who was gently forced out.

Stempniak has unfinished business in Phoenix

Almost two months after gaining unrestricted free agent status for the first time, right-winger Lee Stempniak stayed put, re-signing with the Phoenix Coyotes. The 27-year-old affirmed he was happy to sign the new deal.

"I think going into it my agent and I talked and were sort of prepared for uncertainty," Stempniak said in an interview with Coyote blogger Dave Vest. "You don't really know what's going to happen... I think over the course of the summer we tried to be patient and sort of let the process play out and the market get set and ultimately find the right fit. For me, as a player and as a person and for my family and where we wanted to be and where we wanted to play, ultimately, going back to Phoenix is really exciting for us. I had a great experience there and I really enjoy the coaches and the players. It would have been tough to leave."

After scoring 14 goals in 18 regular season games with Phoenix after a March 3 trade from Toronto, Stempniak did draw interest and offers from several NHL organizations. The newly married goal scorer finally opted for Phoenix as the best fit. He admitted the Coyotes pursued him intensely over the two-month period.

"Don Maloney [Phoenix GM] stayed

in contact with my agent and they were able to find a way to get it done and we're really appreciative of that," Stempniak said. "It certainly was a different market than years past, but I guess you can't really worry about what would have happened in the past or anything like that. I'd be lying if I didn't say I wish it all would have been over sooner, but at the end of the day it got done before training camp."

Phoenix General Manager Maloney felt it important to retain Stempniak's services for the team's future because of his remarkable contribution to the team's late-season success.

"Lee, with his work habits and personality, was a terrific addition to our team last year," Maloney said in his talk with blogger Vest. "Although he ran into a dry spell scoring in the playoffs (0G, 2A in seven games), he was still competing in the hard areas – in the corners, at the front of the net – to score. We expect Lee to be a 25+ goal scorer for us this season."

Stempniak signed a two-year, \$3.5 million contract with the Coyotes due to one overriding factor: the challenge of some unfinished business in the Arizona desert.

"We took that first step to get into the playoffs, and now we want to get there again and go further, and ultimately win the Stanley Cup," Stempniak said in a chat with The Arizona Republic's Jim Gintonio.

There was no doubt the seven-game playoff battle with the Detroit Red Wings will make Stempniak and his teammates better hockey players.

"It was a great series and a lot of us were in the playoffs for the first time," he said. "I know that I learned a lot, and I think I've grown as a player because of it. I know how special the playoffs are, and that gives you a lot of motivation to want to be there every year. It took five years for me to be in the playoffs. You want to work hard and you want to be on teams that are successful, and have a chance to win, and that's the fun of playing hockey."

STELMACH SAYS: Past recent history shows a player of Stempniak's ability

and promise could have expected a four-year, \$14 million deal. The market has changed with fewer years and less dollars being doled out. Stempniak took the best offer he received – if he can duplicate his goal scoring from last March, his next contract will be much more lucrative.

Zherdev gets second chance in Philly

After five seasons in the National Hockey League, Nikolai Zherdev did not want to further pursue his pro career in Russia's KHL. His return to the Philadelphia Flyers after signing a one-year contract on June 9 is proof. The 25-year-old, Columbus' fourth overall pick in the 2003 NHL Entry Draft, was forced into exile for a season after receiving no offers from NHL organizations after the New York Rangers walked away from a salary arbitration in the summer of 2009.

The one good thing that happened as a result of his year in the KHL was he met and married his wife.

Having tallied 230 points in 365 career NHL games, there is ample evidence Zherdev is a skilled offensive performer. He peaked with the Blue Jackets in 2007-2008 with 26-35-61 points in 82 games.

The Kyiv native is admittedly excited to be back in the NHL. He should get the opportunity to play right wing with one of Philly's three dynamic centers: Mike Richards, Jeff Carter or Daniel Briere. The Stanley Cup finalist Flyers portend to be an offensive force this coming season.

"I'm very happy to be back in the NHL," said Zherdev in an interview with Philadelphia Flyers.com. "I had some difficulty last season signing a contract in the NHL, and I made the decision to stay one season in Russia. Basically, my goal is to come to the NHL and be one of the best players and play every night, and show everybody I'm ready and that I'm an NHL player."

What must change for Zherdev in his second go-around is his defensive zone commitment. In today's NHL it's great to have offensive flair, but one must also be defensively responsible. Zherdev must show he is now a two-way performer.

"I've changed my style and tried to play more in the defensive zone. I think right now I'm a two-way player," he said. "Before I was probably more of a forward, more in the attack zone, but right now I think the last couple of seasons I've played more in the defensive zone, too."

"For me, it will be new. It's a new team, new teammates, a new coach, new organization and a new city. I still have my tools, and I'd like to show everybody I'm still a good hockey player," he added.

STELMACH SAYS: Zherdev returns a humbled young man, happy to get a second chance to play with the world's best players. Let's hope he truly is ready to turn the page and begin a new chapter of his hockey career.

Babchuk back on 'Canes' blueline

"We're happy to be bringing Anton Babchuk back to the Hurricanes," said Carolina's President and General Manager Jim Rutherford, in an official July press release from the team. "He has a big shot and he really came into his own offensively for us during the 2008-2009 season. He will be an important contributor to our success next season."

So began another Kyiv, native's sec-

ond tour of duty in the NHL after spending 2009-2010 with Avangard Omsk in the Kontinental Hockey League. The 26-year-old led Omsk defenseman in goals (nine), points (22), power play goals (four), game-winning goals (two) and plus/minus (+17). He played in the 2010 KHL All-Star game in Minsk, scoring a goal.

The 6-5, 212 lb. Babchuk had a career year for the Hurricanes in 2008-2009, hitting highs in games (72), goals (16), assists (19) and points (35). He ranked tied for fifth among all NHL defensemen in goal scoring, becoming only the fourth defenseman in club history to hit 16 goals in a season, the first since 1991-1992.

STELMACH SAYS: See Zherdev, above. Babchuk gets \$1.4 million in a one-year deal for a return to Carolina. If he can match his production from the last two years, he'll earn much more in 2011.

Tkachuk's retirement a blue day

The St. Louis Blues' home finale against Anaheim last April was insignificant from a standings point, but one could never describe it as forgettable. For Ukrainian hockey star Keith Tkachuk, it was the last time he would don the Blues sweater, having officially announced his retirement. Tkachuk finished his 19-year NHL career with 1,201 games played, 538 goals, and 527 assists for 1,065 points and 2,219 penalty minutes. He is the fourth player in NHL history to score 1,000 points and record more than 2,000 minutes in penalties.

"It is difficult, but it's been a long run. I've enjoyed every team I've played for," Tkachuk said in an early April television interview on FS Midwest. "I owe everything to the game of hockey. I had a great run here in St. Louis. I think the one thing I'm most proud of is the fact that I'm going to retire as a Blue."

He played 543 games for the Blues, tallying 427 total points, ranking him seventh all-time among Blues players. He ranks fifth in goal scoring with 208.

Veteran defender Sydor walks away

Veteran defenseman Darryl Sydor announced his retirement after 18 seasons in the NHL. The Edmonton, Alberta, native spent the last year of his pro career in St. Louis, recording eight assists and 15 penalty minutes in 47 games played.

"Darryl was a true professional throughout his entire career and especially for the St. Louis Blues organization," said Blues President John Davidson in an official team press release.

"I've known Darryl for a long time and he is truly one of the classiest professionals I have seen in this league," said Blues General Manager Doug Armstrong. "I wish nothing but success in the future for Darryl, his wife, Sharlene, and sons, Parker, Braden, Dylan and Cooper."

Sydor, 38, was a part of six different NHL organizations in his career, including Los Angeles, Columbus, Tampa Bay, Pittsburgh and St. Louis. His longest tenure was with the Dallas Stars.

In nine seasons with Dallas, the 6-1, 210-pound defenseman played in 714 games with 334 points and 401 penalty minutes. He was an NHL All-Star in 1998 and 1999. He won Stanley Cups with Dallas (1999) and Tampa Bay (2004).

He totaled 1,291 games played (16th all-time among NHL defenders) with 507 points, 755 penalty minutes and a career

(Continued on page 20)

Minor players in major roles

A National Hockey League 20-man roster is not composed solely of superstars. For every Sidney Crosby there is a Pascal Dupuis. Where there is an Alex Ovechkin, there will also be a Brooks Laich. Among Ukrainian pro hockey players, for stars like Travis Zajac and Alexei Ponikarovsky there are scrappers like Jordin Tootoo and Darcy Hordichuk.

In today's salary cap NHL, a team is allowed to spend only a certain amount on player salaries. A team dresses two goalies, six defensemen and 12 forwards – never have the third and fourth line forwards and last two defensemen been more vital to a team's success. And let's not forget the back-up goaltender. Below are a few under-the-radar signings of Ukrainian hockey players from this past off-season, a couple of which may be heard from in 2010-2011.

Oilers sign Dubnyk

In signing goaltender Devan

Dubnyk to a two-year deal worth \$800,000 per season, the Edmonton Oilers demonstrated he was preferred over Jeff Deslauriers as the back-up to No. 1 goalie Nikolai Khabibulin. The fact the contract is a one-way deal shows even more respect for Dubnyk's future potential.

The young netminder enjoyed a decent season for Springfield (AHL) in 2009-2010, posting a .915 save percentage save percentage for a team which was pretty awful. Continuing to progress in his minor league development, Dubnyk was recalled to Edmonton last season when Khabibulin went down to injury.

All things considered, Dubnyk did quite well in his NHL debut year. He was arguably fantastic in his final six starts after almost setting a record for minutes played without winning a game. He proceeded to win four of his

(Continued on page 20)

COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Metropolitan Constantine blesses Parma parish's school building

PARMA, Ohio – The clergy and faithful of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral welcomed Metropolitan Constantine to the Parma, Ohio, parish on Sunday, September 19.

The metropolitan served the divine liturgy and then led a procession with the clergy, altar servers and parishioners to the parish school building, where he blessed the newly remodeled classrooms and library.

During the yearlong project that cost \$150,000, new heating, air conditioning, carpets, windows and other changes to the building were accomplished because of the generosity of the late Mykola Suprunenko, who bequeathed the Parma parish over \$500,000. This gift – the largest ever made to the parish – was to be used for educational purposes.

Mr. Suprunenko also bequeathed over \$125,000 to the Ukrainian Museum-Archives in Cleveland.

Mr. Suprunenko was born on September 14, 1940, in Poltava, Ukraine. Together with his parents, Hryhoryj and Anastasia, and his two brothers, he immigrated to the United

States following World War II. They settled in Cleveland and joined St. Vladimir Cathedral.

On completing high school, Mr. Suprunenko attended college and served in the U.S. military. He was employed by the Cleveland Plain Dealer newspaper until he contracted multiple sclerosis at a young age. For over 20 years, he was confined to his home in a wheelchair and, then, to a local nursing home. On January 13, 2009, Mr. Suprunenko died and, following services at St. Vladimir Cathedral, his earthly remains were taken to St. Andrew Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J.

A memorial service for the departed Suprunenko family members was celebrated by Metropolitan Constantine prior to the blessing of the school.

St. Vladimir Cathedral's school building is used not only by the parishioners but by the entire Ukrainian community of Greater Cleveland. The parish sponsors a Sunday School, the Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Students, and schools of Ukrainian dance, bandura and art.



Metropolitan Constantine, together with parish clergy, blesses the newly remodeled St. Vladimir School building in Parma, Ohio.

Bomb explosions...

(Continued from page 2)

Linking the explosions to the local elections would aim to blame the opposition for seeking to "destabilize the situation." Different senior officials and "siloviki" ministers have warned that the opposition is likely to lose the elections and is therefore voicing concern about the likelihood of election fraud and non-free elections in order to justify their low results. Internal Affairs Minister Anatolii Mohyliyov believes that the majority of mass protests linked to the local elections have a "provocative character." These have "only one aim: to increase tension, divide, and thereby to establish certain facts that the elections were not free" (Ukrayinska Pravda, October 25).

President Yanukovich told diplomats in Kyiv that international observers should only look for "real falsifications and provocations," adding, "What concerns me in these elections are only provocations, as if no provocations are specially undertaken by teams of provocateurs then there will be no problems [in the election]" (Ukrayinska Pravda, October 26).

Mr. Mohyliyov instructed his officers to ensure the collection of intelligence about the organization of such protests. Not only is this instruction illegal, as it is not within the competence of the MVS to collect political intelligence, but unconstitutional as it infringes on the rights of Ukrainians to free protest.

The siloviki have become a major threat to holding free elections. Parliamentary Human Rights Ombudsman Nina Karpachova said, "I cannot stay silent over the fact that recently regional departments of the SBU launched hotlines for control over violations of the election legislation. Even divisions of the military security service are involved in the election process... Such total control of the special services is a threat to Ukraine's democracy," adding that "neither the law on the security service of Ukraine, nor the Ukrainian president's order of September 16, 2010, give the SBU control over the observance of the right to vote (Interfax-Ukraine, October 23)".

Verkhovna Rada Vice-Chairman Mykola Tomenko, a senior member of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, said what many opposition leaders believe. The explosions look like a "primitive special operation" that aims to pressure Mr. Yanukovich to increase his presidential guard, which is already twice the size of those of former Presidents Leonid Kuchma and Viktor Yushchenko.

Mr. Yanukovich has an ingrained assassination-phobia that his entourage feeds (Eurasia Daily Monitor, June 28). Or, Mr. Tomenko believes the explosions aim to show to Mr. Yanukovich that there is a "need for an 'iron' hand or 'strong hand' because there is anarchy in the country" (Hazeta po Ukrainski, October 23).

Indeed, twice the number of Ukrainians feel their country is moving to instability than believe Ukraine is heading for stability

and a majority of Ukrainians consider that democratic freedoms are under threat (<http://www.ifes.org/Content/Events/2010/Post-Orange-Ukraine.aspx>).

The authorities used explosions in the 1999 elections when Socialist Party activists allegedly sought to assassinate Progressive Socialist Party leader and candidate Natalia Vitrenko. The aim was to remove SPU leader Oleksander Moroz, against whom he was unsure of winning, from the second round in order for Mr. Kuchma to face Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko.

In September 2004, with the purpose of distracting attention from Mr. Yushchenko's poisoning earlier that month, a fake assassination was planned on Yanukovich in Ivano-Frankivsk where he was to be shot by blanks while wearing a bulletproof vest under his coat. The plan was foiled by a student throwing an egg, which confused Mr. Yanukovich, who fell down as though he had been shot as planned by a blank bullet (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fP0vWkQQT8>). Nevertheless, Yanukovich election officials, without knowing about the egg, appeared in the media as pre-planned to accuse the Yushchenko election campaign of harboring "terrorists."

The offices of Pora, the youth NGO active in the 2004 elections and the Orange Revolution, had terrorist devices planted in order to link the opposition to "terrorism." Pora and other NGOs associated with the opposition were denounced as "extremists" (EDM, May 26, September 22-23, 30,

October 20, 22, 2004). Similar tactics had been used against the Serbian Otpor youth NGO in the 2000 Yugoslav elections.

Ukraine's major nationalist group, Svoboda, is dogged by accusations that it was financed by the oligarch Igor Kolomoysky, during the Yushchenko presidency, and since then by the Party of Regions (through Andriy Kluyev who headed Yanukovich's 2004 shadow "dirty tricks" campaign). The financing aims to take votes from mainstream national democrats and to mobilize the eastern Ukrainian vote against "nationalism" (Oleksiy Mustafin in Zerkalo Nedeli, October 23).

The explosions are unlikely to be the work of the opposition, and a "controlled" nationalist party is not likely to be permitted to indulge in terrorism. If the bombs were planted by the authorities, this could be the prelude to what took place in Russia in 2000 when bomb explosions, which were blamed on Chechen terrorists though there were suspicions about the involvement of the Federal Security Service (FSB), paved the way for Vladimir Putin's rise to power. Nevertheless, the "stability" that for some reason Western governments associate with President Yanukovich was always a myth, as his policies serve only to deepen Ukraine's regional, political, cultural and religious divisions.

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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

UCCA's Boston branch celebrates two milestones with gala

by Peter T. Woloschuk

RANDOLPH, Mass. — The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Boston Branch (UCCA-Boston), marked the 70th anniversary of the founding of the national organization in New York and the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Boston branch with a banquet and zabava on Saturday, October 16. The gala event drew over 130 members of the eastern New England Ukrainian American community to Lantana's banqueting facility in Randolph, Mass.

The program was conducted bilingually and featured a slide show highlighting some of the major events sponsored by UCCA Boston over the past 60 years, the presentation of certificates of recognition to the founders and early supporters of the organization, a keynote address by Michael Sawkiw Jr., director of the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the Washington public affairs bureau of the UCCA, and finally the presentation of a bouquet of flowers and the dedication of a song to Maria Fedynshyn Saxe, secretary of UCCA Boston and indefatigable organizer and promoter of the event.

The evening was opened with the singing of the American anthem by Michael Hotz and the Ukrainian anthem by the assembly led by Luba Gentek and Zenoviy Prots, vice-presidents of UCCA-Boston.

An invocation was given by the Rev. Yaroslav Nalysnyk, dean of the Boston area and pastor of Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church. Grace was offered by Msgr. Roman Golemba, pastor of St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic church in Woonsocket, R.I., and the formal program was concluded with benediction by the Rev. Roman Tarnavsky, pastor of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Boston. The Udech band of New Jersey provided almost four hours of continuous music to round out the night.

The semi-formal affair was co-sponsored by the Ukrainian American Heritage Foundation Inc. and the Ukrainian American Educational Center of Boston Inc. A number of the area's Ukrainian organizations were represented by their leadership, including the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) by Associate Director Dr. Lubomyr Hajda, the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA) by President Michael Nosal Jr., the Ukrainian American Veterans of greater Boston (UAV) by Post Commander Stephan Kostecki, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization by Board Member Ihor Mykyta, "Ridna Shkola" (School of Ukrainian Studies) by Director Oksana Kyrychok, the Ukrainian National Women's League of America by branch president Nadia Annese, and St.

Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Parish Board by Board President Jane Yavarov. The Hartford, Conn. UCCA branch was represented by Vice-President Myron Kolinsky.

In his welcoming remarks, Vsevolod Petriv, president of UCCA-Boston said, "Forty years ago, when I publicly said that I was a Ukrainian-American, most people in my audience had never heard of Ukraine or knew where or what it was. Now the average American knows something about our ancestral homeland. Led by UCCA and the combined efforts of all of our organizations, we have made progress, but there is still much more work to be done."

Mr. Petriv went on to highlight the spirit of cooperation shown by the Ukrainian organizations of the metropolitan Boston area and the recent resurgence of activity within the community, crediting these developments, in part, to the solid foundation laid by the activists of previous generations.

In his address Mr. Sawkiw said, "The history of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and its relevance to the 'Ukraine question,' whether during Soviet times, or now with the existence of a free and independent Ukraine, shows the strength and vitality of our Ukrainian community. What we have achieved through our efforts over the past 70 years has never changed, nor have our goals and objectives. We stand for the betterment of the Ukrainian nation and its people both in the homeland and in the United States."

He added, "We are grateful to our community leaders, both past and present, who have made a difference in our organization and have led by their example. Our community is strong and dynamic, and we have a bright future ahead of us."

As part of the evening, a petition sponsored by UCCA Boston to the leaders of the Ukrainian government demanding the withdrawal of the proposed legislation giving the Russian language special status in Ukraine were read out in both English and Ukrainian and were signed by virtually all those in attendance.

In part, the petition read:

"Although the proposed statute is couched in terms that echo the Charter of Europe, which adopted legislation to protect and preserve the languages of small ethnic minorities in danger of being assimilated by dominant linguistic groups in the countries where they reside, it is clear that the Russian language in Ukraine does not fall within the criteria envisioned by the Charter and that it needs no protection.

"The Russian language in Ukraine faces no dangers or threats and even the mere suggestion that this is not the case is blatant casuistry.

(Continued on page 20)



Michael Sawkiw Jr., director of the UCCA's Ukrainian National Information Service, addresses the anniversary gathering. Next to him are Luba Gentyk and Zenoviy Prots, UCCA-Boston vice-presidents.



At the UCCA's 70th anniversary celebration in Boston (from left) are: Iulia Hetmansky, Maria Fedynshyn Saxe, secretary of the UCCA Boston, and Wolodymyr Hetmansky, who was honored with a certificate of recognition for his work.

A petition on Ukrainian language

Following is the text of the petition sent by the Boston branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America to Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovich, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn. The petition is dated October 2010.

Gentlemen:

We, the undersigned Ukrainian-Americans of the metropolitan Boston area, are writing to inform you of our concern with the recently filed legislation "On Languages in Ukraine," which was sponsored jointly by members of the Party of Regions, the Communist Party and the Volodymyr Lytvyn Block and is awaiting consideration by the Ukrainian Parliament.

As you are well aware, the proposed legislation will give the Russian language official status in any region or oblast of the country where 10 percent of the population indicates a desire for such a change in status and is nothing but a cynical attempt to fulfill your campaign promises to make Russian the second official language of Ukraine.

Although the proposed statute is couched in terms that echo the Charter of Europe, which adopted legislation to protect and preserve the languages of small ethnic minorities in danger of being assimilated by dominant linguistic groups in the countries where they reside, it is clear that the Russian language in Ukraine does not fall within the criteria

envisioned by the charter and that it needs no protection.

The Russian language in Ukraine faces no dangers or threats and even the mere suggestion that this is not the case is blatant casuistry.

Russian is already specifically mentioned in the current Constitution of Ukraine and its status is clearly recognized and protected. Its usage dominates in the media of the country and it is used as the language of daily business by a number of local and oblast government bodies in defiance of the dictates of the capital and the mandate of the supreme law of the land. It is also the language most frequently used by your administration as you conduct the daily affairs of the Ukrainian government.

For more than 350 years Russian enjoyed official status in Ukraine and native Ukrainian speakers faced discrimination and even persecution. The Emsk Ukaz of the 19th century, for example, clearly spelled out government policy toward the Ukrainian language and proscribed it entirely from the public arena.

As elected officials of Ukraine you are required by your oaths and by your offices to safeguard the interests of the Ukrainian state and the Ukrainian people. The proposed legislation does neither.

Therefore, we call upon you, as elected officials, to fulfill your mandate from the Ukrainian people and withdraw the proposal from parliamentary consideration. It is nothing less than your duty and obligation to do so.



Attendees at the anniversary banquet.

Minor players...

(Continued from page 17)

last six starts as the last line of a porous Oilers defense. An even-strength save percentage of .933 over those six starts was remarkable. He was selected as one of the three stars in each of his four victories.

Unfortunately, there were ten starts between his strong AHL work and his end-of-season run which have been described as a "valley of darkness." In each of these games he allowed at least three goals, twice permitting more than five to enter his net.

The end result was an even-strength save percentage of .902 which was good enough to best only three other goalkeepers with 15 or more NHL starting assignments. Overriding the bad middle part of his season was the fact he has youth on his side, he had the great finish and he was drafted 14th overall. The rebuilding Edmonton franchise could do worse than give Dubnyk a shot at the back-up goaltending job in 2010-11.

Bodnarchuk back with Boston

Young depth defenseman Andrew Bodnarchuk earned a one-year contract with the Boston Bruins this past summer. The 22-year-old has seen action in five regular season games and has two penalty minutes.

"I think Andy had a real solid year last year," said General Manager Peter Chiarelli during an early July conference call with Boston media. "The year before I thought he had more downs than ups, but last year I thought he really figured out the game and he simplified it for his game. I saw a guy who turned the corner a bit. He is still quite young, but he has good speed and a good compete level. He did play with us a bit and I didn't mind his game up with us."

Bodnarchuk has skated in 132 regular season games with Providence (AHL) over the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 seasons, totaling 6G, 19A, 25 PTS and 84 PIMs.

He dressed in his first Bruins game on April 3 in Toronto. He played most of last season for the P-Bruins with 5-10-15 points and 51 minutes in 70 games.

The 5-11, 185-pound native of Drumheller, Alberta was originally selected by Boston in the 2006 draft (5th round, 128th overall).

Blackhawks grab Potulny

Following a mass exodus of players from the 2009-2010 Stanley Cup champion team, an opening for a third-line forward was filled when the Chicago Blackhawks signed Ryan Potulny to a one-year contract.

Potulny, 26, was tied for third on the Edmonton Oilers with a career-best 15

goals and sixth best with a high of 32 points in 62 games last season. He started the season with the Oilers' AHL affiliate in Springfield, where he collected eight points (3G, 5A), prior to his promotion to the big club.

The native of Grand Forks, N.D., has scored 22 goals and 49 points with 54 penalty minutes in 116 career NHL games over the course of five seasons. The Blackhawks are his third NHL organization after being Philadelphia's sixth-round pick in the 2003 entry draft. In 172 career AHL games, Potulny has tallied 143 points (74G, 69A) and 141 penalty minutes. A career claim to fame is his ending the longest contest in the 74-year history of the AHL when he scored the game-winning marker at 2:58 of the fifth overtime (142:58) while a Philadelphia Phantom on April 24, 2008.

Before turning pro, Potulny spent three years at the University of Minnesota from 2003 to 2006, collecting 118 points in 100 games. He was a finalist for the 2006 Hobey Baker Award (top college player).

Strachan stays in St. Louis

St. Louis Blues Executive Vice President and General Manager Doug Armstrong announced in early July that the club had re-signed defenseman Tyson Strachan to a one-year contract. The 25-year-old saw action in eight games for the Blues last season, assisting on two goals and receiving four minutes in penalties.

The 6-2, 215-pounder played the majority of the year with the AHL's Peoria Rivermen, where in 65 games he scored 26 points (5G, 21A) to go with 75 penalty minutes.

The Melfort, Saskatchewan native was drafted by Carolina in the fifth round of the 2003 NHL draft

Metro heads back to Europe

In early August 2010 reports surfaced that Montreal Canadiens center Glen Metropolit had signed a two-year contract with EV Zug in Switzerland. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

The Canadiens had claimed Metropolit off waivers from Philadelphia on February 27, 2009, and the unrestricted free agent produced 16 goals and added 13 assists for the Canadiens last season. He was an unsung member of an upstart team which went far in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

This is Metropolit's second stint in Europe, as he played two seasons in Finland (2003-2005) and one in Switzerland (2005-2006). The veteran could only hope for a free-agent invitation to someone's training camp at this point of his career. The two-year deal with EV Zug was an offer Metropolit could not refuse.

Harper address...

(Continued from page 13)

Ottawa, the cost of it was largely covered by the Ukrainian Canadian community – a great example of how active that community is.

Since then there have been high-level delegations travelling back and forth, visits to Ukraine by three of our governors general, and twice to Canada by your own presidents.

And I am proud to point out that Canadians have repeatedly participated as observers in Ukrainian elections in 2004, 2006, 2007 and again this year.

Canadians are happy to assist with elections because it is in the choosing of the government by the governed that freedom becomes more than just a word.

There have been many government contacts at an operational level and the Canadian International Development Agency has assisted with programs to encourage small business. In fact today we are announcing six more projects to foster growth and boost grain exports. And of historic importance, we are now working with your government towards a Canada-Ukraine free-trade agreement. Our economies complement each other in several ways and it should be possible to lever our historic and linguistic ties to stimulate trade investment and job creation.

Trade builds prosperity for everyone and it presents particularly great opportunities for young people such as yourselves who have a global perspective. I said earlier there was something in the current rounds of talks with your government that should be of particular interest to this audience. For many years, our two countries have had a program through which as many as 50 Ukrainian university students a year come to Canada to work as interns in our Parliament to see how our Parliament works. I'm happy to tell you that yesterday, we took that idea much further and way beyond the confines of government.

NHL Ukrainians...

(Continued from page 17)

+21 rating.

Fedoruk bought out

A new regime means changes and in Tampa Bay the past few years, changes are the norm. New Vice-President and GM Steve Yzerman began making personnel moves early in his new administration, buying out the contract of left wing Todd Fedoruk. Fedoruk had a year

left on his deal.

"On behalf of the entire Lightning organization, I would like to thank Todd for his service both on and off the ice," Yzerman said in an official Lightning press release. "As the team heads in a different direction, we wish him the best of luck as he moves forward in his hockey career."

The 6'2, 230-pound Fedoruk played in 50 games with Tampa Bay last season, recording 3-3-6 points and 54 PIM's. As a fourth-line banger he averaged 7:31 minutes in ice time.

UCCA's Boston...

(Continued from page 19)

"Russian is already specifically mentioned in the current constitution of Ukraine and its status is clearly recognized and protected. Its usage dominates in the media of the country and it is used as the language of daily business by a number of local and oblast government bodies in defiance of the dictates of the capital and the mandate of the supreme law of the land. It is also the language most frequently used by your administration as you conduct the daily affairs of the Ukrainian government..."

"Therefore, we call upon you as elected officials to fulfill your mandate from the Ukrainian people and withdraw the proposal from Parliamentary consideration. It is nothing less than your duty and obligation to do so."

The UCCA was founded on May 24, 1940, by the Ukrainian American community to act in a leadership role as the national coordinating umbrella organization of its activities and agenda, including the

advancement of Ukrainian Americans in all spheres of American life, as well as recognition of and aid for Ukraine.

UCCA Boston was founded 10 years later on September 19, 1950, with the specific mission of representing Ukrainian Americans in eastern New England.

Encyclopedia...

(Continued from page 7)

second edition with additional listings. In the meantime, readers will find mountains of inspiring information in the edition just published. It's available for \$50 from Smoloskyp, P. O. Box 561, Ellicott City, MD 21041.

CORRECTION: In my last column, I wrote that UPA was organized in 1943. It was off by a year: it was 1942. Thank you to those who noted the mistake.

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

Alex E. Kyj

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Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus featured at Stratford Summer Music

by Anatoli Murha and Roman Beley

STRATFORD, Ontario – Stratford Summer Music is an annual multi-week music festival set in outdoor and indoor venues in Stratford, Ontario. Led by Artistic Producer John A. Miller, the festival hosts performances by Canadian and international artists over a three-to five-week period in July and August. The festival brings a variety of genres to its stages, including jazz, blues, folk, opera, country, innovative instrumental, orchestral, classical and world music. The 2010 festival marked the 10th anniversary of Stratford Summer Music.

On August 8, the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus (UBC), under the direction of Bohdan Heryavenko, shared its traditions with an engaging audience at St. Andrew's Church in Stratford. The UBC first performed at Stratford Summer Music in 2004, when stringed instruments highlighted the festival – a natural fit for the UBC. Stratford Summer Music invited the UBC to return to the five-week-long 2010 festival, which also included concerts by internationally renowned tenor Ben Heppner.

Given the vast repertoire of the UBC, the concert program was designed to showcase the many strengths of Ukrainian music. The UBC presented a diverse program, featuring historic Kozak battle songs, sacred works by well-known Ukrainian composers and traditional folk songs. The audience left with an understanding of the soul and voice of Ukraine under Maestro Heryavenko's debut as the artistic director and conductor of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus.

Mr. Heryavenko had the following to say, "When I was devising the 10th anni-

versary season of Stratford Summer Music, I wanted to include the foremost highlights of our first decade, so naturally the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus just had to be invited back. People here still talk about their first time in 2004 and after their appearance this year the community chatter was just as strong. In fact, I'm still hearing comments not only about the strength of the Chorus' music, as one would expect, but also comments about how stellar is the members' dedication to their heritage, especially when every single singer and player chose to wear his authentic costume for the full concert on what turned out to be the hottest night of our Stratford summer. Some heritage – some chorus, say I!"

For more information about Stratford Summer Music, readers may visit www.stratfordsummermusic.ca. For the latest information about the UBC and upcoming performances, readers may log on to visit www.bandura.org.



The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus during a performance at the Stratford Summer Music festival in Ontario. Marta Tkalenko

The Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America
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The Ukrainian Institute of America in commemoration of the Holodomor

presents

THE LIVING

a documentary film, directed by Serhiy Bukovsky, depicting the vivid accounts of survivors and the remarkable story of Gareth Jones, the Welsh journalist, whose eyewitness accounts are preserved in diaries. The film will be introduced by Nigel Colley, an advisor on the film and great nephew of Gareth Jones, whose diaries he is bringing for the last display before they are given to the University of Wales.

Saturday, November 20, 2010, at 5 pm

Followed by a reception

General admission \$15 UIA Members, Seniors & Students \$10.

Book presentation of Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin

Yale historian Timothy Snyder presents his latest publication about the deliberate murder of civilians committed by Nazi and Stalinist regimes in the lands between Germany and Russia. Considerable attention is devoted to the Famine in Ukraine.

The author's book will be available for purchase.

Sunday November 21, 2010, at 3 pm

Followed by a reception

General admission \$15 UIA Members, Seniors & Students \$10.

Ukrainian Institute of America
2 East 79th Street, New York City
212-288-8660
www.ukrainianinstitute.org

The killing fields...

(Continued from page 9)

order to spark memories.

Many of the witnesses were reluctant to talk and were frightened. "When I asked them why they had never spoken, they all responded that they had never been asked. These were people who saw what happened, but who could do nothing," Father Desbois writes.

He identified three categories of witnesses. The first were indirect witnesses, people who did not see the assassinations but who had heard about them or had seen the Jews leaving the town or seen the police take the Jews from their homes.

The second were the direct witnesses, who had been present at the assassinations.

"Those who taught me the most about the shooting of the Jews were the people who had been 'requisitioned' – young men, women, children and adolescents who, for a day or a week, were at the site of the crime and were forced to participate," Father Desbois explains. They transported the Jews in their carts, dug and filled in the pits, pulled teeth, gathered clothes and took them to places designated by the Germans. "Most of them were forced to act at gunpoint. They had no choice. It took me years to understand the scope of these requisitions," Father Desbois writes.

A crucial middleman in the requisitioning process was the "desiatnik" – a person who had been charged with specific community and public order functions within the Soviet administration. The desiatnik was kept in place by the German occupiers. Their orders, often given under threat of death, came directly from the German authorities or the mayor.

The killings were not spontaneous but well-prepared – a unit of Germans would arrive in the village or town to find out the information they needed: where were the railways, roads and paths; was the surrounding land flat; was the ground made of clay or sand, were there forests around the village.

Although many of the mass graves were found in forests surrounding a village or town, the Germans feared the forests as they often concealed Soviet partisans. Killing sites were overlooked near farms, schools and residential buildings, which were not always systematically evacuated prior to killing actions. Moreover, for every witness who saw a killing, there were often many others who heard the shots and/or smelled the scent of corpses being burned. The Germans were required to assassinate the Jews, but were given carte blanche regarding how to kill them. The methods they used were left to their initiative, even their sadism.

Father Desbois mentions that both Catholic and Orthodox priests he met in Ukraine were always ready to help in providing witnesses who could locate the mass graves. Although protecting a Jew led to capital punishment, he writes that "during our research we also met individuals or families who had saved Jews. Many of them had been denounced and tortured. Some of these family members had been shot." The book provides several examples of such rescues.

The mass grave sites, strewn across Ukraine, probably would not have been located if Father Desbois' work had not been done now, while the hundreds of eyewitnesses that were children 60 years ago, can still identify the sites.

The Arts, Culture and Education Committee of
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OUT AND ABOUT

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|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| November 10 Washington | Book presentation, "Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin" by Timothy Snyder, Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars, 202-691-4016 | November 14 Washington | Book presentation, "Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin" by Timothy Snyder, Politics & Prose bookstore, 202-364-1919 or www.politics-prose.com |
| November 11 North Port, FL | Veterans Day commemoration, Ukrainian American Veterans Post 40, Veterans Memorial Park, 941-492-4860 | November 14 Chicago | Fund-raiser banquet, Chicago Friends of the Ukrainian Catholic University and the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, Ukrainian Cultural Center, 773-235-8462 |
| November 12 Chicago | Presentation by Sofiya Opatska, "Business Education in Ukraine," Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 773-235-8462 | November 14 Perth Amboy, NJ | Holiday bazaar and gift auction, Assumption Ukrainian Catholic School, 732-826-8721 |
| November 12 Ottawa | Cocktail reception, 20th anniversary of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program, Foundation Restaurant, 613-745-2760 or 613-523-7952 | November 14 New York | Lecture by Michael Moser, "The History of the Ukrainian Language in the Interwar Subcarpathian Region," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130 |
| November 12 Whippany, NJ | Film screening, "Holodomor: Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-1933," Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-585-7175 | November 14 New York | Concert, featuring music by the Nova Chamber Ensemble, Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660 |
| November 13 New York | Presentation, "Modernism in Kyiv," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130 | November 15 Cambridge, MA | Lecture by Nataliia Sinkevych, "The 1635 Paterikon of Sylvestr Kosov: Its Origins, Sources and Interpretation," Harvard University, 617-495-4053 |
| November 13 McKees Rocks, PA | World music concert, featuring Andrei Pidkivka and Solomia Gorokhivska from Ukraine, Father Ryan Arts Center, www.fatherryanartscenter.org | November 15 New York | Lecture by Michael Moser, "Ukrainian, Russian or Carpatho-Rusyn? The Language Question in Interwar Subcarpathia," Columbia University, 212-854-4697 |
| November 13 North Port, FL | Dinner and dance, with installation of new officers, Ukrainian American Veterans Post 40, Oseredok Center, 941-426-8077 or 941-539-1490 | November 16 New York | Book presentation by Irena Makaryk and Virlana Tkacz, "Modernism in Kyiv: Jubilant Experimentation," Columbia University, 212-854-4697 |
| November 13 Ottawa | Banquet and dance, Ottawa Ukraina Soccer Club, Ukrainian Community Center, 613-290-0577 or 613-851-1192 | <p><i>Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.</i></p> | |
| November 13-14 St. Petersburg, FL | 30th annual "Autumnfest" festival, Epiphany of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church, 727-576-1001 | | |



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Nov 12-14 Plast Orlykiada
Nov 19-21 Scrapbook Weekend
Nov 25 Thanksgiving
Nov 27 High school reunion

To The Weekly Contributors:

We greatly appreciate the materials – feature articles, news stories, press clippings, letters to the editor, etc. – we receive from our readers. In order to facilitate preparation of The Ukrainian Weekly, we ask that the guidelines listed below be followed.

- Persons who submit any materials must provide a complete mailing address and daytime phone number where they may be reached if any additional information is required.
- News stories should be sent in not later than 10 days after the occurrence of a given event.
- Photographs (originals only, no photocopies or computer printouts) submitted for publication must be accompanied by captions. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.
- Full names (i.e., no initials) and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- Newspaper and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.
- Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date of The Weekly edition in which the information is to be published.
- Unsolicited materials submitted for publication will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.

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E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS: Materials may be sent to The Weekly also via e-mail to the address staff@ukrweekly.com. Please call or send query via e-mail before electronically sending anything other than Word documents. This applies especially to photos, as they must be scanned according to our specifications in order to be properly reproduced in our newspaper.

Any questions? Call 973-292-9800.

Being Ukrainian means:

- “Malanka” in January.
- Deb in February.
- Two Easters in springtime.
- “Zlet” and “Sviato Vesny” 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.
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, November 7

LEHIGHTON, Pa.: The Pennsylvania Humanities Council is sponsoring a lecture on the history of Ukrainian Immigration to the Anthracite Coal Regions on at 2 p.m. The lecture will be given by Dr. Paula Holoviak, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. The location is the Ukrainian Homestead on Beaver Run Drive in Lehigh, Pa. (Directions available at: <http://www.ukrhomestead.com/directx.html>.) The lecture will be accompanied by an exhibit on Ukrainian/Lemko genealogy presented by Michael Buryk, a Ukrainian American whose research and writing has focused on the 19th and 20th century immigration to the U.S. of Ukrainians/Lemkos from the Sanok area of southeastern Poland. The Kazka Ukrainian Folk Ensemble, of which Dr. Holoviak is the director, will also perform.

Friday, November 12

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Museum presents a celebration marking the publication of “Modernism in Ukraine: Jubilant Experimentation” (University of Toronto Press, 2010). Participants include contributors: Mayhill C. Fowler (Princeton University) on theater, Maria Ratanova (Harvard University) on dance, Myroslava Mudrak (Ohio State University) on art, Gennady Estraiikh (New York University) on the Yiddish Kulture-Lige, Irena Makaryk (University of Ottawa) on Modernism in Kyiv and Virlana Tkacz (Yara Arts Group) on the making of the book, plus performances of poetry by Mykhail Semenko, Dovid Hofshsteyn and Pavlo Tychyna. There will be a book-signing and reception afterwards. The event begins at 7:30 p.m. at The Ukrainian Museum, 222 E. Sixth St.; telephone, 212-228-0110.

Saturday, November 13

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a conference featuring the presentation of academic papers on “Modernism in Kyiv” by: Gennady Estraiikh (New York University), Mayhill C. Fowler (Princeton University), Irena Makaryk (University of Ottawa), Myroslava Mudrak (Ohio State University) and Virlana Tkacz (Yara Arts Group). The conference will take place at the society’s building, 64 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 4 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130. (Please note the unusual starting time: 4 p.m.)

Sunday, November 14

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a lecture by Dr. Michael Moser (University of Vienna) on the subject: “The History of the Ukrainian Language in the Interwar Subcarpathian Region: The “Grammar” by Ivan Pankevych.” The lecture will take place at the society’s building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 2 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130. (Please note the unusual day and hour.)

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Institute of America will present the Nova Chamber Ensemble in a program of works by

Beethoven, Brahms and Schumann for clarinet, cello and piano. The founder of the ensemble, pianist Laryssa Krupa Slobodyanik, will be joined by Andriy Milavsky, clarinetist, and Wanda Glowacka, cellist. The concert begins at 5 p.m. and will be followed by a reception. General admission is \$30; UIA members and seniors, \$25; students, \$20. To purchase tickets or for more information call 212-288-8660. The Ukrainian Institute is located at 2 E. 79th St. (corner of Fifth Avenue).

Monday, November 15

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University invites you a lecture titled “Ukrainian, Russian, or Carpatho-Rusyn? The Language Question in Interwar Subcarpathia.” The lecture will be delivered by Prof. Michael Moser of Vienna University. It will take place at noon in Room 1219, International Affairs Building, 420 W. 118th St. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call Dr. Mark Andryczyk at 212-854-4697 or write to ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu.

Tuesday November, 16

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University invites you to a presentation of the new publication “Modernism in Kyiv: Jubilant Experimentation” (University of Toronto Press, 2010). The book will be presented by Prof. Irena Makaryk (University of Ottawa) and Virlana Tkacz (Yara Arts Group), co-editors of the volume. This event will take place at noon in Room 1219, International Affairs Building, 420 W. 118th St. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call Dr. Mark Andryczyk at 212-854-4697 or write to ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu.

Saturday, November 20

WASHINGTON: The Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation invites you to a roast to celebrate the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak’s 50th birthday. The event will take place at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, 3900 Harewood Road NE, at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$150 per person. For more information contact Marta Kolomayets, 773-235-8462 or marta@ucef.org.

PALATINE, Ill.: The Ukrainian American Veterans 1st Lt. Ivan Shandor Post 35, ACT for America and Veteran Defenders of America invite patriots and veterans to a presentation “Threats to National Security.” Topics will include the type of books assigned to high school students, the gradual introduction of sharia law in the United States, the impact of illegal immigration on security and the need for leadership to protect our national sovereignty. Teri Paulson will present the book issue, Cmdr. Chuck Dobra (ret.) will discuss sharia law, and Lt. Col. Pete Pedersen (ret.) will analyze the structure and function of leadership in today’s complex world. Col. Roman Golash (ret.) will moderate the session. The meeting will take place at the Palatine Library at 1-4:30 pm; there is no admission charge. For information call 847-910-3532 or e-mail romangolash@sbcglobal.net.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

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.

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.**