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Ukrainian outrage erupts over Russian propaganda film at Toronto and Venice film festivals



Courtesy of Oleh Nikolenko

Consul General of Ukraine in Toronto Oleh Nikolenko attends a protest against the screening of the film “Russians at War” at the Toronto International Film Festival.

by Roman Tymotsko

LVIV – Ukrainian artists, politicians and diplomats expressed outrage over the screening of the film “Russians at War” by Russian documentary filmmaker Anastasia Trofimova at the Venice and Toronto film festivals.

The film was supported by the public-private Canadian Media Foundation, which provided funding of \$340,000 Canadian (\$250,000) for the venture. Kyiv accused the filmmaker of trying to justify the occupation of Ukraine and the actions of the

Russian military in the country.

Ms. Trofimova worked for the Russian media network RT, which is under Western sanctions. In her comments on the film, she said that she “did not see” war crimes committed by the Russian military during her stay in the war zone.

The film “Russians at War” was screened at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), which was accompanied by protests from the local Ukrainian community.

“We gathered in Toronto to demand the

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Polish leaders urge Blinken to lift limits on Kyiv’s use of long-range weapons

As Ukrainian drones target Moscow and its airports



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken (left) meets with Polish Foreign Affairs Minister Radek Sikorski to discuss Ukraine’s use of Western-supplied weaponry for long-range strikes inside Russia.

RFE/RL’s Current Time

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on September 12 concluded a European tour in Poland, where he heard more appeals for a change in Washington’s policy restricting the use of Western-supplied weaponry for long-range strikes inside Russia.

Polish Foreign Affairs Minister Radek Sikorski argued that Ukraine should be allowed to use Western weapons against Russia in self-defense because Moscow “is committing war crimes by attacking civilian targets.”

“Missiles that hit these civilian targets are fired from bomber aircraft from over the territory of Russia. These bombers take off from airfields on Russia’s territory,” Mr. Sikorski said. “A victim of aggression has the right to defend itself.”

Mr. Blinken traveled to Warsaw to meet with Mr. Sikorski, Polish President Andrzej Duda and Prime Minister Donald Tusk after spending a day in Kyiv with British Foreign Affairs Secretary David Lammy, during which time the two diplomats pledged to

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Chicago rally calls on US, European makers of automation tools to stop backing Russia’s war effort

by Mark Raczkiewycz

CHICAGO – Two protests held during a week-long conference on high-technological equipment at Chicago’s McCormick Place exhibition center urged manufacturers of computer numerical control (CNC) machines to stop the sales of those components by their foreign subsidiaries, which have been used to aid Russia’s war effort against Ukraine.

Local information technology activist Vasyl Stetsyuk, originally from Ternopil, Ukraine, along with the Illinois Division of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA-Ill.) were the initiators of the protests that took place during the second week of the month.

Citing a report by the non-profit Economic Security Council of Ukraine (ESCU), he and members of UCCA-Ill. held placards outside the venue and handed out



Protesters at a week-long exhibition at Chicago’s McCormick Place hold banners to inform conference participants that computer numerical control equipment manufactured by U.S. and European companies still ends up in Russia, which uses the gear to support its ongoing war effort against Ukraine.

flyers to conference attendees on September 9 and 11.

CNC machines can be used in several ways, but Russia’s war machine uses them “on different levels to produce ... parts for guns, airplanes and helicopters,” for example, Mr. Stetsyuk said.

The representative companies or subsidiaries of the main manufacturers still sell their products to Russia from Turkey or China, the 58-page report said.

“Plastic, metal or something else that is broken for [Russia’s] military industry” can be repaired or made with CNC technology, he added.

Communication with conference attendees from around the world, including Europe and Asia, helped “get the word around” about the gear being eventually sent to Russia so it can continue making or

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Public opinion in Russia falls as citizens experience reality of war

by Vadim Shtepa
Eurasia Daily Monitor

On September 9, the acting secretary of the ruling United Russia Party general council, Vladimir Yakushev, reported that 308 participants of the "special military operation" running his party were elected to public office during Russia's 2024 regional and local elections (T.me/tass_agency, September 9). Independent election watchdog Golos, however, reported that it received more than 600 reports of violations during the election, most of which came from Moscow (Golos; The Moscow Times, September 9). The Kremlin aims to use veterans from its war of aggression against Ukraine as pawns to promote support for the war through the patriotic glorification of its participants (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, March 13).

Today, many observers believe that the majority of Russians support the war against Ukraine. The Kremlin's imperial propaganda wields remarkable influence on Russian citizens. This may seem surprising for a country that underwent democratic perestroika, which culminated in the 1990 press law that abolished all censorship (Svoboda.org, August 1). Contrary to the optimistic expectations of information society theorists of the 1990s that the internet would promote democratization, television remains the main source of information for most Russians. Television, however, is now dominated by heavy propaganda intended to indoctrinate individuals into believing in the Kremlin's cult of a "great [Russian] empire" (Gorby.media, July 25). This partially explains why respondents today are often afraid to answer sociologists' questions, especially about the ongoing war in Ukraine. An "incorrect" answer may entail criminal liability under the law for "discrediting the Russian army" (Radio

Free Europe/Radio Liberty, May 30, 2022). Because of this, it is impossible to know if accurate sociological studies are even possible in conditions of war and dictatorship. Any data collected on the public's opinion about the war in Russia will almost certainly be skewed by Russians' fear of consequences for saying anything against the Kremlin.

This past summer, the Public Sociology Laboratory – considered a "foreign agent" by Moscow – published the results of its research on public opinions on the war in three regions of the Russian Federation: Sverdlovsk Oblast, the Republic of Buryatia and Krasnodar Krai. The sociologists in question used qualitative rather than quantitative methods for collecting their data. Instead of direct questions, they conducted "deep interviews" based on informal communication in different groups. This methodology, however, did not reveal anything particularly new. When the topic of war arose, many respondents avoided it or refused to answer at all (Svoboda.org; Public Sociology Lab, July 8; see Eurasia Daily Monitor, July 30).

Nevertheless, the Public Sociology Laboratory's research did show two indirect, but relatively positive results. In many regions of the Russian Federation, militaristic propaganda has ceased to captivate the public en masse over the past year. In the absence of direct protest against the war, which is punishable by law, public support of the "special military operation" has significantly decreased (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, April 1). Many sign military contracts for financial reasons, as opposed to "patriotic" conviction, as it is simply impossible to earn large sums of money in civilian life in many regions (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, August 7). Additionally, those who

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China enables Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

by Taras Kuzio
Eurasia Daily Monitor

On July 23-26, former Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Dmytro Kuleba conducted an official visit to China – the first visit of a Ukrainian high-ranking official to China since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion (Editor's note: Mr. Kuleba was still Ukraine's foreign affairs minister during the trip). The visit resulted in positive diplomatic rhetoric that, unfortunately, did not match reality (Radio Svoboda, July 23; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, July 24). During the visit, Beijing told Mr. Kuleba that it supported Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty, did not supply Russia with military equipment and was neutral in the war (Korrespondent, July 24). All three claims, however, have been disputed. Robin Brooks, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution who has tracked exports to Russia directly or through other countries, such as Kyrgyzstan, wrote, "Since Russia invaded Ukraine, there is no country that's helped Putin as much as China" (X.com/robin_j_brooks, August 12). He added, "Putin wouldn't be able to keep fighting in Ukraine if it weren't for China" (X.com/robin_j_brooks, August 16). While China is apparently a supporter of the territorial

integrity of states and a critic of separatism, it has undermined Ukraine's peace-making proposals and even boycotted Ukraine's June 15-16 peace summit in Switzerland (Holos Ameryky, June 3; President.gov.ua, June 16). China's support of Russia in its war of aggression against Ukraine is enabling Moscow to continue the long war by providing the necessary materials to maintain its military-industrial complex.

Despite evidence of military trade with Russia, China denies these "allegations," which it claims "have no factual basis, but are purely speculative and deliberately hyped up" (Novyny, July 31). U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said China is trying to have friendly relations with Europe both ways while "fueling the biggest threat to Europe" since 1991.

Western and Chinese policies are both contributing to the long war. This is advantageous for China because it keeps U.S. attention away from the Indo-Pacific region. Western military support is sufficient for Ukraine not to be defeated but insufficient to achieve military victory. Chinese military support is sufficient for Russia not to be defeated but also insufficient for military victory. The West fears a

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NEWSBRIEFS

Possible green light for strikes deep into Russia

Media reports say Britain, behind closed doors, has given Ukraine the green light to use its Storm Shadow missiles for long-range strikes deep into Russian territory as Moscow's troops again targeted energy facilities and civilian infrastructure in Ukraine's northeast overnight, injuring at least 14 people. According to The Guardian newspaper, government sources said a decision has already been made to allow Kyiv to use the British-made cruise missiles inside Russia, although the move has not been announced and is unlikely to be made public even when British Prime Minister Keir Starmer meets with U.S. President Joe Biden in Washington on September 13. British officials have not confirmed The Guardian report. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has been pleading with Kyiv's allies for months to allow Ukraine to fire Western weapons, including long-range U.S. ATACMS and British Storm Shadows, deep into Russian territory to limit Moscow's ability to launch attacks. Mr. Biden said earlier this week that his administration is "working out" a way to lift the restrictions, though he gave no specifics. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Antony Blinken hinted strongly during a trip to Kyiv on September 11 that the White House is on the verge of lifting restrictions on the use of its long-range weapons. "We're working with urgency to continue to ensure that Ukraine has what it needs to effectively defend itself," he said at a press conference after meeting with British Foreign Affairs Secretary David Lammy and Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Andriy Sybiha. The Sumy regional military administration said Russia had used Shahed-type suicide drones in the overnight attack, with the mayor of the city of Konotop, Artem Semenikhin, saying on Telegram that the attacks had cut power in parts of the town and work was underway to restore electricity and water. He said energy infrastructure had suffered significant damage. Russia has systematically targeted Ukraine's critical energy infrastructure, causing enormous damage and limiting electricity supply for the civilian population, prompting regular blackouts. In return, Ukrainian drones have

struck deeper inside Russia, damaging energy facilities critical for Moscow's military effort, mainly oil installations. Messrs. Blinken and Lammy left Ukraine after meeting with Ukrainian officials in Kyiv and announcing a new aid package. Mr. Blinken announced more than \$700 million in aid, much of it to bolster Ukraine's energy grid, while Mr. Lammy confirmed that his country would provide another 600 million pounds (\$782 million) in assistance and loan guarantees. (RFE/RL's Current Time)

U.S. further sanctions Iran

The United States on September 10 issued new sanctions on Iran in response to Tehran's military support of Russia, including the alleged recent delivery of ballistic missiles for use in its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The U.S. Treasury Department designated 10 individuals and six entities based in Iran and Russia for sanctions and identified four vessels as blocked property that the Treasury Department said are enabling Iran's delivery of weapons components and weapons systems to Russia. The weapons that the United States said were transferred include drones and close-range ballistic missiles (CRBMs). "In late 2023, Iran and Russia signed a contract for the supply of hundreds of missiles. In the summer of 2024, Russian military personnel were trained on Iran's Project 360 CRBMs by Iranian personnel," the Treasury Department said in a statement, adding that Russia received the first shipment of CRBMs from Iran earlier this month. The announcement came after the United States and key European allies accused Iran of a dangerous escalation in a pattern of malign activity that threatens European security by supplying short-range ballistic missiles to Russia. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his British counterpart, David Lammy, officially accused Iran of the missile transfers earlier on September 10 in London. "Russia has now received shipments of these [Iranian] ballistic missiles and will likely use them within weeks in Ukraine against Ukrainians," Mr. Blinken said. The Kremlin has yet to comment on Mr. Blinken's statement. A day earlier it

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Editor-in-chief: Andrew Nynka
Editor: Matthew Dubas

e-mail: staff@ukrweekly.com

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ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

Walter Honcharyk, administrator
and advertising manager

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3040
fax: (973) 644-9510
e-mail: advertising@ukrweekly.com

Subscription Department

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3040
e-mail: subscription@ukrweekly.com

Russian forces reportedly attack Ukrainian troops in Kursk, claim recapture of some villages

RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service

Russian forces have begun attacking Ukrainian troops in the Kursk region and have retaken some territory, pro-Moscow war bloggers and Ukrainian military analysts said on September 11.

The attacks, which some sources characterized as a counteroffensive, are against the western flank of Ukrainian forces that took control of part of the Kursk region after launching a surprise incursion into Russian territory last month.

Ukrainian open-source intelligence resource DeepState said on Telegram that the Russian military "began active assault operations, ferrying armored vehicles first across the Sejm [River] and then across smaller rivers."

It said that another blow took place in the town of Korenevo, which DeepState said was lost recently.

The same information has been shared by the Rybar channel, which is connected to the Russian Defense Ministry.

Maj. Gen. Apti Alaudinov, commander of the Akhmat special forces fighting in Kursk, said that Russian troops had gone on the offensive and taken back control of about 10 settlements, TASS reported.

"The situation is good for us," said Mr. Alaudinov, according to TASS. "We continue to hold off and eliminate the enemy in our direction here. Enemy forces have sus-



tained very heavy casualties and are coming to realize that it would be hard to hold this land," Mr. Alaudinov was quoted as saying.

Some Russian fighters claim to have restored Russian control over the village of Snagost and several other settlements, but this has yet to be independently confirmed.

The Ukrainian side has not reported a change in the situation in the Kursk region.

The Russian attacks have not threatened the city of Sudzha, which is central to the logistics of the Ukrainian group in the Kursk region. Sudzha is 25 miles from the village of Snagost.

Ukraine's top military commander, Col.

Gen. Oleksandr Syrskiy, said last week that Russia was planning a new attack on Ukraine from the Kursk region before the start of the incursion.

Mr. Syrskiy said that he considered the incursion a success because it reduced the threat of Russia carrying out the attack and took the fight to the enemy.

"We moved the fighting to the enemy's territory so that he could feel what we feel every day," he said in an interview with CNN.

Kyiv claims to have seized control of more than 500 square miles of Russian territory since its forces launched the incursion on August 6. According to Mr. Syrskiy, Moscow has transferred tens of thousands of troops to the region, including some of its best airborne assault units.

It was previously reported that the operation was aimed at improving Kyiv's position in the event of peace negotiations. Analysts also suggest that the operation is aimed at conveying to the Russians the seriousness of the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

(With reporting by Reuters and TASS)

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'Feel what we feel': Syrskiy says Kursk incursion prevented Russian attacks

RFE/RL

Russia was planning to attack Ukraine from the Kursk region before Ukraine launched its cross-border incursion last month, Ukraine's top military commander, Col. Gen. Oleksandr Syrskiy, said in an interview broadcast on September 5, after Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed that the incursion has not affected Moscow's special military operation.

Mr. Syrskiy said in an interview with CNN that he considers the operation in Kursk a success because it reduced the threat of an enemy attack.

"We prevented them from acting. We moved the fighting to the enemy's territory so that he could feel what we feel every day," he said.

According to Mr. Syrskiy, Moscow has transferred tens of thousands of troops to the Kursk region, including some of its best airborne assault units.

Mr. Syrskiy also admitted that Ukraine is under significant pressure in the Pokrovsk area, but he said that Ukrainian forces have so far succeeded in stopping the Russian advance there.

"Over the past six days, the enemy has not advanced a single meter in the Pokrovsk area. In other words, our strategy is working," he said.

Mr. Syrskiy said that the ability of Russian forces to maneuver and deploy reinforcements from other directions has been limited and "this weakening is undoubtedly felt in other areas."

In recent weeks, the front line in the Donetsk region has moved closer to the strategically significant city of Pokrovsk, which in the first two years of the full-scale war was deep behind the front line.

Since its surprise incursion into Kursk, Kyiv claims to have seized control of more than 500 square miles of Russian territory,



Col. Gen. Oleksandr Syrskiy, commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, is seen in an official portrait taken in 2021.

while Russian forces have pushed ahead with their effort to capture Pokrovsk.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in an interview with U.S. broadcaster NBC this week that the aim of the incursion was to accrue Russian territory and troops for future exchanges, emphasizing that Ukraine does not need Russian territory.

"Our operation is aimed at restoring our territorial integrity. We capture Russian troops to replace them with Ukrainian [ones]," he said. "We tell them, you know, we need our military soldiers in exchange for Russian ones. The same attitude is to the territories. We don't need their land."

Putin, speaking on September 5 at the Eastern Eurasian Forum in Russia's Far Eastern city of Vladivostok, claimed that by

Ukraine expected Russian forces to fight back in Kursk, Zelenskyy says

RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on September 12 that Ukraine anticipated the recent Russian military attacks that have taken place in the Kursk region.

"The Russians have begun counteroffensive actions. This is according to our Ukrainian plan," Mr. Zelenskyy told a news conference in Kyiv with Lithuanian President Gitanas Nauseda.

The comment was Mr. Zelenskyy's first since Russia began attacks this week on Ukrainian forces in Kursk more than a month after Kyiv's surprise incursion into the region.

Pro-Moscow war bloggers and Ukrainian military analysts said on September 11 that Russian forces had begun attacking the western flank of Ukrainian forces in the Kursk region and had retaken some territory.

The same information has been shared by the Rybar channel, which is connected to the Russian Defense Ministry, and a Russian commander fighting in Kursk claimed that Russian troops had gone on the offensive and taken back control of about 10 settlements.

Ukrainian forces began their incursion into Kursk in early August, a move that was believed to be aimed at diverting Moscow's forces from the eastern Donbas region and taking the fight to the Russians.

Kyiv claims to have seized control of more than 500 square miles of Russian territory, and according to Ukraine's top military commander, Col. Gen. Oleksandr Syrskiy, Moscow has transferred tens of thousands of troops to the region.

While Ukrainian forces made rapid gains at the start of the incursion, the sit-

uation around the eastern Ukrainian town of Pokrovsk, which Russia has been seeking to take for weeks, remains perilous.

At the news conference with Mr. Nauseda, Mr. Zelenskyy reiterated earlier assertions that Ukraine had also noticed a buildup of forces across Ukraine's border with Belarus.

"We have seen it for a long time - this process is under control," he said.

His comments came as Russian shelling killed three Ukrainians working for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and injured two others in a village in the Donetsk region, according to Ukrainian officials.

Russian forces also knocked out power and water to a rail hub in northern Ukraine and severed water supplies to Pokrovsk. Donetsk's regional governor said that a filtering station had stopped working because of heavy fighting and it would be impossible to fix soon. He renewed calls for civilians to flee the town.

To the north in the Sumy region, the city of Konotop, a rail hub that Kyiv used as a staging ground for its cross-border incursion, reported heavy damage from an overnight Russian drone attack.

Local officials said that at least 14 people had been hurt in the attack, which "significantly" damaged energy infrastructure and cut electricity to the settlement.

(With reporting by Reuters)

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Zelenskyy calls Chinese-Brazilian peace plan proposal 'destructive'



Creative commons

During a trip to New York in September of 2023, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who recently called a Chinese-Brazilian peace proposal created without the input of Kyiv "destructive."

RFE/RL

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has called a Chinese-Brazilian peace proposal created without the input of Kyiv "destructive."

Speaking during an interview with the Brazilian media outlet Metropoles, Mr. Zelenskyy said the proposal, announced last month by Beijing and Brazil, was "mostly pro-Russian" as it calls for a compromise from Ukraine, which has been fighting inside its own territory to repel invading Russian forces.

"They say Ukraine must agree for compromise. What compromise? To give up its lands, forget that they are killing our people? What sort of compromise exactly? Compromise is something unacceptable here. You want us to forget murders, forget everything? I think this view is destructive," Mr. Zelenskyy said in the interview, published on September 12.

"How is it possible to propose something saying - this is our initiative, without even talking to us? And Russia immediately comes up and says we support the Brazil-Chinese proposal. We are not fools. Why do we need this theater?" Mr. Zelenskyy said.

On August 1, China and Brazil jointly published a "six-point consensus" meant to bring about a lasting political solution to the full-scale war, launched by the Kremlin in February 2022.

The plan is a diplomatic outline that calls for cooling down fighting on the battlefield and a recognition that dialogue and negoti-

ations are the only way to end the war.

Beijing has said that the plan to end Russia's war against Ukraine has received a "positive response" from more than 110 countries.

But Mr. Zelenskyy sharply criticized the initiative in the interview, saying it "has nothing to do with justice, with values, this is, for sure, without taking into account Ukraine's position and the issue of territorial integrity, of which both China and Brazil have been talking so much."

China has made a previous attempt to mediate between Russia and Ukraine, with a 12-point plan it put forward in February 2023 that was quickly dismissed by European leaders.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has strong working ties with China and has looked for his country to play a role in pushing for a peace process to end the war in Ukraine.

In July, Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Dmytro Kuleba, who has since resigned, said Ukraine would only engage Russia in peace talks when Moscow was "ready to negotiate in good faith," and added that "no such readiness is currently observed on the Russian side."

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Red Cross condemns Russian attack on aid truck that killed 3 workers in Donetsk region

As Kremlin hits civilian cargo ship carrying Ukrainian grain in Black Sea

RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has condemned an attack that killed three of its workers who were distributing aid in the frontline Donetsk region of Ukraine.

Ukrainian presidential officials said earlier that Russian forces had attacked Red Cross vehicles in an artillery strike that also wounded two other Red Cross workers.

"Another Russian war crime. Today, the occupier attacked vehicles of the International Committee of the Red Cross humanitarian mission in the Donetsk region," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on X. "In this war, everything is absolutely clear - Russia sows evil, Ukraine defends life."

Miryana Spoljaric, the president of the ICRC, condemned the attack in a statement on September 12 that confirmed three of the organization's workers had been killed by shelling that hit the site of a planned frontline aid distribution point in the Donetsk region.

"I condemn attacks on Red Cross personnel in the strongest terms," Ms. Spoljaric said on X. "It's unconscionable that shelling would hit an aid distribution site. Our hearts are broken today as we mourn the loss of our colleagues and care for the injured. This tragedy unleashes a wave of grief all too familiar to those who have lost loved ones in armed conflict."

The statement added that ICRC teams are regularly present in the Donetsk region, and their vehicles are marked with the Red Cross emblem. Photos released by local police showed a truck with the ICRC emblem on its side engulfed in flames.

Earlier on September 12, Donetsk Gov. Vadym Filashkin reported that three people were killed and two were injured in the village of Virolyubivka in the Kostyantynivka locality.

"The village came under artillery fire this morning. One of the shells hit the territory of the enterprise where people were. A truck with humanitarian aid and a car were destroyed," he said.

ICRC employees had brought fuel briquettes to residents for heating before win-

ter. They were unloading the aid when the attack happened, the Prosecutor-General's Office said later on Telegram.

One of the two employees who were injured in the strike is in serious condition, the Prosecutor-General's Office added.

Meanwhile, Ukraine accused Russia on September 12 of using strategic bombers to fire missiles at a civilian ship carrying Ukrainian grain in the Black Sea.

Romanian authorities said the ship was in the maritime economic zone of Romania, a North Atlantic Treaty Organization NATO member, when it was hit. The vessel was transporting grain from Chernomorsk, Ukraine, to Istanbul when it was struck, the Coast Guard said in a news release.

Ukrainian Navy spokesman Dmytro Pletenciu said the ship's cargo was bound for Egypt. Russia used Tupolev Tu-22 bombers to fire the missiles at around 11 p.m. local time on September 11, Ukraine's navy said.

Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Andriy Sybiha said the strike was "a brazen attack on freedom of navigation and global food security."

The strike was confirmed by the Romanian Coast Guard, which said the vessel had a crew of 22 people on board and no one was injured, and the ship's mobility was not affected, a Coast Guard spokesperson told RFE/RL.

The ship's captain requested a change in course so that it could head to Constanta to assess the damage. A maritime surveillance vessel was sent in coordination with the Romanian Navy to monitor the distressed ship and provide any assistance needed, the Coast Guard said.

The ship was 34 miles from the town of Sfantu Gheorghe in the exclusive economic zone of Romania when the explosion occurred, according to the Coast Guard. The exclusive economic zone is the maritime area adjacent to a country's territorial waters and can extend up to a maximum of 200 nautical miles.

Mr. Zelenskyy said earlier that a cargo ship carrying wheat was hit by a Russian missile strike in the Black Sea as it was

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Public opinion...

(Continued from page 2)

have returned from the war in Ukraine often tell their fellow countrymen about the realities of the front, which radically differs from the "victorious" depiction on television (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, January 19, July 29). The previously voluntary mass displays of Z-symbols are disappearing almost everywhere (Euronews, May 18, 2023). In ordinary life, the war is simply avoided as a topic of conversation altogether, much less glorified.

The second important result gained from this research is evidence that Russians would prefer to discuss their own urban and regional problems, rather than "all-Russian" topics which inevitably connect back to the war. This desire to focus on local affairs hints at the prospect for a future de-imperialization of Russia. According to sociologists, people are more likely to justify their own inability to change the current situation in Russia, rather than

defend the war (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, February 29; Istories.media, July 11). As surveys show, principled supporters of the war and their opponents constitute a social minority in Russia, while between them, there is a large "gray zone" whose sentiments, although influenced by propaganda, may gradually change (Public Sociology Lab, July 8).

Lev Gudkov, head of the Levada Center (a "foreign agent" organization that conducts sociological research), said that 82 percent of Russians do not have an understanding of what the Kremlin is trying to achieve in Ukraine. In part due to this, many have no idea what to expect going forward and thus how to plan for that future. To that point, according to the Levada Center, half of Russian citizens today do not look further than the next three months (Gorby.media, March 27).

The "special military operation" against Ukraine has effectively stalled, with Russian troops having attempted unsuccessfully to capture small towns in the Donetsk region for months. Under these circumstances, the

government may announce a new mobilization, which will undoubtedly change many people's plans (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, January 22, August 14). Additionally, the war has returned to Russia itself, and many have begun to fear attacks by Ukrainian drones, which are now capable of reaching even remote regions (Focus.ua, August 22; Kyiv Post, September 9). This makes planning for the future even more challenging for the average Russian citizen.

According to sociologists from the ExtremeScan group, which conducts research in border regions, the Ukrainian incursion into Kursk Oblast could lead to a significant reassessment of the war by Russians (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, August 14, 15, September 3; ExtremeScan, August 16). The mass evacuation of the local population, often without the support of the Kremlin, will inevitably reduce the level of loyalty from Russian citizens. It is already the case that the withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine and subsequent transition to peace negotiations are supported by 52 percent of those who were forced to

leave Belgorod and Kursk oblasts (The Moscow Times, August 19).

Even the official All-Russian Center for the Study of Public Opinion admits that during the Kursk events Putin's ratings fell by 3.5 percent (Svoboda.org, August 24). Of course, according to pro-Kremlin sociologists, support for Putin still exceeds 70 percent, but developments could lead to a much more significant fall. This happens to all dictators who begin to suffer defeats in the wars they themselves unleashed. As the long war continues and more Russian citizens experience its effects, future results collected by sociologists about everyday Russians' opinions regarding the war may become more truthful. This will be all the more true as the already harsh reality of life in Russia becomes harder to ignore and Russian's discontent with the negative impacts of the Kremlin's actions grows.

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Fashion brand AlaBites pays tribute to Ukraine and Ukrainians with personalized designs

by Nicholas Gordon

NEW YORK – If the influence of military-style clothing on the fashion industry has long been evident, less prevalent is the fashion industry's direct influence on the apparel worn by soldiers at their posts. Enter Ukrainian fashion brand AlaBites.

Over the past several years, the brand has been creating clothing dedicated to Ukrainian soldiers and the glory of Ukraine, featuring personalized pieces for civilians and soldiers fighting to defend the country from ongoing Russian attacks.

"We've found that our Ukrainian soldiers



Courtesy of Alina Babenko



Courtesy of Alina Babenko



Courtesy of Alina Babenko



Courtesy of Alina Babenko

A Ukrainian soldier from the city of Dnipro, Ukraine, wears his personalized AlaBites sweatshirt.

Fashion designer Alina Babenko with the mayor of Kharkiv, Igor Terekhov, who bought two t-shirts from Ms. Babenko's brand Alabites at a recent Fashion Fair Market in Kharkiv, Ukraine.

love to have personalized sweatshirts and hoodies with words such as 'Freedom' or 'It's my life' or images of their gun, so we make a personal embroidery or print for every soldier that we can," said Alina Babenko, the creator of the AlaBites brand.

"It means a lot to them to have something of personal style on this mission, and it means a lot for us to be able to create these pieces for them," said Ms. Babenko, whose company has created hundreds of personalized pieces of clothing for soldiers to date.

A model wears one of AlaBites' Kharkiv t-shirts that was featured in its fall collection. The brand creates personalized t-shirts bearing the names of Ukrainian towns and cities or words of personal significance.

Recent AlaBites collections have also featured dresses, t-shirts and sweatshirts done in the yellow and blue colors of the Ukrainian flag and with embroidery of Ukrainian symbols. AlaBites also pays tribute to Ukrainians with personalized t-shirts and hoodies made for customers featuring embroidery with the name of their hometown or hands holding the Ukrainian flag in the form of a heart.

AlaBites will be one of several Ukrainian fashion brands on sale at the Fashion Fair

Ukrainian fashion designer Alina Babenko, creator of the brand AlaBites, working at a recent fashion market in her native city of Kharkiv, Ukraine. AlaBites will be one of several Ukrainian fashion brands on sale at the Fashion Fair Market in Kharkiv on September 14-15 from 1-9 p.m. at Pereulok Teatralny 21/23, where visitors can also enjoy art, music, drinks and street food.

Market in Kharkiv, Ukraine, on September 14-15 from 1-9 p.m. at Pereulok Teatralny 21/23, where visitors can also enjoy art, music, drinks and street food.

Additionally, AlaBites designs will be on sale at an upcoming fall fashion show on

(Continued on page 12)

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Ukraine is critically important to the U.S. military

The war in Ukraine has been a significant learning experience for the U.S. military, especially when it comes to modernizing its strategies and capabilities. The U.S. Army has adjusted its operations based on the lessons learned from the battlefield in Ukraine, where drone warfare, electronic warfare and rapid mobility have reshaped how conflicts are fought.

One of the key shifts in military strategy involves the reduction of the Army's command post footprint and an emphasis on speed. Historically, command posts were large, stationary and slow to move. However, the pervasive use of drones for reconnaissance and strikes in Ukraine has made stationary command posts vulnerable, as they can be easily located and targeted by the enemy. The U.S. Army has taken this lesson to heart, redesigning command posts to be smaller and more mobile. Now, command posts can be set up and dismantled in just 15 minutes, allowing troops to relocate quickly and avoid detection by drones or electronic surveillance. This rapid mobility is vital in an era where enemy forces can strike with precision missiles within moments of locating their target.

The war in Ukraine has also exposed the importance of reducing electronic signatures. Devices like cell phones, Fitbits and other personal electronic devices emit signals that can be intercepted, revealing the location of soldiers and command centers. Russia's failure to secure its communications has been a significant weakness, leading to devastating losses for the Kremlin. In response, the U.S. Army has focused on minimizing the electronic footprint of its forces, ensuring that the use of digital devices doesn't compromise troop positions. This aligns with broader efforts to modernize the Army's communication networks, enhancing the ability to operate in environments where electronic warfare and signal jamming are prevalent.

Another critical takeaway from Ukraine is the use of drones and counter-drone technologies. Drones have become indispensable tools in modern warfare, used for everything from reconnaissance to delivering precision strikes. In Ukraine, drones have played a crucial role in targeting Russian tanks and artillery. As a result, the U.S. military is heavily investing in drone technology and counter-drone systems. This includes 3D printing to adapt drones for various uses and exploring ways to better protect its tanks and combat vehicles from loitering munitions and drone attacks.

Furthermore, the logistical challenges faced by Russia in Ukraine underscore the importance of efficient supply chains and battlefield mobility. The U.S. Army has taken steps to modernize its tank fleet, reducing the weight of the Abrams tank to improve its maneuverability and resilience against modern threats like top-attack munitions delivered by drones. These efforts highlight the ongoing evolution of armored warfare, where lighter, faster and more adaptable vehicles are crucial.

Ukraine's defense against a larger, more technologically advanced adversary has proven that even smaller forces can leverage technology and mobility to offset conventional disadvantages. For the U.S., these lessons are shaping military investments and strategies to ensure preparedness for future conflicts, and it has learned these lessons without losing a single American soldier in a modern, 21st century war.

As Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth noted, the U.S. cannot afford to ignore the importance of these developments. A Russian victory in Ukraine would embolden other adversaries, potentially threatening U.S. security interests globally. By learning from Ukraine, the U.S. military aims to stay ahead of emerging threats and ensure that it remains capable of defending itself and its allies, these are all lessons for which American taxpayers should be grateful.

Ukraine has become a proving ground for the U.S. military, prompting innovations in mobility, communications and drone warfare. These adaptations are vital for maintaining a technological edge in future conflicts, where rapid movement, reduced electronic signatures and advanced drone systems will be key to success. Kyiv's allies have learned invaluable lessons from the battlefield in Ukraine – lessons that will likely save countless U.S. military lives.

Sept.
16
2020

Turning the pages back...

Four years ago, on September 16, 2020, a memorial plaque honoring Ukrainian journalist Heorhiy Gongadze, who was killed in 2000, was unveiled on the facade of the National Union of Journalists' building in Kyiv. The unveiling marked a week of commemorative events, organized by journalists and human rights activists who continue to demand security for journalists and that those who ordered the murders of Ukrainian journalists be brought to justice.

Mr. Gongadze's death is remembered by Ukrainians every year on September 16, and the Georgian-born Ukrainian founded one of the first online media outlets in the country, Ukrayinska Pravda.

Among the commemorative events held during the week was the premiere of the film "Gongadze's Murder: 20 Years in Search of Truth."

During the unveiling ceremony, Serhiy Tomilenko, head of the National Union of Journalists, noted that 49 incidents of physical aggression were reported for 2020, with journalists being harassed, beaten and cameras damaged. Among the other murdered journalists commemorated during the week were Igor Alexander, Borys Derevyanko, Pavlo Sheremet, Vasyly Serhiyenko and Vadym Komarov.

Journalists also gathered on Independence Square in Kyiv on September 18 to honor the memory of Mr. Gongadze, and an appeal was published by several organizations: the Heorhiy Gongadze Prize, the Ukrainian branch of the International PEN Club, ZMINA Human Rights Center, the Institute of Mass Media, the Center for Civil Liberties, the non-governmental organizations Detector Media and Lviv Media Forum, and Internews-Ukraine.

(Continued on page 9)

China enables...

(Continued from page 2)

Russian defeat because it could bring about chaos in a nuclear-armed empire. China does not wish to see the defeat of Russia because it would set back its common ideological goal with Russia of building a new global (multipolar) order where it would be a major center of influence.

Russia's defeat in Ukraine of a "demoralized" West and "stagnant bourgeois democracies" would vindicate the Marxist theory of history and China's place on the right side of history. Chinese President Xi Jinping predicted in 2021, "The times and trends are on our side" (Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, December 15, 2021). When visiting Moscow in 2023, Mr. Xi was overheard talking to Putin about "changes unseen in a century," adding, "We are the ones driving these changes together" (Rosiskaya Gazeta, March 21, 2023).

China has continued to support Russia in numerous subtle ways since its war began, specifically its economy, while denying this collaboration. After losing its main European market, China and India are the biggest importers of Russian energy. Former United Kingdom Defense Minister Grant Shapps said that China is exporting military equipment to Russia and "collaborating on combat equipment for use in Ukraine" (Evropeyska Pravda, May 22). China denies this. The United States said that China is sending critical components and dual-use goods to Russia. Beijing admits to this trade in dual-use goods, claiming that it is in accordance with international law. China's exports of transportation equipment to Russia remain near record highs, and exporting trucks to Russia allows the Russian company Kamaz to switch production to military needs (Riddle, July 11; Carnegie Endowment, May 6).

After failing to defeat Ukraine in three days and having to contend with the ensuing flow of Western military aid to the embattled country, Russia approached Iran for help after Turkey turned down supplying Bayraktar drones (Al Jazeera, July 19, 2022). In 2022, China was cautious, but it deepened its military commitment to Russia in March 2023 following Mr. Xi's visit to Moscow (Kremlin.ru, March 20, 2023). Chinese-Russian trade grew to a record \$200 billion in 2023, with exports of dual-use goods tripling (TASS, December 19, 2023). China became an equal partner with Russia's military-industrial complex, increasing its imports of Russian arms and becoming the major supplier of dual-use goods (machine tools, microelectronics, nitrocellulose) and military goods (vehicles, drones, body armor, gunpowder, satellite imagery) to Russia (Ekonomichna Pravda, April). Since early 2023, China has been Russia's largest supplier of military equipment and dual-use goods (KSE Institute, June 19, 2023).

China's calculus changed in Spring 2023. Western military support only ramped up from equipment for guerilla warfare after Russia was defeated in the Kyiv region in March 2022. Western military support to Ukraine has always been drip-fed, with tanks, long-range missiles, and jets sent hesitantly and with restrictions on their use inside Russia (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, February 21, 2023, June 4, July 5). After the Ukrainian rout of Russian forces in Kharkiv in September 2022, the West did not increase its military support to provide a knockout punch to win the war (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, September 15, 2022). The United States and Germany have never stated their goal is Russia's military defeat, fearing escalation to a direct conflict between Russia and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) or

nuclear Armageddon. In contrast, during the 10-month hiatus between the Kharkiv rout and Ukraine's counter-offensive (September 2022-June 2023), China supplied digging and dirt removal equipment that enabled Russia to build its "Surovkin lines" (fortifications named after Gen. Sergey Surovkin) (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, August 8, 2023; RBC-Ukraine, August 22, 2023). Chinese exports of excavators to Russia tripled in early 2023 (China-Russia Report, August 23, 2023).

Western components arrive in Russia via Hong Kong, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Kyrgyzstan and other intermediary countries. Technology company DJI, which produces 90 percent of the world's consumer drones, said it had no control over its products being bought by countries and re-exported to Russia and Ukraine (Ekonomichna Pravda, October 24, 2023). U.S. President Joe Biden expressed concern at "private companies" in China exporting military goods to Russia; the private sector is not an independent actor in China's communist dictatorship (The Wall Street Journal, April 2). China is exporting "military applicable parts" to sanctioned Russian defense companies. Twenty-six distinct Chinese firms have exported drones and drone engines to Russia (The New York Times, March 21, 2023). China also exports rifles, body armor, navigation equipment for military transport helicopters, jamming technology and cruise missile engines. Additionally, it exports components for military equipment, including jet fighter parts, machine tools for ballistic missiles, parts for mobile radars, computer chips, optical components for Russian tanks and armored personnel carriers and electronic circuitry for radio communications, surveillance, navigation and satellite geolocation (The Moscow Times, March 17, 2023). China supplies 70 percent of Russia's machine tools and 90 percent of its microelectronics and has provided enough gunpowder to produce 80 million rounds of ammunition (see China Brief, August 18, 2023; see Eurasia Daily Monitor, January 22; Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, April 12).

Although the United States and the European Union have sanctioned only 20 Chinese and Hong Kong state and private companies, numerous Chinese state and private companies are exporting military equipment and dual-use goods to Russia (Suspilne Novyny, May 22). These include Aviation Technology Corporation, Sinno Electronics, Poly Technologies, Fujian Nan'an Baofeng Electronics, AVIC International Holding Corporation, DJI, Wuhan Global Sensor Technology, Wuhan Tongsheng Technology, Hikvision, North China Research Institution, Shantou Honghu Plastics, Tianjin Huarong Aviation and Deekon Shanghai (The Wall Street Journal, February 4, 2023; Politico, July 24, 2023; The Telegraph, August 19, 2023; Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, February 8; RBC-Ukraine, April 13; U.S. Treasury Department, May 1).

China is not a neutral actor in Russia's illegal war of aggression. Beijing is duplicitous on Ukraine's territorial integrity and, in the words of NATO, is the "decisive enabler" of Russia's war. As such, it has no moral right to be involved in peace talks (TSN, July 11). China could end Russia's ability to continue its war against Ukraine, but its priority is not to permit Russia's defeat (Hilos Ameryky, June 3; Forbes Ukraine, July 11). As Finnish President Alexander Stubb said, "One phone call from President Xi Jinping would resolve this crisis" (Espreso, July 3).

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COMMENTARY

The flapdoodle surrounding Canada's Commission of Inquiry on War Criminals continues

by Lubomyr Luciuk

Much flapdoodle has been published about the proposed release by Library and Archives Canada of a list prepared by the Commission of Inquiry on War Criminals, headed by Justice Jules Deschênes. Supposedly, this document identifies "Nazi war criminals." In truth, it provides information about persons investigated by the commission but against whom no evidence of wartime criminality was found.

Mr. Deschênes's public report is available online and has been for years. Let's consider a few cases.

Take, for example, case No. 190, which deals with Winnipeg's David Matas, representing B'nai Brith Canada. The commission tabled the names of a couple denounced in an unsigned letter. Its author insisted they be investigated. They were "recluses." The Commission determined that "no persons of an age that could conceivably have participated in World War II war crimes" resided at the address that Mr. Matas provided.

Another anonymous denunciation resulted in two persons (case No. 179 and case No. 180) being scrutinized. These shop owners were reported because they "behaved curiously regarding the sources of the store's goods." On page 249, they were further described as "bearing a German name, living in a secluded place under the protection of two black dogs and offering old European furniture for sale."

Investigators determined the gentleman had died by 1977. And when the commission's sleuths checked out the shop, they concluded that the complaint was "entirely spurious and unfounded." Similarly, Case No. 599 involved a man said to be "a war criminal because he was an eccentric and suspicious person of German background," yet another charge examined thoroughly, then closed.

Then there was case No. 417, submitted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), involving a man who bragged about how he had served in a "Nazi Death's Head Unit." This confession was voiced when the fellow was being arrested for impaired driving. Case closed.

Case No. 186, also tabled by the RCMP, was based on information provided by a private individual, about a subject who "admitted ... he had been a doctor in a Nazi war camp." It turned out the man was not a physician, "... indeed it would not be reasonable to believe that an individual born in 1928 could have been a doctor between 1939 and 1945."

Another probe initiated by the RCMP, case No. 303, involved "grave allegations" about a person condemned for involvement in "numerous executions in a town in an Eastern European country." It turned out that he came to Canada in 1926, when he was about 2 years old.

Or what about case No. 588, tabled by the Canadian Jewish Congress? It was based on a phone tip about an individual "rumored" to have a "Nazi past and a swastika tattoo." Whoever submitted the subject's name could not be found, nor was "a suspicion of involvement in a particular war crime" even uncovered.

Case No. 589 was that of a man another tipster alleged "was a Nazi who had contact with people from a South American country." This European citizen certainly visited Canada but his birthyear, 1928, made "involvement in war crimes doubtful."

Case No. 671 involved a man whom

Canadian police identified as having "bragged about his supposed involvement in war crimes in an Eastern European country." Investigators determined that "the subject is mentally deranged and that his self-incriminations are false." Likewise, case No. 541 began after it was alleged a man had been an SS official in a West European country who "boasted of killing Jews and others." The citizen who submitted this subject's name proved to be "of an advanced age and for some time had been in a state of confusion."

Over 80 cases were initiated by Simon Wiesenthal about veterans of the "Galicia Division," often through correspondence with the Honorable Robert Kaplan. Almost monotonously, and in dozens of these cases, Mr. Deschênes noted that "no specific allegation or evidence that the subject had been involved in war crimes, apart from Mr. Wiesenthal's assertion that [the person] was a member of the Galicia Division of the Waffen-SS," was submitted. He also remarked: "The Commission requested Mr. Wiesenthal to provide additional information ... [but] he was unable to do so."

As for the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, Mr. Deschênes observed (on page 58) that there was "a source of names of individuals alleged to be war criminals. ... However, it must be stated that the center's information was long on allegations and generalities, and short on evidence and specifics."

And what about this one, the rather morbid case No. 732, based on a Canadian Jewish Congress claim that a man "admitted killing Jewish girls and eating and selling human flesh." The snitch remained incognito. No "cannibal" in Canada was found.

As Mr. Deschênes remarked (on pages 248-249), a detailed examination of each of the 774 names on the commission's "Master List" had brought about a "dramatic decrease" in the number of alleged war criminals because, "for many of them, the allegations on the surface could not bear scrutiny." Indeed, he publicly excoriated those who, like Sol Littman, "grossly exaggerated" the alleged numbers of "Nazi war criminals" purportedly in Canada.

Reviewing the cases found in the commission's "Part 1: Public Report" demonstrates that many Canadians were surreptitiously proscribed by purveyors of hearsay and prejudice. Yet, while the commission took the information it received seriously, most files were closed for lack of proof. If Alti Rodal, the commission's director of historical research, today claims that these cases were "not well researched," then one has to wonder what she was paid for.

Most of the commission's subjects are long dead. They cannot defend themselves. Of those who came under official scrutiny, 96 percent had no idea they were even under investigation. Any disclosure of their names would expose family members and descendants to unwanted and unwarranted obloquy. Mr. Deschênes understood what was at stake when he wrote the following: "The Commission has not been created to revive old hatred that once existed abroad between communities which should now live in peace in Canada." That is why he ordered the names be kept confidential. This was not a cover-up. It is evidence of Mr. Deschênes's judiciousness and good sense.

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



Reagan, Biden, Harris ... and Trump

As incongruous as it may seem, Kamala Harris and Joe Biden have more in common with Ronald Reagan – one of the most prominent conservatives in American history – than does Donald Trump.

Although on politically opposite sides of the ideological fence, former President Ronald Reagan and Ms. Harris and Mr. Biden share the same fundamental values: integrity, decency and a moral code.

They all, apart from Mr. Trump, share a common understanding and commitment to the post-World War II American-led rules-based international order. Like Reagan did, Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris value freedom, democracy, human rights and human dignity – ideals that for Mr. Trump are abstruse concepts. They share the belief that, despite our occasional blunders and missteps, America has been a major force for good in the world. And as did Reagan, Ms. Harris and Mr. Biden recognize the importance of Ukraine's freedom. Mr. Trump is the outlier here.

Ms. Harris, like Reagan and most presidents and vice presidents throughout our history (including Mr. Trump's former vice president, Mike Pence), has a reverence for the Constitution. Mr. Trump demonstrably does not. He's the aberration.

None other than former Vice President Dick Cheney, one of the central figures in the Republican party for the last 50 years, has said that he would be voting for Ms. Harris. Five years ago, many would have thought that hell would freeze over before Mr. Cheney, or, for that matter, his daughter, former conservative U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney, would ever vote for a Democrat. Their policy differences on many issues are stark. Yet the Cheney family, like other principled Republicans, understand that character and integrity often matter more than policy.

In his statement explaining why he would be casting his vote for Ms. Harris, Dick Cheney wrote bluntly: "In our nation's 248-year history, there has never been an individual who is a greater threat to our republic than Donald Trump. He tried to steal the last election using lies and violence to keep himself in power after the voters had rejected him. He cannot be trusted with power again. ... As citizens, we each have a duty to put country above partisanship to defend our Constitution."

Ms. Cheney recently said that there is "absolutely no chance" that former President Reagan would support Mr. Trump if he were alive. I strongly agree, in part based on my own experiences.

I was working at the Republican National Committee in 1980 when Reagan was first elected. And throughout all but the first 10 months of his presidency, I worked for the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (the Helsinki Commission), where we witnessed and participated in the Reagan Administration's efforts to combat the Soviet Union's egregious violations of human rights and other international commitments.

Reagan, like Ms. Harris, was optimistic, hopeful, and had a positive vision for America's future, even if there would have been honest policy disagreements as to what that future looked like. Reagan, like

Orest Deychakiwsky may be reached at orestdyechak@gmail.com.

Ms. Harris, looked forward and not backward. He was not about grievance and negativity. Like Ms. Harris and Mr. Biden, he was a patriot who put country above party. Reagan, whether one agreed with his policies or not, was essentially a man of character and principle – the opposite of the crude, morally bankrupt narcissist Trump.

Could you imagine Ronald Reagan (or Kamala Harris or Joe Biden, for that matter) endlessly proclaiming that elections he might have lost were stolen, despite all evidence to the contrary, including from numerous Republican election officials? Could you ever imagine Reagan disparaging our military and Gold-Star families, or mocking people with disabilities, as Mr. Trump has done? Could you ever imagine Reagan repeatedly denigrating war heroes, as Mr. Trump did with the late Republican war hero Sen. John McCain? Lest we forget, Mr. McCain was one of America's foremost supporters of Ukraine – it's no accident that a street in Kyiv was named after him. Or stoking a mob to take over the Capitol? (This one hit close to home, having worked on Capitol Hill for 35 years). The list could go on ... and on ... and on. Mr. Trump, through countless words and actions, has displayed little regard for democratic principles or for elementary human decency.

On foreign policy, too, Reagan shares a lot more with Ms. Harris than with Mr. Trump. Reagan was a firm internationalist. Our 40th president understood the need for robust American global leadership and the principle of helping friends and allies to defend themselves (not for nothing that principle is called "the Reagan Doctrine"). His policies, such as peace through strength and standing up for freedom, contributed significantly to the fall of the Soviet empire. A staunch anti-Communist, he called the Soviet Union "the evil empire" and stood for freedom for Ukraine and the other captive nations. This was at a time when Ukraine, unlike today, was largely unknown among the American public and even academia and the foreign policy establishment, despite the efforts of the Ukrainian American community and some members of Congress.

A small but telling example of Reagan's support for liberty: I remember attending a Rose Garden ceremony in July 1988 commemorating Captive Nations Week where Reagan eloquently spoke and noted the presence of Petro Ruban, a Ukrainian Helsinki Monitor who had recently been released from a notorious Soviet Gulag camp. He had been sent there in part for the "crime" of having fashioned a wooden replica of the Statue of Liberty as a gift to America for our bicentennial. The year before, Reagan had mentioned Mr. Ruban's imprisonment at a Captive Nations ceremony I attended held at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family in Washington, D.C.

Fast forward to Mr. Trump three decades later. He repeatedly demeans Ukrainians. Don't take my word for it. Just look at former Trump National Security Advisor John Bolton's 2020 memoir: "The Room Where It Happened." In chapter 14, readers will get a sense of Mr. Trump's irrational hostility towards Ukraine and Ukrainians. In one

(Continued on page 11)

Plast Seattle holds summer camp in picturesque Washington State

by Julian Holubec

CARNATION, Wash. – Members of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization in Seattle, Wash., held a summer camp at Camp River Ranch on August 4-17, with many who attended calling it an incredible experience that will likely spur many of the campers to return again.



Plast members proudly display the Ukrainian flag on Kendall Peak in Snoqualmie Pass, Wash.

Diana Kuritza



Markian Nychka

Members of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization in Seattle held a summer camp at Camp River Ranch in Carnation, Wash., on August 4-17.

From the luscious and beautiful wildlife of Washington state, the dynamic and helpful counselor team, and the camp maintenance and kitchen workers who did their best to keep the program running, the camp will be difficult to top.

There have been several Plast camps held in Washington state in the past, most recently at Camp Sheppard in 2019, another at Deception Pass State Park in 2014, one in Monroe, Wash., in 2008 and the first in Cle Elum, Wash., in 2007.

The Plast Seattle camps now take place every five years, making them very popular. Although Seattle camp's setting is certainly beautiful, that is not the only thing that made this camp great.

Campers all had to take part in activities dealing with the outdoors. Some focused on team building, such as whitewater rafting, canoeing and a ropes course. Other outdoor activities included rock climbing, archery and running. Other activities focused on the scenery that Washington has to offer, including incredible views of the surrounding mountains during a three-day backcountry hiking trip.

That hike was the first time many campers from all around North America got to experience the natural beau-

ty of the Pacific Northwest firsthand, and it is safe to say they were blown away.

Seattle camp gives so many kids a chance to experience being outdoors and backpacking through the mountains, which is likely what makes the camp so special.

In addition to the hike, the day-to-day life of camp resembled three-week camps that take place at other Plast campgrounds, including acquiring merit badges, swimming and building structures using wood and rope. These activities were very important as they gave campers various ways to keep themselves busy.

The entrance to this year's camp included a gateway that was built using wood. It included an intricate wooden trident made of foraged branches on top, symbolizing the campers pride in their Ukrainian heritage.

On the last day of camp, the group celebrated Plast Seattle's 20-year anniversary by creating a timeline exhibit that showcased all of the adventures that had occurred in the past 20 years of Seattle Plast.

The day ended with a celebratory dinner followed by a big bonfire. The events were enjoyed by scouts in the camp, parents, former scouts who visited the camp, and many other members of the Ukrainian community in Seattle.

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Ukrainian outrage...

(Continued from page 1)

removal of the Russian propaganda film 'Russians at War' from TIFF. The festival must not provide a platform for whitewashing the crimes of Russian soldiers in Ukraine. Their place is on the benches of the International Criminal Court, not on theater screens," Oleh Nikolenko, consul general of Ukraine in Toronto, wrote on his Facebook page.

"Ignoring the attempts of Russian propaganda to downplay and distort the realities of Russian aggression against Ukraine is irresponsible and unacceptable. We call on TIFF to cancel the screening and TVO [Toronto's public broadcaster] to investigate how this film received public funding for its production," Mr. Nikolenko said.

The Toronto International Film Festival decided not to cancel the screening of "Russians at War" despite protests and calls not to screen the film, which whitewashes the actions of the Russian military in Ukraine.

According to the festival organizers, the film, which they call a "documentary" and "Canadian-French," was created with the financial support of several Canadian federal and provincial agencies.

"As far as we understand, it was created without the knowledge or participation of Russian government agencies. In our opinion, this film cannot be considered Russian propaganda. While we understand the concerns expressed by many, we believe, as do the Venice Film Festival and other international festivals that have included the film in their programs, that this Canadian documentary deserves a place in our selection," the festival said in a statement.

The Toronto International Film Festival said that it, "as a cultural institution, upholds the right of artists and cultural workers to express fair political commentary and oppose censorship freely."

"We understand and deeply feel the suffering of the Ukrainian people as a result of Russia's illegal invasion. In working with art created in this politically charged time, we are guided by the democratic values of freedom of conscience, thought, expression and peaceful assembly, protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms for all Canadians, including Canadian artists," the organizers of the film festival said in a statement.

At the same time, Mr. Nikolenko wrote



Individuals gathered to express their outrage over the screening of the film "Russians at War" by Russian documentary filmmaker Anastasia Trofimova at the Toronto International Film Festival.

that he was highly disappointed with the festival's position.

"It is appalling that the festival is defending its decision to screen the Russian propaganda film 'Russians at War,' citing funding from Canadian agencies, especially when one of these agencies, TVO, has already condemned its support for the film and launched an internal investigation. TIFF's statement deliberately omits this fact, misleading the public," Mr. Nikolenko said.

He emphasized that the festival also failed to inform the public that the film's director, Ms. Trofimova, used to work for RT, which was previously called Russia Today, a major Russian media company that is banned in Canada, and in particular that she worked to cover up Russia's actions in Ukraine.

"Given the way Russia treats journalists, it is naive to believe that Anastasia Trofimova spent more than 6 months in a Russian military unit without supervision from the Russian military or government. We believe that the production of this film was allowed because it is in line with Russian narratives that downplay the atrocities of the Russian invasion," Mr. Nikolenko said.

He called on the festival "not to confuse Russian propaganda with freedom of expression."

"Ukraine understands democratic values like no other country; we defend them with our lives, but we oppose any manipulations that justify the choice of this project. It's not

too late for TIFF to make the right decision and cancel the remaining screenings. Don't provide a platform for Russian propaganda – the festival's reputation is at stake," Mr. Nikolenko said.

Canadian Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland condemned the documentary "Russians at War," according to a CBC report. In a conversation with journalists, Ms. Freeland emphasized that diplomats and the Canadian-Ukrainian community have expressed serious concerns about the film, and she shares those concerns.

"It is not right that Canadian public funds support the screening and production of such a film," said Ms. Freeland.

At the same time, Lithuanian Foreign Affairs Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis said he was outraged that the organizers of the Venice International Film Festival included a film by a Russian propagandist about the Russian military in Ukraine in its program.

"I find it hard to believe that a film festival would prioritize and glorify the emotional trauma of participants in a genocidal occupation, and yet here we are in this shameful timeline," Mr. Landsbergis wrote on his X page.

The director of the film, Ms. Trofimova, spent several months in one of the Russian army units in the occupied regions of Ukraine and conducted many interviews with Russian army personnel.

The film's official trailer, published on YouTube, shows a fragment in which the director says: "I'm traveling at my own risk,

on my own. Without any permission from the Ministry of Defense. A little bit secretly from them."

That statement was received with skepticism by observers because, usually in Russia, it is impossible to do such things without the authorities' permission, and any actions against the army can lead to imprisonment.

In a statement to AFP, Ms. Trofimova said she wanted to show "quite ordinary people" fighting in the Russian army and that her film refutes the perception in the West that all Russian soldiers are criminals.

"I want to make it clear that this Canadian-French film is anti-war, and it was made at great risk to everyone, especially to me," the director said.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) said that Ms. Trofimova's film "Russians at War" was made with Canadian taxpayer money. The UCC also said the movie received funding of \$340,000 Canadian dollars.

The UCC called on the Toronto International Film Festival to cancel the screening of the film and also called on the federal Canadian government and Ontario province to immediately investigate how and why Canadian taxpayer money was used to finance Russian propaganda.

The UCC noted that, during the seven months when the film was being shot, the director could not have been with the Russian military in the occupied territory of Ukraine "without the knowledge, support and permission of the Russian state."

"The financing and support of this film by the governments of Canada and Ontario brought Russia a propaganda victory," the UCC said in a statement.

A group of Ukrainian members of parliament appealed to Canadian parliamentarians to prevent the film from being shown at the Toronto Film Festival. The Consulate General of Ukraine in Toronto also appealed to film festival organizers to cancel the screening of "Russians at War."

On September 5, the film was shown in the non-competition program of the Venice International Film Festival. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and the ambassador of Ukraine to Italy strongly protested the screening.

The Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry emphasized that the screening of the film is an insult to the victims of the war and serves as a tool of Russian propaganda, distorting the reality of Russia's actions against Ukraine.

Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

"The brutal crime, as well as the so-called 'Melnichenko recordings' that gave rise to the suspicions about the involvement of then-President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma in the assassination, upset the professional community and society, and provoked mass protests that later escalated into [the movement] 'Ukraine without Kuchma.' However, despite pressure from civil society and international organizations, there is no end in sight," the statement said.

Mr. Gongadze disappeared on September 16, 2000, and that same year in November, his headless body was found in a forest near Tarashcha in the Kyiv region of Ukraine. The remains of a skull were found in the Kyiv region in 2009, with the Prosecutor General's Office identifying it as belonging to Mr. Gongadze.

A Kyiv Court of Appeals on March 15, 2008, identified Valery Kostenko, Mykola Protasov and Oleksandr Popovych (officers of the Department of External Surveillance of the Ministry of Internal

Affairs of Ukraine) guilty of killing Mr. Gongadze. They were sentenced to 12 to 13 years in prison. Oleksiy Pukach, former head of the Internal Affairs Ministry's external surveillance department, was sentenced in January 2013 to life in prison for involvement in the murder of Mr. Gongadze.

Although suspicions were rampant that Mr. Kuchma ordered the murder, the Prosecutor General's office opened and closed an investigation in 2011 and refused to recognize the Gongadze murder as ordered by Mr. Kuchma. Instead, former Internal Affairs Minister Yuri Kravchenko, who had long since died, was identified during the investigation as the person who ordered the murder of Mr. Gongadze. Mr. Kravchenko supposedly committed suicide in 2005, despite evidence that he was shot twice in the head.

Mr. Gongadze's remains were buried in 2016 in Kyiv, and the family believes that the real perpetrators have not yet been brought to justice.

Source: "Ukraine remembers Heorhiy Gongadze, opposition journalist killed 20 years ago," by Roman Tymotsko, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, September 27, 2020.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

declined to directly refute the accusation about Iranian-supplied missiles and instead highlighted its cooperation with Tehran, saying it was developing dialogue in all areas. Tehran has denied supplying missiles to Moscow. After Messrs. Blinken's and Lammy's statements, the German Foreign Affairs Ministry called out Iran for its support of Russia's "war of aggression," noting that Iranian missiles could as a result be striking European soil. It shared a joint German, French and British statement condemning the transfers, calling them "an escalation by both Iran and Russia" and "a direct threat to European security." Experts agree that short-range ballistic missiles

could be a boost to Moscow's war effort in neighboring Ukraine, which already benefits from Iranian drone supplies and technology. The U.S. Treasury Department's statement said Iran Air – the country's flagship airline – was one of the entities designated for sanctions. It said its actions against the airline and other entities, individuals and vessels were "concurrent" with actions announced by international partners. "Iran Air has a history of transporting goods on behalf of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps [IRGC] and Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics," the department said. "Iran has also provided freight shipping services to Russia, including shipments of electronics and aircraft parts." Iran-based Azadegan Transportation Co., another IRGC-affiliated company critical to the logistics operations of the IRGC,

another of the entities hit by U.S. sanctions, which freeze any assets the individuals and entities hold in U.S. jurisdiction and bar any transactions with U.S. persons. Peter Stano, spokesman for European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, said the transfer of Iranian ballistic missiles to Russia represents a further military escalation and will be met with a "strong response" from the European Union. The E.U.'s diplomatic service has already presented E.U. members with "a substantial set of decisive and targeted measures" against Iran in response to the transfer, Mr. Stano said. "A delivery of ballistic missiles will likely assist Russia's escalatory bombing campaign against Ukrainian civilians, cities and civilian infrastructure, further increasing civilian casualties and destruction," Mr. Stano said. Andriy Yermak, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's chief of staff, said new sanctions against Iran over the missile deliveries would be a "positive step" but said it was not enough. "We also need authorization to use Western weapons against military targets on Russian territory, the provision of longer-range missiles and the enhancement of our air-defense systems," Mr. Yermak said on X. The Wall Street Journal and other U.S. media have quoted anonymous sources asserting that the Iranian missiles have

come at a crucial juncture in the 36-month-old full-scale invasion. Support for Ukraine in its defense against Russia's invasion is one of the main agenda items during Mr. Blinken's London visit, which was to include a meeting with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer. Reiterating ongoing U.S. and U.K. support for Kyiv, Messrs. Blinken and Lammy announced their plans to travel this week to Ukraine in what Mr. Lammy called "the first joint visit of this kind for well over a decade." "This is a troubling action that we're seeing from Iran," Mr. Lammy said. "It is definitely a significant escalation and we are coordinating." The Blinken-Lammy meeting came with the secretary of Iran's Security Council, Ali Akbar Ahmadian, in Russia for a meeting later this week of security officials from countries in the BRICS grouping of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa and other major emerging economies. Mr. Lammy said the United States and the United Kingdom are "completely aligned on the need to tackle Iran's malign activity in the region and beyond." "We're seeing a disturbing pattern of greater Iranian support for the Kremlin's illegal group, and we discussed today our shared commitment to

(Continued on page 11)

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Red Cross...

(Continued from page 4)

headed for Egypt.

"Today's strike in the Black Sea was against an ordinary civilian vessel immediately after leaving Ukrainian territorial waters. According to preliminary data, fortunately, there were no casualties," he said. "Ukraine is one of the key global donors of food security. The internal stability and life of dozens of countries in different parts of the world depends on the normal and smooth operation of our export food corridor."

Ukraine, one of the world's leading grain producers and exporters, has been ship-

ping about 4 million tons of grain each month through the Black Sea corridor, which was set up through a deal mediated by Turkey and the United Nations.

(With reporting by Reuters and RFE/RL's Romanian Service)

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'Feel what we...'

(Continued from page 3)

sending troops into the Kursk region Ukraine had weakened its forces in its eastern Donbas region.

"The enemy's goal was to make us get nervous, mess around, move our troops from one site to another, and stop our offensive in key directions, first of all in the Donbas," Putin said. "Did the enemy manage to do so? No, it managed nothing."

Putin claimed that Russia's forces "stabilized the situation and started gradually pushing the enemy from the territories along the border." The move left Ukraine without the means to "contain our offensive" in eastern Ukraine, Putin said.

"To the contrary, by sending its sufficiently big and well-trained units to the border districts, the enemy weakened itself on key fronts, while our troops have expedited their offensive operations," he said.

Putin has previously called the Ukrainian incursion "a provocation" and publicly said it left Russia with no reason to negotiate with Kyiv. He backtracked from that position on September 5, saying that "we never refused to hold negotiations." However, he said in Vladivostok that any peace talks must take into account Moscow's long-standing conditions – that parts of Ukraine occupied by Russian troops must remain under Moscow's control. Kyiv has rejected these conditions.

Putin also hinted in Vladivostok that, when talking about possible talks, Kyiv must take into consideration the future

losses it faces.

"It sometimes seems to me that those who now lead Ukraine are aliens or some sort of foreigners. As a matter of fact, they simply do not think, and I am serious about this. You know, [they have] such colossal losses. What can they do further, I do not understand," Putin said.

Putin's statements came as Russian forces targeted the capital of Ukraine, Kyiv, with more overnight drone strikes. The Ukrainian military said that several other regions, including the northern Chernihiv and northeastern Sumy regions, were targeted by Russian drones.

In the Sumy region, the government expanded the mandatory evacuation from five towns in two districts.

Sumy Gov. Volodymyr Artyukh discussed evacuation measures during a meeting in Glukhiv, one of the areas where shelling has intensified.

In view of the destruction of infrastructure and housing, the regional authorities decided to expand the list of settlements for mandatory evacuation, he said. The order now includes Glukhiv, Esman and Svesa in the Shostkinsky district, and Manukhivka and Ivanivka in the Konotopsky district.

(With reporting by Current Time and RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 10)

holding Tehran to account for their undermining of global stability," Mr. Lammy said. Mr. Blinken said the alleged Iranian supply of short-range ballistic missiles gives Russia added capability and flexibility, and would free up Moscow to devote other resources to longer-range targets in the ongoing war on Ukraine. (RFE/RL, with reporting by Reuters, AP and AFP)

Romania and Latvia airspace was violated

Romania and Latvia, both members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), on September 8 accused Russia of violating their countries' airspace with military drones, escalating tensions between Moscow and the West. Since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, incidents of Russian military drones or missiles flying across or crashing into neighboring states of Ukraine have been reported. Romania has confirmed drone fragments on its territory on several occasions, as recently as July this year. In the latest incident, Romania's Foreign Affairs Ministry protested the alleged violation of the country's airspace by "criminal Russian aerial vehicles." In a statement on X on September 8, the ministry also urged "Russia to stop its reckless escalation," adding that it had opened consultations with NATO and its allies over the incidents. Earlier the same day, Romania said it scrambled two fighter jets that tracked the path of a drone that briefly violated Romanian airspace before heading toward Ukraine. The military said it was

searching the area around the village of Periprava on the Ukrainian border, where it suspects a drone may have crashed. Mircea Geoana, NATO's outgoing deputy secretary-general and Romania's former top diplomat, said the military alliance also condemned Russia's violation of Romanian airspace. "While we have no information indicating an intentional attack by Russia against allies, these acts are irresponsible and potentially dangerous," he wrote on X. Meanwhile, Latvia also reported a Russian military drone had violated its airspace and crashed on its territory on September 7. "We are in close contact with our allies. The number of such incidents is increasing on NATO's eastern flank, and we must solve them together," Latvian President Edgars Rinkevics wrote on X. The Latvian Defense Ministry said in a statement that the drone had flown into the country's airspace from Belarus and crashed in the municipality of Rezekne. "This situation is a confirmation that we need to continue the work we have started to strengthen Latvia's eastern border, including the development of air-defense capabilities and electronic warfare capabilities to limit the activities of UAVs of different applications," said Defense Minister Andris Spruds, according to AFP. (RFE/RL's Romanian and Ukrainian services, with reporting by AFP)

Harris, Trump clash over Ukraine in debate

Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris and Republican nominee Donald Trump exchanged barbs over the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza in their first and likely only debate ahead of the November 5 U.S. presidential election. The debate got underway with a surprise hand-

shake between the two opponents, who had never met before. Ms. Harris approached Mr. Trump at his lectern, introducing herself by name, in what was the first handshake at a presidential debate since 2016. But then a fiery debate ensued. Ms. Harris accused Mr. Trump of being willing to abandon U.S. support for Ukraine to curry favor with Russian President Vladimir Putin, calling Mr. Trump a "disgrace," while Mr. Trump claimed that Ms. Harris "hates" Israel – an assertion she rejected. Neither offered specifics on how they would seek to end the war in Ukraine, but Trump insisted that he would end the war even before taking office if elected. However, such a move conflicts with the doctrine historically in place that lays out that there is only one president at a time and that foreign policy decisions are reserved for the sitting president and not the president-elect. Any moves to negotiate

an agreement between Putin and Mr. Zelenskyy is also a likely violation of the Logan Act, a 19th-century law that bars private citizens from conducting foreign policy. "I want to get the war [in Ukraine] settled. I will get it settled even before I become president," Mr. Trump said. "I want the war to stop. I want to save lives." But Ms. Harris charged that the reason Mr. Trump would be able to end the conflict quickly "is because he would just give it up." The Democratic vice president said Washington's European and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies were "thankful" that Mr. Trump was not in office and talked up the "importance of the greatest military the world has known, which is NATO." Mr. Trump twice refused to say he believed it was in the United States' interest for Ukraine, which bipartisan majorities in Congress have backed, to win the war. (RFE/RL, with reporting by AP and Reuters)

Reagan...

(Continued from page 7)

conversation, Mr. Trump unjustifiably rants and raves about Ukraine and Ukrainians, using the "F" word no fewer than half a dozen times.

Of far greater damage, however, was Mr. Trump's egregious withholding in 2019 of nearly \$400 million in security aid to Ukraine that had been approved by Congress. There was no good reason whatsoever to halt this aid. To add insult to injury, Mr. Trump did so to allegedly blackmail Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy into giving him non-existent dirt on his political opponent, Mr. Biden. Thankfully, the effort failed due to a bipartisan outcry.

More on Mr. Trump's hostile words and actions with respect to Ukraine during and

after his presidency will be available in my next column, but let me close with the following excerpt from a March Wall Street Journal op-ed by distinguished former Reagan Navy Secretary John Lehman titled "Reagan would never vote for Trump":

"The most fundamental difference between Reagan and [Mr.] Trump is that Reagan knew America's friends from its enemies. He would be horrified by the Republican Party's abandonment of Ukraine at Mr. Trump's behest. He would recognize Russia's invasion for what it is: a brutal attempt to reassert its old Soviet dominance on a free people, no matter how many innocents die. Reagan would recognize that supporting Ukraine is both morally correct and good realpolitik, a chance to bog an adversary down. He would find Mr. Trump's naked admiration of our enemies incomprehensible and dangerous."

Chicago rally...

(Continued from page 1)

repairing military equipment, Mr. Stetsyuk said.

He met with people from Switzerland, France, Germany and other countries "who proudly said they won't deal with Russia."

However, "from Americans," he said, "I often saw confusion" in terms of why are the subsidiaries still selling their products to Russia.

Mr. Stetsyuk voiced frustration when he met with a conference attendee from Ukraine "who said he had a hard time convincing the same companies [that supply Russia] to sell items to Kyiv."

The report noted that "the aggressive war" that Russia launched on Ukraine "is not only about weapons that are directly used on the battlefield but also about the technologies that keep the stockpile of such weapons growing," the ESCU report said.

And only one in 12 suppliers of such equipment to Russia is currently sanctioned.

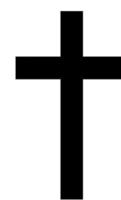
From China alone, more than \$50 million worth of "Western quality machine tools" have been sent to Russia.

Twenty-two of the 30 largest Western manufacturers of CNC machines "have factories in China," the report said. It noted that it is easier for these manufacturers to supply equipment to both countries – Russia and China – since they share a border.

In turn, the local branch of the UCCA called on CNC producers to go through "the know-your-compliance practice to check potential clients in terms of various risks."

By doing so, it would deny Russia "access to modern manufacturing tools," the Ukrainian advocacy umbrella group said.

U.S. sanctions by the Treasury Department prohibit the "transfer of information technology consultancy and design services ... and IT support services and cloud-based services" to Russia.



Yaroslav Bihun

July 15, 1943 — August 30, 2024

Yaroslav Bihun (81) of Washington, D.C. passed away peacefully on August 30, 2024. Loving husband of Motrja (nee Hruszkewycz, deceased 1970); devoted partner of Ada Kulyk; cherished brother of Marta Kowcz ((deceased) and Bohdan (deceased)), Oksana Chaikovsky ((deceased) and Yuriy (deceased)), Yuriy Bihun ((deceased) and Lilia (deceased)), Andriy Bihun (and Lesia), Chrystia Gross (and Richard); dedicated uncle of Romko, Taras (deceased), Petro, Daria, Natalie, Donna, Lida, Andrew, Ulana, Lesya, Daria, Zenko, Andriy (deceased), and Lilia, along with their partners and children in the U.S. and Ukraine.



Yaroslav, also known as Yarko, Yari, and Yaro, was committed to public service and journalistic excellence. He served in the U.S. Army for three years and worked for the U.S. Information Agency- African Press Branch, was among the first press attachés at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine, correspondent for the Voice of America and the British Broadcasting Service, and writer for Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly. He also served as a member and volunteer for The Washington Group, The Washington Group Cultural Fund, and Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization USA-Burlaky, and was a dedicated conservationist.

His voice, written words, and photographs captured and communicated decades of political and cultural news affecting Ukraine and Ukrainians in Ukraine and throughout the diaspora. It was hard to miss Yarko, his hands were often full with a notepad, pen, a camera, and multiple lenses. He used these tools to give voice to our human condition in overcoming injustice, sparking possibility, and finding beauty in ordinary and extraordinary moments.

A Funeral Liturgy will be held on Friday, September 20, 2024 at 11 a.m. at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, 4250 Harewood Rd. NE, Washington, DC 20017.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to: Kyiv-Mohyla Foundation of America (Memo: School of Journalism IMO Yaroslav Bihun), PO Box 46009, Chicago, IL 60646, Plast USA-Aid for Refugees, Alzheimer's Association, or other organizations supporting on the ground efforts in Ukraine, such as Sunflower Seeds Ukraine (<https://www.sunflowerseedsukraine.org/>) and Razom (<https://www.razomforukraine.org/>).



Alexandra 'Lesya' Dolinay née Trypupenko

of Hatboro, PA, died suddenly on Tuesday, August 13, 2024. She was 68.

Born in Philadelphia, PA, Lesya was a daughter of the Evdokia (née Pryshybynsky) and the late Witalij Trypupenko. She was the wife of Alexander Dolinay and mother of Roman, Julian and Adrian Dolinay. She is also survived by her siblings: Yurij, Taras and Olya.

Requiem Services were sung at 10 AM at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Philadelphia, followed by interment at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery, South Bound Brook, NJ.

Вічна й пам'ять!

In lieu of flowers, donations in Lesya's memory may be made to Hope Fund (collecting for medical supplies for Ukraine); <https://www.stvladimirphila.org/donate>.

Polish leaders...

(Continued from page 1)

bring the Ukrainian requests to their leaders.

U.S. President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer were to meet in the United States on September 13 amid signs that both Washington and London are growing more receptive to changing the policy on long-range weapons.

"As what Russia's doing has changed, as the battlefield has changed, we've adapted," Mr. Blinken said at a news conference in Warsaw, reiterating a statement he made in the Ukrainian capital.

"One of the purposes of my visit to Kyiv yesterday was to hear from our Ukrainian partners what they believe they need now to deal with the current battlefield, including in eastern Ukraine and other parts of the country," Mr. Blinken said.

"I can tell you that as we go forward we will do exactly what we have already done, which is we will adjust as necessary ... in order to defend against Russian aggression," Mr. Blinken said.

Mr. Biden in May altered the policy to allow Ukraine to fire U.S.-provided missiles across the border into Russia in self-defense, but he has maintained a limit on the distance they can be fired.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has voiced his request for that restriction to be lifted multiple times.

One of the key requests from Kyiv is to use U.S.-produced Army Tactical Missile Systems, known by the acronym ATACMS. But the Pentagon has said they wouldn't be the answer to the main threat Ukraine faces from glide bombs, which are being fired from more than 186 miles away – beyond

the ATACMS reach.

Messrs. Biden and Starmer will talk about the issue when they meet in Washington, Mr. Blinken said, prompting speculation that an announcement on a change in the policy could come out of the meeting.

But U.S. Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.) told U.S. broadcaster MSNBC on September 12 that an announcement was more likely to come when Mr. Zelenskyy visits the United States later this month for the United Nations General Assembly.

Earlier on September 12, a British newspaper reported that London had already given Ukraine the green light to use its Storm Shadow missiles for long-range strikes deep into Russian territory. The Guardian quoted unidentified government sources as saying that a decision had been made behind closed doors. British officials have not confirmed the report.

Russian President Vladimir Putin issued a warning about a change in the policy, saying on September 12 that if the West allows Kyiv to use longer-range weapons to strike Russian targets, then it would mean the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) would be "at war" with Russia.

"This would in a significant way change the very nature of the conflict," Putin told a state television reporter. "It would mean that NATO countries, the U.S., European countries, are at war with Russia," he added.

"If that's the case, then taking into account the change of nature of the conflict, we will take the appropriate decisions based on the threats that we will face," Putin said.

Putin claimed that the Ukrainian military could only carry out such strikes when using data from NATO satellites and that only military personnel of NATO "can carry

out flight tasks for these missile systems."

Meanwhile, Ukrainian officials said on September 10 that a widespread Russian drone-and-missile attack had targeted Kyiv and critical infrastructure in Ukraine's northeast in addition to other regions, while Russian officials said that an overnight swarm of attack drones from Ukraine killed a woman near the capital and grounded flights at three Moscow airports.

Moscow region Gov. Andrei Vorobyov said that a 46-year-old woman was killed and four others injured in the town of Ramenskoye when drones struck multi-story buildings in the Moscow region.

Dozens of residents were evacuated from a heavily damaged apartment block, officials said.

Local media quoted Russian defense sources as saying that air defense units had destroyed 144 Ukrainian drones over nine Russian regions overnight.

Russia's national aviation authority Rosaviyatsiya said that, following the drone attacks, flights had been suspended at three of Moscow's international airports – Domodedovo, Zhukovsky and Vnukovo – for safety reasons.

A few hours later the airports were said to be operating normally.

The Ukrainian Air Force, meanwhile, said that Russia attacked overnight with two missiles and at least 46 drones. It said it had shot down 38 of the drones.

The military administration in the Ukrainian capital said its air defenses had shot down all of the unmanned aerial vehicles headed for Kyiv after an air alert that began around 4 a.m. local time and lasted about two hours.

Kyiv officials said there had been no damage in the city.

In Ukraine's northwestern Sumy region, the military administration said that Russian forces had attacked critical infrastructure facilities but said air defenses had blunted the attack.

RFE/RL could not immediately verify the claims by either side.

A major feature of Moscow's offensive since the early months of its 36-month-old full-scale invasion, Russian missile and rocket attacks on population centers and power and other infrastructure throughout the country have been increasingly countered with cross-border drone attacks by Ukraine.

(With reporting by AP, dpa and Reuters)

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Fashion brand...

(Continued from page 5)

September 28 at the Korolenko State Scientific Library in Kharkiv, Ukraine, where the event will be dedicated to raising money for the library's restoration after damage from Russian bombings. Entrance is free for both AlaBites fashion shows.

Founded in 2017 in Kharkiv, the AlaBites team consists of Ms. Babenko as the lead designer, three sewing experts, two embroiderers and print design specialists, two web designers and a social media manager.

A correspondent for The Ukrainian Weekly recently caught up with Ms. Babenko in a phone interview to learn more about her brand and mission.

"Alabites is a modern street-style brand created for your everyday style and comfort," Ms. Babenko said. "We respect that style is first of all about comfort, so we've created a line of cool T-shirts, warm and soft hoodies, sweatshirts and swimsuits. We also have fancy dresses and elegant outfits in our collection to style our clients for different occasions."

Ms. Babenko described how her desire to become a fashion designer was born out of both her passion for fashion and her growing awareness of what she could contribute to the marketplace.

"All my life I've loved finding and wearing chic clothing," Ms. Babenko said. "Sometimes I'd have moments when I'd want something specific for my wardrobe, but it'd be impossible to find it in the store, so I decided to start producing the clothes I wanted."

When people began asking her where she got certain pieces of clothing and if she could make one for them, too, Ms. Babenko was inspired to start her own fashion line.

Animal prints such as zebra, tiger and snake are AlaBites' hot fashion trend of the fall season, Ms. Babenko said. New AlaBites designs featuring animal prints include skirts, pants, jackets, shoes, lingerie and accessories.

"The animal prints can be beautifully styled with bright accessories and with leather and lace clothing, too," Ms. Babenko said, noting that the popular animal prints will be worked into her upcoming winter collection as well.



Courtesy of Alina Babenko

Alina Babenko is the creator of the AlaBites brand.

With clients from all over the world, Ms. Babenko said she's proud to present her brand to them as a Ukrainian designer representing her native city of Kharkiv. Her future plans include launching a kid's clothing line and a sports line, as well as opening an AlaBites store in Kharkiv, which she has delayed for now as the city continues to suffer from ongoing Russian attacks.

Ms. Babenko said she feels that, with the trauma her country is dealing with each day from the ongoing war, it's more important than ever for people to still feel good about themselves.

"It makes me smile when I see someone happy to be wearing one of our pieces," Ms. Babenko said. "AlaBites designs can make you feel special. I want all people to feel stylish and fashionable from now on and forever. Through our work with fundraising and fashion, we want to continue supporting Ukraine in any way we can, and to help bring peace in this world."

Information on AlaBites upcoming fashion shows and clothing purchasing options can be found on Instagram, Telegram and Facebook using the tag @alabites. AlaBites clothing is also sold at two of the brand's partner stores in Kharkiv: a nail salon at Alchevskikh 1, and a store for Ukrainian designers at Svobody 22.

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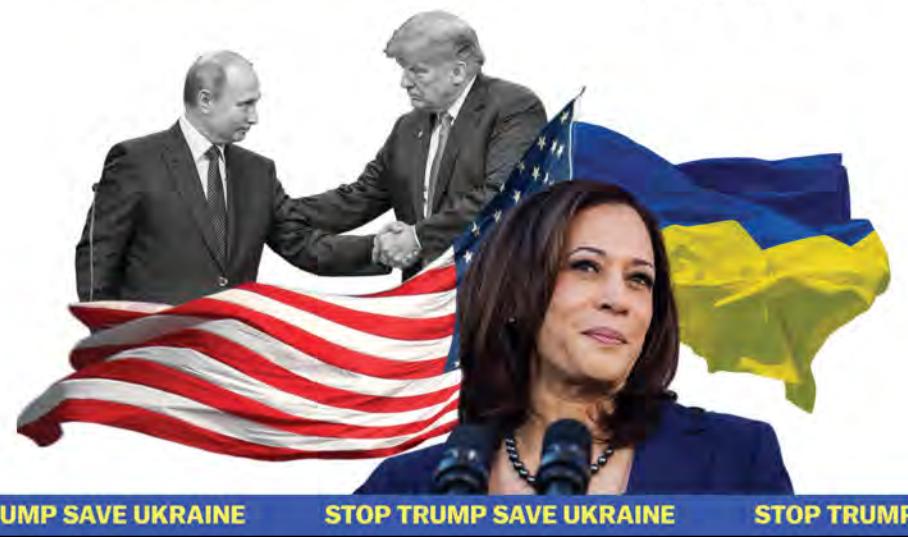
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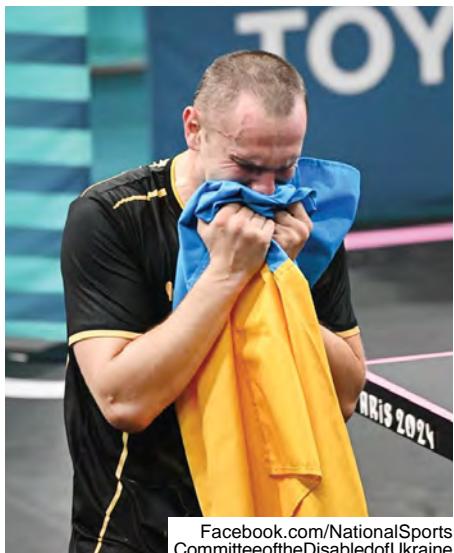


Ukraine at the 2024 Paralympics

by Ihor Stelmach

Ukraine finishes in fifth place with 82 medals

Ukrainian Para athletes won 83 medals at the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris, including 22 gold, 28 silver and 32 bronze medals, placing the country seventh in the medal standings and fifth overall in total medals. In 2021, at the Tokyo Games, three years before Russia's unprovoked, full-scale



Facebook.com/NationalSportsCommitteeoftheDisabledofUkraine

Viktor Didukh, 37, who won a gold medal in individual table tennis (MS8) and a bronze medal in mixed doubles (XD17) at the 2024 Paralympics in Paris, is seen overcome with emotion after his gold medal-winning final against Shuai Zhao of China 3-2.

invasion of Ukraine, the country's Paralympians earned 98 medals (24 gold, 47 silver, 27 bronze) to finish in sixth place in the medal standings and fifth overall.

Ukraine's Para athletes won 40 medals in swimming (second most) and 19 medals in athletics (fourth best). Ukraine's five medals in judo earned them a tie for second place. Ukrainian men won 51 medals while the women claimed 27 medals, and Ukraine also captured four medals in team events. Ukraine's first-ever goalball squad won a silver medal in their debut appearance, just missing out on gold when they were defeated in the final, 4-3 in overtime.

Additional Ukrainian gold medalists included Andrii Trusov (swimming 50-meter freestyle and 50-meter butterfly S7), the mixed 4x100-meter freestyle relay team (Yaroslav Denysenko, Oleksii Virchenko, Maryna Piddubna and Anna Stetsenko), Anastasiia Moskalenko (women's shot put F32), Mariia Pomazan (women's shot put F35), Nataliya Nikolaychuk (women's judo, 48-kilogram J1), Ihor Tsvietov (men's athletics, 200-meter T35), Anastasiia Harnyk (women's judo, over-70-kilogram J1), Viktor Didukh (men's table tennis, singles M38), Yehor Dementyev (men's road cycling C4-5 road race), Yaroslav Denysenko (swimming 100-meter freestyle S12) and Vladyslav Yefifanov (canoe single 200-meter VL3).

Top Ukrainian multi-medalists were swimmer Andrii Trusov, who won five medals, and fellow swimmers Denys Ostapchenko and Danylo Chufarov, who each won four medals. Among the women, swimmers Stetsenko (four medals), Iryna Poida and Anna Hontar (three medals) and fencer Olena Fedota-Isaieva (three medals) led the way.

Multi-gold medalists, each with a pair of gold medals, included Trusov, Denysenko and runner Ihor Tsvietov.

Oksana Masters told to cover up Ukraine heart sticker

Ukrainian American Oksana Masters was asked by Paralympic officials to "cover up the Ukrainian heart stickers" on her helmet before competing, the now 20-time Paralympic medalist disclosed to CNN in an interview on September 6.

The Ukraine-born Para athlete revealed that the request only motivated her to do even more to win. She described the interaction with officials as having fired her up and provided her with more inner drive.

It was not exactly clear why officials asked Masters to cover up the symbols. Masters said it happened right at the starting gate. There was nothing on her helmet, other than stickers in the shape of hearts. She explained to officials why she placed the heart stickers on her helmet. Born in



Facebook.com/NationalSportsCommitteeoftheDisabledofUkraine

Anna Stetsenko, multi-medalist in para swimming (gold in 4x100-meter mixed freestyle relay, silver in 100-meter freestyle S12, silver in women's 100-meter backstroke S12, and bronze in women's 400-meter freestyle S13), is seen with her silver medal in the women's 100-meter freestyle (S12).

Ukraine and now a U.S. citizen, she felt she wanted to represent all parts of her and where she came from.

Masters went on to win gold medals in the Para cycling road H4-5 individual time trial and the H5 road race. She added a

(Continued on page 14)

Despite challenges of war, Ukraine's Paralympians win in Paris

by Ihor N. Stelmach

Mykhailo Serbin climbed into the pool and set off down the middle lane, cutting through the water quickly and gracefully. One of the world's best Para swimmers was guided by sticks held out by staff members at the end of each length so that he knew when to make the turn. His local pool in Kharkiv was destroyed by Russian bombing and he has been adjusting to living and training in Kamianske, a suburb of Dnipro in Ukraine. He is one of many Ukrainian athletes who were forced to live in exile because of the war.

When Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Serbin had no hopes or expectations of earning a salary, having his fees paid or knowing what would happen the following day.

Despite all of the uncertainty and turmoil, Serbin found himself competing in Paris at the 2024 Paralympic Games, attempting to retain his title in the 100-meter backstroke S11 category for almost completely blind swimmers. He also hoped to improve on the silver medal he won in the 200-meter individual medley in Tokyo in 2021. The 20-year-old won a world championship in Madeira last year.

Heading into Paris, he needed to prove to himself that three years of dedicated training was not in vain and remind the world not to forget about the strong resilient nation of Ukraine.

It took a lot of work for Serbin and his teammates to make it to Paris. The uncertainty clouding Para sports in Ukraine for the last two and a half years saw severe budget cuts with state funding diverted to the armed forces while Ukraine's Para sports system struggled to survive. At Tokyo in 2021, Ukraine finished fifth in the medal table with 95 medals. One of the world's top Para sports systems had to



Para swimmer Andrii Trusov, Ukraine's leading medalist at the 2024 Paralympics in Paris with five medals (two gold and three silver), is seen after his silver medal in the men's 200-meter individual medley SM7. Trusov set the world record in the event in July 2023 with a time of 2:28.19 seconds.

stretch its resources to make it to Paris this summer.

Anton Kol, a four-time Paralympic backstroke medalist in the S1 category for athletes with minimal use of arms or legs, experienced a missile falling 60 meters from his house outside of Dnipro in early April when he was walking in his yard with his young son. His windows were blown out and a swimming pool around the corner where he trained daily was damaged. Today that pool is again functioning, but with ongoing damage to the building's outside and a huge crater across the road.

The close call certainly affected the 34-year-old Kol, described as a locally-born treasure, who was abandoned by his mother at birth and grew up in an orphanage. However, three weeks after his close call, he won gold in the 100-meter event at the European Championships in Madeira, Spain. His was an extraordinary example of Ukrainians adapting to their wartime con-

ditions.

Kol has overcome gigantic obstacles in his days and he cites sport as a way of overcoming depression in his youth and not allowing his disability to ruin his life. Facing an ongoing war is still another challenge for him and he counts on the Ukrainian Paralympic team's great strength of spirit to help sustain him.

Andrii Trusov is a third outstanding Ukrainian Para swimmer, a five-time medalist in Tokyo amid a career filled with podiums in World and European competitions and six world records. The 24-year-old was born near Sloviansk in the Donetsk Oblast of Ukraine, which was first overrun by Russians in 2014.

Diagnosed with cerebral palsy at the age of 11, his life dramatically changed when he heard about children with health issues training in a pool in Sloviansk. His desire to become an athlete quickly gained him entry into the local program.

Trusov continues to live and train in Kamianske, which has become the base for Ukrainian Paralympic swimmers from Russian-occupied territories or those facing grave threats.

Another swimmer from the Donetsk region is Veronika Korzhova, a 16-year-old who lost both legs as a child and relocated to Kamianske in April 2022 when her hometown of Soledar was almost destroyed. She was forced to move and train with new coaches and a new team.

Displaced athletes such as Kol, Trusov and Korzhova are granted state-funded accommodation in a hotel near the pool, which is in one of Kamianske's suburbs. Their families rent apartments in the area and the families have formed a closely-knit community with a strong sense of mutual assistance.

Paris was Korzhova's Paralympic debut and a culmination of a dream after watching the Tokyo Games and hoping to reach her first Paralympics in 2024.

In 2023, most of Ukraine's Para sport's budget was restored with the help of funds from foreign sponsors. The country was still selective about which athletes to fully back and which competitions to enter. At first, some Paralympians were forced to at least partially cover their own training camp expenses.

Kol and Trusov vowed to help keep a spotlight on Ukraine and were out to win big in Paris. Trusov won five medals including gold in the S7 50-meter freestyle and S7 50-meter butterfly. Kol won silver and a bronze while Serbin's gold medal performance in the S11 100-meter backstroke also set a new world record. Korzhova was one of six swimmers on Ukraine's team winning bronze in the mixed 4x50-meter medley relay.

(Based on reporting by Yahoo!sport via The Guardian.)

Ukrainian pro sports update

by Ihor N. Stelmach

Kichenok and Ostapenko win U.S. Open doubles title

Ukraine's Lyudmyla Kichenok and Latvian Jelena Ostapenko won the women's doubles crown at the 2024 U.S. Open with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over the Chinese-French duo of Zhang Shuai and Kristina Mladenovic on September 6.

This was the first women's Grand Slam doubles title for Kichenok and Ostapenko, who reached the final together at this year's Australian Open. The two did not lose a single set in the entire tournament.

For Kichenok, it was her second Grand Slam title after winning her first in the Wimbledon mixed doubles event in 2023.

The duo was seeded seventh at the New York major tournament and had a relatively easy time of it right through the semifinal round, where they trounced the pairing of Chan Hao-Ching of China and Veronika Kudermetova of Russia 6-1, 6-2.

After winning the title, Kichenok shared that she was forced to postpone her wedding to Stas Kumarsky due to her success in reaching the final of the tournament. Her original wedding date was September 4, the day of her semifinal match.

American singles finalist Jessica Pegula surprised Kichenok with a heartwarming note and a bottle of champagne to celebrate her title victory and her upcoming wedding. Her fiancée, Kumarsky, happens to be Ostapenko's coach.

Shakhtar Donetsk and Dynamo Kyiv to play in Germany

Ukrainian Premier League powers Shakhtar Donetsk and Dynamo Kyiv have partnered with Bundesliga-2 clubs Schalke and Hamburg to play their Champions League home matches in Germany due to Russia's war on Ukraine. Shakhtar is teaming up with their namesakes, the Miners, at the Veltins-Arena to host Bayern Munich, Atalanta, BSC Young Boys and Brest in a new league phase.

Hamburg's Volkstadion will be the home pitch for Dynamo Kyiv as the team plays out its UEFA European League first-phase matches against Lazio, Ferencvaros, Viktoria Plzen and Riga's Futbola Skola.

Both arenas have a capacity of well over 50,000 for games in European competition and were utilized as host venues at last summer's UEFA Euro 2024 tournament held in Germany.

Arizona signs Ukrainian tennis player for 2025

University of Arizona tennis coach Clancy Shields announced the signing of Ukrainian Glib Sekachov to the Wildcats roster effective January 2025. Sekachov held a career-high International Tennis Federation (ITF) Junior ranking of No. 88 as of the August 30 signing, collecting four ITF doubles titles and four ITF singles titles.

Sekachov's most recent doubles title came in late August at the J300 Paracevo Tournament in Serbia with partner Dmitry Suboch of Slovenia. Sekachov captured his fourth singles title at the J200 Villach Tournament in Austria last May, defeating several top 100 ITF players on his way to the final where he claimed the title. It was his second singles title of the year after winning the J100 Queretaro in Mexico.

Sekachov chose the University of Arizona because of its coaching staff and team of players, believing it was the right institution to continue his development as a tennis player and as a person.

Coach Shields referred to his Ukrainian recruit as someone who fits the Wildcats' culture, and who "will be a great teammate and will elevate the experience of everyone around him." He described Sekachov's personality as magnetic with a "tremendous work ethic, combined with a high-level skill set."

Ukraine's Armed Forces receive Pinzgauer 6x6 vehicle

After over two years of fundraising, Motorsport U.K. has donated a Pinzgauer 6x6 vehicle to the Ukrainian war effort. It was due to arrive in Lviv, Ukraine, during the weekend of September 7-8 before being sent to Kyiv and transferred to the 46th Airmobile Brigade to be used as an armored ambulance.

The project was launched in May 2022 with a GoFundMe campaign to raise 60,000 British pounds (about \$79,000) to donate to the Embassy of Ukraine, which would use the money to purchase the vehicle. The chairman of Motorsport U.K. and Prodrive, David Richards, provided an initial donation of about \$32,000.

Ensuing contributions from a trust, villages and auto clubs based in Northern Ireland and Scotland contributed sizeable donations. Events at airfields in the summer of 2023 raised additional funds for the project.

The Pinzgauer is a multi-role vehicle that can be used as a tow truck and troop carrier. It is covered with modular armor that protects it from enemy fire, including machine guns and sniper rifles. Its floor protects the occupants from explosions and rollovers. Inside the vehicle there is a stretcher, trauma lights, fire extinguishers and electrical equipment.

Great Britain's preeminent auto racing federation has supported Ukraine since the start of Russia's full-scale war on Ukraine.

Ukrainian Parnitskyi wins speedway event

Seventeen-year-old Nazar Parnitskyi became the first Ukrainian winner of a major FIM Speedway event when he won round two of the Under-21 World Championship at Bikernieki in Riga, Latvia, on September 6. Parnitskyi took advantage when Denmark's 16-year-old Mikkel Anderson



Pete Staples/U.S. Open

Latvian Jelena Ostapenko (left) and Ukrainian Liudmyla Kichenok celebrate their women's doubles final win (6-4, 6-3) over the Chinese-French duo of Zhang Shuai and Kristina Mladenovic at the U.S. Open on September 6 in Flushing, N.Y.

crashed after blazing into the final lap of the race.

The win gave Parnitskyi 30 points and second place heading into the final round of the series in Torun, Poland, on September 27. The motorcycle racer hopes the biggest Ukrainian victory on a speedway track inspires a new generation of riders from Ukraine to follow him on the world stage.

Kickboxer Golovatyuk killed in war

Celebrated champion Ukrainian kickboxer Roman Golovatyuk lost his life in combat fighting against Russian forces on August 31 in the Pokrovsk region of Ukraine's Donetsk Oblast. The 28-year-old held the title of Honored Master of Sport, reached the final stage of the World Games and attained world championship status in kickboxing. He earned numerous World and European Cup victories along with multiple Ukrainian national titles.

A native of the Khmelnytsky region of the country, Golovatyuk voluntarily enlisted in Ukraine's Armed Forces in the early stages of the war. He was serving in a specialized military unit at the time of his death.

His passing was officially confirmed by the Ukrainian Air Force and Sports Committee. According to Ukrainian officials, he is the 401st Ukrainian athlete to perish in the ongoing war, underlining the far-reaching consequences Russia's aggression has had on Ukrainian society and its athletic talent pool.

(Based on reporting by The Straits Times, sportskeeda, Bundesliga, University of Arizona Athletics, The Checkered Flag, FIM Speedway Grand Prix and Lowkick MMA.)

Ihor Stelmach may be reached at ihorgenia@sbcglobal.net.

ated with the ongoing war.

Kozyna, Chyrkov and Zozulya, together with his family, currently reside in northern France, thanks to a France-based Ukrainian acquaintance.

Once out of war-torn Ukraine, the two badminton players enjoyed several training sessions per week and were financially backed for trips to Canada and Ireland to play in tournaments so they could earn the necessary points to qualify for this year's Paralympics.

Unlike Kozyna and Chyrkov who relocated soon after Russia invaded Ukraine, Shabalina did not move to Sweden until earlier this year. She received an unexpected visit from her old student Chyrkov when he found himself training not too far from where she lives in Sweden.

He proceeded to invite Shabalina to watch him and Kozyna compete at the Paris Paralympic Games. Kozyna was totally shocked on the day of her Paralympic debut, not recognizing her former teacher at first. When she did, she found it incredibly hard to believe and compared it to a dream. She had not seen Shabalina for four years.

Shabalina was extremely emotional, super excited and immensely proud of them both. While Chyrkov did not make it out of the group stage of the competition, Kozyna played her way into the women's SL3 semifinal, where she lost. She also was defeated in the bronze medal match, 21-9, 21-9, but all in all she exceeded her coach's expectations.

(Based on reporting by CNN Sports and Inside the Games.)

Ukraine finishes...

(Continued from page 13)

bronze medal in the mixed H1-5 team relay, giving her a total of 20 Paralympic medals in her career.

She told CNN that she plans to donate part of her Paralympic prize money to charities benefiting Ukraine. Adopted from a Ukrainian orphanage and brought to America at age seven, she grew up with a disability and wants to do her part to help impact kids in that situation in Ukraine today.

Romanchuk wins two medals

Ukrainian American Daniel Romanchuk earned two medals early on in Paris, capturing gold in the 500-meter T-54 event and bronze in the 400-meter T-54 race. He went on to finish fifth in both the 1,500-meter and 800-meter events and just missed out on a second bronze medal in the marathon, where he finished in fourth place.

Badminton brings trio together at Paralympics

One of the most emotional and touching stories at the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris was the reunion of Ukrainian badminton players Oksana Kozyna and Oleksandr Chyrkov with a former teacher.

Every Olympics and Paralympics are noted for distinctive tales of hardship, sorrow and resolve, oftentimes with

war playing a central role. Ukrainians have demonstrated their resilience in persistently resisting the Kremlin's attacks and many dedicated their medal victories to fallen soldiers and athletes who were part of the armed forces.

However, the first week of the Paralympics witnessed another moving story when a pair of Ukrainian Paralympic athletes who were orphaned from an early age were reunited with their former teacher in Paris.

The badminton duo of Kozyna and Chyrkov grew up in an orphanage in Dnipro, Ukraine. Kozyna's parents could not afford to take care of her after she was born without a fibula in one leg. Chyrkov was abandoned by his mother shortly after he was hit by a car and seriously injured when he was 8 years old.

The pair ended up in a Dnipro orphanage that housed and cared for some 70 disabled children. This is where Svitlana Shabalina met the two while teaching crafts at a school affiliated with the orphanage. Shabalina became a second mother to the children, often providing them with food, showing them kindness and inspiring them to participate in Para sports.

Shabalina admits the duo were two of her favorite pupils, and in time thought of them as her own children.

Badminton coach Dmytro Zozulya recruited Kozyna and Chyrkov, who, because of the war, ended up being the only two Para badminton players out of 20 left under Zozulya's tutelage. Some fled the country, while others relocated within Ukraine because of the shock, panic and fear associated

OUT & ABOUT

Through October 17 New York	Art exhibit, "Tatiana Levitskaia: Selections from the Kolodzei Art Foundation," Harriman Institute Atrium, Columbia University, https://harriman.columbia.edu	September 21 Syracuse, NY	Pig Roast, Syracuse Ukrainian National Home, 315-478-9272 or events@syrucc.org
September 16 New York	Book presentation by Andrea Chalupa, "In the Shadow of Stalin: The Story of Mr. Jones," in conversation with Terrell Jermaine Starr, Ukrainian Institute of America, www.ukrainianinstitute.org	September 21 Chicago	Exhibit, Celebrating 75 years of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Ukrainian National Museum, www.ukrainiannationalmuseum.org
September 16 Cambridge, MA	Book presentation, "Chernobyl Roulette: War in the Nuclear Disaster Zone," Harvard University, https://huri.harvard.edu	September 22 Ottawa	Lanark County Ukrainian Fest, Carleton Place, www.uflc.ca
September 16-19 Ottawa	Exhibit featuring works by visual artists Nadiia Kushnir, "The Worm was Born," Club SAW, www.eventrbite.ca	September 22 Olivebridge, NY	Ukrainian Community Day, Ashokan Center, events@ashokancenter.org or 845-657-8333
September 18 Cambridge, MA	Book talk, "The Voices of Babyn Yar" with Marianna Klyanovska, Oksana Maksymchuk and Max Rosochinsky, Harvard University, https://huri.harvard.edu	September 22-25 Washington	Ukraine Action Summit, American Coalition for Ukraine, Capitol Hill, https://americancoalitionforukraine.org
September 18 Online	Webinar, "Russian Invasion of Ukraine Brings Extraordinary Challenges in Humanitarian Demining," https://usukraine.org	September 25 Cambridge, MA	Presentation by Martin Schulze Wessel, "The Curse of Empire. Ukraine, Poland and the Fallacy in Russian History," Harvard University, https://huri.harvard.edu
September 18-28 Ottawa	Performance, "First Metis Man of Odessa," National Arts Center English Theater, https://nac-cna.ca/en/tickets/under30	September 25 New York	Film screening, "Lessons of Tolerance" by Arkadii Nepytaliuk, Columbia University, https://harriman.columbia.edu
September 20 New York	Presentation, "In Tribute to Mark von Hagen's Contributions to Ukrainian Studies," Columbia University, https://harriman.columbia.edu	September 26 New York	Presentation by Regina Smyth, "Conservative Values and Authoritarian Regime Stability: Russia on the Eve of War," Columbia University, https://harriman.columbia.edu
September 21 Lehighton, PA	Potato Bake and Pig Roast, Ukrainian Homestead, www.ukrhomestead.com	September 26 New York	Presentation by Olena Speranska, "Wartime Posters, 2022-2023," Columbia University, https://harriman.columbia.edu
September 21 New York	Presentation, "Eastern Europe Revisited: A Look at Lithuanian-Polish-Ukrainian Relations Past-Present-Future," The Kosciuszko Foundation, https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/e7c8c473-41b5-419a-8856-4b20c9c490cc	September 26-28 Ottawa	18th annual Danyliw Research Seminar on Contemporary Ukraine, University of Ottawa, www.danyliwseminar.com
September 21 Jenkintown, PA	Opera Night, featuring soprano Marta Zaliznyak, tenor Angel Gomez, mezzo-soprano Tetyana Vakhnovska, baritone Mark Hosseini and pianist Garbiel Rebolla, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, https://opera-night.bssdesign/	September 28 Calgary, AB	Concert, Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America, Grace Presbyterian Church, www.eventbrite.ca or www.bandura.org

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CONCERT SEASON

THE UKRAINIAN BANDURIST CHORUS OF NORTH AMERICA
УКРАЇНСЬКА КАПЕЛЯ БАНДУРИСТІВ ІМ. Т. ШЕВЧЕНКА

presents

ВСЕ БУДЕ УКРАЇНА UKRAINE LIVES!

Artistic Director **Oleh Mahlay**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 • 7:00 PM
GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1009 - 15 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 • 3:30 PM
FRANCIS WINSPEAR CENTRE FOR MUSIC
9720 - 102 Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 • 7:30 PM
BROADWAY THEATRE
715 Broadway Avenue, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1 • 7:30 PM
BURTON CUMMINGS THEATRE
364 Smith Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3 • 7:00 PM
DOROTHY STICKNEY AUDITORIUM
DICKINSON STATE UNIVERSITY
291 Campus Drive, Dickinson, ND 58601

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4 • 6:30 PM
Sponsored by the Protez Foundation
HOPKINS HIGH SCHOOL
2400 Royals Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55305

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5 • 7:00 PM
NORTH SHORE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
9501 Skokie Boulevard, Skokie, IL 60077

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 • 7:30 PM
THE HOCHSTEIN SCHOOL
50 N. Plymouth Ave., Rochester, NY 14614

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3 • 2:00 PM
DNIPIRO UKRAINIAN CULTURAL CENTER
562 Genesee Street, Buffalo, NY 14204



FOR TICKETS, PLEASE VISIT
bandura.org/events

Net proceeds from this concert will benefit the
Bandura Education Fund

