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Ukraine contemplates 10 years of life under Chornobyl's cloud



CHORNOBYL: THE FIRST DECADE (SPECIAL REPORTS CONTINUE ON PAGE 7.)

A boy lights a candle at a monument erected in Slavutych to the 30 firefighters and workers who died while trying to contain the fire at the Chornobyl nuclear power plant 10 years ago. (Photo by Efrem Lukatsky/AP)

by Marta Kolomayets

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Memorial services and moments of silence. Telethons and radio shows. Commemorative concerts and museum exhibits. Roundtables and conferences. Protests and press conferences. Medals of honor, coins of tribute and memorial monuments. Airlifts and agreements. These were just some of the ways Ukraine marked the 10th anniversary of the world's worst civil nuclear accident, the April 26, 1986, explosion at the Chornobyl nuclear plant, which rocked the planet.

In Ukraine, as in Belarus and Russia — the three countries that suffered and continue to suffer most from the radioactive particles which spewed from Chornobyl's reactor No. 4, contaminated the region and damaged the health of its inhabitants — April 26 was a day of mourning.

Blue-and-yellow-flags, adorned with black ribbons of mourning, flew on government buildings and private institutions, and the bells of Kyiv's churches tolled solemnly throughout the day, as Ukraine's citizens remembered the tragedy of the Chornobyl accident.

President Leonid Kuchma addressed the citizens of Ukraine on national televi-

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Helsinki Commission hears testimony on Chornobyl from diplomats, experts

by Khristina Lew

WASHINGTON — Diplomats and Chornobyl experts testified before the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe on April 23 that the United States could do more to help Ukraine and Belarus combat the consequences of the 1986 Chornobyl nuclear power plant explosion.

"The U.S. role in G-7 decisions is highly appreciated by us [Ukraine]. Furthermore, out of \$225 million allocated by the U.S. government for fiscal year 1996, \$50 million to \$70 million are to be used for energy sector and nuclear safety programs... Still, I want to say frankly that we consider such assistance for Chornobyl-related programs insufficient," Ukrainian Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak said.

The Helsinki Commission hearing, scheduled to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the Chornobyl disaster, examined testimony from Dr. Shcherbak, Belarusian Ambassador Serguei Martynov, Georgetown University demographer Murray Feshbach and Alexander Kuzma, director of development at the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund.

Rep. Christopher Smith (R-N.J.), chairman of the Helsinki Commission, told the witnesses that the commission would "energize Congress to be more proactive

with Chornobyl in fiscal year 1997."

Mr. Smith, who is also a member of the International Relations Committee, asked Ambassadors Martynov and Shcherbak to provide the commission with a list of their respective countries' humanitarian needs, and reminded the diplomats that while "the administration has the foreign policy lead, we're the purse strings." Rep. Frank R. Wolf (R-Va.), the other Helsinki commissioner who attended the hearing, is a high-ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Dr. Shcherbak, who as a deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet initiated the first parliamentary investigation of the Chornobyl disaster, explained that Ukraine faces four problems with the shutdown of the Chornobyl nuclear power plant: restructuring its energy sector (the Chornobyl nuclear power plant provides 7 percent of the country's electricity); constructing a new sarcophagus, which is estimated at \$2 billion; disposing of the 800 radioactive storage sites located on the territory of the 30-kilometer zone; and finding jobs for the 6,000 workers at the Chornobyl plant.

The ambassador said Ukraine needs international assistance in "making up a plan for Ukraine's energy independence,

(Continued on page 18)

United Nations recalls disaster with conference, concert, exhibit

by Roman Woronowycz

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations commemorated 10 years since the Chornobyl disaster with a two-day conference, held April 25-26, that dealt with both toxic waste and the legacy of Chornobyl. The Belarusian and Ukrainian Missions also observed the anniversary with musical performances on April 25 and a photo and art exhibit sponsored by Ukraine.

The conference titled "Health and the Environment: Global Partners for Global Solutions" was sponsored by World Information Transfer Inc., a non-governmental organization associated with the U. N. that promotes environmental literacy, and the Lebanese Mission to the U.N.

The meeting drew more than 500 scientists, environmentalists and non-governmental organization activists who were gathered for the annual meeting of U.N. NGOs, and political leaders from Ukraine and Lebanon. Also present in the conference hall were dozens of high school students there to observe the proceedings.

Overshadowing the conference was the Lebanese-Israeli conflict, which caused the Lebanese ambassador to cut short his remarks at the conference's opening and excuse himself from participation.

Ambassador Samir Moubarak said he saw tragic irony in that the Lebanese minister of health would give the keynote speech later that day on Lebanese efforts to rebuild its country after devastation by war and civil strife on a day when the country was again being torn apart.

The conflict also unexpectedly changed the venue for a performance by the Odessa Philharmonic of Ukraine. The 100-plus member orchestra with its U.S.-reared conductor, Hobart Earle, originally had been scheduled to play in the General Assembly hall that evening, but had to be moved to the visitors lobby after an emergency session of the General Assembly was called earlier in the day.

IAEA unyielding

At the conference the International Atomic Energy Agency continued to maintain that only 30 people died in the days immediately after the Chornobyl fires. Berhanykun Andemicael, IAEA representative to the U.N., reiterated that merely 28 had died of acute radiation exposure, two more from other causes, in the immediate days after the explosion, and that 14 more have died since, but not all of radiation poisoning.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Kuchma addresses Council of Europe

STRASBOURG — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, addressing the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly on April 23, said Ukraine aims to become a full-fledged member of the European Union, Reuters reported. Mr. Kuchma also reiterated that NATO should not be enlarged without taking Russia's interests into account, but he added he is not opposed to the alliance's expansion. He noted that creating a nuclear-free zone in Eastern Europe would have a stabilizing effect on European developments. He called upon the international community to help finance the resettlement of minority groups who were deported by Stalin and now want to return to their former homelands in Ukraine. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Court orders "Pisliamova" reinstatement

KYIV — The municipal arbitrage court on April 26 ordered the State Television Company of Ukraine to renew broadcasts of the popular weekly news-magazine "Pisliamova" on UT-1. The court said the company had breached a contract with Nova Mova, a private television producer. Oleksander Tkachenko, president of Nova Mova, said the court's ruling meant "Pisliamova" should be reinstated to its regular Sunday, 8 p.m., time-slot. However, according to Mr. Tkachenko, this was unlikely, because the circumstances surrounding the cancellation of "Pisliamova" last year involved extralegal influences beyond the court's enforcement powers. (Respublika)

Reports of Yandarbiyev's death were false

KYIV — Previous reports of the death, in clan fighting, of Chechen President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, by ITAR-TASS and other Russian news media, are totally untrue and merely propaganda, said Maria Bezeliuk, head of the Ukrainian Committee of the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations, on April 30. Ms. Bezeliuk told the Ukrainian media she spoke with Mr. Yandarbiyev on April 29 at 7 p.m., well after Russian media had reported his death. "The president of Chechnya is alive and determined to bring the matter of independence to a victorious end," said Ms. Bezeliuk. The Associated Press reported similarly on May 2 that Mr. Yandarbiyev had met with reporters and had given a clandestine television broadcast together with Aslan Maskhadov, military commander of Chechen forces. Russian analysts had predicted a power struggle between the two men following Gen. Dzhokhar Dudayev's death and had seized upon earlier reports of Mr. Yandarbiyev's death in an attempt at proving this theory. Like Gen. Dudayev, Mr. Yandarbiyev has indicated the war cannot end as long as Russian troops remain in Chechnya. (Respublika/The New York Times)

"Shock therapy" outwitted by crafty felons

ODESSA — Local merchants and residents have become so frustrated by a spate of break-ins that some recently decided to take matters into their own hands, local media reported on May 1. One workshop posted a sign on its entrance reading, "Citizen-thieves! The lock is electrified to 220 volts. Utilize every safety precaution, including rubber gloves, while breaking in. The management will accept no complaints." This shocking attempt at deterrence, however, was totally neutralized by the fact that power is cut off locally for one hour daily, during which time local low-lives broke in to the workshop in question and burglarized it. (Svoboda)

Police quash anti-Lukashenka demonstrations



Associated Press

Demonstrators throw stones at militia during an unauthorized rally in Miensk on April 26 following a march to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

MIENSK — A protest here on April 26 in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster turned ugly as Belarusian riot police bloodily beat participants, international agencies reported on April 26-27.

The rally, not sanctioned by the government, quickly turned into an outpouring of opposition to Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's seeming abandonment of his state's national sovereignty in forging a new union with Russia, said OMRI Daily Digest on April 29.

Protestors called on Mr. Lukashenka to resign after "betraying the country by belittling the Chernobyl accident." The demonstrators clashed with police and many were admitted to local hospitals with injuries. Local reports by the independent news agency Belapan indicated that Russian riot police units took part in the beatings and arrests of civilians during the demonstration.

Some 200 persons were arrested. People's Deputies Pavel Znavets, Alyaksandr Dabravolsky, former Chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Council Stanislau Shushkevich and a number of journalists, including Uladzimir Dzyuba of Belarusian Radio and Radio Liberty correspondent Edward Tarletski, were taken into custody during the demonstration, said Respublika on April 28. Also held were Vintsyuk Vyachorka and Yuriy Khadyka, leaders of the Belarusian Popular Front (BPF).

The Belarusian authorities not only violated the domestic law on parliamentary immunity, they extended the scope of arrests to encompass foreign citizens. Seventeen Ukrainians, members of Rukh and the Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian National Self-Defense, were arrested, as was UNA-UNSO People's Deputy Yuriy Tyma, taken off the Kyiv-Miensk train in the southern Belarusian town of Baranovychi on April 26 and released the following day.

Ukrainian Television correspondent

Natalia Chanhuli was among those held. She was freed on April 29 after intervention by the Ukrainian Embassy, Respublika said that day.

Commenting on the demonstrations, an embassy counselor confirmed that Russian OMON riot police took part in the beatings and arrests of participants, according to Respublika. The Foreign Ministry of Ukraine indicated that release of some UNA-UNSO members held in Miensk was being delayed because those arrested were speaking only Ukrainian to Russian-speaking investigators, Reuters reported on April 30.

Many of those held were subsequently tried and convicted, in jail cell proceedings without benefit of counsel, of "petty hooliganism" and face 15 days, confinement, said Vsieukrayinskiye Viedomosti on April 30. A large number were forced to sign blank confessions, after undergoing interrogation and deprivation of food and water, according to the same report.

On May 1, the BPF called on its sup-

porters to stay home and away from the officially sanctioned May Day rally in the city center. At the rally, Communists and trade union officials called for a quick resolution of the economic crisis in Belarus, reported Deutsche Presse Agentur that day.

Disregarding BPF calls to ignore the May Day rally, up to 8,000 nationalists, mostly students and young people who had joined a march to the demonstration by the Belarusian Social Democratic Hramada, reiterated demands that Mr. Lukashenka resign, said Belapan.

More arrests were made in the vicinity of the May Day rally, although the numbers were unclear. Belapan reported that some persons at both the May 1 and April 26 rallies were taken into custody by Interior Ministry troops for addressing the authorities in Belarusian.

Official Belarusian Television reports from May 1 portrayed the nationalist participants of the April 26 and May Day demonstrations as a pack of drunken students and pensioners with too much time on their hands, said Belapan that day.

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Ukraine contemplates...

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sion in the evening of April 25, declaring that the Chernobyl accident was a "disaster of global proportions" and that "its aftermath can only be eliminated by joint efforts of many nations."

He again explained that Ukraine must rely on financial aid from the West if it is to close the nuclear power plant north of Kyiv by the end of this century.

And, he commended the citizens of Ukraine who dealt with the consequences of the accident for "courage, selflessness and patience."

On April 26, President Kuchma presented government medals and awards to those individuals who helped with the initial clean-up of the accident. Six persons were honored posthumously. Thirteen persons were awarded the Cross for Courage, five persons the Bohdan Khmelnytsky Order (third degree) and 18 were given the presidential badge of honor. Several participants in the clean-up effort were conferred the title of "merited worker."

During the Ukrainian Parliament's morning plenary session on this 10th anniversary of the accident, the legislators bowed their heads in a moment of tribute to the victims of Chernobyl.

Also that day U.S. Ambassador William Green Miller and Yuriy Kostenko, Ukraine's minister of environmental protection and nuclear safety, signed a memorandum on creation of an International Chernobyl Center for Nuclear Safety, Radioactive Wastes and Radio Ecology.

With promises of \$3 million of U.S. investment, Mr. Kostenko noted that the objectives of the center will be to "outline absolutely new approaches to the use of nuclear power engineering, phasing out nuclear power units which have run out their service, the future of the sarcophagus and the problems involved in the Chernobyl exclusion zone."

Ukrainian state television aired a two-

day telethon to raise money for children suffering from Chernobyl-related illnesses, showing footage from the reactor right after the explosion and interviews with leading political, cultural figures as well as people involved in the disaster clean-up.

The National Bank of Ukraine on April 26 issued two denominations of coins commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, one with a value of 2 million karbovantsi (\$10), the other for 200,000 karbovantsi (\$1), respectively. All profit from sales of the 10,000 coins minted will go toward financing the liquidation of the consequences of the accident.

The Chernobyl Museum, located in Kyiv's Podil neighborhood, was awarded the status of a national museum by the Ukrainian government on April 26. Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk, attending a special meeting at the museum, read a presidential decree upgrading the museum, which contains more than 50,000 items and papers relating to Chernobyl.

"This is a unique, historical-cultural and socio-political institution of Ukraine, reflecting the global character of the Chernobyl disaster and the heroic feat of people who proved to be able to harness the atom, which had gone out of control," said the Ukrainian premier.

He told the audience gathered at the museum that over the last 10 years Chernobyl had claimed 167,653 lives in Ukraine. He also said that 3.2 million people in Ukraine are victims of the accident and suffer from poor health and Chernobyl-related illnesses.

A monument to servicemen who took part in the April 1986 clean-up was unveiled in Kyiv on April 25. Sculpted in the form of a granite obelisk under a metal frame crowned with a cross to symbolize the dome of a church, the monument was consecrated by hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Kyiv Patriarchate.

Some 100 relatives of the first people

(Continued on page 17)

Belarusian, Ukrainian and Russian ambassadors speak on Chernobyl

by Kristina Lew

WASHINGTON — The ambassadors of the three countries most affected by radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant explosion held a press conference marking the 10th anniversary of the disaster at the National Press Club on April 24.

News of the April 23 brushfires in the abandoned village of Tovsty Lis, located in the 30-kilometer zone surrounding the Chernobyl plant in Ukraine, dominated the proceedings. According to Ukrainian Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak, five hectares of forest and five hectares of stubble burned, raising radioactivity in the area slightly, to 45 microrentgens per hour. In Kyiv, the normal level of radioactivity is 16-18 microrentgens per hour.

Ambassador Shcherbak, Belarusian Ambassador Serguei Martynov and Russian Federation Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov issued a joint statement calling for expanded international cooperation in alleviating the consequences of the 1986 disaster at Chernobyl, and detailed how the explosion affected each of their countries.

In Ukraine, radioactive fallout contaminated 50,000 square kilometers of land and exposed 2.6 million people, 700,000 of them children, to above normal levels of radiation. Over 142,000 people were resettled after the explosion. The Soviet government spent over \$10 billion combating the consequences of Chernobyl, while independent Ukraine has spent an additional \$3 billion, five times the country's budget expenses for health care, culture and public education.

In Belarus, which received 70 percent of the radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl explosion, 2 million people, among them 500,000 children, live in over

3,000 settlements located in contaminated territory. More than 400 settlements were abandoned after the explosion, and 600 schools and kindergartens were closed. The government evacuated 131,000 people from the areas most contaminated. Only 1 percent of Belarusian land is considered "clean" of radioactive contamination. Since the disaster, the economic damage incurred by Belarus equals 32 annual budgets of the republic, or \$235 billion.

In Russia, 60,000 square kilometers of land, inhabited by 3 million people, 600,000 of them children, suffered radioactive contamination. Over 163,000 people were evacuated, and the government decommissioned 300,000 square kilometers of land. In 1992-1995, the Russian government earmarked \$3 billion to ameliorate the consequences of Chernobyl.

All three countries have registered an increase in Chernobyl-related illness. According to Ambassador Martynov, Belarus is experiencing a "negative growth of population." He explained, "There are less Belarusians on the earth each year, and Chernobyl is the reason."

Dr. Shcherbak said that, according to Ukrainian Ministry of Health and Greenpeace statistics, 8,000 to 32,000 people have died as a result of Chernobyl. He explained the often wide discrepancies in statistics concerning Chernobyl-related deaths as "not maliciousness, but a result of the exceptional complexity of the disaster, multiple factors and unpredictability."

The three ambassadors said their countries cooperate closely on joint Chernobyl-related projects and hope to expand cooperation on an international level, particularly in the area of underground water contamination. In mid-April parliamentarians of all three countries met to discuss strengthening ties in order to solve Chernobyl problems.

U.S. government-sponsored airlift lands in Kyiv with \$11.1 M in aid

by Marta Kolomayets

Kyiv Press Bureau

BORYSPIL, Ukraine — An Antonov -124 cargo plane (Ruslan) laden with humanitarian aid — including pharmaceutical products and medical supplies — arrived at Kyiv's International Airport at noon on April 25.

Sponsored by the U.S. government, this relief mission to help victims who suffer from the consequences of the April 1986 explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant was planned in observance of the 10th anniversary of the world's worst civil nuclear accident.

Similar aid missions to Belarus and Moldova on April 23 and April 27, respectively, were also conducted to help Chernobyl victims.

The mission — which included the participation of such private organizations as the Short Hills, N.J.-based Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund and various private companies — combined the efforts of the government and private sectors to provide donations to those who continue to need medical care.

Greeting the airlift earmarked for Ukraine on the sunny Thursday afternoon, Ambassador Richard Morningstar, special adviser to President Bill Clinton and the secretary of state for assistance to the NIS, read Mr. Clinton's letter to President Leonid Kuchma:

"I would like to take this opportunity to express my condolences to the individuals and families who are still suffering from the devastating effects of Chernobyl. You and your fellow Ukrainians who are working to prevent the occurrence of such a disaster have my deep respect, admiration and support. The United States fully supports your efforts to prevent another tragedy like Chernobyl. This is a goal of the highest order. Our endeavors today will benefit, not only current, but future generations of Ukrainians and people everywhere," President Clinton noted.

Also greeting the airlift were U.S. Ambassador William Green Miller, who helped cut the ribbon at the unloading ceremonies, and Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Vasyl Durdynets, who was the U.S. govern-

ment's contact in Ukraine.

"President Clinton's words, which we just heard, this airlift and various other actions exemplify the solidarity between the American and Ukrainian people, and underscores how deeply and sincerely our pain is felt by Americans. Today's mission offers very important political, moral and financial support, especially for those who have suffered because of Chernobyl," explained Mr. Durdynets, during a brief press conference on the airfield.

Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund President Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky and the chairman of the board, Joseph

A. Vena, as well as Monsanto Co. representative Robert Noels were also on hand for this historic occasion, as was Valerie Burachinsky, CCRF cargo coordinator, who arrived on what Ambassador Morningstar called the "biggest plane I've ever seen in my life."

"This assistance that is being provided is given by the United States government as well as private individuals and the private sector; \$11.1 million of medical supplies, drugs and pharmaceuticals are being delivered today to the victims of Chernobyl. I would like to thank

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U.S. and Ukrainian officials cut the ribbon during the unloading of a humanitarian aid shipment sponsored by the U.S. government to mark the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Healing Chornobyl's wound

"Chornobyl is an intolerably painful and unhealed wound of the Ukrainian people, a symbol of the global disaster that knows no border... a long-standing and universal tragedy." — President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine, in his message on the 10th anniversary of the accident at the Chornobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine.

Last week, Ukrainian communities, joined by their neighbors, as well as such institutions as the United Nations and the U.S. Congress, marked the 10th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear accident. There were speeches, prayer services, vigils, concerts, exhibits, etc. — all in an effort to tell the world that Chornobyl's aftereffects will continue for decades to come. Now, when all is said and done, when all the sad statistics have been recited and studied, it's time to look at the individuals affected, the liquidators, the evacuees and, above all, the children.

In this issue of The Weekly, Dr. David Marples, author of three books on the Chornobyl disaster, notes that, "It is among children that the main medical impact of Chornobyl has been revealed." He notes that Prof. Dilwyn Williams, professor of histopathology at Cambridge University, recently commented on CBC Radio that, in his view, all children living in contaminated regions today (Belarus, Ukraine and Russia) are at high risk of contracting thyroid gland cancer.

Writing in The Nation on April 29, Harvey Wasserman, senior adviser to Greenpeace USA, also cited Dr. Williams' work. The British specialist, who is also president of the European Thyroid Association, predicts that thyroid cancer will strike 40 percent of the children downwind from Chornobyl who were less than a year old when exposed to radiation. "I have done some sums: on future cancer deaths, and 'the answers terrify me,'" Prof. Williams told Mr. Wasserman.

And the incidence of thyroid cancer is just one measure of the deadly fallout.

Thus, the future appears to offer no respite from Chornobyl's tragic effects. With our anniversary events largely over, it is time to move on and help those who are suffering, to act to ease their pain.

How can we do this? By donating money, time and effort to the various organizations involved in Chornobyl relief. Whether that is the best known group, the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund, or a lesser known effort, like the Ukrainian American Veterans' Adopt-a-Hospital Program, doesn't matter. And, don't forget groups like the very powerful Ukrainian National Women's League of America and its UNWLA Chornobyl Fund, or the Ukrainian Fraternal Association's program to outfit a hospital in Pushcha Vodytsia, just outside of Kyiv, which treats children affected by Chornobyl. Then there is the Canadian Children of Chornobyl Fund and its affiliate, Help Us Help the Children. The choice is yours.

Let us not forget to help the suffering children of Chornobyl: all of Ukraine's children. We can help heal Ukraine's wound, and we can help its young generations secure a better tomorrow.

Or, as another president, Bill Clinton, said in his message on the occasion of the somber anniversary we are observing this year: "Let us renew our solemn pledge to promote healing, ensure prevention and offer hope."

A notice to our correspondents

Due to Chornobyl anniversary commemorations and the sheer volume of materials we expect to receive from communities throughout the United States and Canada, and beyond, we ask your cooperation in submitting concise news stories and good-quality photos as soon as possible. In order to expedite placement of news stories, we ask that all materials relating to Chornobyl anniversary observances materials be submitted to The Ukrainian Weekly's editorial offices no later than May 20. Materials will be published as space allows. Thank you for your cooperation.

May
6
1840

Turning the pages back...

Mykola Petrov, one of the first scholars in the Russian empire to write about Ukrainian literature, was born in Voznesenskoye, Kostroma gubernia, in Russia on May 6, 1840. Having graduated from the Kyiv Theological Academy in 1865, he taught at the Volhynian Theological Seminary (until 1870) and then at his alma mater (until 1911), where he established and directed its Church History and Archaeological Museum. He became a full professor there in 1876, with doctorates in theology (1875) and Russian language and literature (1907).

Initially, Petrov focused on the literary scholarship and writing at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, then broadened his purview to studies of Ukrainian literature as a whole in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Petrov wrote a pioneering work on the history of Ukrainian literature as a "self-sufficient branch." Individual writers whose works he analyzed included Hryhoriy Skovoroda, Ivan Kotliarevsky and Nikolai Gogol (Mykola Hohol).

As an ethnographer, he devoted articles to the folkloric elements in Gogol's early works, Ukrainian songs and legends, Ukrainian folk celebrations, old theater and vertep traditions.

He was a full member of the Ukrainian Scientific Society (1907), the Shevchenko Scientific Society (1911) and the All-Ukrainian Academy of Sciences (1918), and a corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences (from 1916). Mykola Petrov died in Kyiv on June 20, 1921.

Source: "Petrov, Mykola," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vol. 3 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993).

ANALYSIS: Constitutional debate begins in Ukraine's Parliament

by Markian Bilynskyj

On April 17 the Supreme Council finally began to debate in plenary session the draft constitution of Ukraine approved by the Constitutional Committee. The rancorous debate on what is essentially a modified presidential draft begged comparison with the futile military campaigns of World War I: heavy barrages of rhetoric and frontal verbal assaults against the opposition's well-established positions and convictions — with little or no progress. A genuine compromise continues to lie somewhere out there in political no-man's-land.

The week ended with the Parliament voting to create a compromise, or accord, committee — no easy task in itself — that will attempt to resolve the outstanding differences when the session resumes.

A temporary, unofficial initiative group consisting of 10 Parliament factions — minus the Agrarians and Communists but with the Socialists participating as observers — had in fact already gone a long way toward reconciling the majority of the draft's provisions. But a highly charged meeting of the Supreme Council's presidium on the eve of the session focusing on the procedure for reviewing the draft confirmed that the floor debate would be far from temperate.

Convinced that developments in the Russian presidential campaign can only bolster their domestic position, the Communists tried to delay the proceedings. On the morning of the constitutional debate, they refused to register — thus preventing a plenary quorum — unless the approximately 60 deputies simultaneously holding positions in the executive branch (and sure to vote for the official draft) were stripped of their parliamentary mandates. (This step had originally been used by the center-right just after this Parliament was elected in 1994 to block the then more monolithic left. The tactic had then been referred to as "constructive destruction.") They were persuaded to register only when Parliament Chairman Oleksander Moroz proposed a compromise in the form of a letter to President Kuchma asking him to explain his stance on the matter by May 20.

(The Communist argument, which draws upon the Constitutional Agreement, is not without merit. Their opponents counter that the sanction should also apply to the left, many of whom double as enterprise directors and heads of collective farms. Neither side has been willing to concede anything on the matter. And with the constitutional debate raising the stakes, a compromise seems even further away.)

Essentially, the Parliament decided to treat the draft constitution as an ordinary piece of legislation. Procedure, therefore, required that it first examine the four alternative draft constitutions, including one from the Communists as well as the 1993 draft constitution (re)introduced by a social-democratic deputy. But the official draft was always the principal point of reference. Among the major points of contention were: the form and function of the Parliament, particularly whether it should be a uni- or bicameral body; the role of the presidency; the correct legal definition for the population of Ukraine; the status of the Russian language; and whether the constitution should contain references to rights versus guarantees in, for example, health, education and employment.

At present, the most likely scenario for the constitution's adoption is that following approval by the Supreme Council (by a straight majority vote) it will then, in con-

Markian Bilynskyj is director of the Pylpy Orlyk Institute for Democracy based in Kyiv.

sultation with the president over the wording, go to a national referendum. However, it is not at all clear yet how many readings the draft will require to win the Parliament's approval. That President Leonid Kuchma is preparing for such an eventuality became clear three weeks ago when he instructed the Regional Council, consisting of the powerful oblast council chairmen, to intensify public awareness efforts. Two weeks ago the president also issued a decree creating a committee charged with explaining the draft's content to the population. Government sources claim that hundreds of citizens' groups have already formed spontaneously and are actively debating the official draft (despite the fact that the final version of that draft has not yet been agreed to).

Under the scenario currently taking shape, any draft constitution will require 209 votes to progress beyond the Parliament. While more attainable than the 301 votes that a constitutional majority would have required, this total might still prove difficult to reach. The working compromise reached by 10 factions within the unofficial initiative group should transfer more or less intact to the compromise committee. But it will still require an unprecedented show of discipline on their part to deliver the necessary vote, particularly with some of the center/left-center factions, such as the Interregional Group and the Independents, wavering.

The nature of the coalition supporting the official draft is, as has always been the case on important issues, very conditional. Many center-right deputies appear to be siding with the president principally because — although they believe his draft is far from ideal — it is, as the work of the Parliament initiative group has shown, open to revision. Moreover, even given the weaknesses of the provisions on human rights, the judiciary and, most strikingly, local government, the official draft is much more palatable than the left's alternative.

Coalition politics make the potential role of Chairman Moroz significant. He recently spent a week in the hospital, reportedly recovering from acute hypertension. Some commentators argued that Mr. Moroz's indisposition had more to do with politics than with his health. Interestingly in this regard, at the end of that week the Socialists became observers in the initiative group, thus signaling that perhaps a sufficient number of them might, at Mr. Moroz's prompting, eventually throw their weight behind the official draft. That this might happen was suggested very strongly by the events on April 20 when the more radical Socialists split away from Mr. Moroz's wing to form the Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine.

It is difficult at present to see the Communists and Agrarians conceding anything. In fact, there appears to be a growing opinion among the left that the ideal option would be for the constitutional process to become bogged down to the point where the president might be provoked into dismissing the Parliament; the argument being that should parliamentary elections be held later this year — or early next — the left would make considerable gains. But it is unlikely that the Kuchma administration would swallow such bait. Moreover, the administration realizes that given current social and political realities, the Parliament must be seen to be an integral part of the formalities in order to enhance the legitimacy of the constitutional process, and, hence, of whatever draft is eventually adopted. Thus, if the constitutional debate becomes deadlocked and the needed vote proves impossible to achieve,

(Continued on page 16)

FOR THE RECORD: CEEC on Russian Duma resolution

Following is the full text of the Central and East European Coalition's statement opposing the Russian Duma resolution on restoration of the USSR. It was released on March 31.

The Central and East European Coalition (CEEC), composed of 18 national organizations representing over 22 million Americans of Central and East European heritage, strongly objects to the resolution adopted by the State Duma of the Russian Federation, "On extending the integration that constituted the USSR..." As representatives of national organizations concerned with the plight of the new democracies within that region of the world, the Russian Resolution further propagates a pattern of rhetoric that disregards generally recognized principles and norms of international law.

Russia's hope to revive the former unified "union" state does not have any legal grounds and does not meet the realities of the political situation which has evolved, both in the independent countries which previously comprised the former USSR, and in the world community as a whole. Arguments from the West perceive this matter as an entirely Russian "internal affair" that holds no extra-territorial jurisdiction, though its intentions hold a high quality of intimidation for Russia's neighbors.

Words of condemnation from leaders of the world express the international consequences of this decision as an act of provo-

cation aimed directly against the sovereignty of the states of the former Soviet Union. The vote reflects the platform of the Russian Communist Party, which received a strong backing in the December elections, and is presently favored in the presidential elections in June.

The vote further raises fears that the lower parliament resolution may direct a more forceful Russian foreign policy aimed at the Central and East European countries. Rising nationalism in Russia could once again lead the state to exert its hegemony over the entire region, therefore, unilateral attempts to change the political status of the NIS countries undermine their sovereignty and independence. The dissolution of the Soviet Union and the former Soviet Bloc came as a result of the political will of the countries, as demonstrated through peaceful demonstrations, national referendums, and free parliamentary and presidential elections.

Though the resolution has no legal consequences for the Central and East European countries, it must be underscored that the legislative body of Russia has shown its vision for the future. Any deliberate intention to re-institute the USSR would pose a threat to the entire world. The CEEC is not content in accepting Russian President Yeltsin's assertions that "this resolution is nonsense and nothing will come of it." The issue remains to be the threat of totalitarianism, which affects the national security interests of the United States and the world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Weekly is much appreciated in Oman

Dear Editor:

I have been one of your "on and off" subscribers for a number of years, having moved between several Middle East countries since 1980. It is always a treat to get The Weekly, though it does come in quite irregularly - often in bunches.

All in all, I am quite happy with your product and always look forward to getting the latest news about Ukrainian life, both in Ukraine and in the diaspora.

It may come as a bit of a surprise to you that here, in the Sultanate of Oman, we do get fairly good coverage of things Ukrainian, together with excellent worldwide news coverage by the two daily (English-language) newspapers and the local Arabic TV, as well as satellite TV coverage, both the BBC World Service and CNN.

A relevant question regarding Ukraine

Dear Editor:

Although I did not intend to write again on this subject, the many comments that were made as a result of my initial letter obviously show that I touched a raw nerve within the Ukrainian Canadian community. I am grateful for the support of Prof. D.H. Struk, who clearly understands the situation.

Many readers subsequently commented that there is a significant difference between Quebec and Halychyna under Poland or Quebec and Ukraine under Russia, because Quebec "is permitted" to do a lot of things that Ukraine "was not permitted" to do. However, in both

I have tried my bit to popularize the Ukrainian cause here in Oman, both at work and in government circles. When Leonid Kuchma, who was then the prime minister, came here on an official tour in the spring of 1993, the local news media gave the event unusually broad publicity, with many people first becoming aware of Ukraine. This applies primarily to the various expats living here, mainly the British. Unfortunately, the Ukrainians did not follow up with the great contacts they had made and later also fumbled the various expected diplomatic protocols, thus showing themselves to be a very inexperienced, "third world" country.

For the time being, best wishes in your very important work. I hope nobody thinks of stopping publication of The Weekly, similar to the closing of the UNA Washington Office.

Bohdan Trylowsky
Al Khod, Sultanate of Oman

cases, somebody (a master) gives or withholds such "permissions." A bird in a gilded cage is still a bird in captivity.

I have only one question for those who so strongly objected to my and Prof. Struk's opinions, namely: If Ukraine were permitted by Russia to do all the things that Quebec is permitted to do within Canada, would they then logically agree that, under such circumstances, Ukraine should be reunited with Russia?

This question is quite relevant today, since Belarus has just concluded a close union with Russia and, as is the case of Quebecers within Canada, the majority of Ukrainians would probably have a better standard of living in such a union with Russia than they have in independent Ukraine.

George Primak
Pierrefonds, Quebec

CANADA COURIER

by Christopher Guly



Newly named bishop reflects youth

A year ago, the Rev. Stephen Soroka experienced some of the clerical stresses he studied 11 years ago during his doctoral program in social work at Catholic University of America in Washington.

While serving as chancellor and "economy" (financial administrator) of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg, the 44-year-old priest also doubled as pastor of St. Anne's Church in Winnipeg's North Kildonan district.

"My blood pressure started going up and that was a good warning for me to slow down," he recently said over the telephone from his archeparchial office.

His boss, Archbishop-Metropolitan Michael Bzdel, helped by appointing the burly, six-foot-two-inch Rev. Soroka as his full-time chancellor.

"I guess it became a matter of practicing what I preach," laughed the Rev. Soroka in recalling the stress his workload offered him. "But then I had to adjust to leaving the 360 families in my parish."

In 1985, the Winnipeg-born priest completed a thesis that examined organizational stress in the ministry. Of 15 contributing factors to stress, the Rev. Soroka identified five major ones. Among them: the pressures of often having to make life-changing decisions; role ambiguity and the lack of clarity in knowing what's expected of a cleric; work overload from both quantitative and qualitative factors (fulfilling a role one may not be especially qualified for); the absence of social support; and a lack of affirmation and acceptance from one's church.

On April 17, Metropolitan Bzdel, who has recently suffered a more physical kind of stress resulting from recent quintuple bypass heart surgery, received a bit of a respite on the overload front himself.

That day, his bearded social worker-chancellor was named his auxiliary bishop.

When the Rev. Soroka received the news from the apostolic pro-nuncio's office in Ottawa a week earlier, he was more surprised than stressed.

"I never would have guessed this would happen at my age," he said. "Maybe when I would be in my mid-60s."

Naming a man as young as the Rev. Soroka to the episcopacy in the Canadian Ukrainian Catholic Church has been a

rarity in recent decades. Two of the its seven octogenarian bishops, in fact, were appointed at even younger ages: Toronto's Isidore Borecky, when he was 36 in 1948, and Metropolitan-emeritus Maxim Hermaniuk - who ordained the Rev. Soroka in 1982 - in 1951 when he was 39.

Looking at it another way, Bishop-designate Soroka will have 31 years before he will have to resign at the mandatory age of 75. (But even that's not a sure thing, as evidenced by Bishop Borecky's unwavering control of the Toronto eparchy at the age of 84.) Yet, having a younger bishop in Winnipeg will undoubtedly lead to change - at the very least, in attitudes. And the Rev. Soroka is already making progress on that front.

During our conversation, he said that he will revert to the birth-spelling of his first name to Stefan. When he is consecrated in Ss. Vladimir and Olga Cathedral on Thursday, June 13, the service will be held in the evening.

Despite the tradition of having weekday consecrations, the ceremony has typically been held in the afternoon to allow for an evening banquet. Not this time.

"I think people have been banqueted to death," said Bishop-designate Soroka. "Besides, people can't afford to pay to attend a dinner." So, he will host a post-consecration wine-and-cheese in the cathedral basement to facilitate guest mingling.

The soon-to-be-bishop has also thought about handling some of the social effects his office may create. "I have good friends who will kick me in the derriere if I let it get to my head," he explained.

The Rev. Soroka's twin brother, Joseph, who works as a Winnipeg police officer, said he is not entirely surprised by his brother's promotion. "He was always inclined toward the Church, but I think he will do fine, since he's done pretty good so far."

Becoming bishop means the Rev. Soroka will also have to assume new duties. The financial administration side will likely become the responsibility of a layperson in the archeparchy, while the new prelate becomes vicar-general.

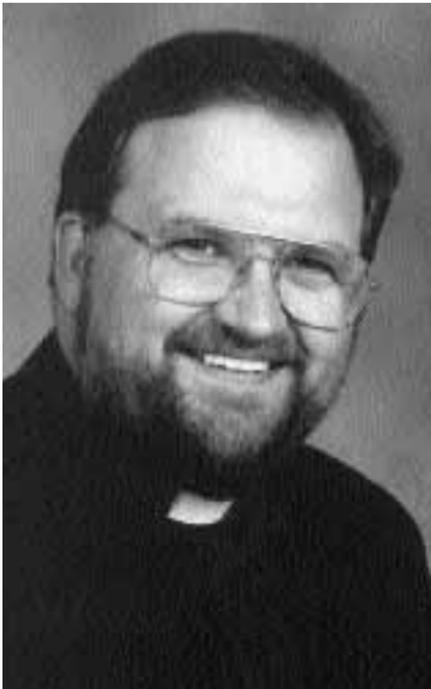
Again, he will have to balance his obligations and avoid stress.

But with the average age of the 73 priests in the Manitoba Archeparchy hovering in the 60s, there isn't much flexibility in handling the task of ministering to 130 parishes and missions. There could be some hope, however, Bishop-designate Soroka supports the idea of married priests. He stopped at commenting on women priests. ("I want to be consecrated," he joked.)

The Rev. Soroka explained that his pastor at Ss. Vladimir and Olga, now-retired and married Rev. Roman Kysilewski, had a major influence on his opinion.

"He told me there were limitations to his priesthood," said the bishop-designate. "I understand that, because I looked after my dad before he died a few years ago. I still feel guilty that I didn't spend enough time with him.

"So, I know it would be difficult for me to balance the demands of serving people in my parish with meeting the needs of family. But it can be done, and others have been successful."



The Rev. Stephen Soroka

OBITUARIES

Ivan Teslia, geographer/demographer

TORONTO — Dr. Ivan Teslia, noted geographer and demographer, died here on April 10. He was 93.

Born on August 19, 1902, in Nastasiv, Ternopil county, in Galicia, Dr. Teslia obtained his Ph.D. from Lviv University in 1939, where he served as a research associate in the Institute of Geophysics and Meteorology in 1932-1939, and published a basic text on Ukrainian geography in 1938.

During the second world war, Dr. Teslia served as one of the heads of the Krakow-based Ukrainian Central Committee's Education Department emphasizing the revival of local Ukrainian schools in Galicia, and the provision of vocational courses.

Dr. Teslia also lectured on climatology and meteorology at the Ukrainian Free University in Prague and, after the Soviet occupation of the city in 1945, in Munich. He emigrated to Canada in 1948.

In 1949, Dr. Teslia acted as one of the co-founders of the Shevchenko Scientific Society's Canadian chapter, and served as its president in the 1960s.

Dr. Teslia became a specialist in the

demography of the Ukrainian population in Canada, printing a number of monographs on the subject, including "The Ukrainian Population in Canada: Settlement and Demographic Characteristics" (1957), "Ukrainske Naseleunia Kanady" (The Ukrainian Population of Canada, 1968), "The Ukrainian Canadians in 1971" (1976). He also assisted in the compilation of the official Canadian census of 1971.

As well, he was co-author of "Istorychnyi Atlas Ukrainy" (A Historical Atlas of Ukraine, 1980).

Funeral services were conducted at St. Demetrius Ukrainian Catholic Church on April 12, with burial at the Park Lawn Cemetery. Dr. Teslia is survived by his wife, Yulia; son, Yuriy, with his wife and children; son, Bohdan, and daughter, Maria.

Correction

In last week's obituary of Dokia Humenna, the writer's age was incorrectly given as 88. She was 92.

The Rev. William Wojciechowski, Orthodox pastor in Woonsocket

WOONSOCKET, R.I. — The Rev. William M. Wojciechowski, pastor of St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Woonsocket for the past six years, died on March 4 in Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston of cancer. He was 42 years old.

An active member of the local community, the Rev. Wojciechowski belonged to the Connecting for Children and Families organization, the Rhode

Island State Council for the Arts, the Rhode Island Fellowship of Orthodox Churches and the State Council of Churches. A conservatory trained musician, he played the French horn and viola, performing with the Cincinnati Civic Orchestra, the Akron University Orchestra and the Rhode Island College Symphony Orchestra.

(Continued on page 18)

Auxiliary bishop named for Winnipeg

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA — Winnipeg diocesan priest the Rev. Stephen Soroka was named auxiliary bishop for the Ukrainian Archeparchy of Winnipeg on April 17.

At 44, Bishop-designate Soroka is 21 years junior to the next-youngest Ukrainian Catholic bishop in Canada, Roman Danylak, 65, who serves as apostolic administrator of the Toronto Eparchy.

There are now seven active and retired Ukrainian Catholic bishops in Canada, including Toronto's Bishop Isidore Borecky, 84.

When Bishop Borecky was ordained to the episcopacy in 1948, he was only 36.

Recovering from quintuple bypass surgery he underwent last year, Winnipeg's Archbishop-Metropolitan Michael Bzdel told *The Weekly* he's "deliriously happy" and relieved the Holy See has given him some help. "I've been living on borrowed time," he said. "I will be turning 66 in July and will have nine years before my retirement during which Bishop-designate Soroka will be able to learn the ropes."

Since the Rev. Soroka was not named coadjutor archbishop with the right of succession, he could be assigned to any Ukrainian Catholic eparchy in the world.

Recently, the Rev. Soroka has served as chancellor and financial administrator of the Ukrainian Archeparchy of Winnipeg, which includes the province of Manitoba and also serves as the Metropolitanate for Ukrainian Catholics in Canada. As auxiliary bishop, he will become vicar-general, a post now held by the Rev. Jaropolk Radkewycz.

The Rev. Soroka was born in Winnipeg on November 13, 1951, and attended Immaculate Heart of Mary School (formerly St. Nicholas School) run by the Ukrainian Catholic Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. He was

ordained to the priesthood there on June 13, 1982.

Metropolitan Bzdel set June 13 — also the Feast of the Eucharist — as the tentative date for the Rev. Soroka's episcopal ordination in Winnipeg's Ss. Vladimir and Olga Cathedral, where he was ordained to the priesthood.

His three consecrators will include Metropolitan Bzdel, Metropolitan-emeritus Maxim Hermaniuk and newly consecrated Saskatoon Bishop Cornelius Pasichny, a Ukrainian-rite Basilian who recently served as pastor of St. Nicholas Church in Winnipeg.

The Rev. Soroka was once a parishioner at St. Nick's.

"He wanted Metropolitan Maxim to be there because he ordained him to the priesthood," said Archbishop-Metropolitan Bzdel. "Having the metropolitan there would complete the circle."

Metropolitan Hermaniuk is recovering from a broken hip he suffered last year.

Though he holds a bachelor's degree in sacred theology from the Catholic University of America, Bishop-elect Soroka carved his academic niche in the area of human behavior.

Studying the effects of stress on the clergy, he earned his master's degree in social work from the University of Manitoba in 1978 and received his doctorate in social work in 1985 from the Catholic University of America.

The Rev. Soroka has served in parishes in Manitoba. As well he served as a judge of the archdiocesan tribunal and director of vocations since 1984; he has been chancellor for the past two years.

The Ukrainian Archeparchy of Winnipeg has 33,500 members in 130 parishes and missions served by 42 priests, 19 deacons and 31 religious.

Archbishop-Metropolitan Bzdel, a Ukrainian-rite Redemptorist, has led the

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Boston charitable foundation ships 3,000 pounds of aid to Ukraine

BOSTON — The Rev. John Danylevich Foundation Inc. at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Boston shipped 3,000 pounds of much-needed aid to Ukraine on February 27.

Father Danylevich had built the St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Boston in 1958, as well as the Ukrainian Orthodox churches in Millville, N.J., Syracuse, N.Y., and Cleveland, and served parishes in Bakerton, Pa., Herkimer, N.Y., and St. Volodymyr Cathedral in New York City.

The Rev. Danylevich had a great love for the Ukrainian people, but due to illness, he was physically unable to continue serving the Ukrainian community. In the autumn of 1990, while at a convalescent home, the Rev. Danylevich gave his children, Irene, Angelina, the Rev. Volodymyr and Alec, his blessing to establish an organization to provide food, shelter, clothing and other appropriate relief directly to Ukrainians living anywhere in the world. And so the non-profit charitable organization was formed. All personnel are volunteers with no compensation, wages or benefits. The records are open for public review.

Since its inception, the Rev. John Danylevich Foundation has shipped food, clothing, shoes, fabric, toys, school supplies, books, computers and medical supplies to Ukraine.

All the parcels are shipped by guaranteed delivery directly to the addressee. Each parcel contains a postal coupon redeemable for postage, as postage

stamps are unaffordable for recipients. The coupon enables them to write to the foundation and let it know that their package arrived safely.

Foundation delegates regularly travel to Ukraine, at no expense to the foundation, delivering much-needed aid to the orphans, clinics, families and individuals.

The foundation's packages give the needy hope to carry on. The recipients write that they cannot believe that total strangers care for their well-being, that the parcels change their lives and that they have faith for a better world.

Lately the foundation has received many requests for milk, meat products

and shoes. Letters say children have forgotten what sweets are. Milk, meat, fruit and vitamins are unaffordable.

Contributions are humbly accepted and may be mailed to: The Father Danylevich Foundation Inc., 68 Pine Ridge Road, Reading, MA. 01867-3735. All contributions are tax deductible.



Volunteers of the Rev. John Danylevich Foundation at Boston's Ukrainian Orthodox parish prepare shipment of aid to Ukraine.

CHORNOBYL: THE FIRST DECADE

Chornobyl's impact on health, the environment and the economy

by David R. Marples

The following was delivered as the 31st annual Shevchenko Lecture on April 2, at the University of Alberta. David R. Marples is professor of history and director of the Stasiuk Program on Contemporary Ukraine (CIUS), University of Alberta, Canada. The Shevchenko Lecture was organized by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies and sponsored by the Ukrainian Professional and Business Club of Edmonton.

PART I

The Chornobyl disaster is a political event. It began in secrecy and today remains shrouded in controversy. There is no consensus over the results. Moreover, the situation has been made more complex by international studies and reports. There have been distortions of fact both by the "international scientific community" – as epitomized by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) – and the general public, Ukrainian and Belarusian ministries, former clean-up crews and indeed the majority of people actively involved in assessment of or affected by radiation fallout from Chornobyl.

As the 10th anniversary approaches, one can see how the political aspects of Chornobyl have served to obscure truth.

On the one hand, the Ukrainian Ministry of Health issued a statement last year that there had been 125,000 deaths to date from Chornobyl. It took me several weeks of investigation before it became evident how such a figure was derived. In fact, it includes all the deaths in the areas of Ukraine contaminated by the accident regardless of cause, i.e., it encompasses so-called natural deaths. On the other hand, the recent conference of scientists in St. Petersburg and the report of the European Community (EC) on Chornobyl gave rise to several publicized statements, none of which in my view were accurate:

- 1. The only serious health repercussion from Chornobyl today that can be attributed to radiation is thyroid gland cancer among children;
- 2. Radioactive cesium has no impact on the human organism;
- 3. Chornobyl has demonstrated that low-level radiation is harmless to the population;
- 4. The illnesses that have developed in the Chornobyl fallout regions of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia are the result of radiation fears, stress and tension, and that the significant rise in incidence of various diseases cannot be attributed to radiation.

In turn, the situation has been complicated by the demands of the world and the Ukrainian nuclear industry, the fate of the Chornobyl plant itself, and the energy needs of independent Ukraine, which over four years has run up huge debts for imports of oil and gas from Russia and Turkmenistan. We will look at each of these questions in turn.

Radiation fallout

Over 450 different types of radionuclides were released by the Chornobyl disaster in the period between the early hours of April 26 and May 10, 1986, when the reactor was capped. Fallout occurred first over Belarus, the Baltic republics, Eastern Poland and Scandinavia, in addition to the Kyiv Oblast of Ukraine. After April 30 a change of wind direction brought considerable fallout into Ukraine and Russia. Affected especially in the former country were the Kyiv, Zhytomyr and Chernihiv oblasts, then the radiation spread south of Kyiv particularly into Kirovohrad and westward toward and beyond the Polish border.

The chief initial danger came from radioactive iodine, but this radionuclide has a very short half-life of eight days. The long-term impact comes from cesium-137 and strontium-90, which have 29- and 30-year half-lives, respectively, and from plutonium-239, which has a half-life of 24,390 years.

If measured by cesium contamination of the soil – and after the summer of 1986 the ground became more dangerous than the air – with a level of 1 curie per square kilometer and above, then 43,000 square kilometers of Ukraine were affected, including 3,200 towns, villages and hamlets. In this region lived 4 million people, including 1.5 million children. Eighteen Ukrainian oblasts were contaminated to some degree.

The fallout of radioactive particles into the Dnipro

(Continued on page 12)



Efrem Lukatsky/AP

Environmental activists stage a demonstration on April 22 in front of the presidential residence in Kyiv. They are holding crosses inscribed with the names of villages abandoned after the April 26, 1986, accident at the Chornobyl nuclear power plant.

Marples address kicks off Toronto commemorations

by Andrij Wynnyckij

Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO — In even tones that masked the passion of his arguments, on April 20 in the University of Toronto's Convocation Hall, Dr. David R. Marples pulled no punches in his outline of the growing catalogue of ills that beset humanity living in the shadow of "Chornobyl: Ten Years Later."

He charged the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the World Health Organization (WHO) and agencies of the European Union with "conscious distortions of fact" in their reports on the immediate aftermath and long-term health consequences of the accident, and he assailed the decision by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to provide funding for the completion of additional nuclear reactors in Ukraine as "irresponsible."

This was the address that kicked off the Toronto area's 10th anniversary commemorations of the catastrophe at the Chornobyl Atomic Energy Station (CAES), sponsored by the Children of Chornobyl Canadian Fund and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress's Toronto branch.

In introductory remarks, Serhiy Borovyk, Ukraine's Consul general in Toronto recalled bitterly that because of the Soviet leadership's silence about the lingering danger, he had taken his children to the May Day Parade on Kyiv's Khreshchatyk.

He also paid homage to those "who have dedicated their careers to bring the truth to the world" about Chornobyl, including the University of Alberta historian Dr. Marples, whose most recent contribution to the field include an entry on Chornobyl in the Encyclopedia Britannica's 1996 Annual Yearbook, and an article in the April 1996 issue of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists.

Dr. Marples led off with a bold charge against the officials of the IAEA, the WHO and the former Soviet government for "conscious distortion of fact," asserting several statements were demonstrably inaccurate — including the contention that the only observable health effects were thyroid abnormalities, and that most other ailments were psychosomatic, due to stress and fears resulting from the circulation of an excess of information about the "incident," as the nuclear industry called it.

He denounced those officials who claimed that thyroid cancer, a form of tumor that spreads rapidly through the body if untreated or not excised, as "a relatively harmless form of cancer."

"I didn't know there was a harmless form of cancer,"

Dr. Marples rejoined.

The Chornobyl specialist called the Ukrainian government's request to the G-7 countries for \$4.4 billion (U.S.), to pay for the complete decommissioning and closure of the crippled CAES and replacement of it with a non-nuclear power plant, "entirely justified."

He also said the \$3.1 billion offered at the recent G-7 summit in Moscow was an improvement of the previous offer, but "quite clearly, still inadequate."

Dr. Marples commented on the EBRD's offer to finance the completion of nuclear power stations in Rivne and Khmelnytsky to compensate for the shutdown of Chornobyl. "This, in my view, is irresponsible," he said, contending that such a policy "exacerbates the problem of the already dangerous condition of Ukraine's reactors."

He faulted the G-7 countries and Russia for persisting to view nuclear power as the "only conceivable option" in confronting Ukraine's future energy needs. Dr. Marples claimed this was a noxious side-effect of the U.S. government's practice of "pouring 60 percent of its energy research budget over the past two decades only into nuclear power." He said Ukraine suffers from past "Soviet decisions to do likewise."

Turning to the question of the human toll of the CAES meltdown, Dr. Marples asserted: "The single most persistent lie that must be dispensed with, if there is to be any truth told about the Chornobyl disaster, is that there were 31 dead. This figure has no validity."

"The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the World Health Organization, various levels of the Soviet government have all repeated the total ad nauseam."

In closing, the historian noted that the principal danger lies in that, particularly in the West, people will forget that Chornobyl's aftereffects are a continuous and growing problem, not a single cataclysmic event to be commemorated with bowed heads and cautionary tales.

"It's not something that happened and is over," Dr. Marples said, "The more time goes by, the more the problem develops."

"It is much worse now than it was five years ago," the Alberta-based professor added, "and in five years it will be much worse than it is now."

The forcefulness of Dr. Marples's presentation was somewhat blunted by a depressingly low turnout of about 65 people, emphasized by the cavernous dimensions of the 1,500-seat Convocation Hall. Not only did it lend damning credence to Dr. Marples' anxiety that Chornobyl will be remembered only on anniversaries, it raised the possibility that it might not be remembered at all.

CHORNOBYL: THE FIRST DECADE

INTERVIEW: Alla Yaroshinska, revealer of Chernobyl's "Forbidden Truths"

Alla Yaroshinska is a member of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's Council of Advisors (to which she was appointed in 1993) and the president of the Association of Russian Journalists. She also heads a Moscow-based charitable foundation, the Ecological Private Fund, which provides assistance to children affected by the Chernobyl disaster in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia and issues publications concerning the environment.

Born in Zhytomyr, about 130 kilometers from Kyiv, Ms. Yaroshinska is a journalist by training. At the time of the Chernobyl disaster, she contributed the "Industry and Construction" column to the oblast center's Party newspaper, *Radianska Zhytomyrshchyna*.

In her book, "Chernobyl: The Forbidden Truth," (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995), Ms. Yaroshinska describes how, in the summer of 1987, acting on a "hunch," she first traveled to the exclusion zone's vicinity to investigate why housing for evacuees was being built so close to the site of the recent disaster.

Her trip to Rudnia-Ososhnia, now a "dead" village in the notorious Narodychi district, Zhytomyr region, set her on a path, at "whatever the cost, to publish the truth."

"I have kept the notebooks I filled at the time," Ms. Yaroshinska wrote, "and they sweat blood, like the memories of people who have reached a great age and who no longer expect anything from life."

Faced with her newspaper's refusal to print her reports, in 1987 she circulated them throughout the affected zones of the Zhytomyr and Polissia region by way of the *samvydav* (*samizdat*) network, in order to inform the local population of the dangers they faced.

In 1988, she tried to have her articles on the region published in *Ogonyok*, the Moscow-based purported beacon of *glasnost*, but even personal meetings with then-editor-in-chief Vitaliy Korotych, ("After all, he's Ukrainian, like myself") failed to prompt their appearance on the magazine's pages.

Elected to the newly established USSR's Congress of People's Deputies in May 1989, Ms. Yaroshinska stepped up her crusade. After she presented a videotape of conditions in the Narodychi district to then Communist Party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, she was able to publish her materials in the Moscow press.

The first mainstream Soviet periodical to print an exposé by Ms. Yaroshinska was *Moskovskiy Novosti*, followed by a series of articles that appeared in *Izvestia*, throughout the summer and fall of 1989.

At the second session in the spring of 1990, she spearheaded a movement to form a commission of the Supreme Soviet responsible for dealing with the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and served as its chair.

As an official of the government, she, at least on paper, had access to all of its archives and managed to collect damning material from the Soviet central ministries of environmental protection, health, and defense, and other agencies.

Following Mr. Yeltsin's edict banning the Communist Party in September 1991, she finally got access to the secret protocols (*minutes*) of the Central Committee of the Communist Party's Politburo.

In April 1992, the Moscow daily *Izvestiya* began publishing the documents Ms. Yaroshinska unearthed, implicating almost every major Communist Party official, from Mr. Gorbachev on down, in one of the most repugnant cover-ups of the 20th century.

Later that year, Ms. Yaroshinska was awarded the Right Livelihood Award in Stockholm, known as the "alternative Nobel Prize."

Her book, "Chernobyl: Sovershenno Sekretno" (Chernobyl: Top Secret; Moscow: Drugie Berega, 1992) was published in Russian, based on her early reporting and her work as a commissioner. It includes a staggering 225 pages of documents drawn from the archives of the Soviet Politburo, and various levels of government of the USSR and the Ukrainian SSR.

"Chernobyl: The Forbidden Truth," is an abridged English translation (by Michele Kahn and Julia Sallabank) of this book, minus the appended documentation.

It has yet to be published in Ukraine or in Ukrainian.

Ms. Yaroshinska was recently in the U.S. to participate in a series of conferences in connection with the 10th anniversary accident at the Chernobyl atomic energy station, in particular the April 8-9 conference at Yale and Columbia universities. She also met with the Ukrainian American community in Chicago, and delivered a lecture at Michigan State University on the upcoming elections in Russia.

Part I of the interview was conducted by Andriy Wynnyckyj The Weekly's Toronto Press Bureau follows.



Natalia Feduschak

Protester at the May 5, 1986, demonstration in New York City.

Please describe how you were able to obtain the Politburo's secret protocols [minutes] on Chernobyl.

The last days of the Soviet Union, November-December 1991, coincided with the last days of the Supreme Soviet's session. Through the committee we established to investigate the role of government officials in the accident at Chernobyl, we were able to get a series of protocols to examine.

Since the session was drawing to a close, I sensed that the documents could probably be taken away from us, and then sealed in the Russian archives.

I took this material, about 600 pages of text, to the Supreme Soviet's official photocopy office, where I was told that there were specific orders not to allow me to copy them. I then went to the security officials who issued this order to demand an explanation. They told me: "Well look, the documents are marked 'top secret.' You have to ask the Communist Party to waive the restriction."

Just think how absurd that was — the Communist Party had already been banned by that time, its leaders were sitting in jail. What was I supposed to do, go and ask a bunch of convicts like [Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Anatoliy] Lukyanov for permission? It was ridiculous.

The party was banned, and yet the KGB was still protecting them. So I phoned Vadim Vakatin, whom [Russian President Boris] Yeltsin had just appointed as head of the KGB, and asked him what was going on, why there was still censorship on this subject.

To make a long story short, in the end I decided to simply make the copies myself. I took the bundle of papers over to [the Moscow daily] *Izvestiya*'s offices, where they had one of the few photocopying bureaus in the city.

They agreed to make copies for me on the condition that I would publish the documents only through them. It was sensational stuff, and they knew it.

So I copied all of these minutes, then put them back in the safe where I'd taken them. I kept the first set of minutes for myself, the originals. I knew that if the originals somehow disappeared, I would be accused of having written all of this myself.

So one set of minutes, with the official seal, with [USSR Council of Ministers President Nikolai] Ryzhkov's signature, head of the former Soviet government, I kept for myself, may God forgive me.

The copy I put back in the safe, with the other originals.

In terms of the documentation you gathered, which individual or individuals would you consider most guilty of compounding the harmful effects of

the Chernobyl disaster?

Those individuals who were guilty of withholding information are guilty of [jeopardizing] the health of 8 million people who were living in the affected area, and their health could have been much better.

In terms of individuals, let's begin with Ukraine. Ukraine's Procuracy officially charged with suppressing the truth [Ukrainian Communist Party Secretary Volodymyr] Shcherbytsky; Valentyna Semenivna Shevchenko, chairman of the Ukrainian SSR's Supreme Soviet; the minister of health Anatoliy Yevdokymovych Romanenko — they were charged with suppressing the truth.

The case was initiated, but then closed. There should have been a formal trial. But there wasn't, the charges were simply dropped, because somebody declared the statute of limitations on these crimes had run out.

When had they run out?

Who knows when? The procuracy finished its investigation about two years ago. It was simply decided to have them formally declared guilty of this and that, and the case was closed without a court hearing because the statute of limitations had run out.

It will take about 24,000 years for the plutonium particles scattered by the accident to decay, but we'll be stuck with the effects of Chernobyl for ages, for ages — but for them, the statute of limitations has run out.

Even in Bulgaria, there was a trial and officials found guilty of suppressing the facts concerning the accident have already served their time in prison, they're back on the outside. But in Ukraine, they haven't spent a day in jail, and now the statute of limitations has run out. It's further evidence that it's the same system, under a different name.

One person who was a health official before and after independence was Dr. Yuriy Spizhenko, originally Mr. Romanenko's deputy and then himself the health minister under President Leonid Kravchuk. Should he be held responsible?

I certainly think so. When I was a correspondent for *Radianska Zhytomyrshchyna*, Yuriy Spizhenko was the head of the Zhytomyr Oblast Executive Committee. I went to the oblast administration, that is, not to him personally, but dealt with officials, who assured me that things were fine.

And this much I wrote in my book, about Spizhenko.

Do any of the officials of the former regime hold any positions of responsibility today?

Spizhenko is one of them. It's a disgrace, he's a disgraceful character. This Romanenko, who was officially indicted and officially declared guilty of suppressing information about Chernobyl is now the head of the institute dedicated to researching the aftermath of the disaster.

Can you imagine what this research is going to be like? This man lied, and now he'll be forced to continue lying, because otherwise he'd have to sit in the dock.

The same thing in Russia. Before the first session of the Soviet of People's Deputies [in the summer of 1989], I took my documents from the Zhytomyr region to the minister devoted to Chernobyl-related affairs, and showed him. This man told me: "You have your documentation, we have ours."

But after my presentation before the first session of the Supreme Soviet, 12 villages in the region were immediately evacuated, because it was finally recognized that my information was accurate.

But this man, Vozniak, I can't remember his given name, headed this Chernobyl ministry until recently, when it was disbanded and absorbed by a committee dealing with emergencies and extraordinary situations.

My blood boiled when I first found out he was appointed, and he headed this department until recently... I had to write a memorandum to Yeltsin saying this was a disgrace. Yeltsin fired him in the end; I won't say only because of my note, I'm sure many others investigated his performance.

This Vozniak wrote his Ph.D. thesis on Chernobyl, defended it. Can you imagine that?

What is your opinion of the IAEA's reports over the years, and those tabled at the recent conference in Vienna?

I haven't seen any information about the most recent conference, but I can tell you this. When we, the deputies, began saying that Chernobyl was a crime [perpetrated by the Soviet government] against its own peo-

(Continued on page 9)

CHORNOBYL: THE FIRST DECADE

Alla Yaroshinska...

(Continued from page 8)

ple, when my articles began appearing in the press, the Soviet government decided to hide behind international experts, and so they invited experts from the IAEA.

This IAEA delegation was headed by a Japanese official, Shihimatsu. I spoke to Mr. Shihimatsu again in 1992, on a recent trip to Japan with eight other journalists (including two from Ukraine).

I met with Shihimatsu and forced him to acknowledge – this was a private discussion, not a public one – that the IAEA commission's conclusions, the report of the group he headed were inaccurate and false.

I asked him how he could write that there were no changes in people's health, that everything was normal, if they didn't have any precise data on people's health.

"You didn't conduct any research," I told him, "You just took the data given to you by the mendacious Russian medical officials, the material given to you by Academician Ilyin, director of the former Soviet and now Russian Radiobiology Institute. These data were simply fabricated, and based on these falsified pseudo-scientific data, you issued conclusions? You mentioned a few thousand people, but about 8 million people were living in the affected areas. Can this report can have been considered accurate?"

He was forced to admit, in private, that this had been improper.

Has the IAEA ever publicly admitted its error in this regard?

The IAEA has only admitted to one of my findings, and only partially. About two years ago, they issued a very brief statement saying that the explosion in Chornobyl, the tragedy, was caused not, as previously stated, simply by the unprofessionalism of the workers and specialists on site, but also by design faults of the Chornobyl reactor itself.

In itself this was a considerable accomplishment. Prior to that, they'd always said that these [Soviet RBMK] reactors were very nice, safe and everything was normal.

But I published a series of articles, backed up by conclusions given to me by experts from Russia and Ukraine, suggesting that these reactors were inadequate, and that they could not be improved to the point where they continue to be safely used.

So about two years ago, the IAEA made this barely perceptible announcement, that I picked up, that the accident was caused not only by the unprofessionalism of the specialists who worked in Chornobyl, but also by faults in its construction and design.... I believe the IAEA is in part responsible for the fact that the truth about what happened in Chornobyl did not come out immediately. Absolutely.

Is there any documentation of correspondence between the IAEA and the Soviet authorities implicating the former in a cover-up?

This appears in my book. When the Soviet specialists prepared their report to the IAEA on the Chornobyl tragedy, they had one for the IAEA and one for their internal use. The IAEA was given a report that blamed only people for the explosion. They omitted the phrase concerning design and construction faults.

Can any other government, international or national agency be so implicated, in the U.S. or elsewhere?

I don't really have any information about that.... The U.S. might have known more about what happened and earlier than we are aware... and perhaps its government could have applied greater pressure on the Soviet government to clearly inform its people.

But as the minutes I published show, the [Soviet] disinformation campaign was massive, so maybe [the U.S. government] truly didn't know 100 percent what happened. I can't accuse any other government [of misdeeds] other than the former Soviet government.

The people in the Soviet government who concealed this accident are simply criminals. When the Russian constitutional court examined the question of banning the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, I appeared as a material witness on the Chornobyl question...

A political trial is still in order, as far as I'm concerned. The role of, for instance, of Mikhail Gorbachev has not been sufficiently brought to light.

More recently I found an additional set of minutes, not part of the original group of 40 documents I published, and published them about a year and a half ago in a full-page Izvestiya article. They demonstrate that Gorbachev definitely knew the parameters of the accident, and he referred to its effects as the same as those that would follow a small-scale nuclear war in central Europe. Those are his words. ...

On the front lines: the first six heroes of Chornobyl



The six firemen above — (beginning with top row, from left) Mykola Tytenok, 24; Mykola Vashchuk, 27; Vasyl Ihnatenko, 25; Volodymyr Pravyk, 24; Viktor Kibenok, 23; and Volodymyr Tyshura, 27 — took the most active part in extinguishing the fire in reactor No. 4 of the Chornobyl nuclear power plant. Wearing only their everyday uniforms, they were not equipped to do battle with the nuclear inferno. They were exposed to radiation levels of 30,000 roentgens an hour and received doses of 1,500 roentgens. Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, in his book "Chornobyl: A Documentary Story" wrote of these six members of the Chornobyl Fire Station: "They saved the nuclear power station, they saved Prypiat, Chornobyl, Kyiv, all of us." All six died within two weeks after heroically performing their duties; their bodies were buried in special lead coffins to protect the environment from the radiation of their corpses. These and other Chornobyl firemen were honored in special ceremonies on April 26 in Slavutych, the city built after the accident to house the still-functioning Chornobyl plant's employees. (Photos by Efrem Lukatsky/AP.)

Austrian postal issue honors heroic fire brigade



The Austrian-Ukrainian Association based in Vienna arranged for the issuance of the first day cover above to mark the 10th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster and to honor the members of the Ukrainian fire brigade who were the first to risk their lives in attempting to protect the public from the effects of this horrific accident. As noted on the trilingual envelope released on the occasion, on April 12 the Austrian-Ukrainian Association, Austrian postal authorities and the Vienna Fire Brigade organized a special postal transport using a fire brigade car to honor the heroic Chornobyl firemen. Proceeds from the sale of the first day cover will be used to aid Ukrainian children of Chornobyl. The special postmark and the illustration on the cover were designed by artist Ivan Turetsky of Lviv.

CHORNOBYL: THE FIRST DECADE

Over 1,000 attend ecumenical service at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan

by Roman Woronowycz

NEW YORK — More than 1,000 people gathered at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan on April 26 with religious leaders and politicians to commemorate the Chernobyl disaster that has affected hundreds of thousands in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia.

On hand were leaders of the Ukrainian Catholic, the Ukrainian Orthodox and the Roman Catholic Churches, as well as representatives from the United Nations, the governments of the United States and Ukraine.

Cardinal John O'Connor, archbishop of New York, greeted the attendees after a brief ecumenical prayer service led by Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Basil Losten of the Stamford Eparchy, Ukrainian Orthodox Bishop Vsevolod and their respective clergy. He also introduced Archbishop Renato R. Martino, permanent representative of the Holy See to the United Nations.

A procession of dignitaries then proceeded to the microphone introduced by Alex Kuzma, coordinator for "Chornobyl Challenge96."

Ukraine's Ambassador to the United Nations Anatoliy Zlenko read a statement from Ukraine's Leonid Kuchma. The president emphasized that the Chernobyl catastrophe is a global disaster not from the past, but an ongoing calamity. "It is a longstanding and universal tragedy," he stated.

He paid tribute to those who gave their lives, who "stepped into the nuclear hell, protecting us with their bodies from the unpredictable, saving the Earth."

Mention was made of the \$3 billion that Ukraine has

(Continued on page 12)



Roman Woronowycz

Cardinal John O'Connor of the New York Archdiocese speaking at St. Patrick's Cathedral prayer service.

Odessa Philharmonic concert at D.C.'s Kennedy Center marks tragic anniversary

by Khristina Lew

WASHINGTON — The Odessa Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of American conductor Hobart Earle, made its Washington debut in a concert commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on April 28.

Presented by the Washington Performing Arts Society, the two-hour concert showcased both solemn and tranquil orchestral works by Ukrainian, American and Austrian composers, with the exception of Myroslav Skoryk's rousing "Carpathian Concerto."

The presence of Mykola Kolessa, composer of one of the selections performed by the orchestra, in the auditorium added a poignant air to the historic performance. Following the able execution of his "Orchards Blooming in the Carpathians," the 92-year-old maestro ascended the stage, embracing Mr. Earle and greeting the concertmasters. He received a standing ovation.

Under Mr. Earle's musical direction, the Odessa Philharmonic has expanded its repertoire, blending classic works with lesser-known Ukrainian compositions. In 1995 the orchestra released a compact disc of previously unrecorded Ukrainian works by Kolessa and Skoryk on the ASV label.

The Kennedy Center performance began with Charles Ives' haunting "The Unanswered Question" (1906), during which a quartet of flutes and a sole trumpet in the upper tiers of the concert hall answered the full orchestra on the stage.

Kostiantyn Dankevych's symphonic poem "Taras Shevchenko" (1939) followed, and the first half of the performance concluded with the sonorous Adagio from Gustav Mahler's 10th Symphony.

The second half of the concert began with "Orchards Blooming in the Carpathians" (1950) and culminated with the "Carpathian Concerto" (1972). Aaron Copland's "Appalachian Spring" (1944) provided a soothing counterbalance to the colorful concerto, and concluded the program.

Following a standing ovation, Mr. Earle returned to the stage for an encore: Mykola Lysenko's lively "Overture to Taras Bulba," a Washington premiere. The conductor acknowledged that while the concert was presented to commemorate the solemn occasion of the 10th anniversary of Chernobyl, he wanted to end on a positive note. "Chernobyl is very real to us... We have a challenge to make the world better for future generations, so we'd like to end on an up note," he said.

Sponsor's reception

Following the concert, Ukraine's ambassador to the

United States, Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, hosted a private reception for the performance's sponsors, representatives of the U.S. government and members of the Washington Performing Arts Society at the Watergate Hotel.

Laryssa Chopivsky, member of the WPAS board of directors and the driving force behind the Odessa Philharmonic's Washington debut, noted that the orchestra's performance was "both a solemn and uplifting testament to what can be achieved when talents of the East and West are combined," and praised Mr. Earle for his "Western know-how and Yankee ingenuity in acquainting people around the world with Ukraine and Ukrainians."

She also expressed her gratitude to Hillary Rodham Clinton for serving as honorary chair of Chornobyl Challenge '96 and thanked Melanne Verveer, the Ukrainian American deputy chief of staff to the first lady, for representing Mrs. Clinton at the concert.

The ebullient Mr. Earle said he was pleased that the Odessa Philharmonic could serve not only as Ukraine's cultural ambassadors, but its environmental ambassadors as well, and thanked the Ukrainian government for sponsoring the orchestra's airfare to the United States.

Ambassador Shcherbak, acknowledging that he would forsake protocol, first greeted "the music, which

has brought us the spirit of Ukraine," and then Mr. Earle, "a Ukrainian Yankee and an Odessa cowboy," Ms. Chopivsky, Ms. Verveer, Ambassador at Large for the NIS James Collins and Victoria Resnick of the National Security Council.

The ambassador noted that the 10th anniversary of Chernobyl marked a day of introspection and mourning, and thanked the U.S. government for its continued support of Ukraine in ameliorating the consequences of the disaster.

He then relayed a personal epiphany that occurred during a vigil at the Chernobyl tree in Lafayette Park on April 25. Lafayette Park has many green trees, he said, and among them stands the Chernobyl tree, which was planted five years ago. "The tree is dry and stands as a symbol of the fires of Chernobyl, but as we prayed, I noticed that the tree, indeed, had a few green leaves. I realized that life is everlasting, that Ukraine was, is and will be — and that we can meet that challenge."

The Odessa Philharmonic's 1996 tour included performances in Toronto, Princeton, N.J., Philadelphia and at the United Nations, and was sponsored by Eli Lilly and Co., Holt Enterprises, INOVA Health System, Odessa Foods International Inc., Republic National Bank of New York and Chornobyl Challenge '96.



Khristina Lew

Maestro Mykola Kolessa, Conductor Hobart Earle, Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak and Laryssa Chopivsky at a reception following the Odessa Philharmonic Orchestra performance at the Kennedy Center.

CHORNOBYL: THE FIRST DECADE

Chornobyl: a chronology

1986

April 26: At 1:23 a.m., an experiment goes catastrophically awry at the V.I. Lenin Atomic Electrical Station near Chornobyl, some 60 miles north of Kyiv. Reactor No. 4 explodes and catches fire, spewing a vast cloud of radioactive fallout throughout Belarus, Ukraine and most of Europe.

April 27: A full 36 hours after the explosion, evacuations begin at Prypiat, a town built to house Chornobyl workers. Residents are given time only to pack enough belongings for a "short trip" and are told they will return in a matter of days.

April 28: A terse, four-sentence announcement by TASS, the official Soviet news agency, that an accident has occurred at Chornobyl is the first acknowledgment by the USSR government of the disaster. The TASS report makes no mention of the nature of the accident, nor of the enormous amount of radiation released.

May 1: Ignoring internal and Western reports confirming the severity of the radiation release, Soviet officials stage the annual May Day parade; hundreds of Kyiv schoolchildren march down the city's contaminated streets as the Communist elite sends its offspring to safe havens. Several days later, panic-stricken parents swamp Moscow-bound trains with their children.

August 25: The International Atomic Energy Agency convenes a special conference on Chornobyl in Vienna. Soviet authorities present a 382-page report in an attempt at mollifying Western allegations of a cover-up of the accident's magnitude and the scope of its consequences.

September 1: Chornobyl Reactor No.1 is restarted.

November 5: Reactor No. 2 resumes operation amid concern that operational safety precautions are once again not being observed.

November 17: Construction of a 195-foot-high steel and concrete "sarcophagus" is completed at reactor No. 4. Pravda reports the containment vessel will last "for centuries," but the hastily built structure starts sinking and develops cracks almost immediately following its completion.

1987

January 29: United States government rescinds travel advisory and says it is now once again safe for U.S. citizens to visit Kyiv.

1988

April 26: More than 500 people march along the Khreshchatyk. They hold a demonstration protesting the cover-up of the Chornobyl disaster and advocating the discontinuation of nuclear power generation and the transformation of Ukraine into a nuclear-free zone. Sponsored by the Ukrainian Culturological Club (UCC), the protest is the first ecologically oriented demonstration in Kyiv.

November 13: An officially sanctioned ecological demonstration attended by 10,000 people in Kyiv calls on the Soviet government to tell "All the Truth about Chornobyl." The rally is cut short by authorities after speakers start addressing questions of political freedom. Twenty demonstrators are detained; Oles Shevchenko of the Ukrainian Helsinki Union (UHU) is arrested.

December 4: Over 10,000 people demonstrate in Kyiv against the Soviet nuclear power program. Speakers, among them Yuri Shcherbak, head of the newly formed Zelenyi Svit (Green World) environmental association, call for a halt to new atomic energy station construction and a full disclosure of Chornobyl-related information by the Soviet government.

1989

April 16: 20,000 pray for victims of Chornobyl at a memorial moleben celebrated by Ukrainian Catholic clergy in Lviv outside the Cathedral of the Assumption.

April 26: 15,000 attend another Lviv rally, this time voicing political demands related to the Chornobyl accident.

1990

February 10: First shipment of humanitarian aid by the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund arrives at Kyiv-Boryspil aboard the "Ruslan" Antonov-124 transport



A Ukrainian woman watches as flames race through a field in the village of Krasny Horodok, some 10 kilometers from the Chornobyl plant, on April 23.

aircraft. Numerous shipments follow and continue to this day.

July 13: The United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization (ECOSOC) adopts a resolution appealing for worldwide cooperation on aid to mitigate the consequences of Chornobyl. The action comes after the USSR, the Ukrainian SSR and the Byelorussian SSR formally request help from the international community.

1991

February 7: The Procurator-General of the USSR initiates a criminal investigation into the handling of the Chornobyl accident.

May 21: An IAEA report attributes all medical conditions from the Chornobyl disaster to psychological problems among an ignorant and misinformed population.

October 11: The machine room at Chornobyl reactor No. 2 catches fire and the reactor is permanently shut down.

October 29: The Ukrainian Parliament votes to shut down the Chornobyl plant completely by the end of 1993.

December 11: The Ukrainian Parliament passes a resolution demanding the prosecution of Soviet leaders for the Chornobyl cover-up. Among those named are Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, former Ukrainian Communist Party First Secretary Volodymyr Shcherbytsky and Ukrainian Health Minister Anatoliy Romanenko.

1992

February: The government announces that a second sarcophagus would have to be built over the first; work is to be completed within three years by a French company.

April 22: The Ministry of Chornobyl releases a statement estimating deaths attributable to the Chornobyl disaster at 6,000-8,000; Ukraine's government appeals for more aid from the international community.

May 2-4: Wildfires in contaminated regions of Belarus raise local radiation levels and force new evacuations.

October 16: Reactor No. 3 is restarted, against wishes of the European Community. By year's end, reactor No. 1 is again restarted, due to an energy crisis caused by Russian cutoffs of oil and gas supplies.

1993

October 21: In the midst of a severe energy shortage, with widespread, daily brownouts common, Parliament votes to keep Chornobyl open and to lift the moratorium on construction of new nuclear plants.

1994

July 8-10: The G-7 summit in Naples pledges \$200 million in grant aid to strengthen Ukraine's energy sector and close down Chornobyl.

1995

July: A G-7 summit in Halifax, Nova Scotia, at the suggestion of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, agrees to hold a summit in Moscow on nuclear issues, including the shutdown of the Chornobyl plant.

November 17: A worker at the Chornobyl plant receives the equivalent of a year's worth of radiation. The incident, Ukraine's most serious in 1995, rates three on the international scale; its severity is covered up by plant personnel for several months.

December 13: The U.N. General Assembly designates April 26, 1996, International Day in Memory of Chornobyl and seeks improved international cooperation on providing aid to Chornobyl's victims and studying its aftermath.

December 20: Ukraine's Minister of the Environment Yuriy Kostenko signs a Memorandum of Understanding with Shiela Copps, Canada's vice-premier and secretary of the environment, acting on behalf of the G-7. Members of the G-7 are to provide \$2.3 billion to close down Chornobyl by 2000. No funds are allocated for the second sarcophagus.

1996

April 21: At the Moscow G-7 summit, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma reaffirms the decision to shut Chornobyl down. G-7 countries promise to study ways to replace the cracking sarcophagus, but make no new commitments of financial assistance.

April 22: Brush and forest fires, possibly accidentally ignited by evacuees visiting their former homes in the zone of exclusion, result in the destruction of five abandoned villages and a release of significant amounts of soil and ground-based radioactive dust.

April 26: This day Ukrainian communities worldwide commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster. Vigils are held in Ukraine; church bells toll throughout Europe in remembrance of the disaster's victims. An ecumenical service is held in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York and the Empire State Building glows blue and yellow with the word "Chornobyl" spelled out. In Miensk, 50,000 demonstrators at a Chornobyl commemoration are violently dispersed by Belarusian riot police after demanding President Alyaksandr Lukashenka resign for, among other things, making light of the disaster's consequences.

— compiled by Yarema A. Bachynsky

CHORNOBYL: THE FIRST DECADE

Chornobyl's impact...

(Continued from page 7)

River affects the water supply of 28 million of Ukraine's 52 million inhabitants.

Moreover a zone of 30-kilometer radius around the Chornobyl nuclear power station was completely evacuated, leaving a dead zone in northern Ukraine and southern Belarus. This area is known as the Polissian Ecological Zone. Its largest town was Prypiat, built in the 1970s for workers of the nuclear plant which housed 45,000 people at the time of the accident.

The areas affected by Chornobyl have several distinctive characteristics:

- 1. Aside from Prypiat, they are mainly small rural, agricultural, settlements, in which the locals grew their own food, picked mushrooms and berries in the summer, and lived off the land.
- 2. It was a mainly elderly population outside the

Over 1,000 attend...

(Continued from page 10)

spent on Chornobyl, five times more than the total allocations for education, health and culture.

New York Gov. George Pataki, who had proclaimed April 22-26 Chornobyl Remembrance Week, also spoke. He said that Chornobyl was another example of the fundamental flaw of communism. "At Chornobyl, that reckless and irresponsible use became a killing force. Eventually it helped to kill communism."

He called April 26, 1996 "a day of rebirth and renewal" for the Chornobyl survivors.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, in a statement read by Karl Frederick Inderfurth, assistant U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, commended the work of humanitarian relief organizations and "the courageous individuals who have cared for the innocent victims of this calamity." He reasserted the U.S. commitment to "help Ukraine develop a more vibrant, self-sustaining energy sector that will advance its prosperity as a sovereign nation in the new Europe."

A statement also was read on behalf of United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali by Under Secretary General Samir Sanbar expressing continued U.N. concern for the crisis.

The Dumka Choir of New York ended the commemoration with a mellifluous rendering of "Bozhe Velykiy Yedynyj," filling the expanses of the cavernous cathedral with singular voice.



Roman Woronowycz

New York Gov. George Pataki speaks with Cardinal John O'Connor of New York.

nuclear settlement, very traditional in its ways, and some families had lived there for several generations.

The Soviet government decided to evacuate 116,000 people in 1986, including 91,000 from the Ukrainian side of the 30-kilometer exclusion zone. Thereafter no information was provided on the radiation situation outside this zone until early 1989 when, thanks partly to glasnost, maps were published in Pravda that indicated a considerably wider area had been contaminated.

Once the republican press followed suit, then further evacuations were ordered. By 1991, the number of Ukrainian evacuees numbered 160,000, but the process was a slow and complex one. Initially the evacuation was based on a radiation limit to the individual of 5 millisieverts (mSv) per year, calculated through the natural background radiation in the air and the amount consumed through food and milk in any given region. It was calculated that any area with over 15 curies per square kilometer in the soil must be evacuated immediately; those with 5-15 curies per square kilometer were designated areas of secondary evacuation; and 1-5 curies required constant surveillance of the area.

By 1991, new tolerance levels were introduced by the Ukrainian government after strong local protests that the 5 mSv criterion posed danger for a population already affected by high radiation fallout. The level was accordingly reduced to 1 mSv per year, hence greatly expanding the area under control. One calculation offered this year is that the zone residents have already accumulated 70 percent of their acceptable lifetime dose of radiation.

Today in Ukraine, according to one study, 12 oblasts with 77 raions remain contaminated, encompassing 3,000 rural villages in north, west and central Ukraine. Evacuations are still taking place, but they are often long delayed – 5,000 settlements in the Poliske region of Kyiv, one of the most heavily contaminated zones of Ukraine, for example, have been awaiting evacuation since 1991.

One problem is that the fallout was uneven. Areas with low levels often contained some hotspots. And, it did not depend on the distance from reactor. Today, though the situation is somewhat improved in the immediate vicinity of the reactor, where topsoil has been removed and various probes taken, it is the same or worse in areas up to 300 miles distant, as radiation levels in the soil have not decreased at all, while levels in the river system, especially of strontium, have risen markedly.

In Ukraine such fallout has damaged 4.5 million hectares of agricultural land. In the underground waters of the Kyiv Oblast in the recent period, probes have revealed that the content of radioactive cesium exceeds the permissible level by more than 100 times.

The penetration of the food chain by radionuclides – especially cesium – is severe. Because of the nature of the soil, radionuclides do not descend more than a centimeter or so each year. They are taken up by livestock and have found their way into milk especially. Based on an acceptable dose load of radiation to the body of 1mSv per year, the radiation content of milk should not exceed 185 becquerels per liter. Of 27,000 tests on milk conducted at the Kyiv-based Center of Radiation Medicine and the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, 11.8 percent contained more than double that amount of radiation. The chief danger today lies with people growing their own food on private plots.

Human toll

The human costs of Chornobyl can be divided into several categories:

- Firefighters and first-aid workers: They arrived on the scene in the first moments after the explosion blew the roof off Chornobyl's fourth reactor and had to fight a graphite fire in conditions when radiation levels reached thousands of rads per hour. There are 31 reported deaths in this category from over 5,000 who contracted severe radiation sickness, though this figure remained static over the summer of 1986.

Many radiation-induced deaths that occurred thereafter were attributed to other causes. My favorite designation from the Soviet period was "vegeto-vascular dystonia." In one hospital, 53 clean-up workers went on a hunger strike because they felt they were being misdiagnosed this way. The result, surely intended, was the stabilization of the death toll at 31. That figure has no validity.

- 2. Liquidators. This is the term used for those involved in halting radiation releases from the reactor and for those who worked in various decontamination

processes in the 30-kilometer zone. Initially it involved volunteers from all parts of the Soviet Union who subsequently dispersed and were not monitored thereafter.

After the end of May 1986, the campaign was based on military reservists and an estimated 660,000 people took part. The casualties have been high. By last year, according to official Ukrainian statistics, 5,700 had died, many from heart attacks. One report stated that this a normal death rate considering the size of the group. That comment ignores the fact that these were young men in their 20s and early 30s, rather than a sample population. Many died of stress, others from radiation sickness.

Their work involved full body count radiation levels well above the norm for workers in the nuclear industry. Emergency levels of 7.5 mSv were also exceeded many times by those who were forced to rush across the reactor roof in a space suit and throw a handful of graphite

As the 10th anniversary approaches, one can see how the political aspects of Chornobyl have served to obscure truth.

into the gaping hole in the fourth reactor. Their time limit lay in seconds.

In addition, liquidators today suffer from a variety of medical and psychological illnesses. Of the 660,000, over 50 percent are currently under medical care of some kind, including for incurable skin diseases, digestive and respiratory problems. Even larger is the figure for those suffering from stress and psychological tension which itself can bring on illness.

- 3. Evacuees and Zone Residents: The two groups can be treated together since their problems seem to be similar.

It is fair to say that the evacuation has been a disaster from every respect, to wit:

1) It was carried out in piecemeal fashion and in many cases delayed for years so that when it did occur, it was virtually useless unless contamination levels were extremely high. It did not make sense to evacuate people in areas with borderline radiation content in the soil. A move to a polluted industrial city like Kyiv, for example, might raise rather than lower their radiation intake.

b) Moving elderly people out of their native villages caused a great increase in the amount of stress.

Often evacuees were moved to settlements badly constructed, lacking heating and water, adequate sewage facilities, and with little employment for younger evacuees. In cases when people were moved to existing settlements, evacuees were sometimes treated virtually as lepers by the local population who feared contamination simply through contact with them.

d) A recent study in Miensk shows that the 25,000 Chornobyl evacuees have levels of lung cancer four times that of the city average, in addition to a variety of other ailments. In short, it appears that only an immediate evacuation, hours after the disaster, would have served much purpose in less contaminated zones.

e) Since the population was predominately elderly, it would not have made an appreciable difference to their normal lifespan had they consumed some radioactive products. Surely the best plan in the event of the nuclear accident would have been to remove children instantly in addition to providing them with potassium iodide tablets. Unfortunately this was not done.

It is among children that the main medical impact of Chornobyl has been revealed. In 1990-1991, however, an IAEA-sponsored study was carried out which examined 28 villages of Ukraine and Belarus, and concluded that no discernible health effects from Chornobyl were found, but that others could not be discounted in future.

This study, which ran to 600 pages, did not examine evacuees or liquidators. It was also very much resented by scientists in both Ukraine and Belarus for underestimating the various sources that comprised the radiation dose load of the population, such as hot spots, and for the fact that it was conducted for most part when children were on summer vacation, outside the irradiated zone.

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Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

Several Ukrainian stars surprisingly swapped

In actuality, the active movement of Ukrainian professional hockey stars began during the past off-season. Five Ukes relocated last summer: Dimitri Khristich was acquired by the Los Angeles Kings in a trade with Washington; while four others were signed by new clubs as free agents – St. Louis eagerly bid on Dale Hawerchuk, Winnipeg re-opened its arms to Eddie Olczyk, Tampa Bay added veteran Brian Bellows and Vancouver gave Jim Sandlak a second chance. A sixth Ukrainian star, Keith Tkachuk, actually signed a restricted free-agent contract with Chicago. Tkachuk did not have to change his address, as Winnipeg matched the Blackhawks' offer.

Early on in the 1995-1996 NHL season another Ukrainian, winger Brent Fedyk, was moved by the Flyers to the Dallas Stars. Aside from the normal number of minor league call-ups and demotions, the Ukrainian transaction wire was quiet almost right through to the all-star break. Then it started...

Anaheim's Mighty Ducks decided the future is now and the playoffs attainable this year, only their third in the league. Wanted: one proven NHL sniper (Teemu Selanne, from Winnipeg). In exchange: top draft picks Chad Kilger and Ukrainian Oleg Tverdovsky. Tverdovsky joins fellow Ukes Keith Tkachuk and Eddie Olczyk in Winnipeg for a few scant months. Next year the trio is Phoenix-bound.

After many weeks of procrastinating and listening to offers, Los Angeles Kings' management finally decided to unload Wayne Gretzky, his huge contract and his demands for future years. The Great One lands in his wife's hometown of St. Louis. Mike Keenan, meet Wayne Gretzky. Brett Hull, meet the play-making center you've always dreamed of having on your line. Hey, St. Louis: your Stanley Cup is on its way. Well, maybe.

Just a scant few weeks later the NHL trading deadline beckons. General man-

agers and coaches do last- second evaluations of their rosters and draft want-lists, which hopefully push their squads into the playoffs or solidify their positions for an actual Stanley Cup run. A veritable plethora of trading activity burned almost all team telephone and league fax wires right up to the March 20, 3 p.m. trading deadline.

Among those moved were three more Ukrainians, including the Blues' "Ducky" Hawerchuk, who was still settling into his new St. Louis home. Blues' czar Mike Keenan rationalized Hawerchuk was not really worth the \$2.6 million/year contract he gave him last summer. With Gretzky's \$6.5+ million contract coming aboard, cuts had to be made. "Ducky" goes to Philadelphia, in an attempt to create a second scoring line for the Flyers, thus taking undue pressure off the "Legion of Doom" line.

Just one in a series of coaching and player moves saw veteran Ukrainian goal scorer Dave Andreychuk shuffled out of Toronto and into a new home in New Jersey. With long-time Leafs' captain Wendel Clark returning to Toronto, another high-salaried winger had to go. The Devils, languishing in a season-long goal scoring drought, grabbed Andreychuk, a two-time 50-goal scorer, for a package of conditional draft picks.

And Andreychuk had no problem leaving Toronto. "Obviously there are a lot of talented players there, but the key is chemistry," he said. "A lot of nights, hard work is going to beat talent...There was a lot of media and the guys had a lot of pressure on them. When you are in the hockey capital of Canada, all eyes are on you and when the snowball gets going, it's hard to stop."

Rangers' right wing Joey Kocur was one of three players picked up by the Vancouver Canucks, hours before the trading deadline. The Canucks wanted to beef up with Kocur, who was not getting much ice time in New York.

"We needed solid players who work and know how to play," Vancouver

(Continued on page 15)

Salaries of Ukrainian hockey stars

Player	Team	Salary
W. Gretzky	L.A.-St. Louis	\$6,545,400
K. Tkachuk	Winnipeg	\$6,000,000
D. Hawerchuk	St. Louis-Philadelphia	\$2,600,000
D. Andreychuk	Toronto-New Jersey	\$2,100,000
O. Tverdovsky	Anaheim-Winnipeg	\$2,100,000
K. Hruday	L.A.	\$1,690,000
P. Bondra	Washington	\$1,178,200
K. Daneyko	New Jersey	\$1,047,600
B. Bellows	Thunder Bay	\$1,000,000
D. Khristich	L.A.	\$1,000,000
C. Leschyshyn	Colorado	\$800,000
D. Babych	Vancouver	\$690,000
R. Matvichuk	Dallas	\$607,000
E. Olczyk	Winnipeg	\$550,000
D. Wakaluk	Dallas	\$550,000
A. Nikolishin	Hartford	\$550,000
S. Konowalchuk	Washington	\$500,000
B. Fedyk	Philadelphia-Dallas	\$450,000
A. Zhitnik	Buffalo	\$450,000
D. Nemirovsky	Florida	\$360,000
D. Berehowsky	Pittsburgh	\$325,000
J. Kocur	N.Y. Rangers-Vancouver	\$300,000
P. Elyniuk	Ottawa	unknown
G. Shuchuk	L.A.	unknown

These are 1995-1996 salaries as of December 1995. Figures were obtained from a Players' Association compensation report released to player agents and subsequently published by The Hockey News.

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SOUTHERN UKRAINE	► KYIV, KIROVGRAD, KHERSON, MYKULAIN, ODESSA, OCHAKOV, BREST, OLESKO, ZAKARPATTA, ZAKARPATTA, ZAKARPATTA	19 JUL - 2 AUG \$ 5671
EASTERN UKRAINE	► OLESKO, ZAKARPATTA, ZAKARPATTA, ZAKARPATTA, ZAKARPATTA, ZAKARPATTA, ZAKARPATTA, ZAKARPATTA	19 JUL - 2 AUG \$ 5671
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Pro hockey...

(Continued from page 14)

coach/GM Pat Quinn explained, "Our problem hasn't been individual skills, but team skill," Quinn admitted. "We have to learn to play together."

After all of these recent moves and countermoves, every National Hockey League team which joined in the trading frenzy (almost each one did) is now hoping for better team chemistry and more of the guys playing together as a team. Those who achieve this goal are destined to go far in this year's Stanley Cup playoffs.

UKRAINIAN UTTERINGS: Washington's Peter Bondra scored three consecutive goals in a four-minute-21-second span in the third period as the Caps defeated the Islanders in a game on March 26...The same night, Winnipeg's Keith Tkachuk had the first four-goal game of his career as the Jets moved into the eighth spot in the Western Conference with a victory in Dallas. Tkachuk scored his first goal just 26 seconds into the game and added three goals in the third period...Devil Ken Daneyko was furious at Washington's Kelly Miller after a knee-to-knee hit to the same leg that kept the defenseman out for 23 games last season...Vancouver's Dave Babych returned to the line-up after missing 23 games with a broken foot. He returned to the Canucks in February...More Bondra: the right winger celebrated his 28th birthday with a game-winning goal against Edmonton. He also had a six-point night against the Islanders in early February, a career high...More Tkachuk: the NHL suspended the Jets' left wing for two games and fined him \$1,000 for high-sticking Dave Ellett of Toronto in a March encounter...Ottawa's Michel Picard was also suspended and fined for cross-checking Ukrainian Richard Matvichuk of the Dallas Stars...Right winger Dave Andreychuk spent five days in a hard cast after surgery

on his left thumb on January 15. He wasn't available for the Leafs' first game after the all-star break...Goalie Darcy Wakaluk returned from a hamstring injury and eventually reclaimed back-up status to starter Andy Moog...Even more Tkachuk: his goal-scoring run of 12 goals in 10 games spurred him to over 30 back in early February...Fort Wayne Comets acquired nine-year NHL right-winger Pat Elynuik on loan from the Ottawa Senators back in November. For Elynuik, 28, a veteran of almost 500 NHL games with Washington, Winnipeg, Tampa Bay and Ottawa, it was his first minor league stint since playing seven AHL games in Moncton in 1988-1989. It lasted but a few months, as Elynuik's been back in Ottawa the past two months...Milwaukee Admirals' center Mike Tomlak notched his 300th pro point in a 5-4 shootout win against the San Francisco Spiders...Cleveland Lumberjacks' winger Dave Michayluk had a three-point game to pass Chick Chalmers and move into third on the all-time point list with 1,237. Minnesota Moose traded for defenseman Alexander Godynyuk. Godynyuk had been assigned by the Hartford Whalers to the Detroit Vipers (IHL)...Albany goalie Peter Sidorkiewicz was arrested in the early morning hours of February 8 and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. A court date hadn't been set and coach Robbie Ftorek indicated the matter was being handled internally...Syracuse Crunch netminder Sergei Tkachenko faced an onslaught of 63 shots by the Binghamton Rangers in a February AHL matchup. An overtime goal won it for the Rangers in a 5-4 final...Veteran NHL-er Greg Paslawski had a three-point night in Peoria's victory over Las Vegas (IHL)...Speaking of Vegas, ex-goalie Clint Malarchuk is an assistant coach/assistant GM with the Las Vegas Thunder. He's also raising emus on the side (no kidding). In a March 5 ceremony, the Thunder retired Malarchuk's No. 30 jersey. Go Clint!!!

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Constitutional debate...

(Continued from page 4)

the administration may resort to the expedient that eventually forced passage of the Constitutional Agreement: painstakingly, individually, cajoling enough deputies into putting their signatures to the draft constitution for the vote to become a formality.

Even allowing for the fact that time-horizons can be very compressed in the often seemingly four-dimensional world of Ukrainian politics, a draft constitution offered jointly by the president and the Supreme Council would undoubtedly, for the foreseeable future - defined in this case by the Russian presidential elections and a little beyond - receive the overwhelming support of the population. (The Crimea being the obvious candidate should there be any regional exceptions.)

The adoption of a constitution will be an important landmark in Ukraine's search for a post-Soviet identity. Nevertheless, its significance should not be overstated. The constitution cannot and will not in and of itself resolve satisfactorily the very deep, persistent differences within the Ukrainian political elite(s) and society in general. Paradoxically, historical precedent suggests that it could even exacerbate some of these tensions. The American Constitution, for example, did not resolve the arguments over states' rights - probably the most divisive issue confronting the young republic. If anything, the Constitution focused, consolidated, and even sharpened the seemingly intractable differences by allowing each side to frame its arguments with reference to the Constitution. This argument was only eventually resolved through force of arms.

The point here, of course, is not that the political differences in contemporary Ukraine can eventually only be resolved through armed conflict, but simply that a constitution is a covenant whose effectiveness - or lack thereof - is crucially dependent on the broader political culture's contemporary characteristics. The fact that the enlightened - on paper at least - Soviet Constitution of 1937 was emasculated in

practice by Stalinist political culture further supports this argument.

The major shortcoming of post-Soviet Ukrainian political culture is a persistent, pervasive and often willful lack of respect for the rule of law. Now surprisingly therefore, politics are still more reflective of byzantine Soviet practices than the "Rechtstaat" practices most Ukrainians would like to see their polity develop. Covenants are generally observed only in the breach. The major flaw of the Constitutional Agreement, for example, has been that it lacks a mechanism for imposing and enforcing sanctions against violations in the shape of a truly independent, respected judiciary. Such an environment cannot but hamper the effectiveness of the constitution, either. Under such circumstances the character and commitment of the presidency - the strongest political entity in contemporary Ukraine and one that should soon become stronger still - will be the crucial factors in determining the success of Ukrainian reforms.

Again, none of this is to imply that a rule of law environment cannot eventually evolve; it is simply to point out that the development of post-Soviet Ukrainian political culture has not yet reached the point where legal covenants play the same dominant role they do in mature Western democracies, superficial similarities notwithstanding.

One of the more unfortunate aspects of the constitutional episode so far has been the absence of mature political parties and the lack of an underlying consensus about where Ukraine should be going. This has meant the debate has all too often resembled little more than a dispute over what kind of institutional arrangements will best serve the interests of those elites currently wielding the levers of state power. There is an almost obsessive jostling for advantage. This quest to consolidate the status quo has led, for example, to an inordinate amount of time (and space) being spent on arguments about who has the right to appoint and dismiss whom and under what circumstances - important issues, but surely not central to the long-term general welfare.

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Springtime brings...

(Continued from page 13)

Polacco titled "Chicken Sunday," which describes Ukrainian pysanky.

Lily Bochonko of Woodside, Queens, who has been decorating pysanky and teaching the craft in New York since 1976, took her expertise out of the big city this year to Ridgefield, Conn., where she and her daughter, Paula Lockfort, shared the history, legends and method of pysanka-decorating with members of St. Mary's Sewing Guild.

A true coloratura

The New York State Theater at Lincoln Center serves as home base for two illustrious companies – the New York City Ballet and the New York City Opera, their seasons following each other through the year, thus keeping a constant rotation of Ukrainian artists before the public.

A recent changing of the guard occurred at the end of February, when the City Ballet finished its winter season and ballet soloist Roma Sosenko pirouetted off into the wings. Taking over the theater, the City Opera marched out its forces, which include Ukrainian soprano Oksana Krovtytska and baritone George Bohachevsky, a chorus veteran.

Dancer Stephanie Godino, who appears in various City Opera productions, including "Rigoletto," "The Magic Flute" and "The Dreyfus Affair," performed the can-can in Franz Lehar's dazzling operetta, "The Merry Widow." A live performance of this sumptuous show, with its ravishing costumes and luxuriant decore, was carried by New York's PBS station Channel 13.

Choreographer Helena Andreyko is credited with restaging the choreography for this season's production of the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta "The Mikado."

The New York City Opera Orchestra counts among its members violinist Helen Strilec, a longtime member of the orchestra and the American Symphony Orchestra.

Ms. Krovtytska, in her third consecutive season as a leading City Opera soprano, appeared a few weeks ago in several performances of Verdi's "La Traviata." She sang the role of Violetta in the heart-wrenching story of a woman redeemed, which Verdi set amidst the glamour and frivolity of 19th century Parisian society.

Associated Press writer Mary Campbell gave the singer high praise. "Oksana Krovtytska, as Violetta, has a gleaming voice in the top register. Her coloratura was true, glittering and warm, and her lyric singing flowed."

Ms. Krovtytska, a native of Lviv, has received equally glowing tributes from other critics since her 1993 debut at the City Opera as Liu in Puccini's "Turandot" and Micaela in Bizet's "Carmen."

Her work in "Traviata" last year brought this testimonial from Opera magazine: "Krovtytska's first act would have been of star quality in any theater in the world. She is pretty, she moved gracefully and expressively, and while the voice in the Slavonic manner gets a little too much resonance in the sinus

chamber, she employs that slightly edgy tone for dramatic purposes."

The soprano has delighted audiences with her expressive, lyric voice in City Opera productions of "Prince Igor," "La Boheme," "La Rondine" and "Don Giovanni," as well as in performances during the company's national tours. She also has won excellent notices for her appearances at the Saratoga and Wolf Trap performing arts festivals and in engagements with symphonies throughout the U.S.

A recipient of Puccini Foundation and Sullivan Foundation grants, Ms. Krovtytska was in Florida at the beginning of April to take part in two concerts sponsored by the Ukrainian Music Institute of America. She and pianist Mykola Suk performed works by the distinguished composer and conductor, Mykola Kolessa of Lviv, in Port Charlotte and Hollywood.

Upcoming engagements include Verdi's "Requiem" in Wichita, Kansas, (April 12 and 13), Verdi's "Falstaff" in Charleston, W. Va., (May 4), a recital at the Ukrainian Museum of Modern Art in Chicago (May 12), the Berkshire Music Festival (July 13) and a recital at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Hunter, N.Y., (August 3). Ms. Krovtytska will also appear with the NYCO company's "La Boheme" cast at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center during the week of June 7.

Ms. Krovtytska's voice can be heard in a recording of the Mahler VIII Symphony, performed at the Colorado Mahlerfest in 1995.

A lyric soprano

The name of lyric soprano Svitlana (Lana) Tonkoschkur was inadvertently omitted in a previous story about New York City Opera artists.

Ms. Tonkoschkur, who received her first professional engagement with NYCO, sang with the City Opera chorus for three years (1963-1966) and toured with the NYCO national company. She is the daughter of Ukrainian writer and composer Simon Woshakiwsky.

In her first season, Ms. Tonkoschkur appeared in Alberto Ginastera's "Don Rodrigo," which starred Placio Domingo in the title role, "Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk" and "Love for Three Oranges."

The singer was often selected for special scenes, for example, the Polish scene in "Boris Godunov," or a performance with the children's choir in "Carmen." In 1964-1965, she sang in the City Opera production of "Cavalleria Rusticana."

Born in Ukraine, Ms. Tonkoschkur received her musical education at New York music institutions, including the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and at Rockland Community College. She has toured in the U.S. and Canada with the Ukrainian Opera Company and the Dumka Chorus, and has appeared with opera companies and in concert regularly in the New York area, using her maiden name, Vasilaki, in solo recitals.

Ms. Tonkoschkur served for 10 years as choir director at Virgin Mary the Protectress and Holy Ascension churches in Clifton, N.J. She now resides with her husband, Alexander Tonkoschkur, in Tappan, N.Y., where she teaches elementary piano and voice privately.

Ukraine contemplates...

(Continued from page 3)

killed by the radiation took a special "Morning Train" from Kyiv to Moscow to visit the graves of their loved ones, buried in lead coffins to protect the earth from the contaminated corpses.

In Slavutych, the town built for Chernobyl workers after the 1986 accident, a memorial service was held to mourn the victims of the accident. Exactly 10 years later, at 1:24 a.m. on April 26, people gathered at the Slavutych monument for a minute of silence, placing burning candles and bouquets of carnations at the base of the monument, which is etched with photographs of the first 30 people killed by Chernobyl's radiation.

Throughout the week of April 22-28, scores of roundtables and conferences were sponsored by international organizations, institutions, environmental groups and private foundations, covering just about every issued relating to Chernobyl: health, environment, energy, social consequences, political aspects, etc.

Various world leaders, including U.S. President Bill Clinton and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, delivered messages of condolences to the people of Ukraine on the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy, and both leaders promised that their countries will work to help Ukraine overcome the lingering impact of Chernobyl and to improve the quality of life of Ukraine's population.

In the evening on April 26, President Kuchma and his wife, Lyudmilla, Prime Minister Marchuk, Parliament Chairman Oleksander Moroz, as well as numerous government officials and Parliament members, attended a commemorative concert at the Taras Shevchenko Opera and Ballet Theater.

"Bowling our heads before the memory of those who gave their lives to save us from this atomic disaster, thanking those who risked their health in order to clean up after the accident, we also take this opportunity to express our gratitude and our respect to state and international organizations that have supported Ukraine since the early days of the Chernobyl tragedy and continue to help us to this day. Among those which do such charity work is the American Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund," said President Kuchma in his opening remarks at the concert.

"I believe that with mutual support, mutual aid and cooperation, by uniting forces, our mutual wisdom will serve as a

promising guarantee for today's and future generations that our planet Earth will never again experience a similar tragedy," added President Kuchma.

"The program is dedicated to the victims of the Chernobyl disaster, in particular the liquidators who lost their lives and the children of Chernobyl for whom the entire future has been jeopardized," said Nadia Matkiwsky, the executive director of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, who produced the program for the commemorative evening. Directed by Valentyn Kozmenko-Delinde, the commemorative evening featured actor Bohdan Stupka, folk vocalist Nina Matvienko and the Virsky Dance Ensemble.

"The commemorative evening is envisioned as a theatrical concert based on a central theme – the three phases through which the life of a child of Chernobyl will pass: birth, tragedy and, ultimately, salvation. Progress through these phases is motivated by faith, love and hope," explained artistic director Mr. Kozmenko-Delinde, talking about the concert.

It also featured rock musician and vocalist Jon Anderson of the group Yes and the Westminster Boys Choir. [British vocalist Sarah Brightman did not come to Ukraine because of the recent brushfires in Chernobyl, and Oscar-winning actor Jack Palance, who is the national spokesman for the CCRF, who was in the audience, also did not perform as originally scheduled.]

"Chernobyl is a global problem, not simply a local misfortune," said the actor during a press conference in Kyiv on April 24. "The CCRF was determined to bring international artists to Ukraine for the commemorative activities in order to broaden international awareness," said the actor, who spent a week in the homeland of his parents.

But, it was not the international talent that captured the heart of the audience at the theater that evening, but a 12-year-old girl from Lviv, Solomiya Urbanovych, (step-daughter of Yaroslav Dutkewych, Peace Corps director in Ukraine).

Concluding the concert with a moving delivery of a prayer to St. Volodymyr, she brought the audience to tears and once again underscored that Ukraine's future is its children.

Solomiya later performed at the outdoor evening concert in Kyiv, attended by thousands of residents of the city on Independence Square, which ended with a powerful musical requiem delivered by Kyiv choirs.

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Helsinki Commission...

(Continued from page 1)

energy saving and efficiency, creating our own nuclear fuel cycle and enhanced cooperation in the sphere of radiation safety."

Dr. Shcherbak also testified that while Ukraine applauds the December 1995 signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Ukraine, the Group of Seven industrial states and the European Commission to close down Chernobyl by the year 2000, the document does not "envisage clear financial obligations on the Western side." The G-7 had promised Ukraine \$2.6 billion in credit lines and \$512 million in grants.

Ukraine, which allocates 12 percent of its budget to combat the consequences of Chernobyl, cannot take on the decommissioning of the plant by itself, he said, and reiterated Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's proposal to the G-7 to conclude a legally binding document that would define the conditions and time framework for disbursement of the promised funds.

Ambassador Martynov, in his testimony,

echoed the Ukrainian ambassador's call for expanded international assistance. Belarus received 70 percent of the radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl explosion, and today, only 1 percent of its territory can be considered "clean" of radioactive contamination. Twenty-five percent of the Belarusian budget is allocated for Chernobyl-related consequences.

"The scale of the catastrophe and its consequences defies the capabilities of any single country. The 10 years since the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power station showed, however, that the international community is not quite up to the Chernobyl test," he said. Ambassador Martynov testified that Belarus needs assistance in "creating technologies for rehabilitation of contaminated lands and the production of safe foods" (20 percent of Belarus' arable land was contaminated by radioactive fallout), providing Belarusian doctors with high-quality equipment and modern and effective medicines, and conducting scientific research.

He reiterated his country's proposals, submitted to an international conference

on Chernobyl held in Vienna in April, to ameliorate the consequences of the disaster: set up a joint scientific interstate center on the problems of Chernobyl; establish a Fund for Planet Protection that would finance Chernobyl-related projects; and create an enforceable international framework that would charge states responsible for causing nuclear damage to other countries to offer compensation.

Mr. Martynov explained that because Belarus has no nuclear reactors on its territory, Belarusians "feel we are hostages to the reactors on our perimeter." The Belarusian position, he said, is that the international community should make an effort to increase safety at nuclear power plants in Ukraine, Lithuania and Russia, and close the most dangerous reactors in those countries.

When asked by Rep. Smith to assess international assistance to Belarus, Ambassador Martynov replied, "Frankly, we do not perceive international assistance as adequate." He said that bilateral assistance from the United States consisted mostly of private, rather than governmental, humanitarian aid.

Rep. Wolf commented that Ukraine and Belarus carry a great burden in alleviating the consequences of Chernobyl. Before leaving the hearing for another appointment, the congressman turned to Ambassador Martynov and said, "You are rejoining Russia. You should be careful in regard to what direction you look."

In their testimonies Dr. Feshbach and Mr. Kuzma argued against proposed cutbacks in United States Agency for International Development (USAID) humanitarian assistance projects. Dr. Feshbach, author of "Ecocide in the USSR: Health and Nature Under Siege" and "Ecological Disaster: Cleaning Up the Hidden Legacy of the Soviet Regime," cited recent evidence that lung cancer is on the rise among Chernobyl clean-up workers due to inhalation of plutonium aerosols, as is thyroid cancer among children.

"People thought the consequences of Chernobyl were exaggerated by local

experts. Today in Belarus we see four times as many cases of thyroid cancer in children as we did seven years before the accident," he said, adding that another peak in thyroid cancer is expected in the 2005-2010 period.

The number of leukemia cases, Dr. Feshbach testified, also will increase. "In the immediate post-Chernobyl period, it was the practice to not report cases of chronic radiation sickness, or leukemia. I believe we will see large increases" of the disease.

These statistics, according to Mr. Kuzma, "need to be considered as the 'tip of the iceberg.'" The director of development at CCRF testified that "the peak of the crisis is ahead of us," and in anticipation of that, CCRF has launched hospital partnerships and physicians' training programs designed to upgrade prenatal and pediatric care in Ukraine. Mr. Kuzma said that anecdotal information indicates that Chernobyl-related illnesses are on the rise and cautioned the scientific community to be more open to evidence from local Ukrainian doctors and scientists.

CCRF is the leading private organization providing medical aid to Ukraine. It has launched 16 airlifts to Ukraine worth \$38 million. To date, the U.S. government has provided Ukraine with \$10 million in Chernobyl-related assistance.

The Rev. Wojciechowski...

(Continued from page 6)

Born to Stanley and Donna Ann Wojciechowski in Springfield, Ohio, on September 9, 1953, the Rev. Wojciechowski studied at Mount St. Mary Seminary of Cincinnati, Ss. Cyril and Methodius Seminary of Pittsburgh, Duns Scotus College Seminary of Southfield, Mich., and the University of Akron in Ohio, earning a master of divinity degree.

He was ordained a priest on May 17, 1981, in Parma, Ohio, and served parishes in Cleveland, Detroit and Bakerton, Pa., before arriving in Woonsocket in 1990. He was active as a pastoral counselor and reli-

gious educator, and served as assistant director of the Eastern Orthodox Foundation in Indiana, Pa. The Rev. Wojciechowski also served as a Navy chaplain, attaining the rank of lieutenant.

He is survived by his wife, Sue Ellen; sons, Nikolai, Kyprian and Joseph; and a sister, Kathleen Baringer of Canton, Ohio.

A memorial service officiated by Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of America took place at St. Michael Church on March 6. A funeral service at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Belle Vernon, Pa., and interment at Belle Vernon Cemetery followed on March 9.

Auxiliary bishop...

(Continued from page 6)

archeparchy since 1993. His predecessor, Metropolitan-emeritus Hermaniuk, 84, also a Redemptorist, continues to reside in Winnipeg.

The Ukrainian Archeparchy of Winnipeg has not been served by an auxiliary bishop since 1992, when Bishop Myron Daciuk, a Ukrainian-rite Basilian, was appointed to the Edmonton Eparchy.

Bishop Daciuk was named auxiliary to then-Metropolitan Hermaniuk in 1982. He died on January 14 at the age of 76. So far no successor has been named for the Edmonton vacancy.

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United Nations...

(Continued from page 1)

An interesting point in the conference occurred when Mr. Andemicael was asked by a conference attendee why the IAEA continues to stick to these old figures when new evidence suggests that Chernobyl-related deaths are much higher. After supportive applause from the crowd for the question, Mr. Andemicael staunchly defended the figures as ones developed after exhaustive research by the scientific community.

Mr. Andemicael at another point said that no statistically significant increase of cancers has been noted by scientists, although he explained he foresees a drastic increase (into the thousands) in the future.

He said the true legacy of Chernobyl may be the psychosomatic disorders that continue to plague the survivors, including chronic fatigue, stomach disorders and depressed immune systems.

He ended his talk on a positive note, stating that he feels health problems such as thyroid cancer can eventually be overcome and that even the soil can be rehabilitated, if properly turned using new technology. Then fast-growing plants could be utilized to make products not for human ingestion.

The person receiving the warmest greeting was Nobel Peace Prize laureate of 1995, physicist Joseph Rotblat. After receiving a standing ovation, Prof. Rotblat pursued a theme that the world must rid itself of nuclear weapons and the philosophy of "mutually assured destruction." He explained that the world has for a millennium followed the old Roman dictum, "if you want peace prepare for war," to no avail.

"We have followed it for centuries and the result is that we have had war." He proposed that the new dictum should be: "If you want peace, then prepare for peace."

"War must cease to be an acceptable social institution," said the professor.

Ukraine's Ambassador to the United Nations Anatoliy Zlenko guided the conference back to the theme of Chernobyl. He spoke of the large cost of resettlement, decontamination and medical treatment for the victims. "Twelve percent of the national budget is dedicated to reduce the aftereffects," said Ambassador Zlenko. He explained that at one time the figures were sustainable, but today, with the continued decline in productivity, "finances available under the state budget have fallen."

The ambassador put forth several sug-

gestions for future Chernobyl-related projects, including expanded research on the effects of Chernobyl on the Dnipro River, which supports 30 million people, and the Black Sea into which it flows. He also suggested the development of a technical center for research on Chernobyl problems.

The Belarusian Ambassador to the U.N. Alyasander Sychow (pronounced Say-shu) also spoke. He asserted that the Belarusian people overwhelmingly have borne the brunt of the consequences of Chernobyl. Among the statistics he cited: 23 percent of Belarus is contaminated as a result of the Chernobyl accident; 130,000 people have been resettled from more than 400 settlements; Chernobyl accounts for half the thyroid cancers in Belarus, which is today 100 times the expected rate; every fifth Belarusian has been affected by Chernobyl.

Mr. Sychow suggested that a Fund for Planet Protection and an international Scientific Interstate Center on Chernobyl be established, which would help those affected defray the costs of the tragedy.

"The world may have lost its interest in Chernobyl, but not the people of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine," he said. "Today we have more questions and fewer answers."

Speaking from the floor at the end of the morning session, Margaret McCaffery, economic affairs officer for the Regional Commissions' New York office, sought to make people aware of a major cause of the re-release of radiation when she mentioned the brushfires that raged in Ukraine destroying five villages in the contaminated zone only days before the conference convened.

She said the key to containing and preventing fires is adequate forest maintenance. At one time approximately 1,800 fires annually raged on average in the zone, the number of which have been reduced to 800 due to limited access by people.

But if forests are not adequately maintained and cleared of underthicket, deadwood and mosses, the threat of fires is ever present as is the associated release of radiation that remains in the soil and in the vegetation. "Plumes can reach 800-1000 meters [in a forest fire] and disperse radiation for hundreds of miles," said Ms. McCaffery.

Belarusian Mission hosts concert

Immediately after lunch the Belarusian Mission hosted an informal concert in association with the Ukrainian and Russian Missions, as well as the U.N. Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the U.N. Department of Public



Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Yuri Shcherbak speaks at conference. Sitting next to him, Dr. Christine Durbak, founder and chair of World Information Transfer Inc.

Information. Pianist Marina Mojoukhova from Miensk moved the audience with her stunning piano work in a short recital that featured the works of Glebov and Rachmaninoff.

Afterwards three films on Chernobyl were presented: the Ukrainian-produced "Years Past and Lives Shattered," the Russian "Chernobyl Postscript" and an Irish documentary on Belarus in the post-Chernobyl era titled "Black Wind White Land."

"A requiem for the victims"

In the evening hundreds assembled in the U.N.'s visitors lobby to listen to one of the emerging world-class symphonies, the Odessa Philharmonic Orchestra.

In opening remarks, Ambassador Zlenko called the performance "a requiem for the victims." More than 500 showed, among them the renowned Ukrainian composer Mykola Kolessa, to listen in an area of the U.N. complex less suited for such a performance. But after minor audio adjustments and a brief reminder by Maestro Earle to the audience to maintain silence, the show went off without a further hitch.

Featured were works by Maestro Kolessa, Myroslav Skoryk, Gustav Mahler, Aaron Copeland, Charles Ives and Kostiantyn Dankevych. The concert was simulcast by WNYC across the country via National Public Radio.

Conference day two

The conference's second day featured

more discussion on Chernobyl and toxic waste in general, but of a more technical nature. Dr. Allison Keyes gave a detailed account of the chemical processes that take place when strontium-90 enters the body, and Dr. Arthur Upton, professor at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and formerly director of the National Cancer Institute, spoke of how radiation affects the body.

Then Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, began his talk by stating, "It is exactly 10 years to the day since Chernobyl reactor No. 4 blew," requesting that the audience stand for a minute of silence.

After, Dr. Shcherbak, founder of Green World in Ukraine and an expert on the Chernobyl accident, said the disaster is a new phenomenon of the modern technological age. "No one planned a military operation under the code name 'Chernobyl,'" he said, and explained that Chernobyl is a signal, an alarm that man must better harness control over the modern technology it loses on the environment. As he put it, "the road to hell is paved with good intentions."

At United Nations other commemorations included a two-day exhibit of art and photos by Ukrainians titled "Chernobyl: Ten Years After" (sic) and a charity bazaar of goods jointly sponsored by the women of the missions of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia.

Both the city of New York and the United Nations had proclaimed April 26 Chernobyl commemoration day.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Tuesday, May 7 - Friday, June 7

NEW YORK: Soho Photo Gallery invites all interested to "Studies in Black and White," an exhibit by Petro Hrytsyk. The opening reception is at 6-8 p.m. Gallery hours: Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m.; Fridays-Sundays, 1-6 p.m.; and by appointment. The gallery is located at 15 White St. For further information call (212) 226-8571.

Thursday, May 9-Sunday, May 19

NEW YORK: The La MaMa Experimental Theater will present a workshop production of "Wayward Wind" by Yara Arts Group, directed by Virlana Tkacz, designed by Watoku Ueno, with music by Obie-Award winning composer Genji Ito and the foremost Buryat composer, Vladilen Pantaev. The piece employs Buryat Mongolian myth and music to illuminate a Ukrainian poem, Oleh Lysheha's "Swan," written in Kyiv in 1994. La MaMa E.T.C. located at 74A E. Fourth St., presents "Wayward Wind" as a work-in-progress. Performances are Thursdays through Sundays at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12; the box office number is (212) 475-7710.

Friday, May 10

WASHINGTON: The Washington Group invites the public to a slide show presentation on "Ancient Kyiv and its Relics," by Ljudmila Pekarska. The presentation will deal with archeological finds in the city. Ms. Pekarska is a special assistant at the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities at the British Museum. The presentation, in Ukrainian, will culminate in a reception. The program starts at 7 p.m. at the Holy Family Ukrainian National Shrine, 4250 Harewood Road, NE. Donations are welcome. For more information call Marta Zielyk, (202) 647-2197 (daytime) or (202)

244-8836 (evenings).

Friday - Saturday, May 17 - 18

YORKTON/SASKATOON, Sask.: The Black Sea Ukrainian Dance Ensemble brings its fiery and vibrant style of folk dance to the prairie with two performances. Friday, the program starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Ann Portenuff Theater, Yorkton Regional High School, 150 Gladstone Ave. Tickets: adults, \$20; seniors, \$18; children, \$10. Saturday, the lights go down at 7:30 p.m. at the Centennial Auditorium in Saskatoon. Tickets: \$25, \$23 and \$10. For further information call Jeffrey, (306) 865-3308.

Saturday, May 18

CLEVELAND: The Ukrainian American Museum-Archives cordially invites all to a wine tasting fund-raiser at The Club at Society Center, 127 Public Square. Hors d'oeuvres and wine will be served from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Donation: \$50 (\$25 is tax-deductible). Reservations must be made by May 15. For more information call (216) 356-2584.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Friday - Sunday, June 28 - 30

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute holds its annual reunion. Alumni from the classes of 1971-1995 are invited to participate. Reunion activities will include a buffet supper at the Harvard Faculty Club on Friday, followed by a film. Saturday, a roundtable discussion on Ukraine and Ukrainian studies will be followed by a cook-out, art exhibit, banquet and dance in the evening. Sunday, participants may attend church services or rest up in a leisurely fashion. For more information call Patricia Coatsworth, (617) 496-5651.

20th annual St. George Festival coming up

NEW YORK — St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church invites everyone to their 20th annual Ukrainian Festival on Seventh Street, Friday - Sunday, May 17-19.

The street, closed to vehicular traffic between Second and Third avenues, will be lined with booths offering every conceivable type of Ukrainian food, from varenyky to pechyvo (pastries), as well as standard fare such as hamburgers, hot dogs, etc.

Numerous kiosks featuring traditional and modern Ukrainian arts and crafts, embroideries, wood carvings, ceramics

and the like, as well as a complete artistic program with dancers, singers and the renowned Dumka Ukrainian Chorus await the visitor.

The festivities start on Friday at 4 p.m., with an evening program at 7 p.m.; Saturday, at 11 a.m. with both an afternoon and evening program; and Sunday, at 1 p.m., with a special afternoon program, including a concert by Dumka at 1:30 p.m. in the church.

For more information call (212) 674-1615.

U.S. government-sponsored...

(Continued from page 3)

the private sector, organizations and companies that have helped to contribute to this effort. They include Project Hope, Americares, Eli Lilly, the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, Monsanto, Pharmacia Upjohn, Biotechnologia, Medfarm and City Hope International. And we also commend the efforts of the government of Ukraine and the Counterpart Foundation for their efforts in making this event possible today," added Ambassador Morningstar.

"Ten years ago, a tragic event occurred affecting not only Ukraine, but all of mankind," observed Ambassador Miller. "Americans are very honored to be able to work with Ukrainians because American blood has Ukrainian blood flowing through its veins. So I am very honored as ambassador to this great country of Ukraine to receive this gift from the American government, from American business to the people of Ukraine," he concluded.

The airlift, part of the medical assistance promised by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his visit to Ukraine in March, comprised donations from the U.S. government (including U.S. Department of Defense excess medical stockpiles), Project Hope and Americares.

But the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund continues to lead the list of organizations that consistently provide assistance to the victims of the Chernobyl tragedy.

Since 1989, the CCRF has participated in 16 airlifts and five sea shipments of medical aid to Ukraine, valued at more than \$36 million. This U.S. government airlift on April 25 was the 17th such mission that the CCRF has taken part in and included more than \$1.3 million of high-

quality pharmaceuticals collected by this humanitarian aid charity fund.

Currently, the CCRF has engaged the Monsanto Company and its two subsidiaries - Searle and NutraSweetKelco - to provide medicines and initiate projects that will help those affected by the accident.

"In the decade since the disaster, it has become clear that there is a continuing need for aid. We cannot forget that tens of thousands of people's lives continue to be affected by this tragedy," said Mr. Noels, the general manager of Monsanto-Central Europe/CIS.

Monsanto has donated - through the CCRF - the antibiotic Flagyl, a Searle product, and the drug Algisorb (which can reduce the effects of food contaminated with strontium-90), a product of NutraSweet Kelco and the Russian company Biotechnologia, to the citizens of Ukraine.

It also plans to sponsor a mobile medical aid project, which will bring much-needed access to basic health check-ups and referrals to people in rural communities of the Dnipropetrovske, Luhanske and Vinnytsia regions, offering early pregnancy testing and ultrasound screenings for expectant mothers.

"Monsanto hopes that this assistance, while offering immediate relief to people who may be suffering as a result of the explosion, will also bring long-term improvements in the quality of life in Ukraine," said Mr. Noels.

"The medical consequences of this disaster will become more, not less evident in the next 10 years," said Nadia Matkiwsky, the executive director of the CCRF, who spoke at a press conference on April 24.

"And our commitment to the most vulnerable victims of this disaster, the infants, the children, adolescents, young adults - the next generation - will become even stronger."

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