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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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

Vol. LXXXV

No. 33

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2017

\$2.00

Ukraine's ambassador to Canada promotes trade deal between 'symbol' and 'new frontier' of the free world

by Christopher Guly
Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

OTTAWA – Since taking up his post as Ukraine's ambassador to Canada in late 2015, Andriy Shevchenko has spent most of his time with journalists talking to them about Russian aggression in his country.

So when there's a good-news story, such as the official launch of the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement (CUFTA) on August 1, the 41-year-old former journalist and Ukrainian national deputy hauled out the wine, cheese and fresh cherries on July 28 for media invited to the Ukrainian Embassy to first hear from the ambassador and officials from both countries about how CUFTA will benefit both – in Ambassador Shevchenko's words, Canada, "the symbol of the free world," and Ukraine, "a new frontier of the free world."

Access to major markets and expertise from both sides of the trade pact are key to CUFTA's success.

As Canada awaits the final ratification process of its trade agreement with the European Union, which Ukraine already has implemented through its own trade deal with the EU, Canada can now enter a Ukrainian market of some 45 million consumers with a 99.7-percent literacy rate in Europe's largest country by area. Ukraine

encompasses 233,062 square miles, of which over 70 percent is agricultural land, and produces one-third of the world's black-earth soil (known as chornozem).

With even fewer tariff-related restrictions, Ukraine now has access to the Canadian market of over 36 million consumers, and potentially a lot more through the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) among Canada, the United States and Mexico, which U.S. President Donald Trump's administration wants to overhaul. (Ukraine does not have a free trade deal with the U.S. but a Ukrainian company could bring part of a product to Canada, add something to it in Canada and export the final product to the U.S. under the current version of NAFTA.)

CUFTA also provides Ukraine with better conditions for the elimination of tariffs than what Canada enjoys under the agreement. It immediately wipes out 98 percent of duties on Ukrainian agricultural and industrial goods.

Within seven years, almost all tariffs will be dropped when Ukrainian cars will be exempt from Canadian duties. But the rate will never reach 100 percent, since Canada maintains domestic agricultural quotas on some products, such as milk, butter, cheese and eggs.

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Despite sanctions, Russia further quashes dissent, human rights in occupied Crimea



krymr.org (RFE/RL)

Crimean Tatar Akhrem Chygoz faces eight years in prison for displaying a Ukrainian flag.

by Mark Raczkiewicz

KYIV – The persecution of ethnic Ukrainians, Crimean-Tatars and Russians who take pro-Ukrainian stances by the occupying Kremlin regime in Crimea continues unabated and is reaching anomalous proportions.

"Neglect of human rights [on Ukraine's territory of Crimea] is coming to an unprecedented scale, cynicism and absurdity," said Crimean Tatar leader and lawmaker Mustafa Dzhemilev on August 9.

President Petro Poroshenko's point man on Crimean Tatar affairs, Mr. Dzhemilev added, "[court] sentences, searches and detentions, including of sick and elderly people, are methods of occupation, which naively suggest that they can intimidate the Crimean Tatars."

His latest statement was in reference to a 76-year-old lone demonstrator who was detained the previous day outside the Supreme Court of Crimea in Symferepol.

Holding a sign that partially read, "Enough accusing Crimean Tatars" of "terrorism," Server Karametov was calling for the immediate release of Akhrem Chygoz, a high-ranking leader of his people who has been imprisoned since January 2015 for taking part in a rally in February 2014 for Ukrainian unity before Moscow illegally annexed the peninsula a month later.

Mr. Chygoz faces up to eight years in prison if found guilty, whereas Mr. Dzhemilev and his high-ranking colleague Refat Chubarov, remain banned from entering their historical homeland by the Kremlin occupying authorities.

Local police held the elderly protester for four hours and a court subsequently fined him the equivalent of \$160 for holding an unauthorized rally and for "resisting" the three police men who had detained him.

Other cases of dissenters have made headlines in the past week.

Human rights violations by the occupy-

(Continued on page 9)

Ukrainian Canadian Joshua Kutryk selected to become Canadian astronaut

OTTAWA – Lt. Col. Joshua Kutryk, a Ukrainian Canadian, and Dr. Jennifer Sidey were welcomed to Canada's astronaut corps on July 1 at the Canada Day celebrations on Parliament Hill.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) offered sincere congratulations to Lt. Col. Kutryk on his selection. He and Dr. Sidey were the two candidates selected out of over 3,700 applications to the Canada Space Agency's astronaut recruitment campaign.

Speaking about his roots, Lt. Col. Kutryk said, "I grew up in a farming community at Beauvallon, which is north east of Vegreville, Alberta. My great-grandfather settled here after immigrating from western Ukraine in 1910. My father, Barry, grew up here as well and was the third generation to farm this land. The property still belongs to our family. Ukrainian was the first language my father spoke. The Ukrainian culture and customs were very important to him. My three siblings and I were raised with these customs which



Canadian Space Agency

Lt. Col. Kutryk

also included learning Ukrainian dancing. Unfortunately we lost our father last July to cancer but his legacy lives on through us."

Paul Grod, national president of the UCC, stated: "We are delighted by this tremendous accomplishment by a proud member of the Ukrainian Canadian community, having been selected as a Canadian astronaut. Space exploration is one of the most admirable of human endeavors; it is a symbol of what we together can achieve. It inspires generations of young people to pursue knowledge and scholarship. It contributes immeasurably to comity among nations and the greatest of causes – peace for all humankind. On behalf of the Ukrainian Canadian community, I wish Lt. Col. Kutryk great success in his future work as an astronaut. He is an inspiration for us all. Best wishes and Godspeed!"

Lt. Col. Kutryk was born on March 21,

(Continued on page 4)

ANALYSIS

Ukraine and NATO partners conclude most ambitious Sea Breeze naval exercise to date

by Nikolai Holmov
Eurasia Daily Monitor

July 22 marked the end of the 12-day Sea Breeze 2017 exercise (UNIAN, July 25), conducted in the Black Sea and on Ukrainian territory with the participation of Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States. Although in its 20th year, the past few annual Sea Breeze exercises – since the illegal and unrecognized annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation – have increased in size and complexity.

“The key thing about this exercise is, over the last renditions of it, it’s becoming far more complex; a very robust sea, air and land component,” said Navy Cap. Matthew Lehman, the deputy commander of the U.S. 6th Fleet’s Task Force 65 and the officer in tactical control of the exercise (Defense.gov, July 19).

“The main difference of this year’s exercises was the so-called ‘free game mode,’” said Mikhail Samus, deputy director of the Ukrainian Center for Army Studies, Conversion and Disarmament. That sentiment was echoed by U.S. Navy Cap. First Rank Tate Westbrook: “This year, we stepped forward even more and the exercises will be held in a free-game mode, where the main task will be anti-submarine operations in the Black Sea” (Dumskaya, July 20).

To provide a broader overview, a total of 31 ships, 29 aircraft and more than 3,000 service personnel were involved in a variety of warfare areas, including maritime interdiction operations, air defense, anti-submarine warfare, damage-control tactics, search and rescue, and amphibious warfare with air and land elements occurring in the Odesa, Mykolaiv and Kherson oblasts.

U.S. participation included the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Hue City (CG 66), the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Carney (DDG 64), a P-8A Poseidon from the Maritime Patrol Squadron (VP) 16, elements of Naval Special Warfare Unit 2, the U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. 6th Fleet Maritime Ashore Support Team (MAST), a Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team (FAST), Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Mobile Unit 8, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1, Underwater Construction Team 1, and members of the CNE-CNA/C6F staff. In total, approximately 800 U.S. sailors and marines took part (C6f.navy.mil, accessed July 24).

Due to the sinking of the Russian intelligence ship Liman off the coast of Istanbul on April 27 (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, May 4), the annual Russian surveillance of Sea Breeze was conducted from a few miles away by the Russian Federation reconnaissance ship CER-201 Priazovye (Sputnik News, July 11).

The exercise was designed to enhance flexibility and interoperability, strengthen combined response capabilities, and demonstrate resolve among allied and partner-country forces to ensure stability in the Black Sea region.

Host country Ukraine, a participant falling outside the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) alliance, recognizes

any membership aspirations are currently over the military and political horizon. It has much left to do internally to reach the standards required prior to any attempts at convincing all NATO members Kyiv should be allowed to join the alliance.

Nevertheless, while membership may be far off, such exercises – together with other ongoing NATO training and ceaseless kinetic and non-kinetic Russian aggression – continue to bring Ukraine closer to the alliance’s Article 3 requirements. Article 3 of NATO’s founding Washington Treaty states: “In order more effectively to achieve the objectives of this Treaty, the Parties, separately and jointly, by means of continuous and effective self-help and mutual aid, will maintain and develop their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack” (Nato.int, North Atlantic Treaty, April 4, 1949). Adhering to Article 3 is not only a military endeavor – it requires economic, political, social and infrastructure resilience, too. Crucially, it opens opportunities for “coalitions of the willing.”

In many ways, the Ukrainian military leadership has been stuck in a post-Soviet time warp, and the learning curve to reach modern Western standards is steep. Of the five broad areas requiring significant attention, the military management system is a priority. The others – defense and resource planning, capabilities development, logistics and reserve force systems – are all reliant upon the abilities of the first. The May 2016 program announced by the Ukrainian government to rebuild the depleted Ukrainian Navy by providing 30 new ships by 2020 was ambitious. It was also initially unclear what vision for the Ukrainian navy it had in mind, beyond immediate threat mitigation (Odessatalk, June 3, 2016).

During Sea Breeze 2017, it appears the governments of the United States and Ukraine have reached a decision to transfer a number of Island-class offshore patrol boats dating back to 1995, which will go some way to meeting such an ambitious target. These boats are primarily employed by the U.S. for surveillance, law enforcement and drug interdiction operations, as well as search-and-rescue work. They have a five-day endurance and a three-ton payload capacity.

According to Rear Admiral Andrew Tarasov of the Ukrainian Navy, “The decision to transfer the U.S. military Island patrol boats to the Ukrainian fleet after the Sea Breeze 2017 exercises is actually accepted. Negotiations have already moved to the lower level. In fact, the decision to transfer has been adopted and details are being discussed. I hope that this process will be swift and we will obtain these boats” (Krymr.com, July 17).

During next year’s exercise, Sea Breeze 2018, it will be interesting to see whether it demonstrates a period of consolidation for the Ukrainian forces following several years of rapid ascent up the learning curve to reach Western military standards. Just as importantly, it remains to be seen whether that upward climb can continue apace.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Russia meddling caused ‘serious mistrust

MANILA – U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson says he has told his Russian counterpart that Moscow’s meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election created “serious mistrust” between the two countries. Mr. Tillerson, speaking on August 7 on the sidelines of a regional forum in Manila, said he emphasized in a meeting with Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov that interference in the election was “a serious incident.” He said he tried to help Mr. Lavrov “understand just how serious this incident had been and how seriously it had damaged the relationship between the U.S. and the American people and the Russian people, that this had created serious mistrust and that we simply have to find some way to deal with that.” The chief U.S. diplomat also warned Mr. Lavrov that Washington was deciding on a response to the Kremlin’s decision to order a substantial reduction in the size of the U.S. diplomatic mission in Russia, a move made in retaliation for a new set of sanctions slapped on Russia by the United States. He asked Mr. Lavrov “several clarifying questions” about Moscow’s retaliatory moves and warned his Russian counterpart that the U.S. would respond to these actions by September 1. Nevertheless, the secretary of state said the United States still wants to work with Moscow and that it was “not useful” to cut all ties based on one issue. “We should find places we can work together. ...In places we have differences we’re going to have to continue to find ways to address those,” he told reporters. “The fact that we want to work with them on areas that are of serious national security interest to us, and at the same time having this extraordinary issue of mistrust that divides us, that is just what we in the diplomatic part of our relationship are required to do,” he said. Mr. Tillerson also told reporters that Moscow had indicated “some willingness” to seek ways to move forward on matters related to Ukraine. He noted that the United States has a new special representative for negotiations on the conflict, Kurt Volker, who traveled to Ukraine in July to assess the situation. “We appointed a special envoy to engage with Russia but also coordinating with all parties. This is full visi-

bility to all parties,” he said. “We are not trying to cut some kind of deal on the side.” Hours earlier, Russia’s foreign affairs minister said he believed his U.S. counterpart was ready to continue dialogue with Russia on complex issues despite the bilateral tensions and the imposition of new U.S. sanctions. “We felt the readiness of our U.S. colleagues to continue dialogue. I think there’s no alternative to that,” Mr. Lavrov said after what he said was a lengthy meeting with Mr. Tillerson. (RFE/RL, with reporting by Reuters, TASS, AFP and AP)

Pentagon: Send military aid to Ukraine

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Defense Department has recommended sending a package of lethal defensive military aid to Ukraine worth about \$50 million, U.S. news media are reporting. The Wall Street Journal, NBC, The New York Times and other media outlets have cited unnamed Defense Department officials as saying the recommendation has been forwarded to the White House for consideration. A Pentagon official would not confirm the reports but told NBC on August 4 that “we haven’t ruled anything out.” The reports are in line with comments made in an interview with Current TV on July 25 by the U.S. special envoy for Ukraine negotiations, Kurt Volker, who said the administration is considering sending “defensive arms” to Ukraine. The reported weapons package purportedly would include Javelin shoulder-launched anti-tank missiles. Ukraine has long sought the Javelins to defend against Russian-made armored vehicles operating in rebel-held areas. Until now, the U.S. military has been training the Ukrainian army in methods to stop armored vehicles without missiles, such as by laying wire traps that damage treads of tracked vehicles. The New York Times reported the military aid would also include anti-aircraft arms that would be defined as defensive weapons. During a visit to Kyiv last month, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg asserted that Russia has “thousands” of troops on Ukrainian soil. Although Russia denies military involvement in the conflict, the International Criminal Court

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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: \$90; for UNA members — \$80.

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

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

UNA:
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
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The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: www.ukrweekly.com

The Ukrainian Weekly, August 13, 2017, No. 33, Vol. LXXXV

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NEWS ANALYSIS

In Moscow, Trump portrayed as victim of U.S.-Russian confrontation

by Pavel Felgenhauer
Eurasia Daily Monitor

On August 1, U.S. diplomatic staff in Moscow evacuated a residence (dacha) and a tattered warehouse complex in the capital city as part of a delayed tit-for-tat retaliation for an expulsion of Russian diplomats last December and the seizing of Russian country residences (dachas) in Maryland and Long Island. Washington had seized the properties and expelled those Russian Embassy personnel as punishment for Russia's alleged meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential elections.

The U.S. dacha in the Serebryany Bor Moscow River estuary recreation zone is one of a number of ambassadorial buildings that the Soviet authorities provided to foreigners many decades ago. Serebryany Bor was then on the outskirts of Moscow, but now it is a quiet wooded area deep in the middle of a sprawling megacity of concrete high-rises. The relatively small, one-story wooden U.S. bungalow-style Serebryany Bor dacha was apparently used for barbeque parties. Its confiscation, though unpleasant, will hardly impede U.S. diplomatic activities in Russia.

Much more hindrance could be inflicted by the Russian demand to dramatically cut the number of personnel at the U.S. Embassy and consulates in Russia to 455 by September 1, 2017. According to President Vladimir Putin, some 755 U.S. staff persons must be cut, but the U.S. authorities should decide themselves whom to recall or fire. Apparently, only 25 percent of the estimated 1,200 U.S. staff in Russia are U.S. citizens – the rest being local Russian employees. Washington could theoretically not recall any of its diplomats at all, but mass fire Russians instead. Of course, a severe reduction in support personnel would undoubtedly

slow down the work of the Embassy and, in particular, its visa department (Kommersant, August 1).

In late July, Mr. Putin announced Moscow will figure out its response to the U.S. sanctions bill after its final text is published (TASS, July 27). In fact, the tit-for-tat response was announced and the takeover of U.S. diplomatic property in Moscow accomplished after the Senate voted 98 to 2 in favor, but before President Donald Trump signed the bill. That could have been a deliberate attempt by the Kremlin to separate the “good” Trump from the “Russophobe Congress.” Russian officials and the press have been portraying President Trump as a victim of the Washington establishment, who has been forced to sign a sanction bill against his better judgment.

In a signing statement, Mr. Trump complained about the sanction law infringing on his constitutional foreign policy presidential prerogatives. It is hoped in Moscow the Trump administration will refrain from implementing parts of the sanction law it does not like and that the U.S. president may yet resist the anti-Russian Congress (Kommersant, August 3).

A Trump tweet on August 3 seems to agree with the dominant opinion in Moscow and has been widely quoted: “Our relationship with Russia is at an all-time & very dangerous low. You can thank Congress” (Interfax, August 3).

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, in a Facebook post, pitied Mr. Trump: “The administration has demonstrated its powerlessness and has been humiliated by handing over executive power to Congress, which changes the balance of power [in Washington].” In Moscow, the Parliament is a powerless rubber stamp institution, subservient to any Kremlin whim; thus, Mr. Trump bowing to the joint will of Congress is seen as an ultimate humiliation.

According to Mr. Medvedev, “The new sanctions are a move to reduce Trump, and other [similar moves] will follow with the ultimate aim to remove him from power.” A trade war has been declared on Russia, and any hope of improving relations has been lost, continues Mr. Medvedev, “Sanctions will now last for decades, while relations will be strained no matter who is in charge of the White House” (Interfax, August 2).

According to Alexei Pushkov, a former chair of the Duma Foreign Relations Committee, Russia and the U.S. still carry on limited security cooperation in Syria, and diplomatic relations have not yet been severed. But relations are progressively growing worse and the “unthinkable” – a possible direct U.S.-Russian military confrontation – “is being discussed by experts behind closed doors,” he claimed (Militarynews.ru, August 2).

Frantz Klintsevich, the deputy chair of the Federation Council Committee on Defense and Security, told journalists, “Despite all their differences, Russia and the U.S. must continue security interactions to prevent a global [nuclear] war” (Militarynews.ru, August 2).

The pro-Kremlin Chechen strongman Ramzan Kadyrov, who after sending his loyal Kadyrovtsi fighters to serve in Syria as Russian Military Police, has been pushing to have an imprint on Moscow's foreign policy. Speaking with journalists, he declared, “Russia will survive U.S. sanctions and prosper, but they [sanctions] will come back to hurt America and create splits with its European allies” (Interfax, August 2). The possible weakening of trans-Atlantic ties has been a longtime Russian strategic dream, and there is now widespread hope in Moscow it may be happening soon.

Reports that Washington could be considering providing the Ukrainian military

with anti-tank and possibly anti-aircraft guided missiles have raised alarm in Moscow. The Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov called on “all nations interested in defusing the conflict [in Ukraine] to refrain from actions that may provoke an increase in tensions” (Interfax, August 1). Russian experts believe Washington may indeed decide to ship arms to the Ukrainians, “though Europe will not like that, but it cannot decisively influence American decision-making.” Russia would, in turn, send more modern arms to the pro-Russia Donbas separatists (Moskovsky Komsomolets, August 2).

During the Cold War, the relatively non-violent or “cold” standoff between East and West was in direct contact between the two blocks in Europe. But all over the world – in Korea, Vietnam and Indochina, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America – there were almost constant proxy wars in which Russian and U.S. military operatives also often clashed, though mostly unofficially. Today, a new cold war front seems to be crystalizing in the Baltics and Poland, where the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Russian forces face each other in something reminiscent of a direct non-combative standoff.

The main theater of a “hot” East versus West proxy war, in turn, could become Ukraine. The coming next several weeks of August will be decisive: Will the downturn in relations between Moscow and Washington translate into an upsurge of fighting in Ukraine? Or will the summer fighting season, which ends as September turns into October, continue to be characterized by fairly minor clashes along a relatively stable Donbas frontline?

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Portman, Murphy call on State Department to step up efforts to counter Russian propaganda

WASHINGTON – U.S. Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) issued a statement in response to a report by the media outlet Politico that the State Department has yet to request funding already appropriated by Congress to help counter Russian propaganda.

“Congress has provided substantial resources to combat foreign propaganda, particularly from Russia. There is broad agreement that the U.S. government is behind the curve on this threat,” said Sen. Portman.

“Countering foreign propaganda should be a top priority, and it is very concerning that progress on combating this problem is being delayed because the State Department isn't tapping into these resources. The State Department should take swift action to fully fund the GEC and ensure that it is capable of carrying out the purposes Congress directed, particularly as they relate to Russia and other state-sponsored foreign disinformation,” he pointed out.

Sen. Murphy commented: “This is indefensible. Every day, ISIS is spreading terrorist propaganda and Russia is implementing a sophisticated disinformation campaign to undermine the United States and our allies. There should be no doubt these are critical

challenges to our national security. My bill with Sen. Portman finally set our country up to fight back. Congress did our part, now it's up to the administration to pick up the ball and run with it.”

“I strongly urge Secretary Tillerson to take this issue seriously and use the tools and resources he has at his disposal to stand up to our adversaries,” he added.

Sens. Portman and Murphy's legislation – the Countering Foreign Propaganda and Disinformation Act – was signed into law as part of the Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Conference Report. The law is designed to improve the ability of the United States to counter foreign propaganda and disinformation from its enemies by establishing an interagency center – the Global Engagement Center (GEC) – housed at the State Department to coordinate and synchronize counter-propaganda efforts throughout the U.S. government.

The law authorized the State Department to request \$60 million annually for two years from the Department of Defense for the GEC to help counter the foreign propaganda and disinformation being waged against the U.S. and its allies by state and non-state adversaries.

Quotable notes

... We consider the U.N. Program of Action on SALW [Small Arms and Light Weapons], the International Tracing Instrument and the Arms Trade Treaty as important instrument tools that contribute to this process and can pave the way for solving the problem of illicit trafficking of weapons in all its aspects, reduce the scale of terrorist violence and end the spread of this scourge worldwide.

The international regime, aimed at curbing arms supply to terrorists, runs into a problem when states who are supposed to uphold it turn out to be in breach of their international obligations and commitments in this regard.

One of the most telling cases of our times is the continuing flooding of the occupied territories in the east of Ukraine with all kinds of weapon systems, all coming from the neighboring state. Over 400 battle tanks, 840 armored personnel vehicles, 200 multiple launch rocket systems, 730 artillery systems and 400 air defense units have been provided to terrorist organizations operating there.

These deadly supplies have been used also to conduct devastating terrorist attacks, including, for example, the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17, with 298 innocent civilians on board.

The rhetorical question is: How did the terrorist organizations in Ukraine get weapons that often surpass armament stocks of many states on the European continent? Or why do not terrorists run out of diesel and munitions?

...We expect that all countries, first and foremost, those that voted for today's resolution, will remain faithful to both the letter and spirit of relevant norms of international law.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the importance of bringing to justice those who knowingly engage in providing terrorists with weapons, funds and other types of assets. The suppliers of weapons, other sponsors or masterminds of terrorist activities should bear no less responsibility than those who perpetrate the crimes on the ground.

– Statement by the delegation of Ukraine at the United Nations Security Council briefing on “Preventing Terrorists from Acquiring Weapons” held on August 2. Source: Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations.

Medvedev: U.S. sanctions bill ends hope for better ties

by Mike Eckel
RFE/RL

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev sharply denounced the sanctions bill signed into law by U.S. President Donald Trump on August 2, saying it ends hope for improving relations and ignites “an all-out trade war with Russia.”

“The hope for improving our relations with the new U.S. administration is now over,” Mr. Medvedev said on Facebook after Mr. Trump reluctantly signed the bill he once opposed, calling it “significantly flawed” and signaling that he might not fully implement the sanctions.

Mr. Medvedev attacked Mr. Trump’s decision to sign the bill in a bow to Congress, where it passed with sizable majorities that ensured lawmakers could override any potential veto. The U.S. president said he wanted to preserve “national unity.”

“Trump’s administration has demonstrated total impotence by surrendering its executive authority to Congress in the most humiliating way,” Mr. Medvedev said. “The American establishment has won an overwhelming victory over Mr. Trump. The president wasn’t happy with the new sanctions, but he had to sign the bill.”

Mr. Medvedev said the bill’s sanctions, aimed at punishing Russia for allegedly meddling in last year’s U.S. presidential election and its military aggression in Ukraine and Syria, will only make Russia grow stronger as it is forced to develop new markets and industries.

“We will continue to work calmly to develop our economy and social sphere, deal with import substitution and solve important government tasks counting primarily on ourselves,” he said. “We have learned how to do it over the past few years.”

“Nothing new”

With the sanctions sealed into law, Mr. Medvedev said they will aggravate U.S.-Russia relations for years to come and will be almost impossible to reverse.

“The sanctions regime is codified and will be preserved for decades, unless a miracle happens,” he said. “Relations between Russia and the U.S. will be extremely tense despite the composition of the Congress or the president’s personality.”

The Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry called the sanctions “short-sighted and dangerous” and said it is reserving the right to impose further countermeasures beyond the expulsion of 755 U.S. diplomatic personnel in that

Russia already ordered.

But Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said no further retaliatory measures from Moscow would be taken immediately, saying “this de-facto changes nothing. There’s nothing new... We’ve already taken retaliatory measures,” according to Russian news agencies.

On August 3, Mr. Peskov declined to comment on Mr. Medvedev’s remarks but said that Russia is determined to “protect and defend its interests,” without elaborating.

Moreover, the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry said it remains “open for cooperation with the U.S. in the spheres where we see it [as] useful for ourselves and international security, including the settlement of regional conflicts.”

Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov is due to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who said he’s still seeking ways to cooperate with Russia and is “not happy” with the sanctions legislation, on the sidelines of a summit in Asia over the weekend.

In a statement accompanying his signature of the sanctions legislation on August 2, Mr. Trump said it was “significantly flawed” and would hinder his administration’s ability to negotiate with foreign adversaries.

“My administration will give careful and respectful consideration to the preferences expressed by the Congress in these various provisions and will implement them in a manner consistent with the president’s constitutional authority to conduct foreign relations,” he said in a statement released by the White House.

“My administration particularly expects the Congress to refrain from using this flawed bill to hinder our significant work with European allies to resolve the conflict in Ukraine and from using it to hinder our efforts to address any unintended consequences it may have for American businesses, our friends, and our allies,” he said.

But Mr. Trump conceded that the bill “represents the will of the American people to see Russia take steps to improve relations with the United States. We hope there will be cooperation between our two countries on major global issues so that these sanctions will no longer be necessary,” he said.

“I built a truly great company worth many billions of dollars. That is a big part of the reason I was elected. As president, I can make far better deals with foreign countries than Congress,” Mr. Trump said.

The law cements into place an array of sanctions imposed on Russia by Mr. Trump’s predecessor, President Barack Obama, for Moscow’s alleged meddling in the 2016 presidential election, the annexation of Ukraine’s Crimean

peninsula, and its support for separatists fighting Ukrainian government forces in eastern Ukraine.

Among other things, the measure targets Russian energy firms with new financial sanctions, something that several U.S. allies in Europe had spoken out strongly against. Several German companies in particular have said they could be penalized for working on a pipeline being built under the Baltic Sea to bring Russian gas directly to Germany.

U.S. lawmakers modified the bill after initial complaints by European leaders, which appeared to mollify Brussels.

EU’s misgivings

Still, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker warned on August 2 after the legislation was signed that European energy companies could be harmed, particularly those working on Russian natural-gas pipeline systems that transit Ukraine to reach EU member states.

“If the U.S. sanctions specifically disadvantage EU companies trading with Russia in the energy sector, the EU is prepared to take appropriate steps in response within days,” Mr. Juncker said in a statement.

Germany’s economics minister had earlier urged the European Union to fight back against the sanctions.

In Kyiv, Ukraine’s president hailed the measure, and he singled out the undersea Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which he called a “politically motivated project.”

The sanctions “will be effective in [achieving] the full liberation of Ukrainian land,” President Petro Poroshenko wrote in a comment on his Facebook page. “This is yet another confirmation of the strategic direction in relations being taken by Ukraine and the United States.”

The new law also imposes tough new sanctions on Iran and North Korea over their missile programs, as well as for human rights abuses by Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, one of Tehran’s most powerful military and security organizations.

Iran on August 1 formally complained to the United Nations about the legislation, accusing the United States of violating its commitments under a nuclear agreement reached with six world powers.

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Ukrainian Canadian...

(Continued from page 1)

1982, in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta. He holds a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, Ontario (2004). He also earned a master’s degree in space studies from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida (2009), a master’s degree in flight test engineering from the United States Air Force’s Air University in Alabama (2012) and a master’s degree in defense studies from the Royal Military College of Canada (2014).

Lt. Col. Kutryk began his service in the Canadian Armed Forces in 2000. Before joining the Canadian Space Program, Lt. Col. Kutryk was an experimental test pilot and a fighter pilot in Cold Lake, Alberta, where he led the unit responsible for the operational flight-testing of fighter aircraft in Canada.

As the officer in charge of fighter evaluations, he was responsible for safely conducting the initial airborne evaluations of new technologies and systems on the CF-18. He worked with a team of aerospace engineers, analysts, aircraft technicians and program managers in order to make the CF-18 safer and more effective in its mission. Lt. Col. Kutryk has worked on a variety of technical flight test projects, ranging from out-of-control flying to automated navigation and flight control systems to weapon guidance and control. In addition, he has worked extensively as an instructor, teaching other pilots how to fly the CF-18 on demanding missions.

In 2012, Lt. Col. Kutryk received the prestigious Liethen-Tittle Award from the U.S. Air Force for being their top test pilot graduate.

From 2007 to 2011, Lt. Col. Kutryk served as a CF-18 fighter pilot with 425 Tactical Fighter Squadron in Bagotville, Quebec. During that time he flew missions in support of NATO, United Nations and NORAD commit-



Royal Canadian Air Force

Prior to joining the Canadian Space Program, Joshua Kutryk worked as an experimental test pilot and a fighter pilot.

ments around the world. He has been deployed in both Libya and Afghanistan.

In July, Lt. Col. Kutryk relocated to Houston to start the two-year Astronaut Candidate Training Program at the Johnson Space Center as a member of the 2017 National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronaut class.

The program includes scientific and technical briefings, intensive instruction in International Space Station (ISS) systems, simulated extravehicular activities (EVAs, or space-

walks), robotics, physiological training, flight training, Russian language courses, and sea and wilderness survival training.

Upon being selected to become a Canadian Space Agency astronaut, Lt. Col. Kutryk said: “I remember first coming to Parliament Hill as a child with my parents. I felt proud to be Canadian. Now I’m back as an astronaut. This is a dream come true.”

Sources: Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Canadian Space Agency.

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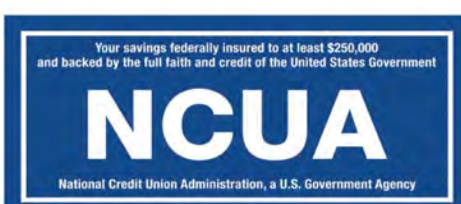
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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The sanctions law

On August 2, President Donald Trump grudgingly signed into law the bill on sanctions against Russia, Iran and North Korea, the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, which had been passed by overwhelming bipartisan majorities in both the House of Representatives (419-3) and the Senate (98-2).

Though the White House said on July 28 that the president had decided to sign the legislation, and Vice-President Mike Pence declared in Tbilisi on August 1 that the president would sign the bill "soon," there was still that chance that Mr. Trump might not. Furthermore, we were comforted by the vice-president's words that "The president and our Congress are unified in our message to Russia." He also reiterated that "A better relationship, the lifting of sanctions will require Russia to reverse the actions that caused sanctions to be imposed in the first place."

We breathed a collective sigh of relief when we saw the breaking news that Wednesday morning that President Trump had signed the bill. Soon afterwards, however, our elation over this victory for our cause was tempered by President Trump's statement that the law is "seriously flawed" – "particularly because it encroaches on the executive branch's authority to negotiate" – and his suggestion that he might not fully implement the sanctions.

In his written statement, the president noted: "By limiting the executive's flexibility, this bill makes it harder for the United States to strike good deals for the American people, and will drive China, Russia and North Korea much closer together. The framers of our Constitution put foreign affairs in the hands of the president. ...Yet despite its problems, I am signing this bill for the sake of national unity. It represents the will of the American people to see Russia take steps to improve relations with the United States. We hope there will be cooperation between our two countries on major global issues so that these sanctions will no longer be necessary. ..."

At the end of the statement, the president added: "I built a truly great company worth many billions of dollars. That is a big part of the reason I was elected. As president, I can make far better deals with foreign countries than Congress."

Quite obviously, the president was angry that he was forced to sign a bill he disliked because it was veto-proof – had he not signed it, Congress had the votes to override his veto. The next day, Mr. Trump tweeted: "Our relationship with Russia is at an all-time & very dangerous low. You can thank Congress, the same people that can't even give us HCare!" So much for the unity between the president and Congress with regard to Russia that the vice-president had cited...

Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) criticized the president's comments. "Vladimir Putin and his regime must pay a real price for attacking our democracy, violating human rights, occupying Crimea and destabilizing Ukraine." He added, "Going forward, I hope the president will be as vocal about Russia's aggressive behavior as he was about his concerns with this legislation."

Of course, Moscow weighed in, calling President's Trump decision to sign the sanctions bill a sign of complete weakness, saying the law is "short-sighted and dangerous," as a result of "Russophobic hysteria" and amounts to a "fully-fledged trade war." Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev commented: "Trump's administration has demonstrated total impotence by surrendering its executive authority to Congress in the most humiliating way."

But the U.S. Congress was right to affirm its bipartisan conviction that Russia must be punished for meddling in the U.S. presidential election, annexing Crimea and invading Ukraine, and right to assert its authority to review any potential easing or lifting of sanctions. All the more so because President Trump has been strangely silent on some of Russia's actions and dismissive or in outright denial about others.

Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, the Democratic minority leader, said of the president's statement on signing the sanctions bill that it "demonstrates that Congress is going to need to keep a sharp eye on this administration's implementation of this critical law and any actions it takes with respect to Ukraine." And Sen. Benjamin Cardin of Maryland, the senior Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, stated, "I remain very concerned that this administration will seek to strike a deal with Moscow that is not in the national security interests of the United States." To that we add our concern about any potential deal that might accept Russia's annexation or occupation of Ukrainian territory. No deal, Mr. President!

Aug.
14
2008

Turning the pages back...

Nine years ago, on August 14, 2008, following the Russian invasion of Georgia, U.S. Reps. Allyson Schwartz (D-Pa.) and Bill Shuster (R-Pa.), co-chairs of the House Georgia Caucus, announced their intention to introduce a resolution in Congress calling on the International Olympic Committee to find a new venue for the 2014 Winter Olympics that were scheduled to be held in Sochi, Russia.

The resolution stated that Sochi – a mere 20 miles from the current conflict zone – made it a practically unacceptable location for the Olympics and that had the IOC been aware of these circumstances at the time of awarding the Games to Sochi that they would not have selected it as an Olympic venue.

"The Russian Federation's invasion of the Republic of Georgia and its actions against its democratically elected president violates international standards," said Rep. Schwartz. "Russia must realize that its actions in Georgia will not be ignored by the international community. We stand by Georgia, our friend and ally, and call on the IOC to designate a new venue for the Russian Olympics."

"Russian belligerence against the people of Georgia and their democratically elected government cannot go unpunished by the international community," Rep. Shuster said. "The Olympics are a time-honored event that allows the nations of the world to put their differences aside for the purity of sport. Russia's blatant violation of the long respected 'Olympic

(Continued on page 14)

WINDOW ON EURASIA

Putin prepares to reprise Winter War in Finland strategy against Ukraine

by Paul Goble

One of the most important features of Moscow's behavior, but one that at the same time Western leaders typically fail to recognize and incorporate in their responses, is that the Kremlin regularly employs the same strategy and tactics again and again – albeit in new times and in new locations.

Indeed, it all too often seems to be the case that Russia's relationship with the West is best captured by what was said of the Bourbons two centuries ago: the Russians have never forgotten anything that they have done before, and the West has never learned anything from that all too obvious and heinous historical record.

That makes analyses which draw a parallel between what the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union did in the past with what Vladimir Putin is doing now especially valuable, because if the West recognizes the first steps of what is likely Moscow's strategy, it will be in a far better position to counter it.

Avraam Shmulyevich, an Israeli analyst, provides just such an important insight in Tallinn's Postimees newspaper in which he suggests that the recent proclamation by Moscow's agents in Ukraine of plans to create the state of "Malorossiya" has some disturbing parallels with Soviet actions against Finland in the Winter War of 1940 (rus.postimees.ee/4192241/avraam-shmulevich-budet-li-nato-umirat-za-narvne-nyasno-za-ukrainu-ne-budet-tochno).

This is something that at least some Ukrainian officials understand, Mr. Shmulyevich says, because they recognize that "Russia has frequently used such a scheme in the past," most prominently in the case of the Winter War. Now, he and they think, there is a strong possibility of another "Winter War" action, but this time against Ukraine and in the summer.

In 1940, "Stalin declared that a communist uprising against 'the Whites' had occurred" and then announced "the formation of 'the Finnish Democratic Republic,' headed by Finnish communist Otto Kuusinen." This republic was proclaimed on Finnish territories occupied by Soviet forces, just as Malorossiya was declared on occupied Ukrainian territory.

"The USSR recognized it and to assist 'the Finnish brothers,' the Red Army launched an attack along the entire front from the Gulf of Finland to the Barents Sea," Mr. Shmulyevich reminds readers. Earlier, during the Russian Civil War, Moscow had used a similar tactic against Ukraine and Georgia, ultimately incorporating them into the Soviet Union.

Now, "the Donetsk Army created by Moscow is again trying to liquidate the

Paul Goble is a long-time specialist on ethnic and religious questions in Eurasia who has served in various capacities in the U.S. State Department, the Central Intelligence Agency and the International Broadcasting Bureau, as well as at the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The article above is reprinted with permission from his blog called "Window on Eurasia" (<http://windowoneurasia2.blogspot.com/>).

independence of Ukraine," the Israeli analyst says. And "in exactly the same way." And that must be a matter of concern because, in all previous cases "when Moscow applied this strategy, the West did not provide real military and even diplomatic help to the independent states that had become the victim of Russian aggression."

"Three Russian divisions were recently brought up to [Ukraine's] borders," the analyst writes, and the question arises: "What could stop Putin from a full-scale attack?" NATO countries "certainly do not want to intervene militarily. [And] even the answer to the question 'Will NATO die for Narva?' up to now is not clear."

But what is clear, Mr. Shmulyevich says, is that the Western alliance will not intervene on Ukraine's behalf not least because Ukraine is not a member of NATO. Moreover, its forces are much reduced from two decades ago, and the alliance would need "a minimum of 14 to 18 days" to introduce forces. "By that time, Russian forces would reach the Dnipro."

Consequently, he continues, "even if NATO would like to intervene, it would not be able to stop the advance of the Russians." It might introduce more sanctions, but that won't frighten the Kremlin or stop the Russian advance. Given that Kyiv is only about 300 kilometers from the Russian border, such a strike could allow Moscow to install a comprador regime there.

"Putin – and he has said this himself – has an idée fixe about the restoration of the borders of the USSR," just as "his idol Stalin had a dream about the restoration of the borders of the Russian Empire of 1914." And thus Malorossiya should "disturb not only Ukrainians but all the neighbors of the Russian Federation."

An article in the Moscow newspaper Vzglyad, Mr. Shmulyevich says, suggests what may be ahead and against what Ukrainians will have to fight with relatively few allies unless the scope of the danger is recognized in Western capitals and a more forceful policy is articulated and put in place.

In that article, ominously titled "Ukraine is Fated Again to Become Malorossiya," the author says that "Russia is conducting a struggle for Ukraine not with the West... [but] with Kyiv. No one knows how much time it will take to transform Ukraine into Malorossiya – three years, five or even 10. But it inevitably will become Malorossiya and then part of a single Great Russia" (vz.ru/politics/2017/7/18/879201.html).

Mr. Shmulyevich notes: "history warns that the essence of the Russian Empire hasn't changed... Whether the proclamation of 'Malorossiya' will be the beginning of the realization of the tested old scenario of imperial expansion depends in the first instance on whether the states under threat... can mobilize and mobilize the support of the free world."

In the Winter War, the Finns, supported by volunteers from Estonia and other countries, fought the Soviet Union to a draw; in the current war against Ukraine, whose first "shots" have already been fired, Mr. Shmulyevich concludes that the Ukrainians are likely to be forced to try to achieve the same outcome in the same way.

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OPINION

Normandy Four running on empty

by Volodymyr Horbach

Recent negotiations over the phone between the Normandy quartet leaders have left all participants holding their ground and pursuing their own vision of how to move toward the implementation of the Minsk agreements.

Each meeting and each conference call of the Normandy Four (Germany, France, Ukraine and Russia) is another attempt to give a new impetus to the negotiation process. However, after many such attempts, today we can state with certainty that the process is anything but productive, being unable to yield any results in the Donbas settlement.

Gradually, Western leaders, including Angela Merkel and Emmanuel Macron, as well as the new U.S. administration, began to realize that are not dealing with internal Ukrainian civil conflict (the mantra repeated by the Kremlin) but with the Russian aggression and an actual war between the two states, Ukraine and Russia. When the time comes that no one is able to deny that fact any longer, all sides to these negotiations will come to understand that the talks in their existing format may no longer be a positive thing as such, since they position Russia as a mediator, not a party to the conflict.

There is one way to rectify this problem, that is by strengthening Ukraine's defense and security sectors. Negotiations with the Russian side can be productive only when the balance of forces is restored, when the Russians have no significant advantage on the battlefield. To this end, not only does Ukraine need deterrence weapons, it must also have potential retaliation weaponry –

Volodymyr Horbach is a political analyst at the Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation. The commentary above was release by the UNIAN news agency on July 26.

IN THE PRESS: Lethal weapons, new Cold War, myths about change

"A Trump card in Ukraine," editorial, The Wall Street Journal, August 1:

Vladimir Putin has assumed he can seize territory without endangering his grip on power at home, and he's been right. But what if the U.S. changed that calculus by raising the cost of Moscow's aggression in Ukraine?

President Trump will soon have a chance to test that question when he receives an imminent recommendation from the State Department and Pentagon to sell Ukraine lethal, defensive weapons such as anti-tank Javelin missiles. These weapons would help Ukrainians defeat Russian armor and make it harder for Mr. Putin's proxy forces to advance further into Ukraine's eastern provinces, which the Russians invaded in 2014.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has sought this kind of help for years. But Barack Obama refused on grounds that lethal aid would merely escalate the conflict; he shipped only such non-lethal aid as short-range radar and night-vision goggles. Mr. Putin escalated anyway, violating the Minsk ceasefire accords...

Mr. Trump now has a chance to show he's no Obama echo and make Mr. Putin pay attention by helping Ukraine, which has shown it is willing to fight for independence. Russia's invasion has cost 10,000

that is, lethal offensive arms. But first, the balance of forces must be restored on the battlefield, in order to start tentatively to consider holding negotiations and reaching agreements.

In fact, Russia is not interested in fulfilling any requirements that are not favorable to Moscow. The Kremlin is interested in using the Minsk agreements to force Ukraine through intermediaries – France and Germany – to fulfill the Minsk agreements the way Russia wants, i.e. unilaterally.

Given the lack of the balance of forces, Russia will try to achieve progress in the negotiations at the expense of the weaker side. Therefore, Ukraine needs to be strengthened, while Russia – weakened. And this process must be both simultaneous and more intense. The West has long embarked on a path of weakening Russia, through economic and personal sanctions. But they are still not enough to make the Russian leadership ready to strike deals.

Therefore, there are two recipes: arms for Ukraine and more sanctions against Russia. Only this will create conditions for productive talks with the Russian side.

What would the U.S. involvement change in these negotiations? First of all, it should be noted that U.S. Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations Kurt Volker has already been involved in the process. The only reservation is that the U.S. is not a member of the Normandy format, and Ambassador Volker takes no direct part in these talks. But the U.S. is engaged in bilateral talks with both Ukraine and Russia, in particular, to discuss the issue of the implementation of Minsk accords. That is, the American side, in one way or another, is present in the negotiations process.

I believe that the format will not be changing anytime soon. However, another format of talks may emerge in parallel lines, as it was before along the Nuland-Surkov line. Similarly, Ambassador Volker will be involved in parallel negotiations.

lives and displaced more than 2 million civilians. Mr. Poroshenko has plowed money into upgrading Ukraine's armed forces, embraced U.S. military training, and quietly forged good relations with countries like Poland and Lithuania.

... Mr. Putin took advantage of Mr. Obama after concluding the American was weak and would never push back. Selling lethal weapons to Ukraine would show the Kremlin those days are over.

"We're on the road to a new Cold War," editorial, The Washington Post, July 31 (https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/were-on-the-road-to-a-new-cold-war/2017/07/31/213af6be-7617-11e7-8839-ec48ec4cae25_story.html?tid=ss_fb&utm_term=.299425a77735):

The United States and Russia have descended to a new low point in relations, with waves of sanctions and escalating retaliation. ...What happened?

The current tension did not come about because the United States suddenly wanted its old adversary back. What happened is a response to bad choices taken by President Vladimir Putin of Russia. These choices were made deliberately in Moscow, perhaps for Mr. Putin's own reasons of domes-

(Continued on page 10)

CROSSCURRENTS

by Andrew Sorokowski



The other side of the fence

Every few years Prof. Dr. Dr. Ivan Khval'ko-Yerundovych – despite his two doctorates, an entry-level clerk at the Bureau of Standard Classifications – scraped together the funds to visit Lviv. And whenever he did so, he would make sure to see his former student Pani Kvitka Nechipailo, whom he had attempted to teach English during a summer course at the Borysthenes Autonomous National Academy Named After Shevchenko (BANANAS). Pani Kvitka was now widowed, with two teen-aged children, and worked in the BANANAS office of external academic relations.

On this occasion, as always, they sat down in the cramped office she shared with two other administrators and started the electric samovar. The professor produced a packet of hibiscus-scented tea he had brought over from New York, and Pani Kvitka set down two teacups and a plate of fresh almond biscuits. As always, their conversation soon turned from family news, weather and Ukrainian politics to the trials of everyday life.

"You are so lucky to live in America," sighed Pani Kvitka. "Life is so much better there."

"Yes, in many ways it is. But what is it exactly that attracts you? It is, after all, a very different country," the professor asked.

"Well, for one thing, you can earn a decent living from honest work. You can buy a house and car. Your children can get a good education and grow up as normal people. And there is, after all, our diaspora, and the Church, so one doesn't feel lonely."

"I suppose that's all true. And yet, something draws me to Ukraine. Sometimes I wish I could live here for a year or two, even permanently."

"Why on earth would you want to do that?"

"You see, when I walk the streets of this city, everywhere I see the ghosts of history. I pass the houses of Franko and Hrushevsky, and I can almost see them ambling up the street. Why, yesterday I saw the library my grandfather used to frequent, with that Latin motto on the façade, HIC MORTUI VIVUNT ET MUTI LOQUUNTUR – 'Here the dead live, and the mute speak.' And I thought, the whole city is like that library. Here, I can actually afford to go to the opera, the theater, the philharmonic, the ballet. I'm among my own people, everywhere I hear the language of my family. Here, religion is alive and creative..."

At that moment, the electric samovar erupted in sparks, and the room was filled with smoke. As if through a Soviet-era loudspeaker, the professor and Pani Kvitka heard a rough bass voice announcing, "Your wishes will be granted! But only for 10 minutes."

Pani Kvitka woke with a start. It was still dark in her dingy little room, but it was time to help the elderly Mrs. Altman get up, wash and dress, and to prepare and serve her breakfast. It was Sunday morning, but she would not be asking someone for a ride to church because Mrs. Altman insisted she work on Sundays; she only got

Wednesdays off. She did manage to attend church at Christmas and Easter, and the services raised her spirits. But the shifty guest-workers gave her suspicious looks, and the Third Wavers pretended not to see her at all.

She hadn't saved up enough for a car, much less a house, as she had to support her children. She looked at the little framed photo of her daughter Lilia on the dresser. Lilia was away at college in Illinois, studying pre-med, which was wonderful, but the debts would be colossal. She had had an American boyfriend, which worried Pani Kvitka, but had broken up with him, cut her hair short and declared she hated men, which worried Pani Kvitka even more. She looked over to the photo of Taras, a handsome boy sporting a death's head tattoo, a lip-ring, and a black Legion of Satan T-shirt. Taras said he was studying too. He said he could support himself, which made Pani Kvitka happy, but he would not tell her where he'd get the money – which did not.

Meanwhile, Prof. Dr. Dr. Khval'ko-Yerundovych was awakened in his fourth-story walk-up flat with its quirky pre-war plumbing and creaky floors by the plop-plop of water dripping from the ceiling. A stain the size of the Habsburg Empire was expanding southward down the wall. Promptly at seven, the whining of an electric saw ripped into his consciousness. He had complained to the neighbor, only to be met with a torrent of abuse (the gaps in his vocabulary of Russian profanities had proved a blessing).

He dimly surmised that these intrusions were connected with a rumored attempt by a recently arrived oligarch from Donetsk to take over the entire building. Protecting his ownership interest by accumulating the requisite seals, stamps and signatures had cost the professor countless hours in waiting rooms with his fellow supplicants (BYOTP for the WC) for the privilege of an audience with one of the all-powerful bureaucrats, not to mention several bottles of brandy and fat cash-filled envelopes.

The stress had prevented him from reading, thinking or writing, and had finally brought him down with influenza. But the previous year's experience with the local hospital, where he had had to supply his own towels, bedsheets and medicines, as well as a hefty gift for the physician, had persuaded him to stay home and cure himself with hot tea.

Suddenly the cloud disappeared. Pani Kvitka and the professor looked at each other meekly, as if they had just shared a profound and intimate revelation. She dropped teabags into their cups, filled them with water from the samovar, and offered him a slice of lemon and some sugar. She complimented the professor on the excellent tea, and he praised the freshly baked biscuits. Through the tall French windows, they could see lilacs waving in the breeze, which filled the room with their tantalizing aroma.

And for an hour or so, they were happy.

Andrew Sorokowski can be reached at andrewsorokowski@gmail.com.

COMMENTARY

On the frontlines in eastern Ukraine

by Lubomyr Luciuk

Enemies call each other names. They also tell fibs about the foe. I was recently reminded of this as I moved along the frontlines in Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. These territories were invaded by the Russians in February 2014. A war, euphemistically described by Kyiv's politicians as an "anti-terrorist operation" (ATO), is still being fought there, daily.

Vulgarity aside, many Ukrainian soldiers have taken to mocking the so-called "separatists" by calling them "vatniki," the name used for the padded winter jackets (vatnik) worn by the Russian military, in this context meaning their opponents are nothing more than a dull-witted bunch of drunks and criminals.

For their part the "separatists" and their Russian backers have tried to retaliate, ridiculing Ukrainians by referring to them as "ukrop," the word for dill, which many Ukrainians admittedly do enjoy with just about anything they may be eating, from boiled potatoes to borscht.

Instead of taking offense, however, Ukraine's soldiers and even the public have embraced this once-derogatory term for their nation, so robbing it of offensiveness. You can buy a T-shirt declaring yourself an ukrop from many stalls found along the roadway descending from St. Andrew's Church in Kyiv's upper town to the historically commercial neighborhood of Podil. I did.

The Russians also circulated some rather odd rumors, insisting, for example, that Ukrainian troops were killing Eurasian bullfinches because their white-blue-red coloration was reminiscent of the Russian

tricolor; a nefarious plan apparently intended to also secure more territory for a local species of titmouse, a bird whose blue and yellow plumage evokes Ukraine's national flag. I saw both types of bird flying about – ornithologists need not worry.

Another apocryphal claim the Russians spread was that Ukrainian troops were chowing down on local infants; with black humor the Ukrainians admitted to the "truth" of this fairytale while advising those spreading the story that they too would relish eating babies if only they knew how to properly prepare them as a food dish – perhaps by adding a dash or two of ukrop?

Now, in fairness, some Ukrainians also have rather strange ideas about this war. Two friends of a soldier on leave in the western Ukrainian region of Bukovyna heavily overindulged while celebrating his homecoming. The next day, when the three lads went to a local market, the two merry-makers from the previous evening were looking rather worse for wear, shuffling along with the soldier, heads bowed. Jokingly, the veteran proclaimed every volunteer at the front was gifted two Russian "raby" (slaves), like those straggling behind him, as a reward for having served – provoking an outcry as some gullible folk began complaining their returned sons hadn't received their prizes. This, they exclaimed excitedly, was proof of official corruption as officers were "obviously" cheating enlisted men by taking more than their "fair share" of two prisoners each.

In fact, while many a Russian trooper has been captured by the Ukrainians – Moscow's insistence that there are no Russian soldiers on Ukrainian territory is



"Okun" on the frontline on July 18.

nothing but a lie – most of the latter are exchanged for Ukrainian POWs. It is deemed better to secure the release of one's own people rather than holding onto "guests" no one wants on Ukrainian soil.

Traveling in this war-devastated region I couldn't help but recall the old children's rhyme: "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me." From having observed the patriotism and pluck of Ukraine's fighting men and women, I know they won't be beaten by the

mere smears and jeers of their enemies. But, however courageous they are, these 21st century Kozaks do need the West's help, not just ritual condemnations of Russian imperialism and selective economic sanctions, but the delivery of defensive weaponry to match what the Russian Federation has deployed against them. If so provisioned they say they will win their just war because they are fighting for independence and for Ukraine's return to its rightful place in Europe.



Lubomyr Luciuk on the eastern front in the Donbas on July 18.

I'm not as good a runner as I used to be. This revelation came somewhere between the ninth and first floors of a murky, bomb-ravaged building located at the edge of no-man's land in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine. I began scrambling downstairs after our sentinel, positioned nearby, yelled "Run!"

I did not ask why, nor linger to consider how only minutes before we had inched up these very same stairs, stepping carefully in each other's footsteps to avoid setting off any booby-traps secreted to maim, mutilate, or murder anyone scouting this abandoned edifice. Children's toys, full bottles of alcohol and other seemingly innocuous household items can be the disguised agents of your destruction, something I learned a few days earlier at the Ukrainian Armed Forces Demining Centre in Kamianets-Podilskyi. No matter. I ran for my life.

At the edge of no-man's land

It was only after I got outside and turned a corner into the comparative safety of shadows behind the building that I was told a Russian tank had emerged from the distant rubble, maneuvering to take a shot. We didn't offer the enemy a chance for target practice.

What surprised me was that I experienced no fear. Instead I was quite resigned to whatever might happen. Indeed, the strongest emotion I had was a kind of desperate hope that I didn't do anything to endanger my companions, members of an elite Ukrainian military intelligence unit. So I was pleased when I got out of that ruin without failing my friends, even though I was quite winded, my big toes bruised badly despite the protection of combat boots. Like I said, I'm not a runner anymore.

We moved to a nearby firing position, heavily sandbagged, from where my companions opened up at the enemy's frontline. Crouching, I snapped a few photographs, including one of "Okun," the squad machine gunner. His pseudonym means "Perch." This troop regularly penetrates the enemy's frontlines to gather intelligence and sow fear in the hearts and minds of the Russian invaders and their local collaborators, dismissively called vatniki, certainly no match for the professional Ukrainian soldiers who routinely best them on the battlefield.

Even so, Ukrainian special forces soldiers usually do not give their names or like to be photographed, to lessen the chance of the Russians targeting their loved ones, many of whom live close by in the Donetsk Oblast or a few hours away in Kharkiv. Ukrainian Spetsnaz (special forces) groups have infiltrated the occupied territories. Their enemies do the same in the opposite direction. The Ukrainians know their foes have no scruples when it comes to murdering women and children to further

what they are fighting for, their morale remains excellent.

A Ukrainian Spetsnaz officer in Luhansk Oblast told me: "In early 2014 I just wanted to stay alive. By 2015-2016 I was fighting to recover occupied Ukrainian lands. Today I think of myself as a wolf. I know the boundaries of my territory. I do not want anyone else's. I know how to kill. And I believe every Ukrainian woman, whether a child, a mother, a wife, or a grandmother, is a woman I must protect. And so I will pursue the enemy until every one of them is killed or goes back where he came from. Not one of them will be allowed to occupy even a meter of Ukrainian land, except for those whose bodies will rot in our chornozem soil, fertilizing it as the corpses of all of the past invaders of Ukraine have done. There can be no quarter. We did not invade their country. They attacked ours. Now we will make them pay for it."

That credo comes with a price. A Russian sniper killed "Okun" the next day. He was 20, a volunteer who joined up in December 2015, an only son. When the news came I realized I had forever captured his last photograph. I made sure his mother got it. Her son, Maksym – for that was his name – died bravely in battle. Although I could not attend his funeral, I believe this good young man rests in peace having sacrificed himself in a just war, defending Ukraine. There is a glory in that.

Lubomyr Luciuk is a professor of political geography at The Royal Military College.

Ukraine's troops see themselves as soldiers in a war of independence, struggling to secure Ukraine's proper place in Europe rather than allowing their homeland to be swallowed by a resuscitated Russian empire.

Moscow's ongoing campaign to destabilize Ukraine.

As I questioned these troopers, I learned many have been fighting since the Russians invaded in February 2014. For them this is not a civil war or an anti-terrorist operation, even if Kyiv's politicians pretend otherwise. Instead they see themselves as soldiers in a war of independence, struggling to secure Ukraine's proper place in Europe rather than allowing their homeland to be swallowed by a resuscitated Russian empire, as prescribed by Vladimir Putin, the KGB criminal in the Kremlin.

Since Ukraine's soldiers understand

Yara Arts Group receives two nominations for New York Innovative Theatre Awards

NEW YORK – Yara's Jeremy Tardy has been nominated for Outstanding Actor in a Lead Role and Julian Kytasty for Best Original Music for their work in Yara Arts Group's "Dark Night Bright Stars" directed by Virlana Tkacz.

The show recreated the meeting in 1858 of Taras Shevchenko (1814-1861), the great Ukrainian poet and painter, and Ira Aldridge (1807-1867), the African American actor who was much honored in Europe. The two great artists, who rose up from serfdom and slavery, could not speak to each other directly, but in one historical moment found a common language in art and song. Their meetings were documented in the diary of Count Tolstoy's 15-year-old daughter, Katya (Ekaterina Tolstoy Yunge). A selection of poetry by Shevchenko deeply resounded with contemporary events, as did Aldridge's Shakespearean monologues.

Mr. Tardy's performance as Aldridge was riveting. He showed audiences the rich pal-

ette of his talent and amazing organic acting. Especially memorable in the show was his portrayal of Aldridge's rendition of Shakespeare's "Othello" and his moving reaction to Shevchenko's story.

Mr. Kytasty's original musical score employed traditional Ukrainian songs which Shevchenko knew, along with songs from the hymnal of AME Zion Church, which Aldridge's father attended.

Mr. Tardy is originally from Milwaukee and has a B.F.A. in drama from The Juilliard School. His first production with Yara Arts Group was "Fire Water Night," where he portrayed Luke in this show that re-imagined Lesia Ukrainka's "Forest Song." Mr. Tardy's other theater credits include "Fetch Clay, Make Man" with New York Theater Workshop and "King Henry V" with Classical Theater of Harlem. His film and TV credits include: "Traces," "War Dogs," "Bone Tomahawk," "The Mindy Project" and "Castle." He currently lives in Los Angeles and appears in the Netflix series



Pavlo Terekhov

Jeremy Tardy as Ira Aldridge in Yara's show about the relationship between the African American actor and Taras Shevchenko.



Julian Kytasty in Yara Arts Group's "Dark Night Bright Stars."

"Dear White People."

Mr. Kytasty's music features the bandura, a Ukrainian stringed instrument of the lute family. He is a third-generation bandurist born in Detroit and now living in New York. Mr. Kytasty's music combines a mastery of traditional styles with a distinctly contemporary sensibility. He has worked with Yara Arts Group since 1998, creating music for productions including "Raven," "Scythian Stones," "Winter Light," "Capt. John Smith Goes to Ukraine," "Underground Dreams," "Hitting Bedrock" and "1917/2017: Tychna, Zhadan & the Dogs."

He composed the award-winning film score for the National Film Board of Canada documentary "My Mother's Village." His playing was featured in "The Guide," Ukraine's submission to the 2015 Academy Awards. His most recent solo CD is "Nights in Banduristan," an album of improvisations for Kharkiv-style bandura.

"Dark Night Bright Stars" was developed in 2014 by Yara artists and presented at a La MaMa workshop. That spring the show was performed in Ukraine at the American Festival in Odesa and experimental theaters in Lviv and Kyiv with assistance from the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv.

Yara premiered "Dark Night Bright Stars" in New York at La MaMa E.T.C. June 2016. Yara is a resident company at La MaMa Theatre and since 1990 has created thirty four international cultural projects with contemporary and traditional artists from Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Siberia.

The New York Innovative Theater Awards bring recognition to the great work being done in New York City's Off-Off-Broadway and honor the artistic heritage of experimental theater, recognizing the unique and essential role it plays in contributing to American and global culture.

Despite sanctions...

(Continued from page 1)

ing Moscow authorities have ranged across the board. Violations include freedom of press, religion, peaceful assembly, speech, as well as others, according to a monitoring report published in June by the non-profit Crimean Human Rights Group.

"We're constantly monitoring the fluid situation," Oleksandr Syedov, an analyst for the organization, told The Ukrainian Weekly by phone.

Forty-six-year-old farmer Volodymyr Balukh was sentenced on August 4 to serve three years and seven months in prison for taking a pro-Ukrainian stance, having hung a Ukrainian flag atop his house, he alleged. This case was also condemned by Memorial, Russia's oldest human rights group, the Crimean Human Rights Group and the Kharkiv Human Rights Group.

Authorities had ostensibly prosecuted him for illegally harboring munitions and explosives at his residence that Mr. Balukh said was planted there during a search of his home.

Considered a political prisoner, Mr. Balukh had also hung a street sign on his farm in northern Crimea of "The Heavenly Brigade" named after the protesters who perished from police gunfire during the Euro-Maidan Revolution of 2014 in Kyiv.

In his closing statement in court, the Ukrainian farmer voiced "love for my homeland, for everything that I am made

of, my nationality, my memory of my forebears, all them whom I know."

Explaining his actions on the farm, he said, "I don't want...the children of all Ukraine to one day reproach me for having been cowardly, [having] shown weakness... Therefore what will happen, will happen."

The Russian authorities are "squeezing everything Ukrainian out of Crimea, including language, culture, and identity," said Mr. Syedov of the Crimean Human Rights Group.

Indeed, on April 19, the International Court of Justice in The Hague issued an injunction in a case that Ukraine filed against Russia, alleging that Russia was conducting a "cultural erasure" campaign on the peninsula, according to Human Rights Watch, an international civil society group based in London.

If there were an estimated 330,000 ethnic Ukrainians living on the peninsula before the land seizure, only about 350 children today take Ukrainian language lessons and only one lesson per week, the analyst said.

Officially, more than 23,000 Crimean residents left the peninsula after the annexation and registered as internally displaced people. At least twice as many had left without registering like Mr. Syedov did.

"Why should I register as a displaced person when I just moved from one Ukrainian region to another?" he asked rhetorically.

Crimean Tatars accounted for about 10 percent of the peninsula's population numbering about 220,000, Mr. Syedov said.

In another case, a member of the tight-knit Ukrainian Cultural Center in Symferopol was forced on June 20 to leave Crimea on charges of "separatism" for her pro-Ukrainian views, according to the Kharkiv Human Rights Group.

She joined her husband, Ivan Vinohradov, on that day in Kyiv who was also a member of the group and had fled two weeks earlier.

The Kremlin occupiers were getting ready to prosecute her for making "public calls to action aimed at violating Russia's territorial integrity," the rights group reported. These are the same charges that another Crimean Tatar leader, Ilmi Umerov, journalist Mykola Semena and activist Suleiman Kadryov are being charged.

This article of the criminal code "came into force a few months after Russia's invasion and annexation of Crimea and has now become one of the weapons Russia is using against Ukrainians and Russians who rightly insist that Crimea is part of Ukraine," the group said.

In addition, there are also increasing reports that Russians are being purposefully moved to the peninsula, "a policy first applied during the Stalinist period, when Russians were brought to Crimea and often occupied the homes of Crimean Tatars and other groups forcibly deported in 1944," the human rights group said.

Altogether, the number of human rights violations and more sinister transgressions have been documented by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the

same body that has a mandate to monitor the peace process in the Donbas war that Russia instigated.

As of late February, the OSCE said that 12 were people were killed in Crimea after they went missing or were abducted "on political grounds" since the March 2014 annexation. Seventeen people have gone missing and "39 persons were placed behind bars because of their political views."

One of them was Oleh Sentsov, a Ukrainian filmmaker who was given a 20-year prison sentence in 2015 for ostensibly plotting a terrorist attack.

His name surfaced on August 7 when two members of the Russian punk protest band Pussy Riot hung a banner on a bridge that read "Free Sentsov" in the city of Yakutsk nearby the prison where he is incarcerated. The two activists were also detained but were later released after being suspected of staging an "unsanctioned picket."

The European Union and the U.S. have sanctions in place against Russia for taking over Crimea. They include a virtual trade ban there as well as asset freezes and travel bans on individuals and organizations deemed responsible for taking part in the annexation.

Russia claims it officially took over the peninsula on March 18, 2014, but only a handful of nations recognize it, including North Korea. Two days later, Ukraine's Parliament officially announced the beginning of the Crimean peninsula's "temporary occupation" by Russia.



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In the press...

(Continued from page 7)

tic politics and foreign policy. ...

Mr. Putin chose to seize Crimea from Ukraine, annex it and then instigate an armed insurrection in southeastern Ukraine in 2014, violating all post-World War II norms of national sovereignty. The war in the Donbas region was a tactic by Mr. Putin to inject further instability into Ukraine after Ukraine's president, Putin ally Viktor Yanukovich, fled his palace in the face of mass protest. Mr. Putin was aggrieved at Ukraine's decision to sign a pact with the European Union, but Ukraine is not a vassal of Russia, and Mr. Putin's claims to a sphere of influence are untenable. ...

Another poor and deliberate choice was to interfere with the U.S. election campaign. Mr. Putin cannot escape responsibility for Russian attempts to damage the candidacy

of former secretary of state Hillary Clinton and, perhaps, tilt the election to Donald Trump. ...

Mr. Putin should not expect the West to suddenly forgive or forget his bad choices. He would be wiser to deal with the underlying source of tension than to sit around plotting new ways to escalate it.

"Twelve myths about change in Ukraine," by Alexander J. Motyl, Atlantic Council, July 17 (<http://www.atlantic-council.org/blogs/ukrainealert/twelve-myths-about-change-in-ukraine>):

Most Ukrainians will tell you that "nothing has changed" since the Euro-Maidan Revolution. Meanwhile, most Ukrainian analysts bemoan that Ukraine's elites are resisting change and that, unless Ukraine changes more quickly, the country will backtrack and be lost. And everyone seems to agree that no change is possible unless corruption is fully eliminated.

These views rest on simplifications, distortions and misunderstandings. Here are a few:

Ukraine hasn't changed since 2014. Nonsense. Change has been enormous, as a walk through any Ukrainian city reveals. Obviously, Ukraine needs to change more – as do a score of its neighbors and friends, including Russia, Belarus, the European Union and the United States. ...

Change is linear. Wrong. All countries at all times take two steps forward and one step backward, followed by three steps forward and four steps backward, and so on. Despite, or because, of these zigzags, systems do change, sometimes for the better, sometimes for the worse. ...

Nationalism is always bad for reform. It depends. Yugoslavia suggests that ethnic hatreds can cause bloody wars, but the separation of Slovenia and Croatia from the Yugoslav federation quite possibly hastened their abandonment of the communist past. As it probably did in Czechoslovakia, when Czech and Slovak elites mutually agreed to pursue their own nation states – to great success. And who doubts that Poles' intense sense of identity enabled them to oppose communism? ...

Corruption makes change impossible or less likely. Where's the evidence? All of today's successful market economies and democracies were at one time deeply corrupt. Many, like Greece and Italy, still are. Most, like France, Germany, and the United States, are periodically rocked by fantastic corruption scandals. Obviously, corruption doesn't promote positive change, but neither is it an insurmountable obstacle. ...



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Masters of ceremony (from left) Darek Kuzniak, Halyna Semenyak and Vasyl Harhaj.



The authentic Lemko folklore band Na Lemkovyni.

17th Lemko Vatra festival held in the United States

by Lidia Korsun

ELLENVILLE, N.Y. – Summer in the United States is rich with festivals among Ukrainian communities. One of them stands somewhat apart, both in format and in spirit. Its spirit is strong, just like its people. This is the “Vatra,” a festival organized and hosted by the Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna (OOL) in the United States, which took place this year on June 24-25 at the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA) campground known as “Oselia” in Ellenville, N.Y.

The festival is not massive, but is family-oriented, and has its own traditions. Every year – and this is already the 17th – the festival is opened with the lighting of the bonfire (vatra) – a symbol of warmth, warmth-heartedness and invincible spirit.

Lemkos are friendly, proactive, patriotic and also greatly enthusiastic. United by common goals and friendship, the Lemkos of OOL are part of formal organizations – branches near their places of residence – pay membership fees, and hold frequent branch meetings and conferences of Lemkos in the United States, and participate in congresses of the World Federation of Ukrainian Lemko Unions. They have their own magazine, called Lemkivshchyna.

Vatra organizers and their yearly guests mostly know one other, and they cordially and hospitably welcome new people to their community.

Following the 17th Vatra, I had a lot of new friends. Let me name a few:

Halyna Semenyak, director of the Vatra concert programs and MC of the concerts, is energetic, business-like, mobile and, it seems, knows everyone and everything.

Vasyl Harhaj, the invariable host (“starosta”) of all the Vatra festivals through the

course of 17 years, made a great contribution to the implementation of the idea to construct a chapel in memory of Akcja Wisła at the oselia, with funds collected by OOL.

Andriy Khomyk, director of the Lemko Research Foundation, is a “walking encyclopedia” on any issue about the history and culture of Lemkivshchyna, and an active and capably wise popularizer of knowledge about it.

Mark Howansky is unique in that he was born in the U.S. with an American character, but has the spirit and heart of a Ukrainian Lemko. He serves enthusiastically and passionately as president of OOL, attracts his fellow Lemkos to communal work, has organized a whole cycle of lectures together with the administration of the UAYA about the history of Lemkivshchyna, and is the son of a well-known figure among Lemkos, the late Stefan Howansky.

The friendly Mykhailo Chomyk has led one of the most active OOL branches, the one in New York City, for many years. He also sings in the group “Na Lemkovyni.”

Petro Kosciulek, a former manager of oselia and now an active member of the OOL National Board, is very open to communication and assistance.

The married couple, Maria and Stefan Przybylo, from Jersey City, N.J., have been among the most active members in OOL’s New Jersey branch for over 20 years.

And now, about the festival itself.

Saturday’s program began with a showing of various documentary and feature films on Lemko themes. This is the best way to introduce guests to Lemko history. The program was introduced by Mr. Khomyk. Meanwhile, the hosts grilled a traditional pig, also a feature of Ukrainian Lemko cuisine.

And what is a festival without a concert? On Saturday, as soon as the bonfire was lit,



The ceremonial lighting of the bonfire.

on the spacious stage under an open sky, the “anthem” of the Lemkos, “Our Mountains,” was performed (of course, in the Lemko dialect):

Our mountains, our mountains, Our Carpathian mountains, Nobody knows, or will know, How much you mean to us.

Our mountains, our mountains, Our Beskyd mountains, We were told not to give you up, By our grandfathers and great-grandfathers ...

A difference between this Vatra and previous ones is that the vocal folklore group Na Lemkovyni, composed of eight singers – ethnic Lemkos born in Lemkivshchyna – performed for the first time. For them, the Lemko dialect is not only native but is also alive, so the audience heard the authentic sounds of Lemko language. And when the group sang “Our Mountains,” even those present who did not understand all of the words had tears in their eyes.

For two days, guests were entertained by musicians from the ensemble Cheremosh.

As always, the guests welcomed the renowned honored artist of Ukraine Iryna Lonchyna, who, in addition to her songs “Wreath of My Songs,” “This Is My Ukraine,” “Ukrainian Land,” “My Sister” and others, performed the well-known Lemko song “Oh, Forest, My Mountain Forest” and the Lemko song “Under the Cloud.” Also there were vocalists Julia Busko and Yuliya Pavlyuk, and bandura players Alla Kutsevych, Oksana Telepko and Halyna Leskiw. Fiery Ukrainian dances were performed by the dance groups Malvy (Jersey City) and Obriy (Passaic, N.J.).

This year, the global Lemko community is commemorating a sad date: the 70th anniversary of Akcja Wisła. This was the ethnic cleansing of Ukrainians; many people were killed, and the disobedient were placed in a concentration camp. Moreover, from 1944 to 1946, a Soviet-Polish exchange of populations took place, as a result of which 490,000 Ukrainians were relocated from Poland to the USSR in the steppe regions and the Donetsk area, while 790,000 Poles were displaced in the opposite direction. But Lemkos withstood and preserved their identity.

In commemoration of this anniversary, on Sunday, the Ukrainian Catholic eparchy of Stamford, Conn., Bishop Paul Chomnycky, officiated at a liturgy and a memorial service. Before the concert, Mr. Harhaj said a few words about this commemoration. And the band Na Lemkovyni devoted a separate program to this topic.

And when the 17th Vatra of American Lemkos ended, the guests of the festival took with them a fire that the hosts had ignited in their hearts – not only through the flames of the real bonfire, but also through the fire of their hospitality, generosity, friendliness and fervor of their work. Such volunteer work can only be accomplished with a fire in the heart and soul.

Translated from the original Ukrainian by Diana Howansky Reilly.



Bishop Paul Chomnycky of the Stamford Eparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church officiates at the liturgy and memorial service at the Lemko chapel.



Mark Howansky, president of the Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna, and Andriy Khomyk, head of the Lemko Research Foundation.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

(ICC) in November 2016 determined the conflict to be "an international armed conflict between Ukraine and the Russian Federation." (RFE/RL, with reporting by NBC, The Wall Street Journal, Stars And Stripes, BBC and The New York Times)

UCCA reacts to sanctions' enactment

NEW YORK – The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the largest representative body of Americans of Ukrainian descent, on August 2 issued a statement following the enactment of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act or CAATSA (H.R. 3364). Having previously advocated for meaningful assistance programs such as the Ukraine Freedom Support Act (2014), the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (2015), and the Countering Disinformation and Propaganda Act (2016), the UCCA had repeatedly called upon their fellow supporters of Ukraine to contact their elected Representatives to pass this critical legislation. In the statement, the UCCA welcomes the "codifying [of] all existing sanctions imposed on Russia for its illegal annexation of Crimea and its military invasion of Ukraine," as well as the "strong, bipartisan

support for Ukraine" demonstrated by the U.S. Congress in passing CAATSA by overwhelming, veto-proof majorities: 98-2 in the Senate and 419-3 in the House. Responding to the two signing statements issued by the White House, the UCCA's statement called upon President Trump to "stand firm with the United States Congress and openly denounce Russia's attacks on American democracy, our NATO partners, as well as Russia's invasion and occupation of America's strategic ally, Ukraine." The statement concludes with a call to "supply Ukraine with antitank systems and other defensive weaponry, as already authorized by Congress." Since the beginning of 2017, there have been nearly 2,000 recorded attacks by Russian forces across the 'cease-fire' line in Ukraine, with dozens of civilians killed this year alone, bringing Russia's death toll in Ukraine to over 10,000. (UCCA)

Kremlin echoes Trump's assessment

WASHINGTON – Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman says the Kremlin agrees with President Donald Trump's statement that the U.S. "relationship with Russia is at an all-time and very dangerous low." Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters in a regular conference call on August 4, "We fully share this opinion," adding, "The danger may lie in a deficit of interaction and cooperation in

those matters which are vitally important for our two countries and peoples," he said. Mr. Trump made the remark on Twitter on August 3. He blamed the state of ties between Moscow and Washington on the U.S. Congress, which adopted a bill last week imposing new sanctions on Russia and preventing the president from easing the punitive measures without its consent. "You can thank Congress, the same people that can't even give us HCare!" Trump said in the tweet, referring to a defeat in the Senate for his plans for health-care legislation. The president signed the sanctions legislation – which was passed with veto-proof majorities in both houses of Congress – on August 2. U.S. lawmakers said the legislation is a response to Russia's occupation and illegal annexation of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula, its support for pro-Russia separatists in eastern Ukraine, and its alleged interference in the 2016 presidential election that Trump won. U.S. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), a prominent advocate of a tough stance toward Russia, took issue with Mr. Trump's assertion that Congress is to blame for the strained ties with Russia. "Our relationship w/ Russia is at dangerous low. You can thank Putin for attacking our democracy, invading neighbors & threatening our allies," Sen. McCain, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, tweeted on August 3. (RFE/RL, with reporting by Reuters, AP, Interfax and RIA)

Medvedev on U.S. sanctions bill

KYIV – Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev sharply denounced the sanctions bill signed into law by U.S. President Donald Trump on August 2, saying it ends hope for improving relations and ignites "an all-out trade war with Russia." He wrote on Facebook: "The hope for improving our relations with the new U.S. administration is now over." Mr. Medvedev attacked U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to sign the bill in a bow to Congress, where it passed with sizable majorities that ensured lawmakers could override any potential veto. "Trump's administration has demonstrated total impotence by surrendering its executive authority to Congress in the most humiliating way," Mr. Medvedev said. "The American establishment has won an overwhelming victory over Trump. The president wasn't happy with the new sanctions, but he had to sign the bill." Mr. Medvedev said the bill's sanctions, aimed at punishing Russia for allegedly meddling in last year's U.S. presidential election and its military aggression in Ukraine and Syria, will only make Russia grow stronger as it is forced to develop new markets and industries. "We will continue to work calmly to develop our economy and social sphere, deal with import substitution, and solve important government tasks counting primarily on ourselves," he said. "We have learned how to do it over the past few years." With the sanctions sealed into law, Mr. Medvedev said they will aggravate U.S.-Russia relations for years to come and will be almost impossible to reverse. (Mike Eckel of RFE/RL, with reporting by Reuters, TASS and Interfax)

Pro-Kyiv activist sentenced in Crimea

SYMFEROPOL – A court in Ukraine's Russia-controlled Crimea region has sentenced pro-Kyiv activist Volodymyr Balukh to prison on charges of weapons and explosives possession he says was politically motivated. The Rozdolne District Court convicted Mr. Balukh on August 4 and sentenced him to three years and seven months in prison. He pleaded not guilty and says the case was groundless. Mr. Balukh is one of dozens of Crimeans whom Russia has prosecuted in what rights groups say has been a persistent campaign to silence dissent since Moscow seized control over the Ukrainian region in March

2014. The Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) said that officers searched Mr. Balukh's home in December and found 90 bullets and some explosives in the attic. The search was conducted shortly after Mr. Balukh planted a Ukrainian flag in his yard and affixed a sign to his house that read 18 Heavenly Hundred St. The Heavenly Hundred is a term Ukrainians use for the dozens of people killed when security forces sought to disperse protesters in Kyiv whose demonstrations drove Russia-friendly President Viktor Yanukovich from power in February 2014. Rights groups say Crimea residents who opposed Russia's takeover have faced discrimination and abuse at the hands of the Moscow-imposed authorities. In March, the European Parliament called on Moscow to free more than 30 Ukrainian citizens who were in prison or other conditions of restricted freedom in Russia, Crimea and parts of eastern Ukraine that are controlled by Russia-backed separatists. (Crimean Desk, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

U.N., OSCE resolutions presented at trial

SYMFEROPOL, Ukraine – Resolutions from the United Nations General Assembly and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on Russia's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region have been presented at the trial of Mykola Semena, an RFE/RL contributor who is fighting what he says is a politically motivated separatism charge. Mr. Semena told RFE/RL after the trial's August 3 session in the Crimean capital, Symferopol, that the judge agreed to include the resolutions on Crimea into the case file. He expressed hope that the documents, as well as Russian laws that guarantee freedom of expression, would be taken into consideration by the court. Both international resolutions condemned the annexation of Crimea as illegal under international law. The hearing was adjourned until August 31. The charge against the 66-year-old Mr. Semena stems from an article he wrote for RFE/RL's Krym.Realii (Crimea Realities) website in 2015. The Kremlin-installed prosecutor in Crimea charged that the article called for the violation of Russia's territorial integrity. Mr. Semena faces up to five years in prison if convicted. His trial has been postponed several times since it started in late March. (Crimean Desk, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

Russia not 'transparent' about Zapad

PRAGUE – A senior U.S. general in Europe says the U.S. military is keeping a close eye on Moscow's planned military exercises in Russia and Belarus – exercises that some experts say could involve 100,000 troops. U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. John Healy, who directs U.S. forces' military exercises in Europe, told Reuters on August 3 that Moscow was not being "transparent" in regard to its Zapad 2017 exercises because it is not allowing Western observers. He said Russian observers attended the recent U.S. and NATO exercises in the Black Sea region, but a similar invitation has not been extended for the Zapad maneuvers set for September. Russia has said the war games do not require invitations to outside observers, claiming they will involve fewer than 13,000 troops. Brig. Gen. Healy said the U.S. military is stepping up its own global exercises in response to a more aggressive Russia and other worldwide threats. He said the goal was to carry out more challenging exercises that involve forces from all nine U.S. combatant commands – instead of focusing on specific regions or one military service. The general said it was important to conduct war games and training events that reflect the global nature of military threats in the current environment, including cyberwarfare. He said the U.S. military plans

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 12)

11 major exercises in the next year that will include air, ground, and naval forces with a range of NATO allies. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Reuters)

Saakashvili speaks at Warsaw event

WARSAW – Mikheil Saakashvili, the former Georgian president and ex-governor of Ukraine's Odesa region who was stripped of his Ukrainian citizenship in late July, has taken part in Poland's commemorations marking the anniversary of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising against Nazi occupation. Speaking at a ceremony in Warsaw on August 4, Mr. Saakashvili thanked Poles and their country for their contribution to "the fight of Ukraine and my native Georgia against the [Russian] aggressor." He noted: "Just like Poland had faced the dilemma to be or not to be, Ukraine and Georgia also faced the same question caused by the same reasons, to remain or not to remain on the world's map," adding that Ukraine and Georgia followed the path Poland had left for them in 1944. "Poland is a symbol of freedom in this part of Europe and an example for Ukraine, Georgia, and other nations in the region," Mr. Saakashvili said. He also credited the late Polish President Lech Kaczynski's arrival in Tbilisi in August 2008 – when bolstered Russian forces in Georgia's breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia launched attacks on adjacent regions of Georgia – with stopping Russia from expanding its presence in other regions of Georgia. "The absence of beautiful buildings and the big walls of old Warsaw destroyed in the 1940s is a symbol of the Polish nation's indestructible soul," Mr. Saakashvili said. Mr. Saakashvili arrived in Warsaw from the United States for what was his first international trip since Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko stripped him of his Ukrainian citizenship on July 26. (RFE/RL, with reporting by Telewizja Republika and YouTube)

Yanukovich treason trial adjourned again

KYIV – A Ukrainian judge has adjourned the in-absentia treason trial of former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich. Judge Vladyslav Devyatko rejected a request by Mr. Yanukovich to give him another month to get acquainted with the case and adjourned the trial until August 10. Judge Devyatko also denied a motion on August 3 by Mr. Yanukovich's state-appointed lawyer, Vitaliy Meshechek, for a one-month delay. Mr. Yanukovich's previous lawyers withdrew from the case on July 6, saying the former president had informed them that he no longer needed their services. Mr. Yanukovich announced on that day that he would not participate in the trial, charging that it was politically motivated. The court then decided to hold the trial in absentia and provide Mr. Yanukovich with a state-appointed lawyer. Prosecutors are seeking life imprisonment for Mr. Yanukovich, who is accused of treason, violating Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and abetting Russian aggression. After he fled Ukraine, Russia seized Ukraine's Crimean peninsula and fomented opposition to the central government in eastern Ukraine, where the ensuing war between Ukrainian forces and Russia-backed separatists has killed more than 10,000 people since 2014. (Crimean Desk, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

German party head on Crimea annexation

KYIV – The head of Germany's Free Democratic Party (FDP) has said in an interview that Germany may need to accept the 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region as a "permanent provisional

arrangement." Christian Lindner told the Funke Mediengruppe newspaper chain on August 5 that the move might be necessary to allow Russian President Vladimir Putin to change his policies while still saving face. "The conflict over the Ukrainian peninsula annexed by Russia must be 'encapsulated' in order to make progress in other areas," he said. "We have to get out of the dead-end situation," he added. "To break a taboo, I fear that we must see the Crimea as a permanent provisional arrangement, at least for now." In a video statement after the interview was published, Mr. Lindner stressed that recognizing Crimea's annexation was still unacceptable, the Kyiv Post reported. According to the Tagesschau news website, Mr. Lindner's comments contradicted the FDP's official election platform. "We Free Democrats are calling on the Russian government to put an immediate end to the illegal occupation of the Crimea and the war in eastern Ukraine," the platform says. Mr. Lindner's remarks were sharply criticized by Gernot Erler, Germany's Russia policy coordinator and a member of the Social Democrats (SPD). Mr. Erler told Funke Mediengruppe that Europeans had agreed to focus on ending the violence in eastern Ukraine before tackling the issue of Crimea in a political process at a later point. "It would be helpful if Mr. Lindner would also stick to this agreement," he said. "A common European approach is imperative, especially in light of President [Donald] Trump's withdrawal from the previous consensus approach of the West." Political polls indicate the FDP could re-enter the German Parliament in the September 24 elections after dropping below the required 5 percent in the 2013 vote. It is seen as a potential coalition partner for Chancellor Angela Merkel's ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU), which is looking to govern without the need for an SPD alliance. (RFE/RL, with reporting by Reuters, TASS and Kyiv Post)

Pro-Kyiv Russian activist on hunger strike

MOSCOW – A Russian activist in the southern region of Krasnodar jailed for propagating extremism and separatism online has started a hunger strike in custody, her mother says. Darya Polyudova's mother, Tatyana Polyudova, says her daughter started the hunger strike on August 2 to protest conditions in the penal colony. According to Tatyana Polyudova, other inmates in the penal colony constantly mistreat her daughter and provoke her into conflicts. She added that political prisoners should be kept separately from other convicts. Tatyana Polyudova said her daughter suspects the penal colony's administration is behind the pressure on her. Darya Polyudova was sentenced to two years in a minimum-security penal colony in December 2015, becoming the first person in Russia convicted under a law criminalizing calls for separatism on the Internet, legislation that came into force in May 2014. She was indicted in 2014 after she made pro-Ukrainian statements online critical of Moscow for its support of pro-Russia separatists in eastern Ukraine, where fighting between government forces and the separatists has killed more than 10,000 people since April 2014. The Moscow-based Memorial Human Rights Center has added Ms. Polyudova to its list of political prisoners in Russia. (RFE/RL's Russia Service, with reporting by OVD-Inf)

Pussy Riot calls for Sentsov's release

PRAGUE – Maria Alyokhina says she and another member of the Russian punk protest group Pussy Riot have been detained after staging a protest near the remote prison where Ukrainian filmmaker Oleh Sentsov is incarcerated. Ms. Alyokhina wrote on Twitter on August 7 that she and

Olga Borisova were detained outside the prison near the city of Yakutsk, nearly 5,000 kilometers east of Moscow, a day after they hung a banner reading "Free Sentsov" on a bridge nearby. Mr. Sentsov is from Crimea, the Ukrainian region that Russia forcibly seized in 2014. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison after being convicted of plotting terrorist attacks in 2015, a charge he and supporters say is groundless and politically motivated punishment for his opposition to the Russian takeover. Ms. Alyokhina and fellow Pussy Riot performer Nadezhda Tolokonnikova were convicted of "hooliganism motivated by religious hatred" for a stunt in which band members burst into Moscow's Christ the Savior Cathedral in February 2012 and sang a "punk prayer" against then-Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who was campaigning for his return to the presidency at the time. Ms. Alyokhina and Ms. Tolokonnikova were close to the end of their two-year prison sentences when they were freed in December 2013, under an amnesty they dismissed as a propaganda stunt to improve Mr. Putin's image ahead of the February 2014 Sochi Olympics. They have focused largely on fighting for the rights of prisoners since their release. (RFE/RL, with reporting by Mediazona)

Long prison term sought for Tatar leader

SYMFEROPOL, Ukraine – A state prosecutor in Ukraine's Russian-controlled Crimea region has asked a court to convict a prominent Crimean Tatar leader, Akhtem Chygoz, and sentence him to eight years in prison. The prosecutor made the sentencing recommendation at the trial in the regional capital, Symferopol, on August 7. Mr. Chygoz is a leader of the Mejlis, the Crimean Tatar assembly that was outlawed by Russia after Moscow's forcible takeover of the Black Sea peninsula. He has been held by the Russian authorities since January 2015, and is charged with organizing an illegal demonstration in Symferopol in February 2014. Defense lawyers say the charge is absurd because the demonstration against Russian moves to seize control of Crimea came before Moscow illegally annexed the peninsula the following month, and no Ukrainian laws were violated. Rights groups say his trial is part of a persistent campaign of reprisals against Crimeans who opposed Russia's seizure of the region. Russia has been sharply criticized by international rights groups and Western governments for its treatment of members of the indigenous Turkic-speaking Crimean Tatar minority. Mr. Chygoz, 52, and two other Crimean Tatars charged in connection with the demonstration – Ali Asanov and Mustafa Degermendzhy – are recognized as political prisoners by the Russian human rights group Memorial. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and other international organizations have called for their release. (Crimean Desk, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

Athletes suspended over doping charges

KYIV – Two Ukrainian athletes, including an Olympic bronze medal winner, have received provisional suspensions after being charged with doping offenses, international sports officials say. The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) said sprinters Olesya Povh and Olha Zemlyak face charges of "the use of a prohibited substance" and have been suspended pending the outcome of any appeals in the case. The suspensions come ahead of the World Athletics Championships, which began August 4, meaning the two women will not be able to compete. The Ukrainian Athletics Federation said Ms. Povh and Ms. Zemlyak

had written to the IAAF but that "their explanations... were found to be insufficient to explain the abnormal test results." The federation said Ms. Zemlyak's coach, Serhiy Basenko, was also removed from Ukraine's world championship delegation. Ms. Povh won an Olympic bronze medal in the women's 4x100-meter relay in 2012 in London and had been due to race the 100 and 4x100 at the world championships, also in London. Previously, Ukrainian javelin thrower Oleksandr Pyatnytsya and Denys Yurchenko were stripped of Olympic medals as part of doping investigations. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by AP and AFP)

Saakashvili predicts Putin's 'full isolation'

WARSAW – Mikheil Saakashvili, the former Georgian president and ex-governor of Ukraine's Odesa region who was stripped last month of his Ukrainian citizenship, says Russian President Vladimir Putin will eventually face "full international isolation" as a result of tensions between Moscow and the West. In an exclusive interview with RFE/RL's Russian Service on August 7, Mr. Saakashvili also predicted that political opposition forces "will certainly prevail" in Russia. "In the end, Putin will be in full international isolation because [the tension between Moscow and the West] is rolling down with increasing speed," Mr. Saakashvili said during a visit to Warsaw. "There is a serious opposition rising up inside Russia," he continued. "I am referring to the youth that we saw in the streets recently following [calls to rally by opposition leader Aleksei] Navalny. They were not those well-to-do people who had come out on Bolotnaya [Square in 2012] for protests that were limited to Moscow and St. Petersburg." Rather, Mr. Saakashvili said, Russia's new "rising" opposition was made up of "poor but well educated and very well informed" Russians, "millions and millions of residents of Russia. And that is a very big force." Mr. Saakashvili acknowledged that Russia's opposition remained in the minority for now. But he said that together with those who passively support antigovernment protests, the opposition now had the moral support of a majority of Russians, "and they will certainly prevail." Despite the revocation of his Ukrainian citizenship and Tbilisi's extradition requests, Mr. Saakashvili told RFE/RL that he was allowed to leave the United States last week and to enter Poland using his Ukrainian passport. He rejected the notion that his Ukrainian passport was now "illegal" and said he planned to challenge President Petro Poroshenko's order in a Ukrainian court and at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France. (Aleksei Dzikavitski of RFE/RL, written by Ron Synovitz in Prague)

Almost 100 drown in one week

KYIV – At least 99 people have drowned in Ukraine in the past week as sweltering heat drove people to rivers, lakes and the Black Sea for relief, officials say. In a statement on August 7, the National Emergency Situations Service said the 99 people who drowned from July 31 to August 6 brought the total number of known drowning deaths this year in the country of 44 million to 685, including 70 children. It did not give figures for previous years. Temperatures in the capital, Kyiv, reached at least 30 degrees Celsius every day during the past week, at times climbing to 35 degrees or higher. The Emergency Situations Service said that relaxing by the water was a good way to cool off when temperatures are so high. "However, if you do not follow elementary rules of safety and self-protection... this can end in real tragedy," it said. The statement said that 484 people who were in danger of drowning had been saved so far in 2017, including 104 children. (RFE/RL, with reporting by UNIAN)

Ukraine's ambassador...

(Continued from page 1)

Canada also will never reach total duty-free access to Ukraine under the new trade deal, which right now eliminates tariffs on 72 percent of such Canadian goods as seafood, grain crops, chocolate, beer and wine, textiles, and iron and steel products. Over the next seven years, Ukrainian duties will drop from a variety of Canadian goods, from meat and motorbikes, to milk and honey to bring the duty-free rate to 99 percent.

Under CUFTA, tariffs will be waived for products delivered through e-commerce. Therefore any books, event tickets, clothing or household goods purchased online from either country will be exempt from customs duties.

Ambassador Shevchenko and Oleh Khavroniuk, Ukraine's trade commissioner in Canada, hope that CUFTA will result, as is the case with previous free trade agreements Canada has entered into, in a boost in bilateral business within two years of the agreement's implementation.

Any increase would be welcome, since the current trade picture between Canada and Ukraine is "peanuts," said Ambassador Shevchenko.

According to Ukraine's State Statistics Service, the total value of trade between Canada and Ukraine in 2016 was \$505.9 million Canadian (about \$405 million U.S.). Most of that (\$363.2 million Canadian, or about \$291 million U.S.) benefited Canada through exports in such goods as seafood, pharmaceutical products and nuclear reactors. In fact, Canadian exports increased by 5 percent last year when Ukrainian exports to Canada for such products as soybeans, sports equipment and wood, were valued at \$142.7 million Canadian (or about \$114 million U.S.).

"Canada is one of the top five under-traded partners with Ukraine," Ambassador Shevchenko said in an interview.

Also, Ukraine accounts for only 1 percent of total Canadian trade, according to Mr. Khavroniuk.

In light of its recent pact with the EU, Ukraine's largest trading partner is now a bloc comprising the 28 member states of the European Union, which represents 38 percent of Ukraine's total trade picture. But what might surprise some is that Ukraine has no bilateral deals with its other major trading partners: India, Russia (which suspended its bilateral agreement in 2016 in retaliation for Ukraine's deal with the EU), Turkey, Iran and the U.S.

So why pursue a formal trade pact with Canada?

"It's a major signal of support" from Canada to Ukraine, said Ukraine's ambassador to Canada.

David Usher, director general for trade negotiations at Global Affairs Canada, who attended the media briefing at

the Embassy, said he hopes that CUFTA "will pave the way for long-term security and stability" in Ukraine. (Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland, a Ukrainian Canadian, heads the federal Global Affairs department.)

Beyond the tariff relief, CUFTA will make it easier for Ukrainian and Canadian companies to do business in either country.

The agreement provides companies with preferential access to procurement opportunities in both countries. Under the treaty, Canadian companies could bid on Ukrainian government projects as well as those tendered by public enterprises, such as airports, the postal system and public transportation, including rail and subway.

Ukrainian companies will technically be able to do the same in Canada. Although it's more likely this government-procurement provision will benefit Canadian firms seeking opportunities in Ukraine.

Ambassador Shevchenko noted that about 4,000 government tenders are announced in Ukraine daily, and that the national annual procurement budget is worth nearly \$15 billion Canadian (about \$12 billion U.S.).

Canadian businesses bidding for contracts in Ukraine will also experience a cleaner process under CUFTA.

The agreement devotes an entire chapter to transparency, and a section outlining measures to combat bribery and corruption by criminalizing such activity.

"If you have Canadian companies competing against Ukrainian companies for a public-procurement contract, there will not be many chances for a Ukrainian bureaucrat to make sure his friend's firm wins it," Ambassador Shevchenko said.

He explained that, beyond the legal restrictions contained in CUFTA, the Ukrainian government relies on a state-of-the-art government e-procurement system, called ProZorro and designed in Ukraine, to issue tenders and ensure open access to them in a fair and transparent manner.

"This software is better than what Canada uses," said Ambassador Shevchenko, who would like CUFTA expanded to also include a chapter on services, such as information and communications technology – a sector that is booming in Ukraine.

In a recent opinion piece in *The Globe and Mail*, one of Canada's two English-language national newspapers, Ukraine's trade representative Nataliya Mykolska, who also serves as deputy minister of economic development and trade, wrote that her country's software development and IT services industry recorded exports of about \$3 billion U.S. last year "and has enjoyed double-digit growth for several years."

She said there are more than 100,000 certified IT specialists, "third most in the world after the United States and



Christopher Guly

Ambassador Andriy Shevchenko speaks about the significance of the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement during a media briefing at the Embassy of Ukraine on July 28.

India," and that by 2020 the number is expected to reach 200,000. The number of women employed in Ukrainian IT companies has also doubled in the past five years.

Of particular interest for Canada is that 12 Ukrainian IT firms are among the world's top 100 outsourcing companies.

Two major Canadian companies – telecommunications giant Bell Canada and national retail chain Canadian Tire – outsource software design and production to Ukrainian firms. This is being done, as Ambassador Shevchenko noted, in advance of the implementation of CUFTA, and most especially, in the absence of a services chapter in the agreement.

There are other examples of significant pre-CUFTA business activity between Ukraine and Canada.

Two turboprop engines made by Pratt & Whitney Canada will power a new version of Ukraine's military transport aircraft, the Antonov An-32, which is being jointly developed by Ukraine and Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, Canadian beef and lobster already appear on grocery shelves in Lviv and Odesa, according to the ambassador.

"This year, Ukraine became the fourth largest importer of Canadian seafood," he said. "Who would have thought that?"

Equally interesting is that the Fischer hockey sticks Canadian junior hockey players use are made in western Ukraine.

Mr. Khavroniuk, who also serves as the Ukrainian Embassy's first secretary for economic issues, will likely share these and other bits of information when he embarks in the fall on a CUFTA promotional tour to several major Canadian cities with representatives from the Canada-Ukraine Trade and Investment Support project that helps Ukrainian small and medium-sized enterprises access the Canadian and other global markets. Global Affairs Canada and Ukraine's Ministry of Economic Development and Trade are partners in the initiative.

The Canadian and Ukrainian governments have until October 1 to each appoint a representative to administer CUFTA through a joint commission. But the key to the agreement's success will be the business-to-business contacts made, and particularly the willingness of Canadian entrepreneurs to pursue opportunities in Ukraine despite its continuing hostilities with Russia.

"Obviously, that does not make our life easier, but businesses should make their own judgment on Ukraine," said Ambassador Shevchenko. "Yes it does require some risk management. But on the other hand, there is nothing to prevent Canadian businesses from becoming involved in great projects in the whole territory of Ukraine."

Added the ambassador: "Russia tried to stop our negotiations with the European Union, which resulted in the Revolution of Dignity in the Maidan in 2014, but Russia did not succeed. Russia didn't even try to prevent us from entering a free-trade deal with Canada."



An infographic on Canada-Ukraine relations prepared by the Canadian government.

Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

truce' should be enough for the IOC to join with us in choosing a more worthy venue for the 2014 Winter Olympics."

The two Congressmen from Pennsylvania called on foreign legislators to introduce similar resolutions in their respective parliaments to send a message to Russia and the IOC that Russia's actions should cause it to forfeit the honor

of hosting the Olympics.

During the 2014 Paralympic Games in Sochi, Russia began its invasion of Crimea and Ukraine as the stunned world watched Russia violate international law again. Since the 2014 Winter Olympics, Russia has experienced further isolation in international sports competitions, with many Russian athletes having been banned or stripped of their records and medals because of state-sponsored doping. Some Russian athletes, who have been cleared for competition, have been forced to compete under a neutral banner,

with strict rules for competitors. Russia is scheduled to host the 2018 World Cup of soccer, amid calls from the international community to strip Russia of hosting rights and to move the venue to a new location. Despite the corruption scandal that hit the world soccer body in 2015, FIFA remains dissuaded from shifting the venue from Russia.

Source: "Members of Congress call on IOC to strip Russia of 2014 Olympics," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, August 24, 2008.

COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Award-winning documentary "Recovery Room" holds screenings

UCC Montreal

MONTREAL – The award-winning feature documentary film "Recovery Room" directed by Adriana Luhova is now being screened across Canada and in the United States. The film tells the story of the impact of the current war in eastern Ukraine and the diaspora's response on a humanitarian level. It shows the courage and sacrifice of the young Ukrainian soldiers defending their eastern territory against Russian aggression.

The documentary is under the patronage of the Ukrainian World Congress.

A highly successful Montreal screening was organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC), Montreal branch, at the Ukrainian Youth Center on June 15, with over 150 people in attendance, including special guests from Montreal's ethnocultural communities

Opening remarks were given by Orest Humenny, master of ceremonies for the evening. He congratulated the film's director and her team in bringing public awareness to the ongoing war in eastern Ukraine in a "powerful, sensitively constructed and moving documentary."

He then introduced Ms. Luhova, who spoke about how she began photographing the humanitarian medical missions in Ukraine organized by the Canada Ukraine Foundation (CUF), and then filming the documentary in Kyiv. She related some of the difficulties in doing the project. She also shared the emotional effect on her in filming the traumatic stories of the wounded



Andrew Mazepa

At the Montreal screening of "Recovery Room" (from left) are: Yuriy Luhovy, producer; Oksana Rozumna, script editor; Orest Humenny, emcee for the evening; Adriana Luhova, director; Eugene Czolij, Ukrainian World Congress president; and Zorianna Hrycenko, producer.

Ukrainian soldiers, and in filming the interviews with the Canadian and Ukrainian medical teams who performed reconstructive surgery on the soldiers injured by sniper fire and explosions.

An exhibit of 60 large-scale photographs taken by Ms. Luhova during the medical missions was on display.

Ms. Luhova thanked the Montreal community for its encouragement and support, especially Caisse Populaire Desjardins Ukrainienne de Montréal; Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish; Ukrainian National Federation, Montreal branch; Ukrainian Youth

Association, Montreal; and others.

Following the filmmaker's remarks, Yuriy Luhovy, the documentary's co-producer and editor, talked about the almost two years it took to make the film. He mentioned how proud he was to work with his daughter and how pleased he was that she asked him to edit the film. Mr. Luhovy commented on how he was also emotionally affected by the film footage during his research for stock shots, during editing – while watching and re-watching the war footage – and by listening to the soldiers' personal thoughts about the war and its traumatic impact on them.

When the film ended, silence filled the auditorium. The visibly moved audience then erupted into prolonged applause.

Following the ovation, the production team was invited to the front. It included the director Ms. Luhova, producers Mr. Luhovy and Zorianna Hrycenko, and film script editor Oksana Rozumna.

Eugene Czolij, president of the Ukrainian World Congress, acknowledged the dedication and commitment of the film's production team in capturing the story of the young defenders in eastern Ukraine. He emphasized the timeliness of the documentary and encouraged others "to view and support this moving film."

Flowers were presented and congratulations extended on behalf of the UCC Montreal to Ms. Luhova by UCC Cultural Chair Bohdanna Hawryluk.

A wine and cheese reception followed, courtesy of UNF Montreal, with viewers lingering at length, talking to the film team and entering their comments in the guest books.

"Recovery Room" was shown in Halifax at Mount St. Vincent University, on May 6, organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Association (UCA) of Halifax-Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, whose president is John Zareski; and in Sydney, Nova Scotia, on May 7, at the Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Parish Hall, organized by Father Roman Dusanowskyj. The documentary's producer and editor, Mr. Luhovy, was in attendance at both showings.

The documentary was also screened in Toronto to a standing ovation at the national conventions of the League of Ukrainian Canadians and the League of Ukrainian Women, on April 28, with the director and producers Mr. Luhovy and Ms. Hrycenko present. Attending this special screening in Toronto were delegates from across Canada, as well as members of the Canadian volunteer medical missions to Ukraine.

Following the screening, Ms. Luhova thanked Dr. Oleh Romanyshyn, Dr. Orest Steciw and the BCU Foundation for supporting the documentary project. She also acknowledged Victor Hetmanczuk, president of CUF, who organized the medical missions, and Dr. Oleh Antonyshyn, who headed the missions.

Screenings of the documentary are being scheduled in Oakville, Sudbury and Ottawa, Ontario; Winnipeg, Manitoba; and Buffalo, N.Y.

For further information, to help support the film or organize a screening, readers may contact mmlinc@hotmail.com, see www.recoveryroomthemovie.com or call 514-481-5871.

The trailer for the film may be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1E3DR4aULmg>.



MML Inc.

Filmmaker Adriana Luhova with Prof. Luba Zuk, president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, Montreal branch.

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Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

Terry Sawchuk: 'greatest goaltender ever'

Terry Sawchuk was named one of the NHL's 100 – the top-100 players in the history of the National Hockey League's 100 years of existence. This is the fourth in a series featuring the six Ukrainian hockey stars selected to this elite group.

A few in the trade have exceeded Terry Sawchuk's victory and shutout totals, but not one who puts on goalie equipment will ever exceed the Ukrainian's ability to stop the puck. Fellow Uke Johnny Bower, who teamed with Sawchuk to backstop the Toronto Maple Leafs to their final Stanley Cup win in 1966-1967, proclaimed Sawchuk "the greatest goaltender ever." It takes one to know one.

Back in the beginning of Sawchuk's career there were a scant six NHL net-minding employment opportunities. Future Hall of Fame goalies like Bower, Jacques Plante, Gump Worsley and Glenn Hall toiled away in the minor leagues, biding their time for a shot in the show.

While playing juniors with the Windsor Spitfires, Hall would occasionally cross the border to observe Sawchuk in net for the Detroit Red Wings. He tried to copy Sawchuk's style, down to the low-crouch position in which he played to cover the crease area.

Indeed, most goaltenders attempted to imitate Sawchuk. No goaltender could emulate Sawchuk, and he remains the only goalie in NHL history to record a goals-against

average of less than 2.00 in each of his first five seasons. This bears repeating. Sawchuk is the only one. Vezina didn't accomplish this feat. Durnan didn't do it. Roy didn't do it. Neither did Brodeur or Hasek.

Sawchuk recorded 56 shutouts and 195 wins over that period, leading the league in victories in each of those five seasons. During the 1951-1952 playoffs, Sawchuk went 8-0 in leading the Red Wings to the title. He posted four shutouts, a 0.63 GAA and an amazing .977 save percentage. He did not allow a single goal on home ice.

Granted, it is nearly impossible to compare eras, but it is paramount to remember that goalies of Sawchuk's time were expected to play despite pain. Goalie equipment was modest and clubs did not yet carry back-ups to give the starter a break from injury or a night off.

Speaking of injury, here is a list of Sawchuk's punishing legacy: punctured lungs, ruptured discs, a blocked intestine, infectious mononucleosis, severed hand tendons, a broken instep, twice broken nose and some 600 stitches. In those days, NHL goaltenders were trying to accomplish two things: stop the puck and not get killed doing it.

How tough and courageous was Sawchuk? In 1964 he checked himself out of a hospital bed to play a Stanley Cup playoff game against Chicago, only to go ahead and post a shutout.

The insecurity of the goaltending position

– one spot on each of six NHL clubs – led him to play through as much pain as he could humanly endure. He got himself repaired when time permitted, leading to the assumption he spent his summers in the hospital.

The semifinal against the Blackhawks in 1967 was another example of his fortitude when Sawchuk's physical well-being was tested by the howitzers of Bobby Hull and Stan Mikita. Some refer to it as the most courageous goaltending performance ever seen. The veteran stood up and challenged Hull, Mikita and the Hawks in an amazing show. Sawchuk wore his battered shoulder pads – the same ones he'd used since junior hockey – now in tatters. His old chest protector was nothing more than a piece of felt. He would still charge out to his position, totally fearless, just putting his body in the way of opposing shots.

One can only imagine the pain he endured.

Here's still another component of what made Sawchuk a goaltender of unparalleled ability to stop the puck. He did not double his size simply by donning his equipment. He utilized his guile, his positioning and his instincts to occupy the space between the pipes. His wide-body frame allowed him to stand up, blocking most of the goal for an opponent coming in, trying to maneuver the puck past him. He had little difficulty covering the entire net.

The Ukrainian stalwart accomplished all this despite being born with a right arm



Goaltender Terry Sawchuk of the Detroit Red Wings.

two inches shorter than his left. While playing in a childhood rugby game he suffered an elbow injury, an ailment left untreated until his adult years. Sawchuk suffered through three surgeries and his teammates noted that their goalie could not lift his arm to comb his hair. He would hold out the comb and tilt his head down to drag the hair through the comb.

Subsequent goaltenders have bettered his numbers, but it is without a doubt incorrect to state that anyone who has tended goal in the history of the NHL tended to the position better than Sawchuk.

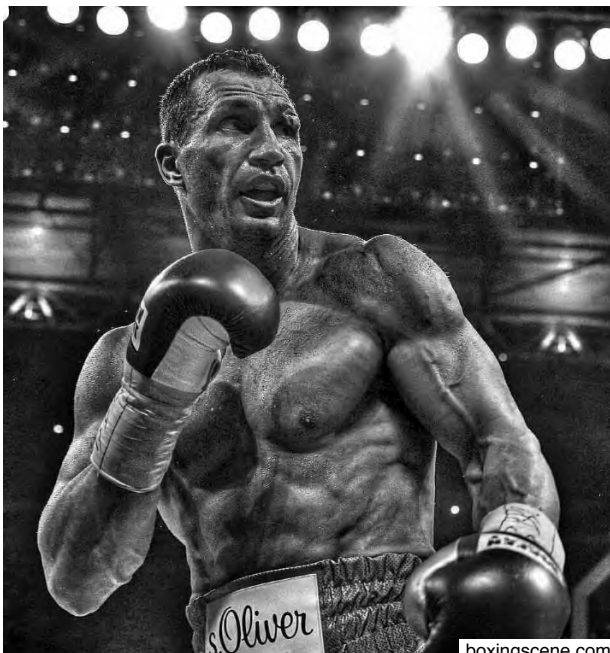
(Continued on page 18)



Ukrainian pro sports update: boxing

by Ihor Stelmach

Wladimir Klitschko retires from boxing



Wladimir Klitschko during his last fight against Anthony Joshua.

Wladimir Klitschko officially ended a 21-year professional boxing career on August 3, when he announced his retirement. One of the longest-reigning champions in the sport's history, he competed in more heavyweight title bouts than anyone.

Klitschko's final fight, on April 29 in front of 90,000 at sold out Wembley Stadium in London, was his 29th heavyweight title appearance – two more than the legendary Joe Louis – a classic battle against England's Anthony Joshua, his ex-sparring partner. The bout was a thrilling, dramatic highlight for the ages where both fighters got knocked down and showed tremendous fire power. Klitschko, 41, went down three times and was out in the 11th round.

This was Wladimir's second consecutive defeat after a momentous upset loss to Tyson Fury seventeen months prior which cost him the unified world championship he held for nearly a decade.

Klitschko (64-5, 54 KO) had the right to an immediate Joshua rematch and most of the boxing world believed he would accept the fight. Joshua's handlers were already making plans for a November 11 rematch in Las Vegas.

Klitschko had not made up his mind about the rematch option, taking his time to ponder his future. He did and opted for retirement instead of one last fight with Joshua.

"I deliberately took a few weeks to make my decision, to make sure I had enough distance from the fight at Wembley Stadium," Klitschko said in his retirement statement on August 3. "As an amateur and professional boxer, I have achieved everything I dreamed of, and now, I want to start my second career after sports. I would have never imagined that I would have such a long and incredibly successful boxing career. I'm very thankful for this. Thanks to everyone who has always supported me, especially my family, my team and my many fans."

The Ukrainian Klitschko became a star in Germany, where his fights were spectacles in sold-out soccer stadiums across the country. He also spends lots of time in the United States, where he and his long-time fiancée, actress Hayden Panettiere, are raising a toddler daughter. He leaves the boxing ring on his own terms as one of the most decorated pugilists of all time. He won an Olympic super heavyweight gold medal as an amateur in 1996, was a two-time world champion as a professional and banked hundreds of millions of dollars.

Klitschko's second world title reign began with his 2006 win over Chris Byrd and lasted until his loss to Fury in 2015. It was one of the most dominant in any weight division in boxing history. There were few real challengers as

(Continued on page 19)

Lomachenko TKO's Marriaga in the seventh round

He has set as his ultimate goal to be the No. 1 pound-for-pound fighter in the world and he has already been mentioned by some boxing pundits as at that ultimate status. Another step toward that goal was to take care of his next challenger, underdog Miguel Marriaga.

Junior lightweight world titleholder Vasyl Lomachenko stepped forward big time on August 5 in the main event of the boxing card at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. The Ukrainian toyed with Marriaga, knocking him down twice, winning by a

(Continued on page 18)



Vasyl Lomachenko (right) taunts Miguel Marriaga from the corner.

Call to Prayer Pilgrimage to be held in Centralia, Pa.

by the Rev. John M. Fields
Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy
of Philadelphia

CENTRALIA, Pa. – On the grounds and inside Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, located on the serene mountaintop overlooking the abandoned, desolate borough of Centralia, the second annual Call to Prayer Pilgrimage will be held Sunday, August 27. This date is the eve of the Feast of the Dormition of the Holy Mother of God, according to the Julian calendar.

The pilgrimage begins at noon with the celebration of the divine liturgy with Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka as the main celebrant and area clergy as concelebrants. The homilist will be the Very Rev. Archpriest John M. Fields. The Rev. Paul Spotts will serve as deacon. Responses to the liturgy will be led by the choir of the Patronage of the Mother of God Church in McAdoo, Pa.

After the divine liturgy, a procession with a replica of the Icon of Our Lady of Pochayiv will be held from the church to the outside chapel.

At 1:30-3:30 p.m. confessions will be available for the pilgrims at various locations throughout the church grounds.

A Living Rosary will be prayed at 2 p.m. before the historic and jeweled 18th century copy of the Icon of Our Lady of Pochayiv. Father Martin Kobos, OFM Conv., pastor of Mother Cabrini Church in Shamokin, Pa., will provide a reflection at the conclusion of the Living Rosary.

At 3p.m. the Rev. Msgr. James T. Melnic will celebrate with



Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

The congregation at the divine liturgy celebrated by Metropolitan Stefan Soroka during the 2016 pilgrimage.

the pilgrims the Akafist to the Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God before the Holy Shroud of the Dormition.

At 4:30 p.m. all will gather at the outdoor chapel for a candlelight procession to the church for the celebration of a Moleben to the Mother of God. Archbishop Soroka will again be the main celebrant as well as the homilist.

At the conclusion of the Moleben, prayers for healing and the anointing with holy oils for the healing of soul and body will take place. Pilgrims will have an opportunity to venerate the Icon of Our Lady of Pochayiv as well as the icon and relics of Blessed Martyr Bishop Mykola Charnetsky, CSsR, the healer of souls.

The icon and relics of the martyr will reside in the church for veneration throughout the day.

During his historic visit in November 2015, Major-Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, primate of the worldwide Ukrainian Catholic Church, marveled at the continuing presence of the church in Centralia. He also noted how this coal region parish has fostered four priestly vocations and three sisters to the religious life.

Patriarch Sviatoslav said he felt a sense of true holiness which pervades the entire church property. His desire is for all people of faith to come and experience this holiness, sanctity and serenity as pilgrims to this holy place on the mountain.

As a result of the visit of Patriarch Sviatoslav, and with the encouragement of Metropolitan-Archbishop Soroka of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, the place was designated a holy site of pilgrimage.

The first pilgrimage was held in 2016, and the Very Rev. Michael Hutsko, pastor, invites all people of faith to partici-

pate in this year's day of prayer and spiritual blessings.

Six years ago, on Sunday, August 28, 2011, Archbishop Soroka was the main celebrant and homilist when the parish celebrated the centennial of its founding.

"The main thing is that I want you to hear beyond the words," the archbishop said. "This church is standing after 100 years, despite the mine fire and the town leaving, to deliver a message to the world: We are to be like your namesake, the Mother of God, to be servants to others"

While the town of Centralia was destroyed by an underground mine fire, which resulted in the relocation of almost all the residents and the demolition of all but a few buildings, the stately white Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church capped with its three onion-shaped blue domes still sits on a hilltop overlooking the once-thriving town as it has since the first services were held there in 1912, after the parish was founded on August 15, 1911.

Today, while the town is a memory, the church still serves a thriving parish family, with congregants driving to the hilltop on Sundays and Holy Days from communities throughout the area.

Food service will be provided during the pilgrimage from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Handicapped parking will be provided on the church grounds; off-site parking and shuttle van service will be provided from specially designated areas near the church. This is a rain or shine event.

The church is located two blocks north of Route 42 in Centralia at the following mailing address: 1130 Summit Hill Road, Aristes, PA 17920. For more information readers may contact the church rectory at 570-339-0650.



Icon with relics of the Blessed Mykola Charnetsky, CSsR.

Lomachenko...

(Continued from page 17)

seventh-round technical knockout. The bout came to a quick ending after a brutal seventh round where the challenger took some serious punishment.

Lomachenko (9-1, 7 KO), a two-time Olympic gold medalist considered by many the greatest amateur in boxing history (396-1), retained his 130-pound world title for the third time.

He began the fight by probing Marriaga, looking to land his accurate jabs and hard body punches while taking almost no punishment in return. By the second round Lomachenko was in control, landing combi-

nations to the body and head, backing Marriaga up. Marriaga (25-3, 21 KO) was left on the defensive, no answers for his attacker.

The third round saw the Ukrainian land a left which dropped the underdog on his backside. Lomachenko then toyed with him, motioning for him to come at him in the corner. Marriaga obliged and Lomachenko nailed him, wiggled his hips, made a face at him and got a huge rise from the crowd. Somehow Marriaga landed a punch and an accidental head butt opened bruises over both of Lomachenko's eyes.

Not liking the cut from the head butt, Lomachenko seemed unaffected as he peppered his opponent with punches thrown from all angles, some with power,

other punches for range. Most landed and he remained in total control in every round.

The 29-year-old champion enjoyed a huge – what proved to be – final round, hammering Marriaga all over the ring in the seventh round. The Colombian was befuddled and getting quite beat up. Seconds before the round ended Lomachenko connected with a hard left, crumpling Marriaga to the mat. The bell ended the round and his corner threw in the towel, bringing the fight to a merciful ending.

Lomachenko's promoter, Top Rank's Bob Arum, indicated his fighter will be back in December to defend his title, probably in New York. Possible future opponents

include junior featherweight titlist Guillermo Rigondeaux, Miguel Berchelt and Orlando Salido, who defeated Lomachenko in his second pro fight.

The Ukrainian champ has no preference as to whom he may face next. His goals remain the same: big names and world titles. Based on the Marriaga bout, the future looks bright.

"I never saw anything like this. He's unbelievable," said Bob Arum, who has been in boxing for more than 50 years. "Not only does he have the knowledge, he has the skill set that I've never seen before. Fast reflexes, everything and he really entertains. Who else did that? Muhammad Ali." (Arum quote from post-fight news conference, courtesy of ESPN.)

Terry Sawchuk...

(Continued from page 17)

He was simply the best. The best that will ever be. That truly is Sawchuk's legacy.

Sawchuk sayings

• In 1947, Ken Johnson of the Windsor Star: "In my opinion, the kid is the best goalie in junior hockey today. All predict a

bright future for the Winnipeg-born goalie, who, at 17, stands five-foot 11 inches and weighs 193 pounds. He's agile, too."

• Windsor coach Jimmy Skinner: "Terry was always thinking, always quiet. He would shake hands with you and then not say a word. He was so serious about hockey that I never saw him clown around."

• Famed broadcaster Dick Irvin, writing in 1995 about an October 22, 1951, game in Montreal: "I have watched a lot of goalies

stop a lot of shots since then, but I have never forgotten the Detroit goalie's performance that night. It was the first time I had seen him play and maybe that's why I usually answer 'Terry Sawchuk' when asked to pick the all-time best goalie."

• Teammate Marcel Pronovost: "Terry accepted full responsibility as a way of taking the onus off of the hockey club. Terry never blamed anyone for his shortcomings on the ice. Unlike others, he never pointed

at a defenseman. It was always a battle between him and the puck, and he'd say, 'I shoulda had it!'"

• Toronto coach-GM Punch Imlach: "Our goaltending is the reason we're in first place. Sawchuk has been fantastic. I think he's playing the best hockey in his career right now. Even better than he was playing with Detroit in the '50's"

Quotes courtesy of David Dupuis' book, "Sawchuk"

OUT & ABOUT

Through September 30 Chicago	Exhibit from Ukraine, "The Courageous: Our Heroes," Ukrainian National Museum, 312-421-8020 or info@ukrainiannationalmuseum.org	August 24 Binghamton, NY	Ukrainian Independence Day celebration, with Mayor David at Binghamton City Hall, bozhezbereshy@aol.com or 607-798-9148
August 17-19 Saskatoon, SK	Saskatoon Folkfest, Ukrainian Karparty Pavilion, Hall D Exhibition Grounds, www.saskatoonfolkfest.com or 306-931-0100	August 25 Wildwood Crest, NJ	USCAK Beach Volleyball Tournament, Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada and the Lys Sports Academy, beach in front of Pan American Hotel, rbulawski@gmail.com or www.uscak.org
August 17-20 Rochester, NY	St. Josaphat Ukrainian Festival, St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church, 585-467-6457 or www.rochesterukrainianfestival.com	August 25 Wildwood, NJ	Fund-raiser dance, Khmelnychenky Plast fraternity, Wildwood VFW hall, Orest.michel@gmail.com or www.facebook.com/xmeli
August 18 through September 18 Chicago	Art exhibit, "Five Elements of War," by Daria Marchenko and Daniel Green, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 773-227-5522 or www.uima-chicago.org	August 26 Jewett, NY	Vocal recital with soprano Sofia Soloviy of the Rome Teatro dell' Opera, Grazhda Music and Art Center, 518-989-6479 or www.grazhdamusicanart.org
August 19 Kerhonkson, NY	Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Camp recital, Soyuzivka Heritage Center, www.soyuzivka.com	August 26 Saskatoon, SK	Ukrainian Day in the Park, Kiwanis Memorial Park, www.ukrainiandayinthepark.ca
August 19 Toronto	Ukrainian Independence Day celebration, Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Etobicoke Centennial Park, www.ucc.ca	August 26 Syracuse, NY	Ukrainian Independence Day celebration, Syracuse Ukrainian National Home, www.syrucc.org/unh
August 19 Jewett, NY	Piano recital concert with pianist Pavlo Gintov, Grazhda Music and Art Center, 518-989-6479 or www.grazhdamusicanart.org	August 26-27 Lamont, AB	Babas and Borshch Ukrainian Festival, various locations, www.babasandborshch.ca
August 19 Etobicoke, ON	Sports Festival (soccer, volleyball, badminton, table tennis and chess), USC Karpaty, Centennial Park, 416-807-0988	August 26-27 Chicago	Ukrainian Days Festival, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America - Illinois Division, Chicago Avenue (between 2300 and 2200), www.uccaininois.org
August 19-20 Lehighton, PA	Ukrainian Festival, Ukrainian Homestead, 610-377-4621 or www.ukrhomestead.com	August 27 Horsham, PA	Ukrainian Folk Festival, "United Ukraine - United with Us," Ukrainian American Sports Center Tryzub, www.tryzub.org
August 20 New York	Vyshyvanka Run, Ukrainian Running Club New York, Ukrainian Institute of America, www.facebook.com/URCNY/	August 27 Edmonton, AB	Friends Ukrainian Music Fest, Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, 780-662-3640 or uchv@gov.ab.ca
August 20 Union/Irvington, NJ	Ukrainian Independence Day commemoration, Union Township Municipal Building, Ukrainian Community Center, 973-375-0156	August 27 San Francisco	Ukrainian Independence Day Concert, Spreckles Temple of Music, Golden Gate Park, www.goldengateparkband.org/concerts
August 24 Ottawa	Canada 150 celebration, Embassy of Ukraine, Horticulture Building, Lansdowne Park, emb_ca@mfa.gov.ua or 613-230-2961 ext. 100	August 27 Centralia, PA	Pilgrimage, "A Call to Prayer," Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 570-339-0650
August 24 Wildwood Crest, NJ	USCAK Beach Soccer Tournament, beach in front of Pan American Hotel, www.uscak.org		

Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in *The Ukrainian Weekly*. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.

Wladimir Klitschko...

(Continued from page 17)

he breezed by all the top contenders to unify three title belts. He never had a chance for the missing fourth belt because his older brother, Vitaly, another future Hall of Famer, held it for many years. Their goal of holding the titles at the same time was realized. They both kept their promise to their mother that they would never fight each other. His second reign of 9 years, 7 months and 7 days was the second longest heavyweight title tenure in history behind Joe Louis (11 years, 8 months, 8 days). During this time Wladimir made 18 consecutive defenses, third-most in division history behind only two other boxing legends, Louis (25) and Larry Holmes (20).

Nicknamed "Dr. Steelhammer" because he earned a doctorate, he won his first title with an annihilation of Byrd in October 2000 and defended his belt five times before a surprising second-round knockout loss to big puncher Corrie Sanders in 2003. The year 2004 saw him get a shot at a vacant belt against Lamon Brewster, and Klitschko battered him all over the ring until somehow he lost his strength and got knocked out in the fifth round in Las Vegas.

Klitschko was actually not taken as a serious contender at first, especially after being stopped in the 10th round by journeyman Ross Puritty in 1998. The stunning loss to Brewster hit him hard and he resolved to make it to the top of his sport. He used a most vivid reminder of his loss as

a major motivational tool: Klitschko kept the gloves he wore in that fight on display in his office and he carried a business card given to him by Brewster's former manager. The card has a picture of Klitschko being knocked out and is signed by Brewster.

The Brewster loss was also Klitschko's first bout under the guidance of the late, great Hall of Fame trainer Emanuel Steward. The duo stuck it through and Steward helped to rebuild Klitschko into a potent boxing force. The two were together for 17 fights until the trainer's death in 2012. He was replaced by his protégé and former sparring partner Johnathon Banks. The Ukrainian easily maintained his winning ways, rarely even losing rounds until the upset at the hands of Fury. The latter's ongoing psychological problems plus issues with drugs and alcohol forced two contractual rematches to be canceled.

Fury's problems kept Klitschko out of the ring waiting for a rematch until he finally came back to face Joshua for his belt and a vacant one. Despite losing the bout, he showed great heart and made it a fight to remember. He lost, yet went out on a high note, offsetting the criticism he received for being a boring, clinical fighter. The true analysis of his boxing career stated he was so dominant he made it look too easy, even if it wasn't too exciting. True he competed in a down era for heavyweights of note, but he nonetheless did beat them all.

He defeated Byrd (twice), Ray Mercer, Jameel McCline, Samuel Peter, Calvin Brock, Sultan Ibragimov (to unify titles), Tony Thompson (twice), Hasim Rahman, Ruslan

Chagaev (stripped of a title for taking the fight), Eddie Chambers, David Haye (to unify titles), Alexander Povetkin and Bryant Jennings.

Klitschko was in line for another huge pay day (\$20 million range) in a potential rematch with Joshua, instead opting to

retire at the right time.

"Twenty-seven years ago (as an amateur) I started my journey in sports and it was the best choice of a professional I could have ever made," Klitschko said.

Ihor Stelmach may be reached at iman@sfgsports.com.



KLK ANNUAL FALL WEEKEND September 30 – October 1, 2017 SOYUZIVKA HERITAGE CENTER



KLK cordially invites all our members, family and friends to our Annual Fall Weekend. You can choose to play some friendly tennis, or just relax and mingle with friends.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

TENNIS DOUBLES- Registration at 11:00 AM. Pre- registration desirable.

AFTERNOON SOCIAL – Begins at 2:30 PM. Enjoy some good food, drink and good company.

DINNER DANCE will begin at 6:30 PM starting with a cocktail hour, sit down dinner and dance will begin at 7:30 PM. Dance to the spectacular tunes of "ANNA-MARIA"

Afternoon Social, Cocktail hour, Dinner, Dance and Open Bar – **\$140 per person**.
Dinner Dance and Open Bar – **\$120.00 per person**

Our annual meeting and **ELECTIONS** will be held Sunday morning. Please plan to attend.

To register, RSVP or for more information please contact marianaliv@yahoo.com, call **732 991-1095** or go to our website: www.klkusa.com

Please RSVP if you are planning to attend. It is important that we get a headcount so that we can make this weekend a success and enjoyable for you.

Room Reservations - Please call SOYUZIVKA at **845 626-5641** and mention KLK.

UKRAINIAN FOLK FESTIVAL

Celebrating the 26th Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27 @ 12:00 noon

"TRYZUB" - UKRAINIAN-AMERICAN SPORT CENTER

County Line & Lower State Roads, Horsham, PA

www.tryzub.org ~ (267) 664-3857

1:30 to 4:30 PM

"UNITED UKRAINE - UNITED WITH US"

A Resplendent Outdoor Summer Concert in the Tryzub Park



Ukrainian Music, Song and Dance in a dynamic, integrated program Collaboratively designed, arranged and choreographed by the performing artists

Starting at 12:00 Noon

Live Music & Dancing

Homemade Ukrainian Ethnic Foods & Baked Goods

Ukrainian Folk Arts & Crafts Market and Displays

Drinks and Cool Refreshments BBQ & Picnic Foods

Kids' Fun Area

VOLOSHKY UKRAINIAN DANCE ENSEMBLE
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VIOLINIST INNESSA TYMOCHKO DEKAJLO
Live Historical Reenactments
Vox Ethnika Orchestra

EFSAANE CRIMEAN TATAR ENSEMBLE



IRYNA LONCHYNA



4:30 PM -Social Dance ("ZABAVA")
- Live Music by Vox Ethnika

Sponsor:  UKRFCU.com
Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union

ADMISSION: \$15 ~ STUDENTS: \$10 ~
KIDS, 15 & Under: FREE ~ FREE PARKING

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, August 27

HORSHAM, Pa.: The Ukrainian American Sport Center - Tryzub - will host the 26th annual Ukrainian Independence Folk Festival and Outdoor Summer Concert at Tryzubivka, County Line and Lower State roads, Horsham, PA 19044. Doors will open at noon. The outdoor summer concert in the park will begin at 1:30 p.m. It is an integrated, dynamic program titled "United Ukraine; United," a collaborative effort of prior performers: Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, Iskra Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, violinist Innessa Tymochko Dekajlo and Vox Ethnika orchestra. Special guests include singer-songwriter Iryna Lonchyna from Ukraine and the Efsane Crimean Tatar Ensemble. A social dance to the live music of Vox Ethnika will follow at 4:30 p.m. Delicious Ukrainian foods and baked goods, picnic fare, cool beverages and refreshments will be plentiful. Vendors are welcome. An arts and crafts bazaar and a children's fun area will be open all day. Admission: \$15; students, \$10; children under 15, free. Parking is free. For

further information call 267-664-3857, e-mail info@tryzub.org or visit www.tryzub.org. The sponsor is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit charitable organization; proceeds benefit youth and adult amateur sports, and cultural, fraternal and community programs.

Saturday, September 23

CLIFTON, N.J.: The Tamburitzans International Folk Ensemble will perform at 4 p.m. at Clifton High School, located at 333 Colfax Ave. With elaborate costumes and versatile musicians, singer and dancers, the repertoire is from Croatia, Greece, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine. The concert is being sponsored by Holy Apostles Orthodox Church located in Saddle Brook, N.J. Tickets for this family-friendly event are available for purchase at www.talentshadows.events for \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door the day of the performance. For tickets, call 973-460-0243. For information visit www.holyapostlesnj.org and click on Tamburitzans, or e-mail eventsholyapostles@gmail.com.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

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 and/or e-mail address to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items must be **no more than 100 words** long.

Preview items must be received **no later than one week before the desired date of publication** (i.e., they must be received by 9 am Monday morning). Please include payment for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, senders are asked to include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours, as well as their complete mailing address.

Information should be sent to preview@ukrweekly.com. When e-mailing, please do not send items as attachments - simply type the text into the body of the e-mail message. Preview items and payments may be mailed to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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** Gratuities additional. *** Airfare additional.

\$600.00 pp deposit due by: **September 01, 2017**

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, US; HALF MOON CAY, BAHAMAS; AT SEA; ORANJESTAD, ARUBA; WILLEMSTAD, CURACAO; AT SEA; ENTER PANAMA CANAL CRISTOBAL; CRUISING PANAMA CANAL AND GATUN LAKE; EXIT PANAMA CANAL CRISTOBAL; COLON, PANAMA; PUERTO LIMON (SAN JOSE), COSTA RICA; FORT LAUDERDALE

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