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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

Brushfire burns in five villages of deserted zone near Chornobyl

by Marta Kolomayets

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Tragedy once again hit the Chornobyl region as a fire spread through deserted villages in the zone of alienation on April 23, raising concerns about increased levels of radiation in the area.

The blaze raced through the 30-kilometer zone, just three days before the 10th anniversary of the world's worst civilian nuclear accident at the Chornobyl plant, which occurred on April 26, 1986.

Officials said no one was hurt in the fires, which apparently started in dry, waist-high grass, spreading to five aban-

doned villages in the zone.

Ukraine's emergency services told the UNIAN news agency that there was no increase in radiation in the area, but firefighters at the scene — equipped with radiation meters — said that the needles on the meters showed big increases. They said flames, smoke and displacement of dust naturally pushed readings higher.

On April 24, Volodymyr Kholosha, Ukraine's minister of Chornobyl affairs, said the fires had caused only minor, localized increases in radiation.

Officials at the Chornobyl nuclear power station said the fire, which broke out about nine miles northwest of the plant, posed no danger to the plant itself.

Although the zone had been evacuated days after the 1986 Chornobyl nuclear disaster, more than 600 people have resettled in the area, and on April 23 more than 150 people had chartered buses to come back to the village of Tovsty Lis to pay respect to their departed relatives buried in the local cemetery. (Sunday was Providna Nedilia, or St. Thomas Sunday, a religious holiday in Ukraine, during which memorial services are conducted on the graves of family members.)

Ukrainian officials suspect that the fires were caused by returnees on their annual visits to their old homesteads.

"The reasons for the fire are being investigated, but the most likely explanation is carelessness by these visitors. By evening all the fires were brought under control and extinguished," said Minister Kholosha on April 24.

Firefighters said the blaze was probably started by a cigarette dropped by one of the families visiting the graves near the village of Tovsty Lis.

Chornobyl Interinform, an information center located within the exclusion zone, reported that nearly 10 hectares of grasslands were destroyed in the villages of Zalissia and Tovsty Lis, about 15 kilometers from the Chornobyl nuclear plant; 10 abandoned houses burned and another 150 hectares of grassland were destroyed. Five hectares of forest and 45 hectares of grassland were destroyed in Sheplevychi, while five hectares of grassland burned around the village of Teresha and another 10 hectares were destroyed at Nova Krasnytsia.

All in all, about 200 hectares (500 acres) of forest and grasslands were destroyed. Abandoned homes, the village church and other wooden buildings were engulfed in flames, burning to the ground in less than half an hour, as the returnees, quickly ushered onto buses, watched in horror.

A reporter from the Reuters news agency and his photographer were at the scene and witnessed the blaze, which began at about noon and lasted close to

G-7 summit reaffirms commitment to closing down Chornobyl plant

by Marta Kolomayets

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Although no new ground regarding the issue of Western aid to close Chornobyl was broken at the G-7 summit on nuclear safety and security, held in Moscow on April 19-20, Ukrainian government officials expressed their satisfaction with the meeting, during which President Leonid Kuchma reiterated the country's intention to close down the plant by the year 2000.

On the eve of the 10th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear accident, which spewed radiation across most of Europe,

leaders of the G-7 countries reaffirmed their commitment to grant Ukraine more than \$3.1 billion to take the plant out of operation within the next three years.

The funds for the shutdown of the Chornobyl nuclear power plant include \$500 million in grants and \$2.6 billion in credits, with a 5 to 6 percent interest rate, which Ukraine will begin paying off in 10 years.

However, the money has not yet been disbursed, and Ukraine will now begin signing agreements so that the funds can be released, said Yuriy Kostenko, Ukraine's

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British PM visits Ukraine on eve of G-7 summit

by Marta Kolomayets

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — British Prime Minister John Major, en route to the Group of Seven summit meeting in Moscow, paid an official visit to Kyiv on April 18 where he praised Ukraine's commitment to reform and pledged Western aid in closing down the Chornobyl nuclear power plant.

Lauding what he called "remarkable economic and political reforms" over the last few years, Mr. Major, who visited Ukraine for the first time, said Great Britain intends to increase trade and investment in this nation of 52 million.

"We understand the difficulty very clearly of these economic reforms, but we are utterly confident that as they are carried forward, they will lead to a far better economic future for Ukraine," said Prime Minister Major at Mariyinsky Palace, where visiting dignitaries are received by Ukraine's leadership.

The prime minister and President Kuchma focused on issues relating to the shut down of Chornobyl, which was on the agenda of the G-7 summit in Moscow on April 19-20.

"We're fully committed to the implementation of the memorandum of understanding that has been signed between Ukraine and the G-7 (the aid plan signed in Ottawa in December 1995)," Mr. Major told journalists during a photo opportunity in the early afternoon, explaining that the issue of Chornobyl "is important to the president (Kuchma), important to me and important to the rest of the G-7."

"There are funds ready to be used,

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ANALYSIS: Britain sees Ukraine as Europe's new strategic front

by Taras Kuzio

Prime Minister John Major's one-day visit to Ukraine on April 18 on his way to a two-day nuclear summit in Moscow indicates that Kyiv is now becoming a regular stopover for Western leaders on their way for consultations and meetings to the Russian capital. Prime Minister Major will assure President Leonid Kuchma that Britain is committed to a "free and prosperous Ukraine" and hopes to boost British exports to, and investment in, Ukraine, which are now lagging far behind Germany, the U.S. and even France and Italy.

Britain, together with Germany, the U.S. and Canada, is promoting the strategic importance of Ukraine to European security after years of neglect. That is producing a storm of diplomatic activity on the eve of the Russian presidential elections. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has met President Kuchma on three occasions this year, on one occasion demonstrably in the presence of Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov in Helsinki. President Kuchma paid a highly successful and high-profile visit to the U.S. last month that led to further security assurances for Ukraine.

Meanwhile, British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind and German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel will pay a joint visit to Ukraine next month, aiming to demonstrate both countries' support for Ukrainian independence and backing its attempts to forge closer links with the West. "We both have an interest in the political development of Ukraine and its reform processes," a British official said.

Last year Ukraine undertook the largest number of military exercises within NATO's Partnership for Peace program of any former Soviet-bloc country. With an eye on domestic developments in Russia, Ukraine is keenly interested in forging a "special partnership" with NATO due to its geopolitical location, which should include a political consultative mechanism. Ukraine is, for the moment at least, not applying for NATO membership — but this could change if a commissar or tsar wins the Russian presidential elections.

Although the West is now committed to an enlarged NATO that includes all, or some, of the Visegrad Quadrangle countries, it has still to resolve the more complicated question as to where Ukraine fits into the new post-Soviet European security system.

After the distingration of the former USSR, Britain largely ignored Ukraine and, like many other Western countries, followed a Russia-first policy that, at times, served to legitimize the carving out of a Russian sphere of influence in the CIS through a new Russian Monroe Doctrine.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry complained on the eve of Mr. Rifkind's visit to Ukraine last September that, "Britain has in fact not yet formed a clear, well-thought-out concept of relations with Ukraine. The policies of John Major's government regarding our state are in fact being formulated from week to week, which means they have no consistency." Although Ukraine was finally being viewed separately from Russia, British policy towards Ukraine nevertheless, was, still "reserved." Mr. Rifkind told his Ukrainian hosts that Ukraine is Europe's new "strategic pivot" and

backed its reintegration into Europe.

One attempt to rectify Britain's slow recognition of Ukraine's strategic importance was an international conference titled "Whither Ukraine" held at the Foreign Office conference center at Wilton Park in Sussex, England, last December, during the same week that President Kuchma visited the U.K. on a three-day visit. A major survey of post-Soviet and East European studies in the U.K. last year will also reverse the Russo-centric bias of Soviet Studies in the U.K. by creating 35 new posts, three of which are in Ukrainian affairs at the universities of Birmingham, London and Essex. Five other newly created posts include Ukrainian affairs as part of joint studies of the region.

A major international conference on Ukraine titled "Soviet to Independent Ukraine: A Troubled Transformation" will be held at the University of Birmingham on June 13-14, funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Economic and Social Research Council. The conference will be attended by participants from the U.K., the U.S., Germany and Ukraine, with a keynote speech by former President Leonid Kravchuk.

During President Kuchma's visit to the U.K. last December, Prime Minister Major told his guest that, "Ukraine has an absolutely pivotal role to play in the future of Europe." Ukraine, a country for so long pushed to the sidelines of Western strategic thinking, is now increasingly ranked alongside the three Baltic republics as of vital strategic importance to European security. "Ukraine occupies an important place in the European security system because its strategic and geographic location requires this," British Defense Minister Michael Portillo said during Mr. Kuchma's visit to the U.K.

Speaking before a specially invited audience at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko underscored that "Ukraine reserves the right to become a member of any military and political structure which, in its evolution, would tend to be part of a new system of European security."

Mr. Udovenko also unquestionably backed his British colleague Foreign Secretary Rifkind's call for Ukraine to play a role worthy of its strategic importance in Europe's newly developing security architecture. "While developing Ukraine as an independent European state we, properly speaking, return to historical traditions which determine the natural place of our country as a participant with full rights in the European community," Mr. Udovenko said. "By transforming and reforming, Ukraine itself is getting closer to Europe, in the same way as Europe, changing, moves towards Ukraine," he added.

Western support for Ukrainian independence is all the more urgent in the aftermath of President Yeltsin's cancellation for the sixth time of his planned visit to Kyiv earlier this month to sign a legally binding interstate treaty that would have recognized the borders inherited from the former USSR. Mr. Yeltsin's calculated gamble not to visit Kyiv could only have been undertaken with a view as to how damaging his signing away of "Russian territory" would have been to his chance of re-election in June. The majority of Russian public opinion still finds it impossible to accept either Ukrainian sovereignty over these territories or even Ukrainian independence as such.

Taras Kuzio is a research fellow at the Center for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Birmingham.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Dudayev killed; Yandarbiev takes over

MOSCOW — Conflicting reports appeared on April 23 over whether or not Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev had been killed in a rocket attack on the village of Gekhi-Chu southwest of Grozny, the capital of Chechnya, during the night of April 21-22. Khodzh-Akhmed Yarikhanov, who initially represented the Dudayev government at last summer's Chechen-Russian peace talks, told ITAR-TASS that Gen. Dudayev had been killed, but later on April 23 a Chechen (Dudayev camp) government official said in Istanbul that he had spoken to the president by telephone that day. On April 24, Agence France Presse reported that Chechen military commander Shamil Basayev had confirmed the reports of Gen. Dudayev's death and had told Interfax that Vice-President Zelimkhan Yandarbiev had assumed the presidency. This report was confirmed on April 25 by the New York Times and National Public Radio, which

added that a funeral had been scheduled. Mr. Yandarbiev, 44, is a writer who founded the Vainakh Democratic Party in May 1990. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Constitutional debate continues

KYIV — Parliament continues to debate the draft constitution, Ukrainian media reported on April 23. Last week, the body rejected the first reading of the Parliamentary Constitutional Committee's draft and has now received five alternative drafts for review. The Communists' draft preserves the system of local councils and rejects the institution of the presidency. The Christian Democrats' draft is almost identical to the one prepared by the parliamentary committee, except that it balances power among the elected assemblies, the president and the country's courts, where the committee's draft allocates more power to the president. The 1993 draft constitution also is up for consideration. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Soccer association reinstates Dynamo

KYIV — Dynamo Kyiv, Ukraine's legendary soccer team, was reinstated in the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) on April 19.

The team, suspended seven months ago from all European competitions for a three-year period for allegedly bribing a Spanish referee to fix a match back in September, will be allowed to participate in the European Cup Championships this summer.

Former Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who is the chairman of the board of trustees of the Dynamo Soccer Club, was instrumental in getting the UEFA to cancel its decision.

"President Kravchuk played an important role in getting the disciplinary sanctions lifted," said Viktor Medvedchuk, the club's lawyer, explaining that Mr. Kravchuk held more than 20 meetings with the administration of the UEFA, members of national soccer federations and members of the diplomatic corps before the UEFA meeting in Geneva on April 19.

"The lifting of sanctions against Dynamo is an event of great importance, both in the world of sports and in Ukraine," noted Mr. Kravchuk at a news conference after his return to Kyiv.

"During my conversations with UEFA officials, I told them that banning Dynamo from the league was perceived as a national tragedy in Ukraine," said Mr. Kravchuk, who

commended the Dynamo team and its trainers on their sportsmanship in accepting the ban last year.

A delegation including Messrs. Kravchuk and Medvedchuk, as well as Dynamo Club President Hryhorii Surkis and Ukrainian Soccer Federation President Viktor Bannikov, traveled to Geneva for the UEFA meeting.

Despite the fact that the club has been reinstated, criminal charges have not yet been dropped against the club's officials who allegedly bribed the Spanish referee with \$30,000 worth of furs, reported Holos Ukrainy (Voice of Ukraine), the parliamentary newspaper.

A decision from Ukraine's Procurator General's Office, which began a criminal investigation after the club was ousted from the league, is expected in the near future.

Kyiv's Dynamo fans welcomed the UEFA decision. Valentyna Samoylova, the assistant director of sales at the 100,000-seat Republican Stadium, where Dynamo usually plays visiting teams, said that with news of the amnesty, workers at the stadium are busy sweeping the grounds, preparing for what they expect will be record crowds at Dynamo's next match on May 6, when it meets Odessa's Chornomorets.

"When Dynamo plays, the whole country comes out to watch. This is the best team in Ukraine. In many ways, it is Ukraine," said Ms. Samoylova.

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G-7 summit...

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minister of environmental protection and nuclear safety, who added that Ukraine should begin receiving money this year. A meeting between Ukraine and representatives of the G-7 is scheduled to take place in May.

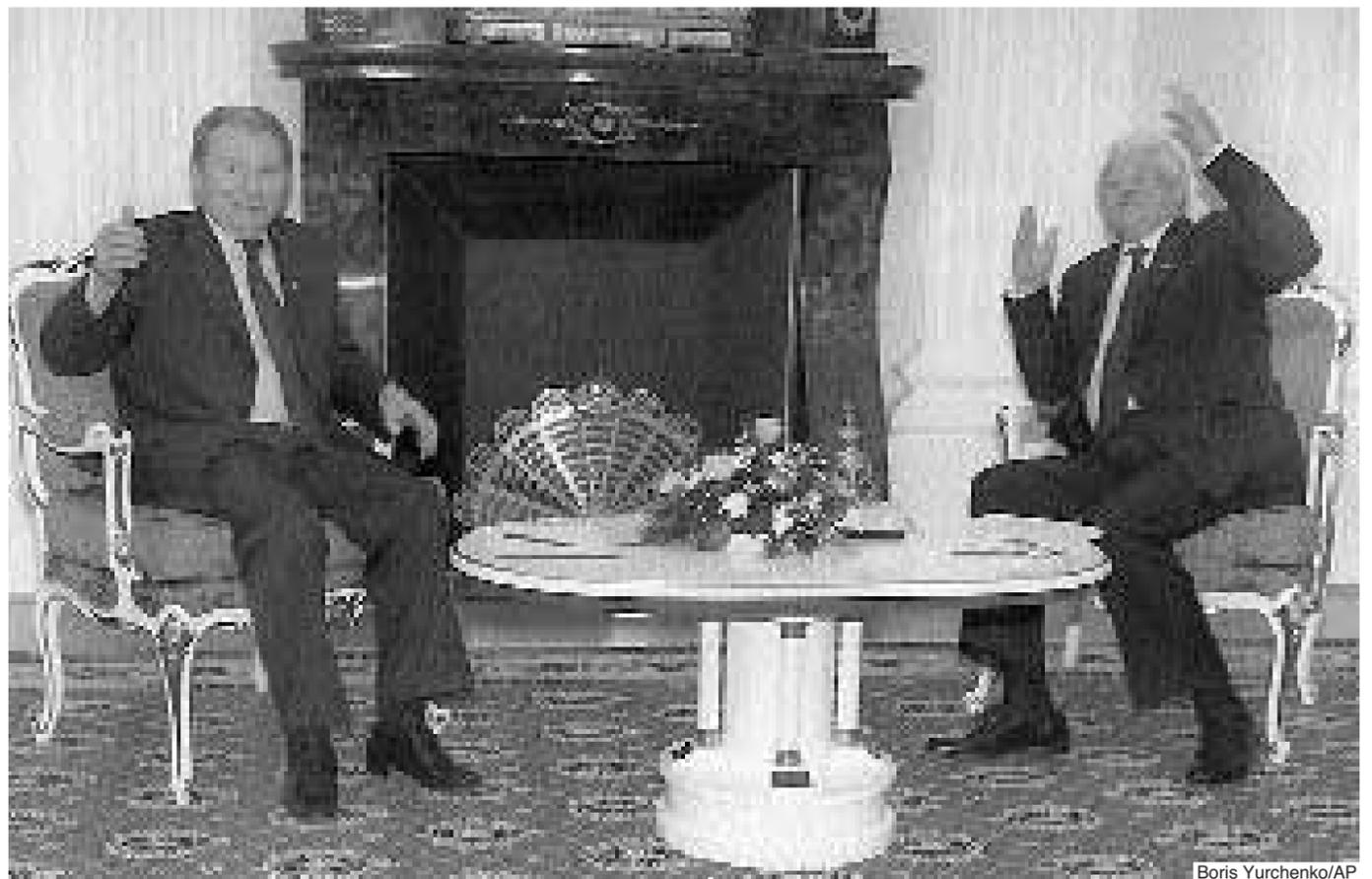
President Kuchma joined the G-7 members and President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation at a working lunch on Saturday, April 20, and an afternoon session of the summit. The meeting was viewed by critics as a forum for G-7 leaders to endorse Mr. Yeltsin in his bid for re-election in June.

President Kuchma told the world leaders that when the first unit of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant is shut down to undergo maintenance later this year, it will not be put back on line.

Ukraine, which gave up its nuclear arsenal voluntarily, "has a stake in the further safe and peaceful use of nuclear materials turned over to this country and supports international efforts to prevent their illegal circulation," President Kuchma said at the summit. He also spoke out in favor of the international treaty to ban nuclear tests.

Mr. Kostenko, who held a news conference in Kyiv on April 22, said one of the Moscow summit's top achievements was the adoption of a separate resolution in the G-7 Memorandum on Nuclear Safety and Security regarding the sarcophagus over reactor No. 4 at the Chernobyl plant.

He underlined that the move to adopt the resolution – which states that the G-7 assumes responsibility to examine the problem of the sarcophagus – was unprecedented, because the document



Boris Yurchenko/AP

Presidents Leonid Kuchma and Boris Yeltsin during their meeting at the Kremlin on April 20.

was drafted and ready to be signed before President Kuchma added the issue to the official document.

"A very important phrase has been incorporated to the final version of the document," noted Mr. Kostenko, who called the summit "a source of hope that will allow us to begin implementing solutions to the Chernobyl problem soon."

The 600-word declaration issued at the end of the summit states that nuclear safe-

ty is "an absolute priority" and that all nuclear materials must be kept securely.

"As we approach the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl accident, it is our shared objective that such a catastrophe cannot reoccur," said the statement.

Ukrainian officials attending the Moscow summit noted that French President Jacques Chirac was very supportive of Ukraine at the meetings. During the joint press conference with

Russian President Yeltsin, it was the French leader who told reporters that a feasibility study by European, Ukrainian, Russian and American experts would be financed by the West in order to assess what repairs will be necessary on the facility over the destroyed fourth reactor, which to this day contains almost 200 tons of nuclear fuel and waste products.

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IMF approves loan for Ukraine

by Roman Woronowycz

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — The International Monetary Fund has tentatively approved a new standby loan for Ukraine after suspending disbursement of the 1996 tranche because it felt Ukraine's administrative controls were inadequate.

The IMF decided in early April to freeze the \$900 million in funds, the second part of the \$1.5 billion agreed to in 1995 (and raised in February to \$1.7 billion), when Ukraine exceeded agreed to inflation limits by 8-10 percent. Ukraine's first quarter inflation rate came in at 21 percent. It also was concerned that Ukraine had failed to meet budget limitations for a second consecutive quarter.

Oleh Hawrylyshyn, IMF's alternate executive director for Ukraine, told The Weekly that the IMF suspended the payment and called a meeting in Kyiv because it was getting varying stories from different departments of the government as to why inflation remained high, and why expenditure goals were changing. "[The IMF] wanted to know how administrative control was going to be maintained so that this doesn't happen again," said Mr. Hawrylyshyn.

He said that Deputy Prime Minister of Economic Reform Viktor Pynzenyk sat in for Deputy Prime Minister of the Economy Roman Shpek, who was away on travel, and that details were ironed out rather quickly.

The new schedule agreed to by IMF management, which still needs to be approved by its board of directors, should go into affect after the board meets on May 10, said Mr. Hawrylyshyn. "The new standby will provide essentially what was

(Continued on page 17)

Summary of G-7 efforts on nuclear safety in Ukraine

The following is the text of the State Department statement summarizing G-7 efforts to provide and coordinate nuclear safety assistance to Ukraine, released in Kyiv on March 19.

Since 1992, G-7 countries have donated over \$122 million in nuclear safety assistance to Ukraine. G-7 assistance has been targeted at building training centers, conducting expert-level seminars and exchange programs for plant operators, and providing computers and analytical codes to enhance daily plant operational safety. G-7 members have also undertaken safety analyses, provided safety equipment, strengthened the national nuclear regulator, and assisted with radioactive waste management.

Most recently, on December 20, 1995, the G-7 reached an agreement with Ukraine establishing a program to close Chernobyl by the year 2000. The program includes the mobilization of some \$3 billion in grants and loans to be used for power sector restructuring, energy sector investments, nuclear safety, and a plan addressing the social impact of Chernobyl's closure.

Many of the G-7's summits and expert-level meetings have included substantial discussion of the problems highlighted by Chernobyl. Some highlights:

- July 1992 G-7 Munich Summit: The G-7 began coordinating safety assistance to Soviet-designated civilian reactors in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the newly independent states. It called on other countries to join this effort; established new institutions to coordinate assistance; and sought the support of international financial institutions (IFIs).

(a) The G-24 Nuclear Safety Assistance Coordination Center: A donor/recipient coordination group was tasked to identify priority safety needs and to facilitate the coordination of bilateral assistance programs.

(b) The Nuclear Safety Account (NSA): A multilateral fund was created to provide equipment and technology for urgent safety upgrades to the least safe reactors. The fund is administered by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and funded by 15 donor states.

(c) The IFIs: The G-7 requested that the World Bank, EBRD and the International Energy Agency (IEA) prepare a study on possible energy alternatives for less safe reactors.

- 1993 G-7 Tokyo Summit: The G-7 reviewed the completed energy studies and pressed IFIs to help countries develop long-term energy strategies that would allow the

early closure of some reactors.

- 1994 G-7 Naples Summit: The G-7 countries pledged a total of \$200 million in grant aid to strengthen Ukraine's energy sector and to close Chernobyl.

- 1995 G-7 Halifax Summit: The G-7 promised to mobilize additional international support for energy production, energy efficiency and nuclear safety projects to assist with the closure of Chernobyl.

G-7 nuclear safety projects for Ukraine

G-7 assistance to Ukraine is best summarized under the categories below. All funding figures are approximate and relate solely to G-7-only assistance. Other Western countries have also provided assistance. Examples of activities under way are provided for each category.

- Improving daily operations for reactors: \$36 million.

Provision of training and training materials to reactor operators and technical staff; conduct of operator exchange programs and seminars with Western operators; conduct of safety analyses, provision of analytical simulators, computers, safety codes; assistance in preparing better operating procedures; and assistance in preparing emergency response facilities.

- Reactor equipment upgrades: \$28 million.

Installation of Western safety equipment; provision of spare parts; and assistance in design and implementation of technical solutions for safety-shortcomings.

- Strengthening the nuclear regulators: \$20 million.

Provision of training and training materials for regulatory staff; conduct of exchange programs with Western regulatory staff; provision of analytical simulators, computers, safety codes, communication and data-base management equipment; and technical support for developing new licensing and review procedures.

- Improved radioactive waste management: \$11 million.

Provision of waste management training, transfer of waste management technology; provision of radiation monitoring/detection equipment and radiation hardened equipment for decontamination; assistance in power plant liquid waste treatment and in conducting radioactive waste assessments.

- Improved spent-fuel management: \$7 million.

Provision of dry-cask storage facilities for spent nuclear fuel and training for operators and regulators in use of the technology.

OBITUARY: Dokia Humenna, 88, writer active in Ukraine, diaspora

NEW YORK — Dokia Humenna, one of the most colorful and outspoken members of the Ukrainian émigré literary scene, died here on April 4. She was 88.

Ms. Humenna was born on March 10, 1904, near Zhashkiv, about 120 kilometers south of Kyiv, and studied at the Institute of People's Education in the capital.

Her first literary sketch, "U Stepu" (In the Steppe, 1924) secured her a place in the major Soviet Ukrainian literary journals of the day, and paved the way to membership in the massist peasant writers' association Pluh.

Ms. Humenna's travel reports, "Lysty z Stepovoyi Ukrainy" (Letters from Steppe Ukraine, 1928) and "Ekh, Kuban Ty Kuban Khiborodnaya," (Eh, Kuban, Kuban, You Bountiful Land, 1931) provoked harsh censure from the regime, and she was silenced, although she escaped more dire punishment. In 1940, the publication of a short story collection, "Virus," led to another round of harsh criticism.

Upon the German invasion of the USSR, Ms. Humenna fled to Lviv, where she contributed to the local journals and press there. She emigrated to Austria then Germany following the war, and during her internment in displaced persons' camps in 1946-1949, she joined the artistic-literary organization *Mystetsky Ukrainsky Rukh* (MUR).

Ms. Humenna also published the collection "Kurkulska Viliya" (The Kulak's Christmas Eve, 1946) and embarked on her famous four-volume work, "Dity Chumatskoho Shliakhu" (Children of the Milky Way, 1948-1951), which she completed after moving to New York City.

The move to the U.S. did nothing to

slow Ms. Humenna's literary career or her travels. Her abiding interest in feminism, prehistoric life, mythology and archaeology are evident in works such as "Mana" (Delusion, 1952), "Velyke Tsabe" (The Great Tsabe, 1952, an accessible exposition of Trypillian culture), "Zoloty Pluh" (The Golden Plough, 1968) and others.

Her travels are reflected in the collections of essays "Bahato Neba" (A Lot of Sky, 1954) and "Vichni Vohni Alberty" (The Eternal Flames of Alberta, 1959), and in the short stories in "Sered Khmarosiahiv" (Among the Skyscrapers, 1962).

Ms. Humenna was laid to rest at the St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J., on April 6.

Brushfire burns...

(Continued from page 1)

eight hours. According to Reuters, crying grandmothers, attempting to shield their grandchildren from the flames, wandered back to the buses, crying and wiping tears and flying ash from their eyes. Reuters reported that men, who had clearly had plenty to drink earlier at the local cemetery, tried to gather their relatives for departure.

Despite the fact that radiation levels registered in Kyiv were normal on April 23, U.S. Embassy officials called American citizens living in Kyiv to calm any concerns they may have had.

Embassy officials said that, given the alarming media reports broadcast in the West, they had issued a notice on April 24, which stated in part:

"Ukrainian government, independent

Court of Appeals to hear case of petitions rejected by FCC

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — The United States Court of Appeals will hear the case of two Ukrainian Americans who had petitioned the Federal Communications Commission in a move against the broadcasting giant CBS, which had broadcast "The Ugly Face of Freedom" on its "60 Minutes" program in October 1994. The FCC had rejected the petitions in November 1995.

Alexander Serafyn of Troy, Mich., and Oleg Nikolyszyn of Providence, R.I., had filed petitions with the FCC to block transfer of CBS licenses in their respective hometowns in connection with the CBS broadcast, which they stated was news distortion. In addition the two

asserted that CBS failed to meet its public interest obligations by not serving the needs of the Ukrainian American public.

Arthur Belendiuk, attorney for the two petitioners, said, "The main point I will argue is that the FCC did not give us due process because they failed to investigate our concerns; they failed to set the petition for hearing."

He said he wants the FCC to look into certain extrinsic evidence he has presented, which they have refused to do.

The first briefs in the appeal process are due before the U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit, on June 25, with oral arguments scheduled to begin on October 16.

Radiation leak at plant

In other developments, Interfax Ukraine reported that radioactive contamination was registered at unit 3 of the Chernobyl plant at 12:25 a.m. on April 25.

Chernobyl NPP Chief of Shift Andriy Shakhman said it was caused by a violation of rules in cleaning the premises in the course of replacing filters.

As a result, radioactive dust from a filter got onto the floor of four rooms. The registered contamination level was two to seven times higher than normal (the norm is 2,000 beta-particles per square centimeter per minute).

No irradiation of personnel in excess of the admissible daily levels was registered. According to preliminary estimates, the event was level 1 on the international scale of incident at nuclear power plants. A fact-finding commission is at work.

British PM visits...

(Continued from page 1)

there are expert groups looking into what needs to be done. There is a EU review of the particular difficulties relating to the sarcophagus, so there is a lot to be discussed," Mr. Major said, referring to the summit he called the "G-7 plus 2" (noting the presence of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Mr. Kuchma, who was invited for the April 20 session concerning Chernobyl).

"The memorandum contains the tactics for closing down the nuclear power plant," observed President Kuchma, adding that "Ukraine has made the decision to close down Chernobyl, now Ukraine looks to the G-7 for their desire and decision to participate in the implementation. I am confident that this question will be resolved," he said.

Both leaders agreed on a variety of topics and both talked of the "improved relationship" between Great Britain and Ukraine. Mr. Major said that a "visible illustration" of this partnership will include a new British Embassy in Kyiv, now in the planning stages.

He also took time to visit the new British Council office in the Ukrainian capital, announced that additional funds will be provided to Ukraine's energy sector through the "Know-How" Fund and told reporters that, very shortly, important business trade missions will come to Ukraine, including one headed by the Lord Mayor of London.

Also at the Mariyinsky Palace, Mr. Major and Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk signed two agreements: "On the arrest and confiscation of income and profit in connection with criminal activities" and "On cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking." Both government leaders called the agreements a key fac-



Associated Press

British Prime Minister John Major with his Ukrainian counterpart, Yevhen Marchuk, during welcoming ceremonies in Kyiv.

tor in combating international crime.

Issues concerning Ukraine's integration into the European Community and European security were discussed by the British leader and President Kuchma, with Prime Minister Major pointing out that "Ukraine's success is important for European stability."

"And we are firm supporters of the

independent and democratic Ukraine that is being created," added Mr. Major.

Spending most of the day in meetings with President Kuchma, Prime Minister Marchuk, Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko, National Bank Governor Viktor Yushchenko and Parliament Chairman Oleksander Moroz, Mr. Major also took time out for a tour of the city

center. Guided by Kyiv Mayor Leonid Kosakivsky, the prime minister's stops included the Bessarabsky Market, where he tasted home-grown Ukrainian pickles and was greeted by local residents with bouquets of flowers.

Late in the evening, Mr. Major left for Moscow, where he was to take part in the G-7 summit on nuclear safety.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Results of the 1995 organizing campaign

The UNA Home Office has released the results of the 1995 organizing campaign: 1,031 new members insured for \$18,746,000.

While the annual membership quota was not fulfilled in terms of the number of members enrolled, in terms of the amount of life insurance coverage written the quota was beaten by \$6 million.

Following are the UNA's top organizers for 1995.

For the fourth year in a row, the top organizer among all branch activists was Miron Pilipiak, secretary of UNA Branch 496. He enrolled 36 new members. UNA Auditor William Pastuszek, Branch 231, and Michael Turko, secretary of Branch 63, shared second place, with each enrolling 25 new members.

The next category of top organizers, those enrolling between 10 and 20 members, included: Paul Shewchuk, Branch 13, 18 members; Christine Gerbehy, Branch 269, 15 members; Advisor Stephanie Hawryluk, Branch 88, 13 members; Joseph Chabon, Branch 242, Anna Haras, Branch 47, and Dr. Atanas Slusarczuk, Branch 174, 12 members each.

Three organizers — Konstantyn Chilcenkowski of Branch 10, Dr. Vasyl Luchkiw of Branch 16 and Yaroslav Zaviysky of Branch 155 — enrolled 11 members each. Auditor Stefan Hawrysz, Branch 83, and Julian Kotlar, Branch 42, enrolled 10 members each.

All other organizers (those enrolling nine or less members) will be listed in the annual report to the General Assembly.

In addition to life insurance certificates, the UNA also issued separate accidental death policies during the first six months of 1995. The organizers in this category included: Eugene Oscislawski, Branch 234, and Mr. Pastuszek, seven each; Messrs. Hawrysz and Pilipiak, five each; Mr. Chilcenkowski, four; Mr. Slusarczuk, two.

Fifteen organizers enrolled one member each for these accidental death certificates: Stephan Chorney, Branch 401; Peter Dziuba, Branch 367; Thomas Finiw, Branch 350; Mrs. Haras; Osyp Hawryluk, Branch 360; Marguerite Hentosh, Branch 305; Osyp Hladun, Branch 277; Andrew Maryniuk, Branch 388; Tekla Moroz, Branch 465; Irene Oliynyk, Branch 387; Dmytro Prystaj, Branch 43; Taras Slevinsky, Branch 59; Natalie Shuya, Branch 452; Mr. Zaviysky; and Walter Warshona, Branch 266.

Beginning in September of last year, members with paid-up certificates had the opportunity to purchase additional life insurance on the basis of the cash values of their policies and by making a one-time dues payment of either \$200 or \$300. During the last quarter of 1995, 611 such policies were purchased and these members once again became full-fledged members of their branches.

The UNA's professional sales force in the United States and Canada also was active in enrolling new members. The charts below demonstrate their progress.

Results of professional sales force in the U.S.

Name of organizer	Number of members	Amount of insurance	Number of annuities	Amount of annuities
John Danilack	32	\$1,006,500	24	\$243,838
Joseph Binczak	26	\$578,900	13	540,967
Eugene Oscislawski	26	\$525,831	4	900
Longin Staruch	26	\$598,000	15	\$354,218
Andre Worobec	13	\$187,679	3	\$51,836
Anne Smith	10	\$101,283	3	\$11,335
Albert Le Donne	7	\$250,351	10	\$58,584
Anatol Siry	3	\$30,000	—	—
Robert Cook	2	\$30,000	—	—
Total	145	\$3,308,544	72	\$1,261,678

Results of professional sales force in Canada

Name of organizer	Number of members	Amount of insurance
Maria Chomyn	70	\$3,765,910
Peter Piszko	22	\$932,000
Iryna Danilovitch	21	\$720,000
Natasa Sukovic	20	\$3,028,460
Alexander Dziubaniwsky	8	\$53,000
Michael Armstrong	1	\$150,000
Total	144	\$8,929,370

The UNA Executive Committee hereby thanks all organizers for their dedicated work in enrolling new members into the Ukrainian National Association in 1995 and, at the same time, asks that they continue their good efforts in 1996.

Re: Mail delivery of The Weekly

It has come to our attention that The Ukrainian Weekly is often delivered late, or irregularly, or that our subscribers sometimes receive several issues at once.

We feel it is necessary to notify our subscribers that The Weekly is mailed out Friday mornings (before the Sunday date of issue) via second-class mail.

If you are not receiving regular delivery of The Weekly, we urge you to file a complaint at your local post office. This may be done by obtaining the U.S. Postal Service Consumer Card and filling out the appropriate sections.

UNA DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

Detroit

by Stephen M. Wichar Sr.

WARREN, Mich. — UNA officers of the Detroit, Toledo, Ohio, and Windsor, Ontario areas, which constitute the UNA's Detroit District, attended its annual meeting on March 3. Thirty UNA'ers representing eight branches of 15, were present at the meeting.

The assembly was called to order by Dr. Alexander Serafyn, district chairman and a UNA advisor. He greeted all participants and presented Martha Lysko, UNA secretary, the keynote speaker for the afternoon.

A memorial was conducted for UNA members who died in 1995. After a presidium was selected, naming Dr. Serafyn as chairman and Roman Lazarchuk as recording secretary. Mr. Lazarchuk, district secretary, was called to read the annual meeting's minutes of February 19, 1995.

Reporting on the work of the Detroit District, Dr. Serafyn gave a general annual outline of issues and activities. He elaborated on his role as a national UNA officer, the meetings he attended and committee assignments.

Dr. Serafyn summarized his involvement in solving the perennial problem of merging smaller branches. One merger took place in the Windsor area where three branches united: Nos. 463 and 504 were merged into Branch 341. Anne Petryshyn became the new secretary and Serafina

Marzotto the new president. In the Detroit area, Branch 75 merged with Branch 20. Dr. Serafyn also reported a slow-down in new membership enrollment in 1995.

In addition to routine activities, Dr. Serafyn said he sought the support of Michigan's Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union to organize a seminar on money management. More than 100 persons attended, and the UNA's participation was chiefly an appraisal of insurance policies.

In a second joint venture, the UNA, the credit union and the Selfreliance Association planned a unique gathering with Ukrainian immigrants who came to America in the last decade (1985-1995). Dr. Serafyn provided the "UNA picture" before an audience of 160 people, 110 of whom were new arrivals.

Lesser but equally important activities were the showing of the UNA's "Helm of Destiny" to different audiences, the traditional UNA Family Day at the Dibrova Estate, awards of UNA financial stipends to students of Immaculate Conception High School and St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church Saturday School, a meeting with Vasyl Kyryk from Ukraine's Chicago Consulate, and UNA participation in the Michigan Fraternal Congress. During 1995, Dr. Serafyn also received fraternal awards.

Mr. Lazarchuk reported on his secre-

(Continued on page 18)



UNA Secretary Martha Lysko addresses Detroit District Committee meeting.

Woonsocket

WOONSOCKET, R.I. — A meeting of the Ukrainian National Association District of Rhode Island and Southern Massachusetts was held on Saturday, March 23, here at St. Michael's Orthodox Parish Hall.

District Chairman Leon Hardink opened the meeting with a prayer and a moment of silence for deceased UNA members.

Next, a roll call was taken. Branches 93, 177, 206 and 241 were in attendance; branches 73 and 122 were not present. In all, 16 UNA members attended the meeting.

Yuri Kalita read the minutes of the last meeting in Ukrainian, while Theodore Klowan read the minutes in English. The treasurer's report was read by Janet Bardell, who noted a bank balance of \$418.55.

Next, Dmytro Sarachman reported on local social events over the past year. In

1995, a dinner-dance was held at the Embassy Club in Woonsocket in honor of the 85th anniversary of the Zaporozska Sicz branch and the 100th anniversary of the Ukrainian National Association. A trip to a concert in Worcester was organized, with 48 people attending.

For the coming year, trips being considered include a trip to the New Jersey Ukrainian Festival in September, a trip to Toronto and a Father's Day trip to Soyuzivka.

The election of new officers was held. The following UNA'ers were nominated and unanimously approved as officers for the next year: Mr. Hardink, chairman; Alex Chudolij, vice-chairman; Ms. Bardell, treasurer; Mr. Kalita, Ukrainian secretary; Mr. Klowan, English secretary; John Laba, Irene Furman and Helen Trenkler, trustees; and Mr. Sarachman, fraternal activities coordinator.

(Continued on page 18)

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The G-7 and Chernobyl

It was billed as the "nuclear safety summit," thus, the Moscow meeting of the Group of Seven should have focused attention on the Chernobyl nuclear power station, given that all the world appeared to be fixated on seeing that notorious plant closed and that the summit was being held a week before the 10th anniversary date of the world's worst nuclear accident.

But, the summit did not live up to its billing. Instead of spending time discussing how best to go about actually shutting down the Chernobyl plant, leaders of the world's top industrial powers opted to restate their previously agreed upon position and to hold a political rally of sorts, as they went out of their way to make Boris Yeltsin look presidential. And Mr. Yeltsin played his part, doing his best to look like leader No. 8 and repeatedly referring to the participants as the Group of Eight.

The New York Times observed that, while the meeting pushed for a nuclear test ban and measures to halt smuggling of nuclear bomb ingredients, it also was "noteworthy for its warm embrace of the embattled Mr. Yeltsin who is running for re-election in June." The Christian Science Monitor reported that "Leaders of the world's seven largest industrial democracies made little secret of the fact that they back Mr. Yeltsin in his struggle against Communist Gennadiy Zyuganov..." Izvestiya reported that the G-7 meeting was perfectly staged to support Mr. Yeltsin's re-election campaign, noting that G-7 leaders had "avoided at all cost" any criticism of the Russian president's Chechnya policy.

French President Jacques Chirac was quoted as saying that the greatness of Russia is being restored, and Mr. Yeltsin boasted that "The status of Russia, not only as a great power, but also as one of the leading countries of the world was recognized." President Bill Clinton tried to avoid issues of conflict with his Russian counterpart, but then he bent over too far backwards when he compared the conflict in Chechnya with the American Civil War. For that he was criticized by many observers, including Helsinki Watch, which stated that via his remarks Mr. Clinton had "abdicated all responsibility" for advocating improved human rights in Russia. The New York Times characterized the Civil War/Chechen war analogy as "lame." (Mr. Yeltsin is no Abe Lincoln.)

But, even though no new ground regarding the Chernobyl nuclear power plant was broken at the G-7 summit, Ukraine appears to have come away from the nine-state meeting with at least some satisfaction.

Most news reports about the summit referred simply to a general reiteration of the G-7's support for Chernobyl's closure and President Kuchma's reaffirmation that he intends to close the plant by the year 2000 — basically a restating of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in December in Ottawa. Only a few news sources even bothered to report Mr. Kuchma's caveat: that this will be done provided the funding, including the previously pledged \$3.1 billion (\$2.6 billion in credits and \$500 million in grants), is there. But there was another bit of news.

As Ukraine's Minister of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety Yuriy Kostenko pointed out, "A very important phrase has been incorporated into the final version of the document." He was referring to the fact that a resolution contained in the "Memorandum on Nuclear Safety and Security" stated the G-7's intention to examine the problem of the sarcophagus over the No. 4 reactor at the Chernobyl plant.

And so, Ukraine is hopeful. Minister Kostenko noted that the summit is "a source of hope which will allow us to begin implementing solutions to the Chernobyl problems soon." He added that Ukraine will now begin signing specific agreements so that the funds promised can actually be released and the decommissioning of Chernobyl can begin.

Now, perhaps the G-7 and other international bodies will indeed come through with the promised monetary assistance and this dangerous plant will indeed be closed. Ten years after the accident at Chernobyl it's about time that the world realized this is not an internal affair of Ukraine.

May
4
1986

Turning the pages back...

The following is an excerpted story of an unnamed old woman from the village of Ilnytsi, Polissia district, taken from a 43-page illustrated booklet issued by the environmental monitoring and

lobbying group Greenpeace International, "Testimonies: Chernobyl Papers No. 1."

"We were evacuated at the first day of Easter, (May 4, 1986). First they transferred us to the Makariievsky region, Kyiv oblast, and settled us among local residents. Our cattle were collected and evacuated first, we were evacuated the next day.

"[For] four months we lived among strangers, and then after five months they transferred us to new housing in the Yahotyn region. We stayed there over the winter. The new houses were constructed badly, they were cold and wet. They were built on water-logged soil and the land was not leveled properly...

"In the spring when the snow melted we faced a new disaster: the water did not flow away. The walls caved in and the houses collapsed...

"So we returned home... Our life is not too hard... They often measure soils here for radiation, but they do not tell us the levels. Some Americans visited us here recently — they carried out some measurements and quickly disappeared.

"We have lived here for almost a decade now. It is a pity that [the] people at checkpoints do not allow our relatives to visit us. We have to travel almost 20 kilometers on foot to leave. They do not allow our people with cars to cross the checkpoints.

"But in general it is not bad here. Recently they have even allowed children from outside to stay with their grandmothers here in the summer."

Source: *Testimonies: Chernobyl Papers No. 1*, p. 31 (Amsterdam: Greenpeace International, 1996).

FOR THE RECORD: Joint resolution on Chernobyl introduced in Congress

The following resolution was introduced on April 24 in the Senate by Sen. Frank Lautenberg and in the House of Representatives by Rep. Christopher H. Smith.

Co-sponsors of H. Con. Res. 167 are: Reprs. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), Frank Wolf (R-Va.), Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.), Sander M. Levin (D-Mich.), Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Md.), Edward Markey (D-Mass.), Matt Salmon (R-Ariz.), David Bonior (D-Mich.), Richard Durbin (D-Ill.), and Louis Guttierrez (D-Ill.).

Co-sponsors of S. Con. Res. 56 are: Sens. Robert Dole (R-Kansas), Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) and Carl Levin (D-Mich.).

For more information, contact Orest Deychakiwsky at the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, (202) 225-1901.

Recognizing the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, and supporting the closing of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Whereas April 26, 1996, marks the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster;

Whereas United Nations General Assembly resolution 50/134 declared April 26, 1996, as the International Day Commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Accident and encourages member-states to commemorate this tragic event;

Whereas serious radiological, health and socioeconomic consequences for the populations of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, as well as for the populations of other affected areas, have been identified since the disaster;

Whereas over 3.5 million inhabitants of the affected areas, including over 1 million children, were exposed to dangerously high levels of radiation;

Whereas the populations of the affected areas, especially children, have experienced significant increases in thyroid cancer, immune deficiency diseases, birth defects and other conditions, and these trends have accelerated over the 10 years since the disaster;

Whereas the lives and health of people in the affected areas continue to be heavily burdened by the ongoing effects of the Chernobyl accident;

Whereas numerous charitable, humanitarian and environmental organizations from the United States and the international community have committed to overcome the extensive consequences of the Chernobyl disaster;

Whereas the United States has sought to help the people of Ukraine through various forms of assistance;

Whereas humanitarian assistance and public health research into Chernobyl's consequences will be needed in the coming decades when the greatest number of latent health effects is expected to emerge;

Whereas on December 20, 1995, the Ukrainian government, the governments of the G-7 countries, and the Commission of the European Communities signed a memorandum of understanding to support the decision of Ukraine to close the Chernobyl nuclear power plant by the year 2000 with adequate support from the G-7 countries and international financial institutions;

Whereas the United States strongly supports the closing of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and improving nuclear safety in Ukraine; and

Whereas representatives of Ukraine, the G-7 countries, and international financial institutions will meet at least annually to monitor implementation of the program to close Chernobyl: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), that the Congress —

(1) recognizes April 26, 1996, as the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster;

(2) urges the government of Ukraine to continue its negotiations with the G-7 countries to implement the December 20, 1995, memorandum of understanding which calls for all nuclear reactors at Chernobyl to be shut down in a safe and expeditious manner; and

(3) calls upon the president:

(a) to support continued and enhanced United States assistance to provide medical relief, humanitarian assistance, social impact planning and hospital development for Ukraine, Belarus, Russia and other nations most heavily afflicted by Chernobyl's aftermath;

(b) to encourage national and international health organizations to expand the scope of research into the public health consequences of Chernobyl, so that the global community can benefit from the findings of such research;

(c) to support the process of closing the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in an expeditious manner as envisioned by the December 20, 1995, memorandum of understanding; and

(d) to support the broadening of Ukraine's regional energy sources, which will reduce its dependence on any individual country.

VOA bridge focuses on Chernobyl

WASHINGTON — Yuri M. Shcherbak, Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S., and Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, founder of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, examine the ramifications of Chernobyl — past, present and future — during a joint radio bridge between the Voice of America and the National Radio Company of Ukraine, beginning April 22.

The program commemorates the 10th anniversary of the worst nuclear disaster in history. The hourlong bridge was recorded on April 18 and is being broadcast by both services in 15-minute segments on April 22, 23, 24 and 25.

Ambassador Shcherbak took part in the broadcast from VOA's Washington studio. He founded the Green Party of Ukraine in 1988 and a year later won a seat in the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, where he initiated the first parliamentary investigation into the nuclear accident at Chernobyl.

Dr. Matkiwsky took part in the broadcast by phone from Union, N.J., where he is chairman of the Department of Surgery at Union Hospital. In 1989, Dr. Matkiwsky and his wife, Nadia, established the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund.

Wolodymyr Bilajiw, chief of VOA's Ukrainian Service, moderated from Washington and Olexander Dykyi, chief editor of the World Service Radio Ukraine, from Kyiv. Mykola Marynenko, senior Ukrainian radio journalist for the National Radio Company of Ukraine, joined Mr. Bilajiw at VOA. He has been in Washington as part of an intern exchange program.

Kostyantyn Rudya, advisor to the minister of environmental protection, and Mykola Lyabakh, editor-in-chief of the Chernobyl Interinform press agency, took part in the discussion from Kyiv. VOA's current Ukrainian correspondent, Israel Kleiner, also was in the Kyiv studio.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rep. David Bonior deserves support

Dear Editor:

Christina Milburn's letter (April 14) urging Ukrainians to thank Rep. David Bonior should resonate loudly within the Ukrainian American community. We have too few friends willing to support us when Ukraine and Ukrainians are cast as villains in the public eye.

It was truly courageous of Rep. Bonior to cast his lot with Ukraine in the battle with "60 Minutes". As chairman of the Ukrainian Heritage Defense committee of the UNA, I called on countless politicians, journalists and others to relay our side of the controversy, and almost without exception, they were totally disinterested at best, and overtly hostile at worst.

Working with Arthur Belendiuk, Esq., and with Bohdanna Pochoday, Esq., both of whom deserve public kudos for their selfless endeavors before the FCC on this issue, I soon came to realize that the only realistic chance for the FCC to take us seriously came as a result of the letter written by Rep. Bonior. Unfortunately, one letter from a Congressman was not enough. We certainly could have used more. How can we ensure that we will get them? Certainly not by ignoring the one representative who stuck his neck out when no other Congressman would raise his voice.

Until our community learns how to express appreciation to our allies, our influence on American politicians will remain at the insignificant level at which it now resides. We should learn from other ethnic communities who honor their allies with fund-raisers, banquets and votes. We must show David Bonior that it will be to his benefit to have stuck his neck out for us. We must not forget that there will be consequences in the future if we do not. We must not establish a reputation in Washington as a community that comes scurrying around looking for help when we need it, without ever paying our political dues. It is time we learned how the game is really played.

Nestor L. Olesnycky
Maplewood, N.J.

More on survival of our species

Dear Editor:

Re: Articles in the March 10 issue: "Survival of the species" by Christopher Guly and "A primer on e-mail lists..." by Bohdan Rekshynskyj.

Mr. Guly's article has certainly raised an issue that is of major concern to us with respect to preserving our contribution to both Canadian and American history. We, as a federation, will be encouraging our member-associations to financially support the Ukrainian Canadian media in order to preserve our place in this society. There appears to be belief that these vehicles of communication in our community will continue without any support from us. In this time of economic uncertainty, we must maintain and continue our financial support – through subscriptions and advertisements – nothing will continue for free. In our national operational budget, we have marked funding for advertising in the Ukrainian Canadian media. It is our responsibility to ensure its continuity. If we lose these tools of linking our community together, we have no one to blame but ourselves.

Mr. Rekshynskyj's e-mail directory was most appreciated; however, I would like to clarify that the UCPB is really the

Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation's (UCPBF) homepage, which is extremely extensive and consists not only of federation information but information about all our member-associations across Canada. In addition, it provides links to countless other Ukrainian-related groups. It is one of the only major Ukrainian Canadian organizations that has a homepage on the Internet and as such, should be described in more detail.

Individuals wishing more information about our homepage can contact our vice-president of communications, Michael Kostiuk, at mkostiuk@fox.nstn.ns.ca

Raya Shadursky
Etobicoke, Ontario

The writer is president of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation.

An appreciation for Weekly writers

Dear Editor:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the interesting articles each week. You have excellent writers, and two of your best are Orysia Tracz and Marta Kolomayets.

Ms. Tracz's holiday articles are read and reread. They take me back to my dear mother's kitchen with the coal-burning range. How she managed to cook all the traditional food continues to amaze me. Ms. Tracz has the uncanny ability to portray so accurately those long-gone days. Her article on the trials and tribulations of coping with guests from Ukraine also hit a sore spot. But she made me laugh also.

No one, but no one, can write about life in Ukraine as it is today better than Ms. Kolomayets. I'll never forget her article on her experience in trying to get into a Benetton store in Kyiv.

I send packages of food and clothing to nine families in Poland and Ukraine. The agency told me they will no longer handle any money transfers to Ukraine – that crime in Ukraine is worse than in Russia. I would like to read something about this from your correspondents.

Meanwhile, thanks for an informative newspaper. One more thing: I wish you would write more about Ukrainians in baseball and football. You know there are more sports than just hockey.

Sophie Pachowka
Woodlyn, Pa.

What about Taras Bulba?

Dear Editor:

Reading the March 31 "Turning the pages back" column on Nikolai Gogol (Mykola Hohol), I was flabbergasted to find no mention of the great writer's Kozak novella "Taras Bulba," a powerful presentation of the Ukrainian Kozak struggle against the Poles.

"Taras Bulba" made absurd the charges leveled by Ukrainian chauvinists that Gogol was indifferent to the Ukrainian question. Written a quarter of a century before Henryk Sienkiewicz's "With Fire and Sword," the widely read novel depicting the Polish version of the Ukrainian Kozak uprising led by Bohdan Kmelnitsky, it was acclaimed by eminent critics as a superior work from both a literary and historical standpoint.

John Switalski
Barrington, R.I.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



McCarthyism and the Venona files

Webster's Dictionary defines McCarthyism as "a paranoid fear of Communists leading to government oppression and persecution of all persons of other than extreme right-wing conviction and manifestation of complete disregard for civil and basic human rights of those falsely accused."

Peculiar to the United States, this awful "malady" is named after Sen. Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin, who between 1950 and 1954 worked to expose Communist infiltration of the U.S. government. When he couldn't substantiate his accusations, he was condemned by a special session of the U.S. Senate. He died in disgrace in 1957 at the age of 48.

Significantly, among those who defended the senator was William Buckley who authored a book titled "McCarthy and His Enemies."

If the first set of U.S. history standards (developed by the UCLA National Center for History in the Schools) are accepted by our public schools, American highschoolers will devote more time learning about the "malevolence" of Sen. McCarthy (mentioned 19 times) than they will on the contributions of Thomas Edison and the Wright Brothers who are not even listed by the standards as people worthy of study.

Were America's Communists merely idealists who wanted to build a better world, as academics such as Maurice Isserman, Ellen W. Schrecker, Mark Naison and N.J. Carley still argue? Was Sen. McCarthy the "great evil" many liberals have vilified for so many years?

The first suggestion that Sen. McCarthy may have been correct came last April with the publication of "The Secret World of American Communism." Compiled and edited by Prof. Harvey Klehr of Emory University, John Earl Haynes, manuscript historian at the Library of Congress, and Fridrikh I. Firsov, a Russian archivist and a leading authority on the history of the Comintern, the book confirms that: 1) the Communist Party of the United States of America (CPUSA) operated a clandestine apparatus that worked closely with Soviet intelligence and contributed to the Soviet theft of U.S. atom bomb secrets; 2) the CPSUA maintained a secret underground apparatus during the 1930s and 40s, confirming the revelations of Whittaker Chambers and Elizabeth Bentley; 3) Moscow heavily subsidized the CPUSA in its early years; 4) Armand Hammer (called the "pimp of the Politburo" by his former secretary) laundered Soviet monies to the CPUSA.

More recently, the U.S. government disclosed the existence of the so-called Venona files, which consists of coded messages Soviet agents in the United States transmitted to their superiors in Moscow. The messages were intercepted by the U.S. Army, but their contents remained secret so as not to tip the Soviets off that the U.S. had broken their code.

"It is now beyond dispute," writes syndicated columnist William Rusher "that at least 200 strategically placed Americans were providing information to the Soviets on everything from war production and diplomatic strategy to details of the Manhattan Project and the atomic bomb. Soviet agents were active in such key areas as the State Department, the FBI and nuclear research and production complex at Los Alamos, N.M."

Mentioned in the file was Alger Hiss

(known by the code-name "Ales") who traveled to Yalta with President Franklin D. Roosevelt and was one of four members of the American delegation to return home via Moscow. Also included were Duncan Lee, legal assistant to William Donovan, head of the Office of Strategic Services, the CIA's predecessor; Lauchlin Currie, special adviser to F.D.R.; and Dexter White of the Treasury Department.

Most of those identified as Soviet spies have died paying no legal penalty, according to Messrs. Haynes and Klehr. "Some (a minority) were accused during the 'MacCarthy era' of having been spies, and they either indignantly denied the charges or refused to answer them, citing the Fifth Amendment. While they often lost government jobs and were criticized in the press, they had the satisfaction of seeing their accusers denounced as 'red-baiters' and 'McCarthyites.'

Some of those identified as spies, however, are still alive. Theodore Hall, a Los Alamos physicist now living in England, told reporters that he is old and just wants to be "left alone." Others still alive are Alger Hiss, Morton Sobell, Victor Perlo, Harry Magdoff, Donald Niven Wheeler, and Judith Coplon who is living off the capitalist system as manager of a trendy restaurant in New York.

The Venona disclosure began on the front page of the Washington Post followed by a long account inside the newspaper. As might be expected, The New York Times, which still defends its own Soviet agent of influence, Walter Duranty, delayed the story for a few days and then published it in a small item on page 10. The files were described as "unsubstantiated" and "in fragments."

The New York Times also remains solidly behind the innocence of Alger Hiss. According to an article by John Corry in The American Spectator, New York Times reporter Tim Weiner wrote that Alger Hiss was "probably" a Soviet agent, but that an unidentified "senior intelligence official" said "the evidence against him was inconclusive and always should be."

Mr. Hiss and those of his ilk will forever have their defenders within the liberal camp. Having vilified Sen. McCarthy and his supporters for so many years and still believing that the USSR was a benign entity with only peaceful intentions, many American liberals can never bring themselves to admit that they were so wrong for so many years and that maybe, just maybe, Sen. McCarthy was on the right track.

Americans and others who worked so diligently for the Soviet Union will probably never be indicted for their treasonous acts. But they deserve to be exposed so that their past is no longer a secret and their present influence and stature is permanently destroyed. It is unthinkable that the very people who helped perpetuate the worst evil, the most horrendous malevolence the world has ever witnessed, will be viewed as the 'victims of anti-Soviet paranoia' while the much maligned "cold-war warriors" will be treated as pariahs, perpetrators of oppression and hate.

Will the truth about America's Communists and the slander they visited upon the Ukrainian American community ever become common knowledge? Perhaps. But it will be a long time coming. Having suffered a setback, America's Left is already regrouping and rewriting the past to fit its nefarious agenda.

Kharkiv student actors impress New Yorkers with "Arabesques"

by Roman Woronowycz

NEW YORK — At its finest, "Arabesques" was an entrancing exploration of the dichotomies as well as the new choices that exist in the life of Ukraine's youth, growing up in a Soviet system that expired just as these young adults prepared to take their place in it. It ruminated on the contradictions that have surfaced in a system moving from communism to capitalism, and returning from atheism to more spiritual beliefs. It also touched lightly on other matters attractive to youth — hope, idealism, etc.

At other times it became an overly drawn-out dialogue, stuck too often on the obvious. Because the play went on without interruption for two hours and

offered little in the form of visual stimulation, it was, at times, difficult to follow.

"Arabesques" is a one-act play done with few stage props, no scenery and simple costumes that weaves an elaborate tapestry of ideas in an extended conversation between three young men and a woman, interspersed with youthful games and playful interaction. It was presented by student-actors from Kharkiv and is based on the works of Mykola Khvylioviy, Vasyl Symonenko and Hryhoriy Skovoroda. The students were here as part of the Creative Youth of Ukraine program under the auspices of the Smoloskyp publishing house.

The play, written and directed by

(Continued on page 22)

Itinerant band of intellectuals holds a roundtable in Toronto

by Andrij Wynnyckyj

Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO — In February and March, Osyp Zinkewych, the activist best known for establishing the Smoloskyp publishing house, traveled around selected cities of the Eastern Seaboard with nine "Ukrainian nationally conscious youth" or "Ukrainian creative youth," as they were billed.

On March 9, four members of this itinerant band of young intelligentsia held a panel at the Ukrainian National Federation's hall in downtown Toronto. The rest did a brisk business at the back of the auditorium, selling the latest line of Smoloskyp publications to a diaspora audience of about 200 people.

Mr. Zinkewych spoke last, but his

imprint was on the proceedings as if he was the only one to say a word. "We dreamed of Ukrainian independence," he said, and now he had brought the fruit of the dream to the diaspora.

Mr. Zinkewych spoke of Smoloskyp's initial unsuccessful forays into Ukraine after transferring its headquarters from the Baltimore area to Kyiv. "We tried working with the middle and older generations, but we are from different worlds; as if from Mars," he said.

The veteran publisher recounted how members of the Ukrainian Writers' Union assured him there was nobody of interest among the younger generation. Then he recalled having met Serhiy Zhadan on the

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Young actors and intellectuals give impressions of U.S. tour, diaspora

NEW YORK — Smoloskyp Publishing House moved its operations from Ellicott City, Md., to Kyiv over two years ago. During the Cold War, Smoloskyp, under the direction of Osyp Zinkewych, was known for its publication and distribution of "samvydav" ("samizdat" in Russian) dissident literature from behind the Iron Curtain and in particular from Soviet Ukraine.

Since moving to Kyiv, Smoloskyp has

diversified its activities. No longer confining itself to the publication of politically oriented literature, it has branched out into popular and purely literary spheres of production. More significantly, Smoloskyp has become a figurative second home to many of today's best and brightest Ukrainian students, intellectuals and creative people.

Through a special scholarship fund, the publishing house currently provides month-

ly stipends to over 300 carefully vetted university students from all oblasts of Ukraine. It also organizes numerous regional and national conferences of the young intelligentsia.

Throughout March, Smoloskyp mounted a monthlong tour of Ukrainian communities in North America to raise additional funds for the scholarship program. Nine of Smoloskyp's most promising scholarship recipients traveled a gruel-

ing 13-city itinerary, which took them from New York to Chicago, to Florida and then up the East Coast back to New York. The group consisted of the Student Drama Group from Kharkiv, accompanied by a writer, poet, philosopher and young politician.

The Weekly Editorial Assistant Yarema A. Bachynsky spoke with the "Creative Youth of Ukraine." Below are their impressions.



Svitlana Oleshko, 22, student-playwright: Naturally, one can look at our tour from many different angles. New York impressed me most of all. Broadway was cool. The fact that the community set up an additional performance for us, of their own initiative, this struck me very deeply. All the best things associated with our work took place in New York. In terms of the Ukrainian diaspora, I would say that it was interesting to see for ourselves what this diaspora is really like. This visit has confirmed my previous view that we in Ukraine must do the work. The diaspora can help, and we welcome any and all cooperation.



Natalia Tsymbal, 22, student-actress: I'm pretty beat, but having come to the end of our tour, I'm sad it's time to go [home]. I liked New York because I am a big-city kind of person. I think this is not my last time in New York. Too bad that I only saw Ukraine in America, and not America proper, although this was very interesting in its own right. Also, it's unfortunate that we had too little contact with youth during our tour. I would have loved to have seen how young people live here, although I think our lifestyles are all similar. I'm a bit homesick, but I think I will be back pretty soon, whether as a tourist or with a show.



Mykhailo Ozerov, 20, student-actor: There were many positive and negative aspects to the tour. On the negative side, the fact that we had no time to see the country. On the positive side, our welcome by the Ukrainian community during the tour. From an actor's point of view, I would characterize the tour as somewhat successful. We committed a number of gaffes. I think the strenuous schedule of performances had much to do with this. But I think upon our return to Ukraine we will correct these errors. The tour has certainly provided experience, which will serve us in good stead in the future.



Andrij Kokotiukha, 25, journalist, author of "Wedding Games of Frogs": I have many different impressions of America and the diaspora. All in all, I'd say the people and way of life here in the diaspora met the expectations I had from the Ukrainian media's take on the communities here. I wish we had encountered more opportunities to see non-diaspora America. Likewise, more contact with Ukrainian youth here would have been desirable. In general, I think that the tour was a success, if for nothing but that everything went smoothly. I certainly would not mind returning in the future.



Vadym Korobka, 23, student-actor: On the positive side, we had the opportunity to see the diaspora with our own eyes. I think what we had seen and heard about the diaspora was an understatement. I am very happy to see that there are people, young people, who have retained their native language and ties to their homeland. On the negative side, we did not really have a chance to see America as such. The pace of the tour, the small amounts of personal time, prevented us from doing this. But this is probably the only thing I did not like. I would love to return and see all of America and Canada.



with Ukraine. Working together, we can definitely get the job done.

Maksym Rozumny, 26, philosopher, author of "A Matter of Honor": I think "thinking" youth in America and "creative" youth in Ukraine can definitely work together in building today's Ukraine. My time spent here has given me the opportunity to look at today's Ukraine from a different perspective. When one looks at events in Ukraine from further away, one realizes that there is no reason for Ukraine not to enter the global community as a full-fledged player. Ukrainian "thinking" youth in America are better acquainted with the world; we on the other hand, are better acquainted



the diaspora has preserved and developed a strong identity, which has allowed it to support groups such as ours. I hope that diaspora Ukrainian youth forge closer contacts with their counterparts from the homeland.

Serhiy Zhadan, 21, poet, author of "Tsyatnyk": I would say, on the whole, the tour was a success. Although I noticed that certain audiences did not understand us very well. In one major city, an elderly author from the diaspora commented that we, meaning Ukrainian youth, should be more respectful of the achievements of past generations. I sensed somewhat of a divide between older diaspora members and today's youth from Ukraine. But this is normal because the system under which we grew up was very different from their experiences. In general I noticed a bit of a generation gap. All in all, I think



Americans. Regarding the development of contacts between Ukraine and the diaspora, I would say that now is the time for acceleration of this process, and its expansion into mainstream America, so that the autochthonous population gets to know Ukraine.

Oles Doniy, 26, Kyiv City Council deputy, author of "The Student Revolution on Granite": I am very heartened that the Ukrainian diaspora is becoming more aware of the present-day situation in Ukraine. Whereas earlier I sensed that the diaspora had a rather idealized and unrealistic vision of Ukraine, I think the ongoing widening of contacts between Ukraine and the diaspora has encouraged people here to see Ukraine as it really is. Having observed the diaspora, its achievements and institutions, I have become convinced that Ukrainians [in America] work just as hard as any "regular"



the tour was a real success. Prior to our coming here, we had put on performances in Kharkiv and one in Kyiv; we were not well-known. But this tour has changed that substantially. I would hope to return here more than once.

Dmytro Turkeyvych, 21, student-actor: I did not think the diaspora was anywhere nearly as well developed as it is. Coming here, I had heard of Ukrainians in the United States, but I thought it was only a matter of individuals helping each other locally. Only when I saw, during the tour, all those schools, churches and the like, and learned of the aid that is given to Ukraine, did I realize how well-developed the diaspora really is. I think they are really great people and aren't Americanized beyond recognition. Something meaningfully Ukrainian remains. From an artistic viewpoint, I would say

CHORNOBYL: THE FIRST DECADE

In the zone: remembrance in Velyki Klishchi

by **Marta Kolomayets**
Kyiv Press Bureau

VELYKI KLISHCHI, Ukraine – Nastia Potapchuk, 73, wipes the tears from her eyes and makes a sign of the cross as she approaches the house she called home for more than 40 years. It's located at 119 Lenin St., just down the asphalt road from the village's showcase – a blue and green wooden structure with plated domes – the Church of St. Michael.

Today, Sunday, April 21, she and two busloads of her neighbors have returned to the church – which holds services only once a year on Providna Nedilia (St. Thomas Sunday) – to the village cemetery and to their beloved, now abandoned, homes overgrown with weeds, tall grasses and ivy.

It's an annual pilgrimage for Mrs. Potapchuk and her neighbors, who were evacuated six years ago and moved, 90 kilometers to the south in Zhytomyr Oblast, where they were given government-built homes in the village of Lysivka, Broslivsky region.

They charter buses for a million karbovantsi round trip to make the two-hour trip to their native lands, to visit the graves of their loved ones, to share the joy of the Easter season with them. This year, they bring with them a young Ukrainian Orthodox priest, the Rev. Yaroslav Vovkovich, 19, who has only served them for one year in the village of Lysivka, but who seems to understand their pain.

"This day we not only remember our ancestors, our beloved relatives, but we also remember the way life was before Chernobyl," said Mrs. Potapchuk, as a choir composed of her neighbors sang "Lord Have Mercy," in response to the memorial service. This year, she made the trip alone, without her husband, whom she affectionately calls "did" (grandpa) because he is too ill to travel.

"He warned me not to go into the house, saying that I would be too distraught for weeks on end. But how could I return to my village and not come home?" she adds, uprooting some periwinkle and sticking it in her pocket to take to her garden in Lysivka.

In 1989, Velyki Klishchi was designated Chernobyl Zone 2 – a region where resettlement was mandatory – because the radiation readings were 15 curies or higher. All 370 families in the village were evacuated. Many of the families moved to the south of the oblast and were resettled in their new homes. [Of course, if there is Velyki Klishchi, there is also Mali Klishchi; that town also was

evacuated in 1989, but seven people currently live there.

Today only Nastia Avramchuk, 65, lives in the village, on the very edge of town. She has only one visitor – Hanna Prokopchuk, 66, from the neighboring town of Bazar, who maintains the Church of St. Michael.

"As long as I am alive, I will tend to our little treasure," said Mrs. Prokopchuk, whose grandparents were married in the church at the beginning of the century and whose children were baptized there after the second world war.

"I don't remember this church ever being closed," she explained. "It has always been a place we could go to find comfort," she added.

But, after the village was evacuated, the local administration locked the church up, and it stood abandoned on the village crossroads. The residents of Velyki Klishchi took the church's icons, altar and gates to their new settlement in Lysivka. But, Mrs. Prokopchuk went to the local authorities to ask them that the house of worship be kept open for weary travelers, for returnees, for those wishing to pray. She promised to maintain the grounds, a duty she tends to religiously.

She dreams of collecting enough money to give the church a new paint job and to repair the leaky roof.

On this religious holiday of remembrance – which Ukrainians believe is a day when the departed reunite with their living relatives – the people of Velyki Klishchi are also reunited with their friends and relatives from all over Ukraine, who have come to honor the memory of their ancestors and their village.

"I was not ready for the evacuation out of Velyki Klishchi," explains Mrs. Potapchuk. "I thought my final journey would be to the cemetery under the old oak tree down the road," she said.

Now, six years after the evacuation, she and her friends do not envision returning home. The houses have been neglected, the half-built brick school house and the two large stores in the village center have been vandalized. The memorial board honoring the dead soldiers of World War II is dilapidated and the statue of the soldier who guards the village is in need of a paint job.

She and her friend Hanna Avramchuk, 53, to this day are puzzled why an asphalt road was laid in the village after the 1986 Chernobyl accident, why a new school was being built, and why gas and water was

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**Journalist's notebook
in Ukraine**

by **Marta Kolomayets**
Kyiv Press Bureau

The victims, the legacy

Last week in Moscow, the leaders of the G-7 countries reaffirmed their financial commitment of \$3.1 billion to help Ukraine close down the Chernobyl nuclear plant that exploded 10 years ago.

The consequences of the explosion, which took but seconds, will last for decades to come and will scar millions of people in Ukraine, some physically, but most emotionally. And no price tag can be put on the fallout – and not only the nuclear fallout – of Chernobyl.

The figures on how many people died because of the accident differ. Some organizations to this day insist that only 31 people died as an outright result of the explosion, while the Ukrainian government refers to numbers ranging from several thousand to the newest figures of 148,000.

But that, too, is a misleading figure. In reality, the victims of the Chernobyl accident number in the millions. They range from the 800,000 liquidators who came from all parts of the Soviet Union to help with the clean-up of the accident, to the sickly and deformed newborns to children who lived in the zone and came out to play on Saturday morning, April 26, 1986, as a radioactive cloud hovered over the town of Prypiat.

No matter what the recorded numbers of the dead may be, even one life lost due to Chernobyl is one too many. We can point fingers at the guilty persons who kept the truth from their citizens, but the guilty party is the Communist Party, with its totalitarian methods and criminal actions.

For people in Ukraine, the day of the Chernobyl accident is deeply embedded in their memory. Most remember where they were and what they were doing when they realized something terrible had happened at the nuclear power plant and the Soviet government was keeping it from them.

Many heard the news on Radio Liberty or other foreign news services on the short-wave radio. Some realized something was rotten in Kyiv, when the children of party officials were being shipped off to resorts and camps in the Crimea or the Carpathian Mountains or to relatives in Russia.

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Providna Nedilia, a holy day of remembrance, is marked in the village of Velyki Klishchi.



Marta Kolomayets

The Church of St. Michael in Velyki Klishchi, in the "zone of alienation," holds services but once a year, on Providna Nedilia.

CHORNOBYL: THE FIRST DECADE

The Republic of Belarus 10 years after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster

by David R. Marples

For the Republic of Belarus, the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster has been somewhat overshadowed by political clashes between supporters of closer integration with Russia and those in favor of continuing independence, headed by the Belarusian Popular Front. For the struggling nation, however, the impact of the nuclear disaster remains very much at the forefront of the people's minds.

Because of the initial northward thrust of the cloud of radiation released by Chernobyl's No. 4 reactor on April 26, 1986, some 80 percent of Belarusian territory was contaminated by radioactive iodine. Only the northernmost Viciebsk region avoided fallout. Subsequently, the main danger has emanated from strontium-90, plutonium-239 and cesium-137. The former two radioisotopes are concentrated mainly in the southeastern Homiel Oblast, in or adjacent to the evacuated 30-kilometer zone. Cesium, however, is much more far flung. It is found in the Homiel and Mahileu regions, in the central and eastern parts of the Brest region, and in isolated patches in the western part of Miensk Oblast, west of the capital city itself.

If examined in terms of high-level fallout of more than 15 curies of cesium in the soil per square kilometer, then about 60 percent of the total contamination from Chernobyl in the former USSR landed in Belarus. By 1991, when basic decontamination work was completed around the reactor itself, only in Belarus could one find a significant number of settlements in which cesium levels in the soil surpassed 40 curies.

Between 1.9 and 2.2 million Belarusians lived in the areas of the republic (about 20 percent of the total area) affected by significant levels (over 1 curie per square kilometer) of cesium in the soil. Some 440,000 children are included in these totals, including an estimated 31,000 in areas of 15-40 curies of cesium. Evacuations, however, have been spasmodic. About 130,000 people have been moved from their homes in the post-accident period (the figure includes an estimated 25,000 moved in the immediate aftermath of the disaster), but the list of those designated for resettlement is more than twice this figure.

Today, most Belarusians do not wish to be moved. Evacuees living in new settlements have faced acute problems: inadequate housing; lack of heating and sewage facilities in newly constructed apartment blocks; lack of employment in their new hometowns; and sometimes isolation in their new communities.

A particularly forlorn group is the resettlers in the Malinovke-4 region on the outskirts of Miensk. Some 32,000 Chernobyl resettlers live in this city and have formed a small community noted for its high rate of alcoholism and lung cancer rates that are four times the

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national average.

In 1991, the Belarusian Parliament introduced new laws on living in irradiated zones, lowering the amount of radiation to which humans could be subject from 0.5 rems per year (in addition to the natural background) to 0.1 rems. More recently, the toleration levels have been measured in dose loads rather than the amount of accumulation in the ground. Moreover, compensation has been reduced by inflation and by the need for victims to "re-register" themselves. The 12 percent Chernobyl tax imposed on the profits of all state enterprises has been quietly dropped. The amount of money being expended on Chernobyl in the national budget has also fallen dramatically from more than 20 percent to between 6 and 8 percent.

The critical medical problem today in the republic is thyroid gland cancer among children. It is notable first that thyroid diseases generally have risen significantly since Chernobyl, particularly thyroiditis and goiter of various levels. As in Ukraine, the soil in southern Belarus is iodine-deficient. Thus children were especially susceptible to the radioactive iodine in the atmosphere. Thyroid gland cancer was a rare disease generally in Belarus and cases among children averaged 1-2 per year for the entire republic. Since 1990 the figures have risen alarmingly and follow a particular pattern.

In the first place, virtually all the new cases comprise children who were born or conceived prior to the Chernobyl accident. The annual average has risen consistently since 1990, and it has not peaked. Whereas a recent New York Times article cited 300 cases of thyroid gland cancer among children in all contaminated regions, that figure is belied by statistics from Belarus alone, where the total was 424 at the end of 1995 and is currently approaching 500. Some 60 percent of the cases consist of children living (or conceived) in the Homiel region in late April 1986. A further 25 percent were to be found in the Brest Oblast, close to the city of Pinsk. More recently figures have risen sharply in the city of Miensk itself, perhaps as a result of significant resettlement there. The link between high radiation and thyroid gland cancer seems clear.

Some scientists have made light of this cancer, referring to it as "relatively harmless." The reality is that all sources in Miensk concur that it is a highly aggressive variant that can metastasize rapidly, and must be caught as quickly as possible. That this is not always the case is evident from the three deaths that have occurred thus far. The Belarusians prefer to treat the disease locally, on the grounds that the children who have it must be monitored for the rest of their lives. In addition, republican surgeons prefer to remove only the cancerous part of the thyroid gland; Western specialists usually take out the entire gland. Unfortunately repeat surgery has been required in more than 25 percent of all cases.

Prof. Dillwyn Williams, a specialist from the University of Cambridge Addenbrooke's Hospital, com-

mented on CBC Radio on April 13 that in his view, all children living in contaminated regions today (Belarus, Ukraine and Russia) are at high risk of contracting thyroid gland cancer. Others have surmised a future total of around 10,000 cases, which would signify even in the most optimistic of cases, about 1,000 deaths among children alone.

Belarusian scientists reported their decade-long findings at a March 25-28 conference in Miensk sponsored by the Belarusian Charitable Fund for the Children of Chernobyl and held at the Belarusian Academy of Sciences. It was reported that the morbidity rate for the republic as a whole has risen alarmingly; and that, in several spheres, levels of disease have increased since Chernobyl and in contaminated regions in particular. These include early childhood diabetes; digestive and respiratory problems; and more nebulous ailments such as general fatigue and what one scientist has referred to as "learned helplessness."

The latter is also associated with what has often been termed "Chernobyl AIDS" and has tended to detract from the over-all health consequences as some scientists are able to attribute the disease to fear of radiation or to general stress and tension. Because of this fact, and because the rate of leukemia has begun to rise significantly only of late – and then among clean-up workers – the WHO and other groups have tended to belittle the impact of Chernobyl. The argument has run as follows: if we are unable to attribute a disease directly to Chernobyl radiation, then the conclusion must be that it is not caused by Chernobyl radiation. This, however, is a nonsequitur, implying at best ignorance and at worst outright deception.

Considerable attention has been devoted to the fact that an expected rise in the incidence of leukemia in the republic has not occurred thus far. The director of the Institute of Hematology, Dr. Evgeniy Ivanov, publicized these findings widely in 1992-1993. His conclusions, nonetheless, are not shared by all, and not even by some of his co-workers. One pointed out that figures from the pre-Chernobyl period are unreliable.

Though Dr. Ivanov blames a rise in leukemia in the city of Miensk on industrial pollution, others complain that no account has been taken of the large population of resettlers there. Moreover, leukemia rates have risen constantly, particularly in Homiel region. They are at present within the European average, though in the 75th percentile. A rise in incidence in the future has not been ruled out by international specialists.

In the bimonthly Minsk Economic News, a March article focused on what was described as the future extinction of the Belarusian nation. As a result of a health crisis – fuelled in part by the consequences of Chernobyl but exacerbated by unhealthy lifestyles, inadequate medical care and lack of finances – the population has begun to experience a steady decline. The rate of infant mortality is twice the U.S. average; reproduction is at a low point and is again linked to fears from Chernobyl. The population today stands at 10.1 million and the article projected that the country would not survive far into the 22nd century. Though barely scientific, the article encapsulated the profound pessimism and helplessness that has permeated this small republic.

One must add to the problems that Belarus is facing a deep energy crisis that has led the authorities to find several sites for a possible nuclear power station on Belarusian territory. Though this would ostensibly be based on Western technology, it has still instilled fears in some circles and is bitterly opposed by environmental groups. The authorities argue, somewhat logically, that with three graphite RBMK stations on its borders (Chernobyl itself, Smolensk in Russia and Ignalina in Lithuania), the Belarusians could hardly be in any more peril from a domestic nuclear plant. The Lithuanian station has long been regarded as a sword of Damocles on the northwestern border.

It should be noted also that the problems of Chernobyl are only beginning. Experiments on the impact of cesium on humans, especially children, are at the half-way stage. New clinics have opened in the contaminated zones, especially in Homiel. In fact, the republican health organs have often taken a back seat to international groups which perceive Belarus as an atomic fallout research region par excellence.

In the meantime, the leadership has offered only token interest in Chernobyl-related problems. The



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Remnants of the molten core of Chernobyl reactor No. 4 in a photo taken on April 21 of this year.

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CHORNOBYL: THE FIRST DECADE

Vienna conference finds no clear consensus on the catastrophe's consequences

by Ika Koznarska Casanova

VIENNA – Ten years after Chernobyl, no clear consensus can be reached on the effects and consequences of the nuclear catastrophe. This is perhaps the most obvious conclusion of the high-level international conference “One Decade After Chernobyl: Summing Up the Consequences of the Accident,” which took place here at the Austria Center on April 8-12. The conference was organized jointly by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Commission (EC).

Chaired by Germany's Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety Dr. Angela Merkel, the conference was attended by over 1,000 delegates, scientists and politicians from the international community, including high-level official delegations from the three most affected republics: Ukraine, Belarus and the Russian Federation.

The 10-member Ukrainian delegation was headed by Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk. President Alyaksandr Lukashenko headed the delegation from Belarus.

Scientists and experts from Ukraine took part in the conference and participated in the drafting of background papers prepared in advance by expert panels that were used in the eight sessions of the technical symposium which made up the bulk of the conference proceedings.

The stated aim of the conference was to summarize, synthesize and draw conclusions on the health, ecological, socio-economic, psychological and political consequences of the accident that took place at Unit 4 of the Chernobyl nuclear plant on April 26, 1986.

In order to take stock of the present situation and to make the necessary recommendations for appropriate action, the Vienna conference tried to incorporate the findings of all work done to date, including the outcome of two major international conferences, one hosted last November by the WHO in Geneva, the other organized last month in Miensk under the auspices of the EC and the governments of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia.

The eight sessions of the technical symposium, in which the relevant background papers were introduced by a rapporteur followed by open discussions, covered the following topics: clinically observed effects in individuals exposed to radiation; thyroid effects in populations exposed to radiation; longer term health effects; environmental stress reactions; consequences for the natural and human environments; social, economic, institutional and political impact; nuclear safety remedial measures; and consequences in perspective: prognosis for the future.

In her remarks presenting the final conclusions and recommendations of the conference, Dr. Merkel recognized that “even 10 years after the disaster the consequences of radiation due to Chernobyl cannot be completely assessed.”

Fundamental disagreements remain

It became evident throughout the conference that there are fundamental disagreements among experts, politicians, journalists and the informed public concerning even the number of fatalities that can be attributed to the radiation released after the nuclear accident – not to speak of the Ukrainian long-term health effects.

According to the newest data released by Ukraine's Ministry of Health, as quoted in the newspaper *Neue Zuercher Zeitung* (April 11), the number of victims of Chernobyl's radiation in Ukraine alone is estimated at 1,800.

IAEA spokesperson David Kyd, however, characterized this figure as “totally false.” The official figures given by the report of the IAEA, WHO and EC, which according to Mr. Kyd have been “confirmed by politically unbiased scientific experts from East and West,” are 28 victims killed by radiation in the year of the accident and 14 additional fatalities due to radiation in the succeeding years.

WHO representative Wilfried Kreisel added that “Ukraine is well-known for its tendency to inflate the number of victims, in order to receive more aid from the West.”

The wide number of gaps, however, can be attributed not only to the different interests represented by the participating groups at the conference, but also to the inherent difficulties in ascertaining with absolute certainty the number of fatalities that can be attributed directly or indirectly to radiation effects from Chernobyl. Scientific experts, journalists and spokespersons from



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Attending the Vienna conference (from left) are: Alyaksandr Lukashenko, president of Belarus; Sergei Shoigu, civil defense minister of the Russian Federation; and Yevhen Marchuk, prime minister of Ukraine.

the Ukrainian Embassy in Vienna, when asked to comment on the controversy, all insisted on the need to exercise utmost caution when dealing with numbers.

The health of “liquidators”

In the conclusions of the closing session it was recognized, for instance, that there is a lack of sufficient knowledge about the state of health of the approximately 200,000 so-called “liquidators” from many parts of the former Soviet Union who worked in the disaster clean-up effort in 1986-1987, when the exposure to high-level radiation was most significant, and of the additional 600,000 persons who worked on ameliorating the accident's consequences on contaminated territories and were exposed to lower levels of radiation.

Some studies have confirmed that the number of cases of leukemia among the liquidators is double the normal average rate, while the number of cases of thyroid cancer has increased fivefold. According to IAEA estimates, the number of anticipated additional cancer deaths among the liquidators is in the order of 2,500, with 2,500 additional cancer deaths expected among the approximately 3.7 million persons in the affected regions. Given the natural rates of cancer among a population of such a magnitude, however, the Chernobyl cases are not statistically significant and, therefore, tend to go unreported. Moreover, given the extremely deficient and highly unreliable official health statistics of the former Soviet republics, it is nearly impossible to establish credible comparisons of the health conditions of the population before and after the Chernobyl accident.

There was agreement, however, that the sharp increase in thyroid cancer, particularly among children, is the most manifest consequence of the disaster. According to Fred Mettler of the University of New Mexico, over 800 such cases have been reported so far, the majority of which were registered in Belarus, with an additional 4,000 to 8,000 expected.

Referring to the unexpected incidence of thyroid cancer, in particular among children, and its unusual type as well as to data indicating that an increased rate of leukemia has not yet been confirmed, Dr. Merkel went on to note “the projected number of affected persons is still determined exclusively by using the Hiroshima and Nagasaki data, and in light of the experience from the Chernobyl consequences, it has to be questioned if these models apply without any adaptation to different exposure situations.”

The disaster's psychological effects

Perhaps the most relevant conclusion of the conference was the recognition of the tendency on the part of experts so far to underestimate or even to ignore altogether in their reports the widespread psychosomatically induced illnesses that can be attributed to Chernobyl, as well as the psychological and social consequences of the

disaster. According to Dr. Merkel, “quite a large number of diseases, which are not considered to be induced by radiation, such as immune deficiency and gastritis, have been clearly on the rise. In addition to the distinct deterioration of general living conditions, this increase has to be attributed mainly to the psycho-social area.”

In his background report for the fourth session, Prof. Terence R. Lee of the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, referring to “chronic environmental stress syndrome,” discussed these diseases as well as the widespread public anxiety and pessimism about the Chernobyl accident, which to the experts appear to be out of all proportion to the radiation-induced health effects.

Dr. Merkel concluded that “the lack of credibility of experts and political leaders resulted in a feeling of anxiety and the experience of utter helplessness, and social trust was relinquished. ... Jointly we have to make every effort to ensure that these people regain a positive perspective for the future again.”

Marchuk's keynote address

Prime Minister Marchuk, in his keynote address on the first day of the conference, confirmed the relevance of this newly recognized perspective when he said that “this man-made catastrophe, unprecedented in its scale and consequences, whose 10th anniversary we observe as we gather in this hall, is fixed in our consciousness as an event that separated two epochs. For the people of Ukraine ‘before Chernobyl’ and ‘after Chernobyl’ means two different worlds.”

“The accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant doomed millions of people to suffering, has made them anxious about their children's future, has changed their environment and their very psychology,” he stated.

The toughest discussions at the conference centered on the question of what is an acceptable standard for safety, especially with regard to RBMK reactors. Dr. Merkel, in her concluding remarks, noted that “personally, I would have hoped for a stronger statement on the closing down of the Chernobyl reactor as well as of other reactors which do not meet the safety standard required.”

Notwithstanding the lack of consensus on many issues, one of the most important objectives of the conference appears to have been reached, namely, that the results of the proceedings will convince representatives of Western governments of the need to mobilize additional financial aid for the countries most affected by the catastrophe, and particularly to help Ukraine in its intention, confirmed by Prime Minister Marchuk at the conference, to decommission the Chernobyl plant by the year 2000.

Mr. Marchuk noted, however, that “without real, concrete financial assistance by the world community,

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CHORNOBYL: THE FIRST DECADE

FOR THE RECORD: Rep. Gilman's address at Columbia conference

Remarks by Rep. Benjamin A. Gilman (R-N.Y.) at the conference marking the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear accident at Columbia University on April 9.

I am pleased to be here today, and particularly pleased to be a member of the honorary organizing committee for this important conference.

It has been 10 years since the world's worst nuclear accident occurred at a place called Chernobyl in what was then known as the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

So much has indeed changed – and changed for the better in that region – over the last 10 years. Ukraine is no longer a Soviet socialist republic. It and its neighbors are now independent states, working to build democracy and market-based economies where they have never before existed.

But, despite the many positive changes, one thing remains unchanged.

Despite the passage of 10 years, the reactor facility at Chernobyl, one of the world's most unsafe nuclear facilities, is still in operation – risking at every minute of every day the recurrence of the kind of deadly accident that happened in 1986.

We are compelled to ask how this could be.

Indeed, how could this be, when children in Ukraine now suffer a thyroid cancer rate 100 times normal – and the frequency of thyroid cancer among children in neighboring Belarus has also skyrocketed – all due to the radioactive fallout caused by the reactor explosion 10 years ago?

How could this be, when studies have shown us that leukemias among the general population of these countries have risen, particularly among those involved in the post-explosion clean-up effort?

How could this be, when the so-called “sarcophagus” of concrete that was built over the destroyed reactor No. 4 at Chernobyl has large cracks that allow radiation to leak out – and when this sarcophagus is deteriorating to the point that some fear its complete collapse?

How could this be, when the two reactors still operating at Chernobyl had at least 109 safety violations in 1994 alone?

And how could this be, when well over 5 million people in Ukraine and the neighboring country of Belarus now live on land contaminated by radioactive fallout from the 1986 explosion? When almost 250,000 people in those two countries have had to permanently evacuate their homes due to high levels of radiation? When radioactive contamination appears to be spreading into the local food chain and water supply in Ukraine and Belarus?

We would expect that the damage from the 1986 reactor explosion would have led to the closure of Chernobyl's remaining reactors by now. Instead, those reactors are still in operation, despite what experts consider to be their inherently unstable design.

Two facts seem to be the prime reasons for this odd state of affairs.

First, the newly independent country of Ukraine and its more than 50 million people are starving for energy, and are unable to pay for expensive imports of oil and gas.

In such a desperate situation, it has been easier for Ukrainians to turn away from the threat to their safety and health that these reactors present, focusing instead on the fact that the Chernobyl facility produces 5 percent of all of Ukraine's electricity.

The second reason for the failure to close down the Chernobyl facility after 10 years is the sheer cost of doing so. Estimates of the cost range to \$5 billion or more.

The governments of Ukraine and Belarus simply cannot find the funds to do this at a time when their economies are in a tremendous depression. Ukrainian government spending for radiation monitoring, health care for radiation victims and so on is estimated to now consume between 5 and 10 percent of the national budget. In Belarus, some 20 percent of the national budget is already consumed by such costs.

And, despite such expenditures, their efforts are still inadequate to address the many problems involved in dealing with Chernobyl.

The outside world must find the means, as difficult as this may be, to help address this important problem.

I am pleased to see that in fact some significant progress has been made in organizing an aid package aimed specifically at closing the Chernobyl facility. As of March of this year, the G-7 group of industrialized countries and various



Roma Hadzewycz

Rep. Benjamin Gilman (center) and Ukrainian community activist Ulana Mazurkevich speak with Counselor Vladimir Lapitski of the Ukrainian SSR Mission to the United Nations. The New York Republican led a small delegation of Ukrainian Americans to the Mission on May 5, 1986, just days after the Chernobyl accident.

international financial institutions have committed to provide \$2.3 billion in grants and loans to help Ukraine close down Chernobyl. This is real progress when we consider that less than four years ago the G-7 had only begun to look at providing assistance to promote reactor safety in general throughout Eastern Europe.

I am pleased to note that the United States has already begun providing assistance to Ukraine and Belarus that has been helpful in setting the groundwork for closing Chernobyl and recovering from the damage inflicted by the 1986 explosion.

In Ukraine, American assistance is helping to increase the efficiency of power generation and use. Ukraine inherited a tremendously wasteful power distribution and pricing system from the former Soviet regime, and United States assistance is helping Ukraine to change that – and to offset the loss of energy production that closing Chernobyl will entail. The United States is also helping Ukraine to search for new sources of energy, to improve the safety of operations at all of Ukraine's 14 nuclear reactors, and to set up an international research center outside of Chernobyl.

The United States government and private American organizations – some of whom are represented at this conference – are providing vital medicines and medical equipment to help victims of the 1986 accident, and the National Cancer Institute is now conducting a major study in Ukraine of the health effects of the 1986 explosion.

In Belarus U.S. assistance has set up a “hospital partnership” focused on the treatment of thyroid cancer in children, and has helped set up a project to study the use of contaminated lands in growing rapeseed which might safely be converted into lubricants and sold for hard currency.

In Belarus, the United States government and private American organizations are also providing medicine and medical equipment to assist the victims of Chernobyl.

I am particularly pleased that one such charitable organization from my own Congressional District in New York – the Ramapo Children of Chernobyl Fund – has raised over \$12 million worth of donated medicines and other goods to assist the children in Belarus affected by this radiation.

Ladies and Gentleman, I would like to close with a few thoughts about what might be done as we approach the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl explosion this April 26.

First, the “Nuclear Safety Summit” of the G-7 to be held in Moscow this April 19 needs to revisit the issue of Chernobyl.

- Russia, in particular, needs to do more to help, and I think that it has the means – through forgiveness of some or all of the energy debt Ukraine owes it – to help ensure that Chernobyl is closed in the very near future. It is, after all, very much in Russia's interest to have this happen.

- Second, the country of Belarus, even more than Ukraine, suffers from a lack of resources to deal with the consequences of the Chernobyl explosion, particularly since much of its prime agricultural land has been contaminated. Belarus' leaders, therefore, need to recognize that meaningful economic reform is the only way that the economy can begin to grow and provide the long-term financial resources to help address its post-Chernobyl problems.

- Third, any Ukrainian officials who may still believe that Chernobyl can be used as some kind of “bargaining chip” for greater aid from the G-7 countries should consider what Ukraine would face if – God forbid – the pillars holding up the concrete sarcophagus over the destroyed reactor were to collapse. How would Ukraine cope with the huge amounts of radiation that would be released? What would happen if the debris fell into the reactor that is now operated next to the sarcophagus? This is a time for solutions, not for bargaining!

- Finally, we should look at the problems created by the Chernobyl explosion in the context of the problems caused by radiation contamination in other areas of the former Soviet Union. Should we overlook the suffering of children living near the former Soviet nuclear testing site at Semipalatinsk in Kazakhstan? Can we ignore the effects of the wanton dumping of radioactive wastes in lands and waters throughout the region by the former Soviet Union?

Chernobyl is a specific threat that must be addressed, but radioactive contamination throughout the former Soviet Union is a real threat that is very likely to spread unless solutions are found soon.

In closing, let me say that democracy is ultimately the solution to the problems of Chernobyl and the problems of environmental devastation in the countries of the former Soviet Union.

Only totalitarian regimes and their callous bureaucracies – such as that of the former Soviet regime – can get away with the kinds of bad policies and malfeasance that led to the Chernobyl accident and that have caused such tremendous environmental damage throughout the states of the former Soviet Union.

The peoples of these countries deserve to know what is taking place in their own countries that will affect their lives and those of their children. They need to know when a threat like Chernobyl lies in their midst – and have the power to do something about it.

In that sense, democracy is the ultimate antidote that can prevent radiation contamination before it starts. And democracy is what the United States seeks for the peoples of these countries.

Thank you.

White House ceremony rescheduled

WASHINGTON — The White House ceremony to honor the organizations and individuals who have provided humanitarian assistance to victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster has been rescheduled for Wednesday, May 1, at 1 p.m.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore are to host the event, which is being held in observance of the 10th anniversary of the world's worst nuclear accident.

The ceremony was originally scheduled for April 10, but was postponed due to funeral services for Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown.

CHORNOBYL: THE FIRST DECADE

Ukraine's ambassador to United States points to tragic lessons of the disaster

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON — Yuri Shcherbak, Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, says the Chernobyl tragedy will remain with the world for centuries to come, and the world community should learn from Ukraine's experience.

The 10th anniversary of the nuclear disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power station is not only an occasion to remind the world about Ukraine's sufferings and needs, he noted. "It's an opportunity to adequately analyze some of the conclusions and effects on the whole world from the Chernobyl tragedy."

Dr. Shcherbak, who founded Ukraine's Green movement, wrote a book about the Chernobyl accident and was minister of environmental protection prior to his diplomatic appointments, discussed the ramifications of the nuclear accident during an interview for *The Ukrainian Weekly* after his return from a conference at Columbia University, one of many U.S. events marking the Chernobyl accident's 10th anniversary.

Unlike other past world tragedies, Chernobyl is still with us; it remains current not only for those who suffered, but for all mankind, Dr. Shcherbak said.

In addition to the growing medical problems resulting from Chernobyl, Ukraine still has to deal with the problem of radioactive contamination of the area's water supply, the 700 kilograms of plutonium — equal to 70 Hiroshima-size bombs — and 2.3 tons of enriched uranium still in the reactor, the clean-up of the numerous radioactive dumps, the building of a new sarcophagus as well as the closure of the entire power plant.

"The way the anniversary is being marked in the United States is indicative of the close attention Americans are paying to what is going on in Ukraine," the ambassador said. "Today, we can analyze these problems more deeply and from a global perspective, and our exposition of these problems makes them more understandable to the American public and officials."

Dr. Shcherbak said the most interesting part of the Columbia University conference for him was a roundtable discussion at which representatives and consultants of the U.S. departments of state and energy, among others, discussed how Ukraine should go about solving its energy problem. This shows that what was considered a local problem has become, because of its relationship to Chernobyl, a problem of global concern, he said.

"This is not an anniversary of a finished event," he said. "Unfortunately, this was a working anniversary, because Chernobyl will be with us for hundreds of years. What is important is that the people and politicians understand — and American politicians, as I see it, are very close to understanding all of our problems, thanks to their own interests and efforts as well as to our unceasing work in explaining these problems."

Dr. Shcherbak also praised the recent documentary aired on CNN as being very effective in explaining the problems of Chernobyl.

The G-7 nations have pledged more than \$3 billion in assistance to Ukraine to help it close the rest of the Chernobyl nuclear plant by the year 2000. But, as Dr. Shcherbak pointed out, only some \$400 million of that total are grants; the rest are credits. "It's easy to accept credits, but harder to repay them," he said.

Is Russia, or the Commonwealth of Independent States doing anything to help Ukraine? Chernobyl was, after all, a Soviet power plant.

"Absolutely nothing — no assistance is being given or offered," the ambassador replied. "Everything remains according to the 'zero-option' agreement signed by former Prime Minister [Vitaliy] Masol: everything on Ukraine's territory is Ukraine's problem and headache, and everything in Russia is Russia's problem."

Writing in the April issue of *Scientific American*, Dr. Shcherbak said the blame for Chernobyl falls on the designers and operators as well as on the Soviet totalitarian leadership and system, which emphasized cost shortcuts and secrecy.

Asked why Ukraine and the world should feel safer today, Dr. Shcherbak said he's a realist in these matters and does not expect perfection, but he stressed that "the independence of Ukraine, to a large extent, serves to guarantee against the repetition of this type of an accident."

"Even though one cannot discount the possibility of bad or wrong-headed decisions — independence, after all, does not automatically endow a country with wisdom and make it a utopia — but we are convinced that an independent Ukraine would, at least, not make the catastrophic decision about placing the Chernobyl nuclear power station at such an irresponsibly dangerous location, at the confluence of the Prypiat and Dnipro rivers, and so close to Kyiv."

"The government would not allow the use of questionable technology, and there would be more transparency in the decision-making," he added. "If we were to decide to build a nuclear reactor today, it would include 10 times more studies, the opinions of many specialists and Western safety standards — it would follow a process similar to those in Western democracies."

Over the past 10 years, Dr. Shcherbak has dealt with Chernobyl as a father and grandfather, a physician, writer, leader of the Ukrainian Green movement, minister of environmental protection and as a diplomat, serving as ambassador to Israel and now the United States. He admits that his approach to Chernobyl has changed over the years, but he stresses that he has always tempered his emotions with a measure of realism.

His initial reaction to the accident in 1986 was one of

wanting to learn more about it as well as of revulsion against those responsible for building that power station without concern for its location and its power. And they planned to build four more reactors on that site, he said, giving it a total of eight reactors and making Chernobyl the world's largest nuclear power plant.

"We protested. We felt that we were abused, that Ukraine was abused, and that the people were made to suffer from this irresponsible action. We protested against the building of new stations and called for the shutdown of existing stations," he recalled.

"I was aware that wider energy problems were involved, but we truly did not have any information about how much energy Ukraine consumed, its cost — for oil and gas, that is. It was then still under the

... if the world ignores the lessons of Chernobyl, then someone will have to relive the tragedy again.

— *Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak*

Soviet Union, and none of us gave any thought as to how all this would work if the Soviet Union were to break up into independent countries," Dr. Shcherbak explained.

Today, he said, "when all of these problems have come together, as a diplomat and former Cabinet minister, I look at them in a broader scope."

Ukraine is undergoing an energy crisis, and even today, five years after independence, there are no accurate figures on how much energy Ukraine really needs, he said. Ukraine has to modernize its industry, which uses three to four times the energy used in the West, and there is a crying need for energy conservation.

Since Chernobyl's reactors provide 7 percent of Ukraine's electricity, simply shutting it down would have grave consequences, he said. There are future alternatives — for one, Ukraine could build thermal plants. In the meantime, however, Dr. Shcherbak said, he would freeze the number of nuclear power stations and improve their safety standards, and institute strict energy conservation measures.

"And that is how I approach this problem today — in, I think, a more balanced and realistic way," Dr. Shcherbak said. "Our approach then was wholly proper and justified, and we certainly have nothing to be ashamed of for our effort. We awakened public opinion; we forced the system — the Communist regime — to reveal the truth about what happened; we informed the world community."

"My approach today is different, but, one can say it includes the old approach, tempered, however, with a more balanced approach from the point of view of nation-building and development."

How does the Ukrainian ambassador see Chernobyl anniversaries being observed in the future?

In another 10 to 20 years, Ukraine and the world will understand even better all of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, he said.

"We will know what can and cannot be done in the case of such an accident." And in the coming years, he feels, Chernobyl may well take another turn, though not necessarily a bad turn.

"God forbid that something like Chernobyl should happen again, but if it does, the Chernobyl experience can serve as an example, a model of how to deal with such a catastrophe," he said.

"Chernobyl will always be there also as a reminder for people about their sins and shortcomings, and the great sin of Chernobyl was that this diabolical energy was created, first of all, for war," Dr. Shcherbak said. "It is the offspring of the nuclear bomb."

"In the 21st century, this energy can bring us some very unpleasant surprises, and we should be ready for them. If the world community learns from Chernobyl, by forming safety and rapid reaction units, specialized scientific research groups, then it will be ready to meet these challenges."

"But if the world ignores the lessons of Chernobyl," he added, "then someone will have to relive the tragedy again."



Marta Kolomayets

Children in Kyiv during a 1991 demonstration marking the fifth anniversary of the Chernobyl accident.

CHORNOBYL: THE FIRST DECADE

314-acre site in Florida is dedicated as Chornobyl Memorial Forest

by Natalia Warren

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

OCKLAWAHA, Fla.— In recognition of the 10th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster, a 314-acre site in Marion County Florida was designated the Chornobyl Memorial Forest. The March 29 commemoration included a tree-planting ceremony and a performance by Kyiv bandurist Mykola Lytwyn.

At the dedication, a message from Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, was delivered by the Embassy's first secretary, Dr. Yaroslav Voitko. "By these solemn acts you pay tribute to the innocent victims of the catastrophe that not only caused deaths and suffering in Ukraine and neighboring countries, but also revealed to the world the criminal character of the Soviet regime which for a long time tried to hide the truth from its people," wrote Dr. Shcherbak.

"Today's Chornobyl Memorial Forest Inauguration gives a hope for the future to those who survived this horrible disaster, and a promise that by our joint efforts we can make this world a better place to live," the ambassador underlined.

Dr. Voitko also noted that the "the first lesson of Chornobyl is what happens when state-of-the-art technology gets out of control in a totalitarian state."

Dan Smith, director of communications for American Forests, read a letter from U.S. Vice-President Al Gore, who commended the organizers of the event for "recognizing and honoring the victims of this terrible tragedy."

American Forests, a Washington-based national conservation organization for trees and forests, was founded in 1825. The Chornobyl Memorial Forest was created through the efforts of American Forests working in partnership with the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and the Chornobyl Committee of Washington.

Also present at the dedication ceremony was former UNA Supreme President Joseph Lesawyer, whose efforts on behalf of all Ukrainians worldwide were warmly acknowledged.

Taras Harper, president of the Ukrainian Project Fund, which has sent medical supplies to victims of the Chornobyl disaster, recalled a trip he took two years ago to the stricken area. While in Ukraine he said he met with many adult victims as well as orphans. "When you look at these trees," he implored the hushed listeners, "if there is one thing you can remember, let it be the children."

Also speaking at the dedication ceremony was Chrystia Sonevitsky, who coordinates the American Forests Global ReLeaf International Program. After requesting a moment of silence for the victims of the

tragedy, she explained that similar events would be taking place in seven other American cities, as well as in their sister cities in Ukraine. Those cities are: Chicago and Kyiv; Sonoma, Calif., and Kaniv; Irondequot, N.Y., and Poltava; Santa Cruz, Calif., and Alushta; Oskalousa, Iowa, and Shpola; Cincinnati and Kharkiv; and Kent, Ohio, and Kherson.

Other speakers included former lieutenant governor of Florida and SJRWMD board member Jim Williams, whose family once farmed the 314 acres; and Kathy Chinoy, board member, and Henry Dean, executive director, of the SJRWMD.

After the ceremony, all participants were invited to plant long-leaf pine seedlings. Dr. Voitko and Mr. Lesawyer planted the first seedling. Dr. Voitko also assisted in planting one of 13 live oaks that stand at the entrance to the site.

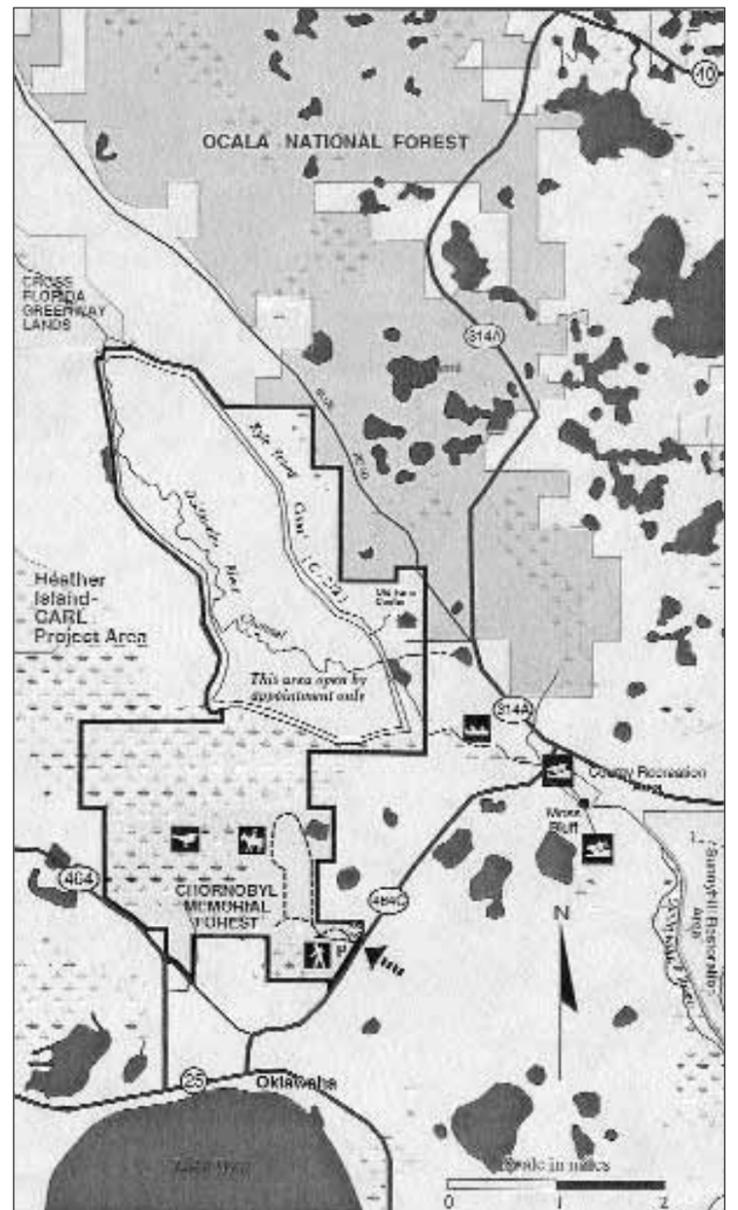
At the urging of Dr. Voitko, the tree planting was followed by a seemingly unplanned bandura performance by Mr. Lytwyn. After each piece, Dr. Voitko explained its significance to the participants, who formed a circle around the kobzar.

The first piece is "a requiem for the land, for those who died and continue to suffer," explained Dr. Voitko. The second piece, dedicated to Ukraine, "is about the tortures Ukraine underwent at the hands of tsars and communists; now radiation is adding to each wound," he added. The third, "Arise Ukraine," asks Ukraine "to join the family of European nations," he concluded.

The St. Johns River Water Management District had planted 157,000 long-leaf pine seedlings earlier this year on the former melon field. At one time long-leaf pine ecosystems flourished throughout the southeastern United States. Today, less than 3 percent remain. According to Steve Miller, land management coordinator for the SJRWMD, the site, cleared and converted to agriculture in the past, is ideal for restoration.

Mr. Miller also noted that the site was chosen for its accessibility. "Because the site is adjacent to a paved road (464-C), people will be able to view its progress as time passes. People will want to come here and pay respects," he said.

The forest will undergo a prescribed burn in two years. The fire, which under natural circumstances probably would be caused by lightning, will have a



A map shows the location of the Chornobyl Memorial Forest in the Ocklawaha Prairie Restoration Area.

twofold effect. First, it will destroy a fungus that frequently inhibits the growth of young long-leaf pine, causing the tree to remain in an undeveloped grass stage. Second, it will help release nutrients into the sandy soil where long-leaf pine grows.

In 20 years the trees, which were planted in long and even rows, will be selectively harvested to promote their health and create a more natural and irregular pattern.



A long-leaf pine is planted by Yaroslav Voitko of the Embassy of Ukraine, community activist Joseph Lesawyer and local children.



The Ukrainian Embassy's first secretary, Dr. Yaroslav Voitko, is interviewed by an Orlando news crew.

Natalia Warren

CHORNOBYL: THE FIRST DECADE

BOOK REVIEW: A journey to the radioactive zone

by Roman Woronowycz

Glenn Alan Cheney, in his latest book, "Journey to Chernobyl: Encounters in the Radioactive Zone," not only gives the statistics on the aftereffects of the world's worst nuclear accident, but has compiled an impressive oral history of the events that occurred at Chernobyl at the end of April and the beginning of May 1986 as explained by the liquidators and people who lived in the area.

The author of 11 other works whose themes range from nuclear proliferation to El Salvador, Mohandas Gandhi and American television tells an intensely interesting story about the area around Chernobyl, which he traveled while attempting to pick apart truth from fallacy, exaggeration and disinformation.

What makes the book so readable is the Connecticut College professor's straightforward tone, which shifts from the absolutely serious when speaking of the suffering of the children, and the displacement of thousands out of the zone, to the bemused when describing the quirks of Soviet life.

Mr. Cheney spent six weeks in the Kyiv and Chernobyl regions just after the Soviet Union fell in August 1991. He writes of problems with obtaining a passport, of buying food, of being told that 19 cents is too much to pay for a can of Belgian beer.

Any person who has spent time in Kyiv can relate to his description of the problems with telephones. Explaining how unreliable telephones were, he writes: "Ida seems to have a phone chronically off the hook. I have a sensation that all of Kyiv is off the hook."

Or about workers who are never in their offices. "It looks like an office that maybe a dozen people use, but only now and then really, considering it more than a

place for a smoke before moving on."

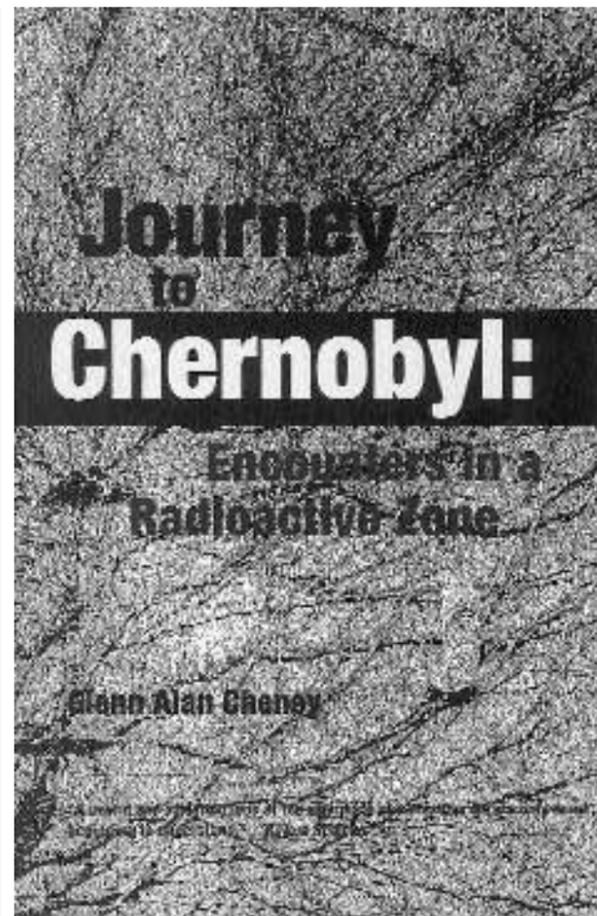
When describing life in Kyiv, his train travels, public toilets, the book takes a lighthearted tone, while accurately chronicling life in the beleaguered country still trying to find its economic legs in the post-Soviet era.

However, when he talks of the environmental disaster, the deaths and suffering that have resulted, he gives insightful analysis into what led the world to a disaster of mythical proportions. He interviews some of the leading experts on Chernobyl, including Yuri Shcherbak, today Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, then minister of the environment, and Dmytro Hrodzinsky, an academic associated with Ukraine's Academy of Sciences.

Mr. Cheney resists any impulse to take on the technical language of the scientists and experts with whom he converses. He keeps the language tight, the story moving.

The most compelling part of the book is the passages that describe the hours after reactor No. 4 blew skyward. The reader gets a first-hand accounting of what went on at ground zero from Borys Stolyarchuk, who was at one of the control boards near the area in the reactor where the fatal experiment that caused the blast took place. Valentina Patushina, who lived in the city of Prypiat, where the workers were housed, tells the author of the disinformation, the uncertainty, then the panic and final evacuation.

Mr. Cheney does not pretend to have all the information. He questions more than he asserts and observes more than he investigates. However, when the final page is turned the reader will know much more of what happened at Chernobyl and why, and will have a real appreciation of the difficult life in Ukraine that still exists, even five years after independence.



"Journey to Chernobyl: Encounters in a Radioactive Zone" is published by Academy Chicago Publishers. The 191-page book is generally available in major book stores.

ON THE INTERNET: Chernobyl topics located at various information sites

by Andrij Wynnyckyj

Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO — The GlasNet, an arm of the electronic (computer) network connecting Soviet academics and state employees, eventually became a principal pathway for information about the calamity of April 26, 1986, in Chernobyl to the outside world, seeping past the blackout that Mikhail Gorbachev's regime had tried to impose.

It is fitting therefore to provide a selection of material available on the Internet, and more particularly, the network of information sites (set up by institutions and individuals) known as the World Wide Web.

This is a subjectively compiled "best of" list of sites found using the Infoseek Guide, Excite and Magellan web searchers, intended as an initiate's guide rather than a comprehensive overview. (Editor's note: Some sites use the Russian-based transliteration "Chernobyl.")

General background

- "Chernobyl, the Polyn Project," <http://polyn.net.kiae.su/polyn/>

This site is perhaps the best and most versatile of those on the web at the moment, providing background information, hook-ups to other sites, and other loci for information as technical as the seeker desires. (Thus could easily be included in the "in-depth" category below.)

In 1993, a threesome (Pavel Kharmtsov, Natalya Sergeeva and Olga Zimina) of researchers of the Kurchatov Institute of Atomic Energy in Moscow came together to unify all available information and sources to form a database. The Kurchatov Institute (named after the Soviet physics pioneer) was founded as a separate branch of the Russian government in 1991, based on the USSR Academy of Science's Lab No. 2, and is independent of any other academic or political institution.

- "CHERNOB: Chernobyl Trade and Environment Impacts," <http://gurukl.ucc.american.edu>

A site compiled by unnamed graduate students of the School of International Service at the American University for its wide-ranging Trade Environmental Database (TED). Chernobyl is taken as a "case" (alongside such issues of varied controversy and contention from energy sources to liqueur trade battles between France and Germany) and viewed concisely from various angle, ranging from industry and technology to geography and culture.

Not all of the information provided is of the best quality, but the organization of the material provides a helpful paradigm for further inquiry.

Information in depth

- "Chernobyl — Ten Years On," <http://www.uilondon.org/chernidx.html>

This site was prepared by the London-based Uranium Institute, which "promotes the use of nuclear energy to meet the world's growing energy demand," but it does provide a wealth of technical information and appears to be one of the best sources for the official Ukrainian line on Chernobyl. It also provides position papers prepared by World Health Organization officials quite inimical to nuclear power.

- International Atomic Energy Agency, <http://www/iaea.or.at/worldatom>

The United Nations' agency's site, which gives all the information all sides need to formulate their opinions — e.g., that the IAEA is a toothless body unwilling and

unable to enforce standards; that it is all-powerful and a cynical enforcement arm of the global nuclear industry; that it is the best of possible worlds given the reality of civilian use of nuclear energy.

Provides a site pertaining to the April 8-12 conference devoted to the 10th anniversary of the explosion at the Chernobyl reactor No. 4, with participants, abstracts, etc.

Nukes pro and con

Given the nature of the event being commemorated, it seems appropriate to mention the "con" side first.

- Nuclear Information and Resource Service, <http://www.essential.org/nirsnet>

This is an electronic information and networking center for citizens and environmental organizations concerned about nuclear power, waste, radiation and matters concerning alternative energy sources. Also provides a pathway to its "No More Chernobyls" site, which aims to coordinate activism on this issue.

- Natural Resources Defense Center, <http://www.nrdc.org/nrdc>

A New York-based organization dedicated to describing "Soviet [sic] Nuclear Power, Alive and Ill." Provides background information on the Chernobyl accident and effects, catalogues the dangers of reactors still active throughout the former Soviet Union, and provides counsel on how to gain access to declassified U.S., former Soviet and Russian Federation documents on nuclear power. The site contains an ominous note suggesting that a recent edict issued by Russian President Boris Yeltsin might soon curb much of the access presently enjoyed.

- "Nuclear energy is the most certain future source," <http://www.formal.stanford.edu/jmc/progress/nuclear-faq.html>

The title, and the subtitle "One of the major requirements for sustaining human progress," speak for themselves. While the arguments tend to be positivistic to the point of absurdity, John McCarthy, who provides no other information about himself, marshals an impressive array of facts to support his case.

- Canadian Nuclear Association, <http://www.cna.ca/cher.html>

The site, prepared by a non-governmental pro-nuclear body provides a typical example of the Western nuclear industry's inclination to downplay the seriousness and ongoing escalation of the Chernobyl disaster's consequences. Provides seven fact sheets with generally accurate, but highly contentious data.

Relief efforts

- Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, <http://www.tryzub.com/ccrf>

This leading New Jersey-based relief organization's web site is still under construction, and thus had relatively sketchy information about its considerable activities to date as The Weekly went to press, and little of the organization's vast store of documents, resource materials and contacts.

Items currently on-line include: the latest generation of the CCRF's informative brochures, which provides a sketch of the impact of Chernobyl ("A Global Issue"), a breakdown of the CCRF's activities, aid provided to date, resource allocation and a rundown of children's needs in Ukraine; a description of a recent commemorative banquet held at Columbia University's Low Library on April 8, with texts of greetings sent by presidents Bill Clinton of the U.S. and Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine; six

(Continued on page 16)

CHORNOBYL: THE FIRST DECADE

The Republic of Belarus...

(Continued from page 10)

Lukashenka administration has a strong political agenda aimed at reintegration, if not the revival, of a Russian-led Union.

The government has actively discouraged non-governmental aid and assistance to Chernobyl victims. Trucks of supplies are often delayed for days at the Polish border; all humanitarian groups were obliged to re-register themselves when President Alyaksandr Lukashenka came into office.

A draft law is in progress that will render it virtually impossible for families to send children abroad for the summer period under the auspices of various organizations devoted to the interests of Chernobyl children. The draft even requests that the "host family" provide evidence that children would be looked after in "ecologically clean" zones. The ostensible reason for such measures is that the president objects to "foreign intrusions" into the republic and perceives such aid as politically subversive, unless it is under government control.

Unlike Ukraine, Belarus does not have a large North American diaspora to coordinate aid. Its government is, frankly, repressive and dictatorial, and Chernobyl is at best a secondary concern today.

The fear expressed in Miensk last month was that once the 10th anniversary is past, then the world's worst nuclear disaster and its victims would officially be over. The reality is a nation in a health and environmental crisis, struggling for existence, and with growing costs of treatment and monitoring of victims.

In the zone: remembrance...

(Continued from page 9)

installed in their homes.

"We had no idea that we were going to be evacuated," noted Maria Ilchuk, who admits that not a day goes by without her thinking about life in the village.

"The land where your mother gave birth to you is most dear to you," she repeats an old Ukrainian proverb over and over, and laments over the berries, cherries and mushrooms that grew in the region.

As the throngs of grandmothers, grandfathers, mothers, fathers, children and grandchildren make their way in a procession to the memorial service at the cemetery, to the gravesites of the generations of Avramchuks, Prokopchuks, Ilchuks, Potapchuks, Lukianenkos and Vorobeys, to share the hope brought on by the Easter season, to share an Easter repast with their ancestors in the distance, the Church of St. Michael serves as their guiding light, the source of their faith.

A calm comes over the village of Velyki Klishchi as its families have come home again.

The victims, the legacy

(Continued from page 9)

No matter how and when they heard the news, Ukraine's citizens were changed forever. Each and everyone's life was touched by the accident, which in the minds of many political analysts and observers sparked the beginning of the end of the Soviet empire.

For example, Ivan Drach, the poet and chairman of the Ukraina Society, says that Chernobyl was the straw that broke the Soviet camel's back. For him, the lies and half-truths had to stop. Very soon afterward, he began taking an active part in the formation of Rukh, the democratic movement for perebudova in Ukraine — which later was transformed into a movement for independence.

For Volodymyr Shovkoshytny, the Russian-speaking nuclear engineer who worked at the plant and had just returned to Prypiat from Moscow on April 25, 1986, where he successfully defended his dissertation, the accident changed his life and that of his family forever. Working as a liquidator at the plant, he later moved to Kyiv and became chairman of the Chernobyl Union, a humanitarian organization formed to help victims deal with the consequences of the accident. Elected to the 1990 Ukrainian Parliament, Mr. Shovkoshytny became an activist of the democratic movement and the chairman of the subcommittee on Chernobyl matters. Today, he speaks Ukrainian, writes poetry in Ukrainian and calls himself a Ukrainian patriot who is well aware of his national identity.

But for others, it meant leaving their native lands forever. Driving through the countryside of the 30-kilometer zone, visiting abandoned villages or pensioners who live in the "zone of alienation," the charm of nature, of the pine forests remains clear.

However, a certain sadness envelopes visitors to the zone, as they view the deserted houses, the abandoned stores, the ghost towns of the region.

Some villages were so radioactive that they had to be evacuated, razed and their remains buried deep underground. Some people can never go home again.

The village of Opachychi will never again hear the sound of school children being let out for summer vacation. The clubhouse at Yampil will never hold another dance. The bells of the church in Tovsty Lis will never again toll for its people.

Ivan Makukha of Opachychi — a returnee to the 30-kilometer zone in 1987 — sometimes curses the day that the Swedes noticed increased levels of radiation in the atmosphere and the news spread like wildfire around the free world.

"If it weren't for the West, we would never have had to leave here," he says. Then, he contemplates the years since the evacuation. "But then, I wouldn't be getting letters from America," he adds, showing this writer a

note he recently received from Lida Chernyk and Anna Krawczuk of the Ukrainian National Women's League of North America, who have visited the 30-kilometer zone twice in the last six years and often send the residents of this village care packages. Many here feel they are both unwanted and unneeded by society, living out their last days in the villages that will disappear once these pensioners take their last breaths.

The psychological scars run deep. Most Ukrainians believe they are victims of their past (and many are fatalists, perhaps a genetic trait of not only Ukrainians, but Slavs in general) and many believe that their children are children of Chernobyl, weak, ill and unmotivated. Many feel that they have undergone more than one Chernobyl: the actual accident in 1986 and the revelation, a few years later, of the lies about the catastrophe. In 1991, with independence came a certain euphoria, but that, too, was short-lived, as the economic situation declined drastically in the years after the declaration of independence. Some sociologists refer to this decline as yet another Chernobyl.

A decade has passed since the actual accident. Perhaps, it is time for Ukrainians to look to the future and seize the day. But the tragedy of Chernobyl is that it will be with them not only for this first decade, but for decades to come.

Vienna conference finds...

(Continued from page 11)

Ukraine is unable to go through [with the shutdown] because of the difficult economic situation [the country is experiencing today]."

Members of Ukraine's official delegation at the conference included: Volodymyr Horbulin, national security advisor; V. Yazenko, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Issues of the Chernobyl Catastrophe; M. Pavlovsky, chairman of the Parliament Committee on Nuclear Policy and Safety; Volodymyr Kholosha, minister of affairs for the protection of the population from the consequences of the Chernobyl accident; Yuriy Kostenko, minister of the environment and nuclear safety; K. Hryshchenko, deputy minister of foreign affairs; V. Breshniev, deputy minister of forestry; V. Lipinsky, chair of the State Committee for Hydrometeorology; and N. Nigmatullin, first deputy director of the State Committee for Atomic Energy Use.

Among the Ukrainian scholars and experts taking part in the conference were: Dr. O. Bobyleva, Ministry of Health; Dr. V. Bebesko and Profs. I. Liktariev and A. Prisyazhniuk, Institute for Radiation Medicine; Prof. N. Tronko, Institute of Endocrinology and Metabolism; Prof. N. Arkhipov, Prypiat Scientific and Technical Center; I. Ponomarenko, deputy minister of health; Prof. I. Wowk, IAEA, Vienna; and Prof. Y. Saenko, Institute of Sociology.

Chernobyl topics located...

(Continued from page 15)

photographs of CCRF's relief efforts and staff.

- Chernobyl: Information and Humanitarian Aid, <http://faraday.cals.virginia.edu/~ana4a/chernobyl.html>

This is a site set up by the Belarusian-born Alexander Artsyukhovich, lists over 20 international relief agencies based in North America and Europe, and also provides background on the late and unlamented (by this site compiler) USSR, with a hook-up to the site where documents from the Library of Congress Soviet Archives exhibit of 1992 are stored.

Mr. Artsyukhovich also maintains the Belarus Home Page, that hooks into the site of the recently formed Belarus International Sakharov Institute of Radioecology. His material is worth following around.

Special magazine/journal issues, articles on-line

- Wired Magazine, Vol. 4, No. 3, March 1996, "After Technology" by Masha Gessen; <http://www.hotwired.com/wired/4.03/chernobyl>

A well-written and evocative article about the consequences of the disaster and life in the "zone," with a concise review of available data and sketches of post-Chernobyl life as seen through the eyes of the author, two Belarusian lab technicians in Homiel, a former teacher doing husbandry experiments in a contaminated forest, a state-supported vagabond, a refugee from Tajikistan, and some farmers finally free of collectivization.

"After the peaceful atom, there is a different kind of peace. History once again is short because tomorrow is out of reach," Ms. Gessen, writes. A Moscow-based journalist for Segodnia and Znamia whose articles have appeared in The New Republic, she can be reached at mgessen@glas.apc.org.

- Index on Censorship, Vol. 25, No. 168, Jan-Feb (1) 1996 http://oneworld.org/index_oc/issue196/babel.html.

A collection of items from the excellent media/government monitoring English-based publication. Includes a report by Anthony Tucker (former science editor of The Guardian) "Chernobyl: Confusion and Deceit," which deals with ongoing international institutional paralysis and inaction; "Taming the Beast" by David Hearst (The

Guardian's Moscow correspondent) on the persistent threat of Russia's nuclear arsenal with favorable mentions of Ukrainian, Kazakh and Belarusian moves to de-nuclearize; a brief memoir by Mikhail Byckau, Belarusian nuclear physicist and Chernobyl liquidator; and a collection of children's writings called "Chernobyl in my destiny."

The issue also includes a series of articles about Belarusian history, politics (President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's moves to suppress the press), Chernobyl's impact (allegations of "cloud seeding" to bring down irradiated rain short of Moscow), assembled by researcher/translator/journalist Vera Rich.

- Note: Scientific American's April 1996 contains the first of a series of articles on Chernobyl and its consequences written by Ukraine's current ambassador to the U.S. and former minister of the environment, Dr. Yuri Shcherbak.

However, the magazine's web site can be accessed only by subscribers of America Online. For further inquiries write to SCAinquiry@aol.com.

Two other sites piqued this writer's interest but attempts to establish contact failed: European University of Chinese Medicine, <http://www.direct.ca.sinobiology>; and "How Cuba Cares for Chernobyl Victims," <http://www.blackstar.com/stories/chernobyl/chernobyl110.html>

- The Ukrainian Weekly, Vol. 64, No. 16, April 21, 1996; http://www.tryzub.com/UFPWWW_Etc/Current/UkrWeekly/Chernobyl

This publication's special commemorative issue is on the Web almost in toto. There are 18 Chernobyl-related items to choose from, including The Weekly's original news reports about the disaster; a summary of events of the 10 Chernobyl years since April 26, 1986, compiled by Kristina Lew; commentaries from 1986 and 1996 by Dr. David R. Marples, University of Alberta historian and a world-recognized authority on the subject; a report on elderly returnees' life in the exclusion zone by current Kyiv correspondent Marta Kolomayets; an in-depth interview by Roman Woronowycz with Greenpeace's representative in Ukraine, Antony Froggatt; Mary Mycio's special report on the resurgence of wildlife in the zone abandoned by humans; addresses by Ambassador to the U.S. Yuri Shcherbak and Ambassador to the U.N. Anatoliy Zlenko; a report by Roma Hadzewycz on the recent conference on Chernobyl and its aftermath held at Yale and Columbia universities; and a news story by Yarema Bachynsky about the Columbia University dinner held to mark the 10th anniversary; and more. The information appears on the Ukraine FAQ Plus site.

G-7 summit...

(Continued from page 3)

President Kuchma told Uriadovyi Kurier (Government Courier), the government's official newspaper, that Mr. Chirac took a very "pro-Ukrainian position," asking the right questions after President Kuchma's speech and immediately offering another \$50 million to promptly begin the study. It was because of Mr. Chirac's action that the issue of the sarcophagus was resolved quickly, he added.

The secretary of Ukraine's National Security Council, Volodymyr Horbulin, said the summit raised three main points: the monitoring of the security of nuclear material and continued cooperation in the field of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament; negotiations on a total ban on nuclear tests, possibly by September; and the issue of closing the Chernobyl nuclear plant.

Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko told Interfax-Ukraine that in the wake of the G-7 summit in Moscow, Ukraine's main objective in the implementation of the program to shut down Chernobyl is to draft a plan in order to fulfill the agreements reached.

"A lot of things depend on us today," noted the minister, adding that Ukraine often had missed opportunities to receive aid because of its "inability to submit specific projects for the use of credits and to register them properly."

When Ukraine receives funding from the West, this will now be channeled through the State Committee on Atomic Energy and the newly created Enerhokompania, a monopoly incorporating all five nuclear power plants in Ukraine.

Monies will be received from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which will fund the additional four reactors at the Rivne and

Khmelnysky plants being completed to substitute for the energy supply lost by the closure of the Chernobyl power plant. The World Bank will provide funding for the Starobeshiv thermal energy generating plant and for the reconstruction of one of the hydro-electric stations on the Dnipro River.

As to the social consequences of the shutdown of the Chernobyl plant, Ukrainian government officials have said that a new International Scientific Center will be constructed in the town of Slavutych, currently home to the Chernobyl plant's workers. According to President Kuchma - who encouraged all interested parties to take part in this work - this center will spur international cooperation in promoting nuclear safety.

Mr. Udovenko said Ukraine's prestige in the international arena had grown during the summit, and his views were supported by Deputy Foreign Minister Kostiantyn Hryshchenko, who observed the Ukrainian president at the summit.

"It was important that the Ukrainian president felt at home in meetings with the G-7 leaders. He is a political leader known by everyone and treated as an equal," said Mr. Hryshchenko.

After the summit meeting, President Kuchma also conducted bilateral discussions with President Chirac of France, Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada, Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Russian President Yeltsin.

Members of President Kuchma's delegation included Messrs. Horbulin, Kostenko and Hryshchenko, as well as Nur Nigmatullin, the acting chairman of the State Nuclear Energy Committee, and Volodymyr Ohryzko, chief of the foreign policy department of the presidential administration.



Michel Lipchitz/AP

Presidents Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine and Jacques Chirac of France at the French Residence in Moscow, after the G-7 summit.

IMF approves...

(Continued from page 3)

expected previously, mainly \$900 million for the remainder of the year," he explained. "The payments will come in such a way that a relatively larger pay out will come in the beginning." By the end of

June the IMF expects to be back on the schedule set previously.

The 1996 budget aims for an approximate budget deficit of 6 percent of gross domestic product and an inflation rate under 40 percent, according to the Wall Street Journal. Last year Ukraine's inflation rate hit 182 percent, the highest in the world among nations not at war.

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Detroit

(Continued from page 5)

tarial duties, which included both the corresponding and recording departments. Jaroslaw Baziuk, treasurer, reported on all income and expenditures, with the district showing a balance of \$2,617.

Additional reports were given by Roman Kuropas, Lesia Lawrin, Dr. Atanas Slusarczuk, Irene Pryjma, Anne Petryshyn and Petro Zaluha and the auditors. The latter, chaired by Olha Maruszczak, reported that all assets and expenditures were in excellent order. Mrs. Maruszczak also noted that Mr. Lazarchuk's secretarial documentation met all standards of good record-keeping.

Ms. Maruszczak made two recommendations as auditor: one, that delegates to a UNA convention are obligated to attend their district's annual meeting; second, that secretaries and assistants should be present at such meetings.

After a discussion on the reports, Mrs. Maruszczak made a motion to give the retiring board a vote of confidence.

Stephen M. Wichar Sr., as chairman of the Nominations Committee, and concurring with committee members Joseph Postolowsky and Mr. Lazarchuk, presented a list of candidates for 1996-1997.

The following persons were named: Dr. Serafyn, chairman; Mr. Wichar, vice-chairman and English-language publicity; Mr. Baziuk, treasurer; Mr. Lazarchuk, recording/corresponding secretary; Dr.

Slusarczuk, public relations (Ukrainian); Zenon Wasylykevych, publicity (Ukrainian); Jurij Rub, programs and hospitality; Osyp Bihun, programs and hospitality; Gregory Korbiak, Dmytro Koszylowsky, Mr. Kuropas and Mr. Zaluha, advisors; Olha Ulana Maruszczak, Mr. Postolowskyj and Serafian Marzotta, auditors.

The proposed slate was unanimously elected.

Dr. Serafyn presented Secretary Lysko as the speaker for the afternoon. After welcoming the Detroit delegation, she provided a very precise data sheet on organizational and national membership activities.

She pointed out that Detroit branches enrolled 43 new members for a total insurance coverage of \$742,000 or an average of \$17,256 per policy. The assigned quota for Detroit was 115 members, indicating that this district had an attainment of only 37 percent. A net loss of 17 members was sustained for 1995. In the roster of UNA cities with the highest membership count, Detroit placed 20th. Dr. Slusarczuk, Mrs. Maruschak, Mrs. Korbiak and Alexandra Lawrin, were the top organizers in 1995.

Ms. Lysko spent a portion of her time introducing the new Universal Life Insurance policy and the rewarding financial benefits it offers. Included with this was a new brochure describing the policy in the Ukrainian language.

An interesting dialogue ensued between Ms. Lysko and the delegation in respect to the UNA's activity on the national level. Subjects covered included: the hiring of a professional organizer in Detroit, the possibility of Internet advertising, the UNA-UFA merger, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly.

Ms. Lysko's parting words were philosophical. "I believe our insurance policies are comprehensive and in adequate competition with the insurance industry. But, most of all, our policies are designed to meet the insurance needs of the Ukrainian family."

She added "Our district committees in America and Canada with all their branches are the backbone of the UNA."

Dr. Serafyn thanked Mrs. Lysko for the talk and then proceeded to outline the district's plans for 1996-1997. He suggested a more intensive campaign for new UNA members, a UNA Day, a seminar on organizing matters and more effective publicity measures. Dr. Serafyn said a calendar of activities would be firmly scheduled at the next meeting of the Detroit District Committee.

After the meeting's adjournment refreshments were served.

Woonsocket

(Continued from page 5)

After the election, Ms. Bardell extended her best wishes for Michael Iwanycky's speedy return to health.

Mr. Hardink then introduced the guest speaker for the meeting, Alexander Blahitka, UNA treasurer. Mr. Blahitka reported on the state of the UNA, both in the Woonsocket district as well as nationally for the year ending December 31, 1995. This included a discussion of significant changes the UNA has made over the past year. Mr. Blahitka also updated the district on the UNA's progress in merging with two other Ukrainian fraternal organizations.

Mrs. Trenkler and Mr. Sarachman motioned that the district make a \$50 donation to the Ukrainian Olympic Committee. The motion was approved by a vote of 10-1.

After a question and answer period with Messrs. Blahitka and Hardink, the



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A workshop for women's voices

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

WINNIPEG – Take young women from Cleveland, Toronto, New York, Pittsburgh, Washington and other North American places, add love of Ukrainian culture and music, mix with instant camaraderie and the willingness to sing all weekend, and combine all under the able leadership of a woman for whom Ukrainian folk and ritual songs are our "soul music" – and you have the Workshop for Women's Voices in Cleveland organized by Nadia Tarnawsky. This year's workshop is slated for the weekend of May 3-5.

As described by Alexis Kochan of Winnipeg, the workshop leader, "this is a form of a retreat, where the group does nothing but sing and eat."

In the notes to "Daughters of the Steppes," a cassette of the Workshop for Women's Voices held in 1995, Ms. Tarnawsky writes:

"In May of 1994, I made a phone call which would begin the yearlong process leading to this project. I spoke with Alexis Kochan. This initial phone call got me thinking about organizing a workshop specifically for women. I had been to various bandura camps and music camps for a good part of my life, but none of them ever focused on women's singing, and some of them didn't even encourage a women's ensemble. I then decided that it was time to stop thinking about a workshop for women's voices and to start working on making one happen.

"On May 5, 1995, 20 women gathered in Harkness Chapel on the Case Western Reserve University campus in Cleveland, Ohio, to create music. They committed themselves to learning some ancient Ukrainian singing styles and their accompanying songs. For me, this recording represents the end product of a year of phone calls, typing, photocopying and much hope. For the singers, I believe it is the culmination of a weekend of hard work, good singing, and much fun. For the listener, it is the first of many such projects."

If I had not known that this was a cassette recorded by the participants of a singing workshop in the U.S., I would have guessed that this was some women's ensemble from Ukraine, a choir I had not heard of yet. The voices are rich, fine, deep, harmonize beautifully, and sing the ritual and traditional folk songs of early Ukraine.

Many of the songs are recognizable, as they were recorded on Ms. Kochan's first album, "Czarivna." This recording contained ritual songs of the year, such as wedding songs and "hahilky," arranged by Arthur Polson, concertmaster of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. The violin solo and orchestral accompaniment is spectacular, with certain interludes composed for this album by Mr. Polson.

Ms. Kochan, a Winnipeg-born singer, has been a psychologist and a teacher in her other lives. But she has always sung. As a descendant of pioneers to Manitoba (her grandmother was born in Winnipeg), she doesn't remember not singing. She led the kids singing even in kindergarten, and

participated in all the elementary school music programs. Ms. Kochan joined the famed Alexander Koshetz Choir at an early age, when the other members of the choir were decades older than she.

A turning point in her love of Ukrainian music was the trip to Ukraine by the Koshetz Choir in 1978, where they met and studied with the Veryovka Choir. She and her husband, Nestor Budyk, then returned to Ukraine for a year of study with Veryovka, to learn "the deeper music." For her, that ancient Ukrainian ritual and folk music is the stuff of deepest tradition; it represents the specificity of everything Ukrainian.

In leading these workshops, she wants to give women an opportunity to sing their music, by way of their culture. The participants had heard Ukrainian songs throughout their lives, but, in general, people are singing less. Just a few years ago, people, including youth, would gather at weddings, camp and other occasions, just to sing. But now, most people need the lyrics written down, and only a small select number of songs seems to be sung over and over. In order to make music part of life again, these workshops bring the songs and their understanding back. They raise consciousness, they are beautiful, therapeutic, they tell you all you need to know about life, "there is a jewel in every folk song."

In addition to leading Ukrainian women in song, Ms. Kochan is propagating Ukrainian music globally, breaking new ground as she does this. She has led the women's voice workshops in Winnipeg, Edmonton, New York and Cleveland. Her "Paris to Kiev" recording (with Nestor Budyk, Alexander Boitchouk and Petro Yourashchuk) has been very popular, not only within the Ukrainian community. This album is selling in the "global" or "world music" sections of music stores.

A second recording is now in the works, with "Variations" as the working title. It also will be an exploration of old Ukrainian music, but with accompaniment that includes not only old banduras, but also South African drums and Northumbrian pipes. For the general public, this is uncommon music, being explored with professional musicians in a unique manner.

Ms. Kochan has also taught Ukrainian folk music at klezmer camps and workshops, because of its influence on Eastern European Jewish music. Culturally literate people of all backgrounds are interested in the antiquity of music, whether Ukrainian, Celtic or other. In her musical style and marketing, Ms. Kochan has been compared to Loreena McKinnitt, who has popularized a new form of Celtic music and markets it herself. In teaching and singing Ukrainian ritual and folk songs, Ms. Kochan wants to revive the sense of ethnic pride, to redefine culture for the future, to go beyond folk ditties "into deeper stuff."

For more information, or to register for the Workshop for Women's Voices, please contact Nadia Tarnawsky, (216) 749-0060. Mailing address: Daughters of the Steppes, c/o Nadia Tarnawsky, 3000 Mapledale Ave., Cleveland, OH 44109.

that the independence of Ukraine is seen as a vital test of Russian intentions.

Any attempt to incorporate Ukraine within the new "SSR" (as the new Belarusian-Russian Union of Sovereign Republics is known) should, therefore, be perceived as an attempt to rebuild a new Russian empire and be condemned by the West. Russia must be politely warned that any such action would be detrimental to its own national interests and merely lead to a new Cold War, Russia's isolation from the world community of nations and an end to Western economic and political assistance.

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Britain sees Ukraine...

(Continued from page 2)

Russia would find it impossible to restore its great-power status to challenge the West and NATO as a new military-political bloc without the incorporation of Ukraine. Both leading Russian presidential candidates – President Yeltsin and Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov – know this and have targeted Ukraine as the next link to be included in the new Eurasian empire they both seek to forge. Prime Minister Major's visit to Ukraine, therefore, will reinforce the Western view to Moscow

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Itinerant band...

(Continued from page 8)

steps of Kyiv's Museum of Literature.

"I asked him who he was," Mr. Zinkewych said. "A poet," came the reply. With an acute sense of his audience, he added, "I smiled then, just like you did now."

Mr. Zinkewych showered accolades on those young students "who in 1990 faced down a regime, at a time when nobody knew how things would end up — whether it would be China or Czecho-Slovakia."

The first, most charismatic and articulate speaker was Oles Doniy. Mr. Doniy has had a lot of practice in this area, given that he emerged on the scene in 1990 as a spokesman of the hunger-striking students who courageously and effectively set up camp in what came to be known as Independence Square, and has since made his mark in municipal politics.

Mr. Doniy also spoke of the ills that beset Ukraine — the external threat from Russia, the internal political dissension and the calcified institutional structures that hamper its progress. "Power is still in the hands of the old nomenklatura," he intoned, begging (but not answering) the question — what did the opposition, in a putatively democratic society, intend to do about it?

Mr. Doniy hinted at the vacuum of ideas in the "democratic" camp when he recounted that leaders of Rukh and other parties came to the youth recently, encouraging them to stage another series of hunger strikes in order to force the government's hand on the constitution and other matters.

The young politician inveighed against the painful fact that many Ukrainians are beguiled by the supposedly greener grass growing in Russia. "People look to Russia with envy — the conditions there are better, reform faster," Mr. Doniy said.

Now Russia is saddled with an intoler-

ant, harshly authoritarian, nostalgically (and clumsily) militaristic regime, whose major cities are ridden with crime and unrestrained gangland violence, and whose countryside is awash in the aftermath of countless environmental disasters. At the very least, the fact that it can inspire envy suggests that Ukraine's politicians, no matter how young, desperately need lessons in public relations.

Mr. Doniy assailed a pamphlet distributed by a politician in Odessa, in which the candidate for a local post alleged that Ukraine had become "a colony of Galicia, which now dictates policy and has produced antagonism to Russia."

Coming as it does from the reputed joke and gag capital of the former Soviet Union, the quote deserves to be enshrined among the best historically ironic howlers of the year, but neither Mr. Doniy nor the audience of that afternoon were laughing.

The most interesting segment of the Kyiv-based deputy's presentation was his breakdown of generational thinking in Ukraine. According to Mr. Doniy, the elderly are mostly looking to Russia out of habit or nostalgia, the middle aged are wallowing in disillusionment and paralysis, while the young are firmly convinced of the benefits of independence and the passing of the old order.

As if to temper this suspiciously rosy picture of the younger generation, Mr. Doniy opined that youth are avoiding politics (with some obvious exceptions), but going into business, journalism and the arts.

Mr. Doniy ended on an optimistic and patriotic note, and yet the tone was strangely Soviet in its veiled impatient condescension. "Don't worry," he said, "Ukraine will take its place among European nations. Everything will fall into place."

In his response to a question, Mr.

(Continued on page 21)

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Michigan foundation offers scholarships

WARREN, Mich. — The Ukrainian American Center Foundation has announced it is now accepting applications for scholarship awards and organizational financial grants for 1996.

According to eligibility requirements, student scholarships are awarded to full-time undergraduate students who are attending accredited colleges and universities, and to high school graduates who will be attending institutions of higher learning in this calendar year. Applications are judged on the basis of financial need, scholastic performance, involvement in the community (Ukrainian and/or American) and essay evaluation. Students must be of Ukrainian

ancestry and residents of Michigan.

Organizational financial grants will be awarded to organizations judged to have valid Ukrainian community objectives. They must be based in Michigan and prove financial need. Please write or call the Ukrainian American Center Foundation for additional information and application blanks. All completed documents must be received by the Ukrainian American Center Foundation postmarked no later than June 30.

Write to: Ukrainian American Center Foundation, P.O. Box 1443, Warren, MI, 48090-1443, or 530 Oxford Court, Rochester Hills, MI 48307-4527; or phone (810) 852-1570.

Kharkiv student...

(Continued from page 8)

Svitlana Oleshko, a student at Kharkiv State University, and featuring Natalia Tsymbal, Vadym Korobka, Dmytro Turkevych and Mykhailo Ozerov, leads the viewer into a montage of ideological, political and spiritual contradictions in Ukraine today. Barefoot and dressed in stark canvas garments, the four young actors expressed a dynamic tension as their characters bounced ideas and opinions off one another. The tightly constructed dialogue written by Ms. Oleshko explores concepts of the individual versus the nation, idealism versus cynicism, religion versus communism. In the end it is a search for the Ukrainian persona in a world that has been turned on its head and overhauled in the last few years.

The more than 100 people who saw the performance on March 2 in New York were taken by its passion, its tightly woven script and the honesty brought by the actors to the roles.

Afterwards, Ms. Oleshko spoke with the crowd and said that she is puzzled why people are surprised that a Ukrainian-language theater group exists in Kharkiv. She explained that Kharkiv has one of the most developed theater

scenes in Ukraine, although she did admit that most groups were Russian-speaking. She also explained that, unlike in the United States, theater-goers in Ukraine are predominantly young.

She thanked Osep Zinkewych, director of Smoloskyp, for the financial wherewithall he has given the group and for providing the opportunity for them to perform outside of their hometown.

The troupe toured the United States with a second group of four young intellectuals: Kyiv City Deputy Oles Donyi, who led the student hunger strikes of 1990, authors Maksym Rozumny and Andriy Kokotiukha and poet Serhiy Zhadan. The four have their own presentation (see adjoining story), which is given apart from the performance by the Kharkiv students.

The two groups, in New York courtesy of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council and the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine, visited most of the major Ukrainian communities in the United States and the Canadian city of Toronto before returning to New York the weekend of March 29 for a farewell dinner and an encore performance.

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Siena College program hosts students and professor from Uzhhorod University

LOUDONVILLE, N.Y. — Siena College is giving three Ukrainian university students and their professor first-hand experience in American business and free enterprise to encourage them to bring that knowledge back to their native land.

The students attend the International Business Studies Institute at Uzhhorod State University on the Ukraine-Slovakia border. The institute is a three-year project, established by Siena last spring, that brings Western business theories and practices to the Transcarpathian region.

After taking classes in Western management and entrepreneurship, global strategic planning and market economics from Siena professors in Uzhhorod, the Ukrainian students have come to New York State's Capital Region to see these ideas at work in local businesses.

The Ukrainians will visit Albany International, Newkirk Products, The Desmond, Cytopath Albany Labs, Saratoga Beverage Group and Clifton Park Dodge World while in the Capital Region.

"We tried to match the students up with companies that would have a similar

profile to companies that could be developed by them in Ukraine," said Patricia Sanders, dean of Siena's business division and one of the professors who has taught at the Ukrainian Institute.

Prof. Sanders said she hopes the students learn enough about American businesses to go back to Ukraine and start their own companies.

For example, at least two of the companies the students will visit are directly relevant to potential business ventures in Ukraine. A visit to see how The Desmond hotel is run is beneficial because the Transcarpathian region of the Ukraine, where Uzhhorod is located, has a very active tourism industry. The Ukrainians will learn techniques they can use to market Uzhhorod's spring water during a tour of the Saratoga Springs water bottling plant.

During their stay at Siena, the Ukrainians will also participate in business classes and meet with faculty and students to share their impressions of their host and native countries.

The students will also visit Albany, New York City and Washington.

Cuyahoga County to acknowledge pioneers who arrived before 1919

CLEVELAND — Attention all persons of Ukrainian ancestry. Have you ever wondered if you have ancestors in Cuyahoga County? Well, if you have, the Western Reserve Historical Society Genealogical Committee has an offer which may be of real interest to you.

Here's an opportunity to earn an Early Families in Cleveland certificate if your Ukrainian ancestor arrived in Cuyahoga County prior to 1919. Why 1919? Simple: research has established that St. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church was organized in 1909.

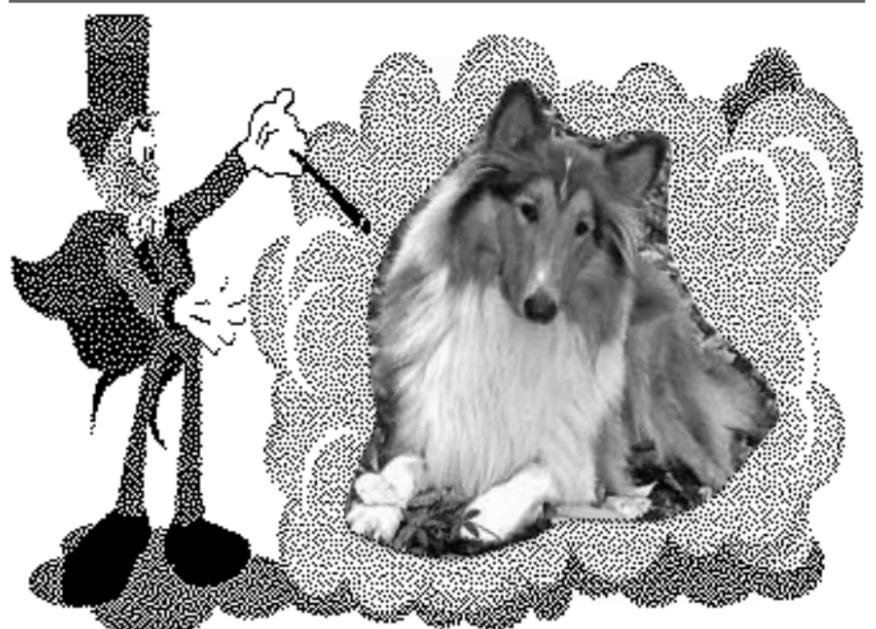
The committee used the formation of this church as their baseline and added 10 years. So to qualify, your ancestor must have moved into Cuyahoga County no later than December 31, 1919.

Certificates will be presented as part of two events sponsored at The Western Reserve Historical Society: Family History Fair, May 4-5, or on Family Day, November 29.

To receive an application stop by the registration desk at the society's library or call (216) 721-5722.



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To The Weekly Contributors:

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

- News stories should be sent in not later than 10 days after the occurrence of a given event.
- Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date of The Weekly edition in which the information is to be published.
- All materials must be typed and double-spaced.
- Newspaper and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.
- Photographs submitted for publication must be black and white (or color with good contrast). Captions must be provided. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.
- Full names and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- Persons who submit any materials must provide a phone number where they may be reached during the work day if any additional information is required.

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DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF UNA BRANCHES
 of
PITTSBURGH AND WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
announces that its
ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING
 will be held on
SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1996 at 2:30 PM
at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall,
109 South 7th Street, South Side, Pittsburgh, PA 15203
 Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:
24, 53, 56, 63, 96, 109, 113, 120, 126, 132, 161, 264, 296, 338, 481.
 All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.
MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:
Martha Lysko, UNA Secretary
Nick Diakiwsky, UNA Advisor
DISTRICT COMMITTEE
John Holowatyj, Chairman
Nick Diakiwsky, Vice-Chairman
Ron Monzi, Secretary
Elias Matiash, Treasurer

ALLENTOWN, PA. DISTRICT COMMITTEE
 of the
UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
announces that its
ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING
 will be held on
SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1996 at 2:00 PM
at the Ukrainian Catholic Church,
1826 Kenmore Avenue, Bethlehem, Pa.
 Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:
44, 47, 48, 137, 143, 147, 288, 318, 369, 438.
 All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.
MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:
Alexander G. Blahitka, UNA Treasurer
Anna Haras, Honorary Member of UNA General Assembly
DISTRICT COMMITTEE
Anna Haras, Chairman
Katherine Sargent, Secretary
Maria Kolodrub, Treasurer

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, May 4

LIVONIA, Mich.: The Livonia Symphony Orchestra, Volodymyr Schesiuk, musical director, presents "Chornobyl Remembered," a commemorative concert and mayoral proclamation, starting at 7:30 p.m. at James P. Carli Auditorium, Churchill High School, Newburgh Road, between Ann Arbor and Joy roads. The program includes works for strings, winds and operatic selections by Giuseppe Verdi. Admission: adults, \$12; seniors, \$10; students, \$8. Tickets available at the door. For more information call, (313) 421-1111 or Daria Zawadiwska, (810) 656-0306.

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Institute of America Music presents a concert of chamber music at the Institute series, featuring the works of Rachmaninoff, Beethoven, Bibik and Smetana, performed by Andrea Axelrod, Suren Bagratuni, Dmitri Berlinsky and Mykola Suk. The concert starts at 8 p.m. at the institute, 2 E. 79th St. For additional information call, (212) 288-8660.

Sunday, May 5 - Sunday, September 15

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Museum and Branch 113 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America invite the public to a jointly sponsored "Student Art Exhibition II" to be held at the museum at 203 Second Ave. beginning at 2 p.m. Participating young artists: Adriana Farmiga, Tamara Iwaseczko, Petro Lopata, Yuriy Masny, Andrey Poteryaylo, Yarema Ronish, Nick Sawicki, Dorian Yurchuk and Tamara Zahaykevich. For further information call, (212) 228-0110.

Sunday, May 5

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons Association of New York and New Jersey invite the community to an address by Adrian Karatnycky, president of Freedom House, at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th Street. Mr. Karatnycky will speak on "Ukraine, the United States and Russia: Relationships in Transition."

The program starts at 4 p.m. An open discussion and wine reception will follow. Admission: non-members, \$10; members, \$8; students, \$5. For more information call Areta Pawlinsky, (609) 683-5959.

TORONTO: The Arkan Dance Company presents its inaugural concert and silent auction fund-raiser, at the Scarlett Heights Collegiate Auditorium, 15 Trehorne Drive, Etobicoke. The silent auction opens at 5:30 p.m. with a wide range of items, from art to computer software to everyday services. The concert starts at 7 p.m. and features the young dancers of the ensemble in a varied Ukrainian folk dance program. Admission: adults, \$20; children, \$12; age 4 and under, \$5; Ukrainian Academy of Dance students, \$10. Tickets are available at The Ukrainian Academy of Dance, Stefura Dance Studios, 80 Parklawn Road, Suite 221, Etobicoke. For more information call, (416) 255-8577 or fax, (416) 766-3905.

Monday, May 6

CLEVELAND: Virko Baley, principal conductor and music advisor to the Kyiv Camerata Orchestra and principal conductor of the annual Kyiv Music Fest, will be featured as guest conductor with the Cleveland Chamber Symphony during a free concert at Drinko Recital Hall, Music and Communications Building, Cleveland State University, 2001 Euclid Ave. The concert starts at 8 p.m. and will feature works by Mr. Baley, Robert Kyr, Edwin London and others. On Friday, May 10, at 7:30 p.m., a second free concert will take place at Sandusky High School Auditorium, 2130 Hayes Ave., Sandusky, Ohio. For more information call, (216) 687-9243.

Friday, May 10

PARMA, Ohio: St. Josaphat Ukrainian Cathedral School invites all to its annual spring concert, dedicated to Cleveland's Bicentennial and to the many nationalities that have contributed to the city's growth and development over the years. The program starts at 7 p.m. at St. Josaphat Astrodome, 5720 State Road. For

more information call, (216) 884-1812.

Saturday, May 11

JERSEY CITY, N.J.: The Ukrainian National Home invites the public to its second annual spring dance, to be held at the home, 90-96 Fleet St., beginning at 9 p.m. Music provided by Zhuravli. A delicious buffet will be served. Admission: \$10. For additional information call, (201) 656-7755.

Sunday, May 12

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art presents a concert featuring Oksana Krovytska, soprano, including works by Cesti, Rossi, Handel, Liatoszynsky, Kolessa, Leoncavallo and Puccini. The program begins at 4 p.m. at the institute, 2320 W. Chicago Ave. For more information call, (312) 227-5522.

FOX CHASE MANOR, Pa.: The Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great invites the faithful to join them at the annual Mother's Day Pilgrimage, starting at 9 a.m., at 710 Fox Chase Road. The theme of this year's 65th annual pilgrimage is reconciliation, remembrance and ecumenism. Services and spiritual activities will commemorate, among other events, the 400th anniversary of the Union of Brest. A pontifical divine liturgy celebrated by Metropolitan Stephen Sulyk and other hierarchs starts at 11 a.m. Rosary recitations, healing services, anointing and blessing of the sick and other services are also scheduled. Breakfast and lunch will be available. For more information call, (215) 342-4222.

Saturday, May 18

NEWARK, N.J.: The 21st annual Heritage Ball will be held at Don's 21 Restaurant, 1034 McCarter Highway and Bridge Street. This unique event, a fund-raiser for the organizers of New Jersey's Heritage Festivals at the Garden State Arts Center in Holmdel, celebrates the gorgeous mosaic of ethnic groups in America. Cocktail begins at 6:30 p.m.; dinner follows. Enjoy a three-hour open bar and dance to the music of Os Primos, a Portuguese

band. Performances by a Chinese group and a Portuguese dance group are also scheduled. Guests will savor a roast beef prime au-jus dinner. Tickets: \$45 per person. Call Anne Banasewycz-Miele, (908) 699-9144, for more information. Wear your national costume and participate in the Parade of Ethnic Dress. NOTE: The Ukrainian Festival at Holmdel, N.J., will be held in September.

SCRANTON, Pa.: The Ukrainian Heritage Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania is conducting a bus trip to New York City, to the annual Ukrainian Festival on Seventh St., sponsored by St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church. This will be a day on your own in the "Big Apple." Participants may also attend the Ninth Avenue International Food Festival, the Greenwich Village Flea Market or even catch a Broadway show. The bus will leave from the Ukrainian Fraternal Association, 440 Wyoming Ave., at 10 a.m. and will depart from Manhattan at 10 p.m. Bus fare: \$20 per person. For reservations call Sophie Soniak, (717) 347-5050 or Rosemary Haberle, (717) 347-1735.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Sunday, June 30 - Saturday, July 20

KYIV: The State University of New York College at Brockport, in conjunction with the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, invites students of Ukrainian culture, history, economy, politics, arts and traditions to participate in "Ukrainian Experience," a three-week introductory interactive course on contemporary Ukraine conducted by SUNY-Brockport's Prof. Wolodymyr Pylyshenko in conjunction with UKMA faculty. Participants will live in Ukraine's capital and experience everyday life with today's Ukrainians. The course fee is approximately \$2,500; students can earn up to three credits towards their college requirements. For applications, write to: Office of International Education, SUNY College at Brockport, 101P The Rakov Center, Brockport, NY 14420. For further information call, (716) 395-2119; 1-800-298-SUNY, or Prof. Pylyshenko, (716) 637-4867 (evenings).

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Cleveland Cox45 Wed. 7:00 PM

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It is The Ukrainian Weekly's policy to run news items and/or reviews of newly published books, booklets and reprints, as well as records and premiere issues of periodicals, only after receipt by the editorial offices of a copy of the material in question.

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

Send new releases and information (where publication may be purchased, cost, etc.) to: The Editor, The Ukrainian Weekly, 30 Montgomery St., Jersey City, NJ 07302.

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