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Gorbachev, Kravchuk recall early days of Chernobyl disaster

by Marta Kolomayets

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — A decade after the devastating explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev continues to deny that the Soviet leadership intentionally concealed the scale of the accident, reported Interfax-Ukraine on April 26.

Mr. Gorbachev told a news conference in Moscow on the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl accident that "we failed to do something only because we were unaware of what had happened. I believe we were simply unprepared," he added.

"In the beginning, when our top scientists and a government commission arrived there (Chernobyl), they all stayed silent because they did not know what to report — because they could not understand anything," he said.

"And only gradually we started to understand the scale of the event and the dangers," added the former general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, who is currently running for president of Russia in the June elections.

Former Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk gave the BBC (British Broadcasting Corp.) Ukrainian service an interview on April 26, recalling the events of April 26-May 1, 1986, in Kyiv.

Mr. Kravchuk, then the head of propaganda and agitation division of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine, recalled that he came into work at 10 a.m. on Saturday morning, April 26, and stopped in to see First Secretary Volodymyr Ivashko, who told him of the Chernobyl accident. But at that point he did not realize the scope of the accident, thinking it was just a fire at the reactor.

In the afternoon, Mr. Kravchuk took a car out to his dacha at Koncha-Zaspa to the south of Kyiv, but before he even got out of the car, his wife signaled that he was wanted back at the Central Committee headquarters.

"Returning to Kyiv, I got into a car with Mr. Ivashko and Andriy Serdiuk, who is currently the deputy minister of health, but at the time was a secretary at the CC dealing,

(Continued on page 2)

First lady hosts Chernobyl commemoration at White House

by Roma Hadzewycz

WASHINGTON — Ten years after the fateful May Day when children in Kyiv marched down the Ukrainian capital's main boulevard, the Khreshchatyk, unaware that deadly radioactive fallout was coming down upon them, the first lady of the United States, Hillary Rodham Clinton, hosted a special commemorative program whose aim was to focus attention on the continuing devastating effects of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Billed as "A Call to Healing and Prevention," the afternoon program at the White House brought together activists from both the private and government sectors who had worked to help the victims of the Chernobyl disaster, and the ambassadors of the three republics most affected by the accident's fallout, Belarus, Russia and Ukraine. Included among the nearly 200 guests were many Ukrainian American community members representing charitable, women's, fraternal, religious and other organizations, as well as individual activists.

The 10th anniversary commemoration (originally scheduled for April 10, but postponed due to funeral services for Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown) featured speeches by the first lady and Vice-President Al Gore, as well as Alexander Kuzma of the Chernobyl Challenge '96 coalition and 11-year-old Vova Malofienko, one of the first "children of Chernobyl" brought to this country for medical treatment in the aftermath of the world's worst nuclear accident.

The program in the East Room of the White House was convened by Mrs. Clinton, who acknowledged that "it is a great privilege for me to serve as honorary chair of Chernobyl Challenge '96" and



Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks at the White House event marking the Chernobyl decennial, as Vice-President Al Gore (center) and Alex Kuzma of the Chernobyl Challenge '96 coalition listen.

explained that the assembled were "rededicating ourselves to the healing and recovery that must continue into the future."

"Today's event," she continued, "is one both of mourning and also of hope." Mourning because "the people of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia have suffered so much in the 10 years since the explosion and fire at Chernobyl's unit 4 reactor," and hope because, "as we so often see when tragedies

occur, here and around the world, Americans and others respond with concern and compassion."

"The private voluntary organizations, including those represented in this room, have supplied well over 1,000 tons of medicine and medical equipment and supplies to people in affected areas. Those

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Canada's first Ukrainian Catholic metropolitan dies

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA — Archbishop Maxim Hermaniuk, Canada's first Ukrainian Catholic metropolitan, who served in that capacity from 1957 to 1992, died in Winnipeg on May 3. He was 84.

A day earlier, Archbishop-Metropolitan Emeritus Maxim Hermaniuk of Winnipeg had mourned the loss of a good friend when talking with a reporter from The Winnipeg Free Press.

The Rev. Jaropolk Radkewycz, who died in a car crash outside Winnipeg on April 29 (see obituary on page 3) and who served as the former metropolitan's secretary, was a "really big loss for our archdiocese," said Archbishop Hermaniuk.

The next day, the archbishop was found dead in his room in the early morning hours. It is believed he passed away from natural causes.

"I think [the Rev. Radkewycz's death] took a tremendous toll on the metropolitan," said longtime friend Jean Sahan,

who serves as secretary to St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Prayer services for Archbishop Hermaniuk were held at Ss. Vladimir and Olga Cathedral on the evening of May 9, followed by a funeral mass the next day.

The retired metropolitan's death marks a significant loss for not only the Winnipeg archeparchy, but the entire Catholic Church.

Born in Nove Selo in western Ukraine on October 30, 1911, the future Metropolitan Hermaniuk attended the Redemptorist Seminary in Louvain, Belgium, where he studied theology. He was ordained to the priesthood by fellow Redemptorist Bishop Nicholas Charnetsky on September 4, 1938.

Following his ordination, he returned to Belgium and obtained his bachelor's, licentiate and doctoral degrees in sacred theology from the University of Louvain.

Fluent in several languages, including French — and able to read ancient Babylonian — he received his licentiate in Oriental languages and history from the

university's Oriental Institute in 1943.

Two years later he started to work with people displaced after the conclusion of the second world war. During that time, the Rev. Hermaniuk received the highest post-doctoral award in theology — the maitre agrégé — in 1947 from the University of Louvain after successfully defending his thesis on the metaphorical significance of the parables of the Gospels.

He emigrated to Canada in 1948, when he was appointed vice-provincial superior of the Ukrainian-rite Redemptorist Fathers of Canada and the United States.

Based in Ontario, the Rev. Hermaniuk also taught moral theology and sacred scripture at the Redemptorist seminary in Waterford. On January 13, 1951, Pope Pius XII named him auxiliary bishop of the then Exarchate of Winnipeg and titular bishop of Sinna.

Four years later, the future metropolitan was named coadjutor to his predecessor, Basilian Archbishop Basil Ladyka.

(Continued on page 3)

Police arrest mass murder suspect

KYIV — A murder spree that resulted in the deaths of at least 42 victims was brought to an apparent end on April 14 with the arrest of 37-year-old Anatoliy Onupriyenko in Yavoriv, a town in western Ukraine. A report in the April 20 Los Angeles Times and numerous accounts by Ukrainian media indicated that Interior Ministry officials felt they had got their man.

The Times article quoted Deputy Interior Minister Leonid Borodych as saying that police attempts to identify and corner the killer were complicated by the wide geographical spread of the killings.

The first slaying took place in December 1995 in the western village of Bratkovychi, when the perpetrator shotgunned an entire family, including two children. Over the following months, the killer struck in eight different locations, ranging from Yavoriv in Lviv Oblast to the city of Enerhodar, near

the eastern city of Zaporizhzhia.

Bratkovychi was hit twice, which shocked local residents and turned the village into an armed camp, with hundreds of national guardsmen, Interior Ministry troops and special forces units patrolling the area after the second gruesome attack, in which seven persons were shot and their home set afire.

Only after the March 22 killings of a family of four some 30 miles from Bratkovychi, did investigators detect a pattern, which hinted that the killer was riding Ukraine's railways to the sites of his attacks, said the Los Angeles Times report.

After his arrest, Mr. Onupriyenko, a former forestry student, confessed to the murder since 1989 of over 50 people, which may put him ahead of Andrei Chikatilo, the infamous "Rostov Ripper" who claimed a similar number of victims in southern Russia over 17 years.

Gorbachev,

(Continued from page 1)

I think, with issues of science, and we drove out to Chernobyl," he recalled.

Mr. Kravchuk recalled noticing the convoys of buses moving toward Chernobyl, but insists that he was still not aware of the full extent of the accident. Even after the decision was made (on the evening of April 26) to evacuate the residents of Prypiat, and this was done in the afternoon on the 27th, Mr. Kravchuk did not think they would leave their town forever.

"On April 30, I was at the meeting of the Secretariat of the Central Committee, where we were deciding about whether or not to hold May Day parades on May 1. Various thoughts were expressed, but a decision to hold the celebrations was reached. If not everybody knew everything on April 26, 27 and 28, on April 29 and 30, everybody knew what had happened. And, I think the decision on April 30 you can call 'criminal,'" said Mr. Kravchuk.

"I recall standing on the reviewing stand on May 1 and Ivashko turning to me and saying that I should let the television station know that there should be footage of people frolicking in the park, children singing. 'This is the directive of the Politburo, to

convey that everything is calm and nothing terrible has happened, said Ivashko," Mr. Kravchuk told the BBC last week.

Although Mr. Kravchuk stated that he did not get to the television station to convey this information, indeed, the station showed exactly what Mr. Ivashko had hoped for.

"We were all at the reviewing stand, and we were all armed with dosimeters," recalled Mr. Kravchuk, adding that he noticed how the needles on the dosimeters started moving out of control. It was precisely that day, on May 1, that the wind direction shifted toward Kyiv from Chernobyl, he said.

The reasoning of the party bureaucrats to go on with the demonstration, said Mr. Kravchuk, was that mass panic would be created, causing havoc among more than 2.5 million city residents. He added that officials were also worried about another explosion at Chernobyl at the fourth reactor, where the temperatures were continually rising.

"I cannot say that in Moscow they knew everything that had occurred on April 26, but I am convinced that they knew a catastrophe — and not just an ordinary fire — had occurred. You needn't be a specialist to understand this. I think that the leadership in Moscow and Volodymyr Shcherbytsky had all the information," said Mr. Kravchuk, who is now a deputy in the Ukrainian Parliament.

However, Mr. Kravchuk added that he did not know the full extent of Chernobyl until he became the chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament in 1990.

"If we had been a normal state, with a normal ideology and normal policy, we would have told the world the truth about the accident right away. And, Ukraine and Belarus should have been declared ecological disaster zones through the United Nations. But back then, we carried the philosophy of a Soviet state and the party, which proclaimed that we were the best, the strongest, the grandest, that our people are the most patient and ideologically tempered, that we can conquer all," he said.

Only on May 14, 1986, did Soviet leader Gorbachev address the state about the "misfortune" of April 26 — and he accused the West of exaggerating its seriousness and "defaming" the Soviet Union.



Leonid Kravchuk

NEWSBRIEFS

Railroad union threatens deadbeats

KYIV — Ukrainian industrial combines and firms consistently delinquent in paying freight bills may find themselves without a means of transport for their goods, the Council of the Railroad Workers and Builders Union said on April 25. Currently various customer-debtors owe Ukraine's national railroad over 50 trillion karbovantsi, a sum equivalent to five months' pay for all railroad workers in the country, workers who have not received on-time paychecks in the past several months. The railroad's most prominent deadbeats are the Ministry for the Coal Industry, Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Energy and other government bodies. The union reserves the right to strike in the future, should the customers' debts not be cleared in the near future. (Respublika)

Solana: no new NATO members in 1996

PRAGUE — NATO Secretary General Javier Solana arrived here on April 29 and told Czech leaders that NATO will not admit new members at its December Council of Ministers meeting, Mlada Fronta Dnes reported. He said, however, that NATO will devote 1996 to "individualized dialogues with potential members," and these dialogues will lead to a decision in December on whom to later admit. The Czech Republic is to start such "an individualized dialogue" with NATO in May. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Tabachnyk nixes rock show

KYIV — A "Rock Against Communism" concert scheduled for May 1 at the Druzhba Narodiv monument was cancelled by order of the chief of the presidential administration, Dmytro Tabachnyk. The organizers of the show, the Ministry of Education and the Ruthenia youth association, had obtained permission from the Kyiv city administration on April 29. However, the following day, the administration rescinded its permission, after informing concert organizers and People's Deputies Oleh Vitovych and Yuriy Tyma. The deputies were told by city officials that Mr. Tabachnyk had ordered them to ban the concert. Among those scheduled to appear at the cancelled show were Komu Vnyz, Viy, Aktus and Zarathustra, all popular bands in the capital. (Respublika)

Mukhin wary of new Cold War blocs

BUDAPEST — The chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament's defense committee, Volodymyr Mukhin, was quoted as saying on May 8 that NATO enlargement could make Ukraine a buffer zone between two Cold War-style blocs. "It seems that the Cold War period did not provide enough

lessons for Europe as two blocs are again emerging on the continent," Mr. Mukhin was reported as saying by the Hungarian news agency MTI. The chairman of the state security and defense committee made his remarks in a speech to the Hungarian Parliament's defense committee. "Ukraine does not want to become a buffer zone between NATO and Russia," he said. Mr. Mukhin, who headed a Ukrainian defense delegation on a two-day visit to Hungary, said NATO's enlargement in itself did not alarm Kyiv since each country had the right to decide about membership. "However, European security is not possible if Russia is left out of the process," he said. Ukrainian leaders told NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana last month they wanted a closer relationship with the alliance, but said Ukraine was not yet ready to join or to abandon its non-aligned status. Russia fiercely opposes any enlargement of NATO, saying such a move would threaten its vital security interests. (Reuters)

Udoenko bullish on EU

KYIV — Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs Hennadiy Udoenko told officials from the European Union here that Ukraine's strategic goal is to become a full-fledged member of the EU. He said this will be possible only once Ukraine has become economically strong. Mr. Udoenko called on the EU to help Ukraine, not only with its fiscal and technical planning, but also in expanding trade with EU countries. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Oil spill in Luhanske oblast

KYIV — An accident along the Luhanske-Tykhoretske oil pipeline has resulted in the emission of over 500 tons of oil, Ukrainian Radio reported on May 5. The fuel spilled into the Bilenska River and caused a fire in the village of Nyzhnie, which destroyed a number of homes and crops. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Justice minister comments on referendum

KYIV — Ukrainian Minister of Justice Serhiy Holovaty, who also heads the Constitutional Commission, said that according to the current constitutional accord, a national referendum on adopting the constitution can only take place if both the president and Parliament agree to it, Ukrainian Radio reported on April 30. The mechanism for adopting the new constitution has not yet been decided. It will be difficult for any draft constitution to win the necessary two-thirds majority in Parliament, and it has been proposed that the constitution be passed by a simple majority vote and then put to a national referendum. (OMRI Daily Digest)

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Canada's first...

(Continued from page 1)

He was appointed Winnipeg's first Ukrainian Catholic archbishop and Canada's first Ukrainian Catholic metropolitan on November 3, 1956, and enthroned at Ss. Vladimir and Olga Cathedral on February 12, 1957.

Metropolitan Hermaniuk remained in that post until his resignation was accepted by the Holy See on December 29, 1992. However, he continued to live with his successor and fellow Redemptorist, Archbishop-Metropolitan Michael Bzdel, until his death.

One of only two Canadian bishops named by Pius XII – the other, Toronto's Isidore Borecky, was consecrated in 1948 – Archbishop Hermaniuk's career spanned and affected several generations.

In the Ukrainian community, his influence stretched from the World Congress of Free Ukrainians (he was a member of its Presidium) to working with student groups in post-war Belgium. He was also a full member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society.

In the Catholic Church, his influence was legendary. Although the cardinal's hat never reached him, Metropolitan Hermaniuk held clout at the Vatican.

Thirty-one years ago, he stood before 2,500 of his fellow bishops attending Vatican II in St. Peter's Basilica and convinced them to reverse the historic excommunication of the patriarch of Constantinople, Michael Cerularius, which was imposed by Rome during the Great Schism of 1054.

But it was in democratizing the Vatican where Metropolitan Hermaniuk's star shone brightest during that historic Vatican meeting. He remembered the exact day he broached the subject in a 1987 interview with *The Weekly*.

"On November 6, 1963, I addressed Vatican II on the issue of collegiality. On the one hand, we agreed that when the pope speaks on fundamental doctrine he speaks with infallibility, but the whole Church must also speak as one. Thus, I



Archbishop-Metropolitan Maxim Hermaniuk in a 1991 photo.

proposed the notion of collegiality, where there is representation among bishops, so as a group the Church still speaks as one."

Twenty years later, Metropolitan Hermaniuk convinced his brother bishops to adopt a universal Charter of Family Rights.

"He was a fatherly, caring, understanding man," recalled Saskatoon Bishop Cornelius Pasichny, who served under Archbishop Hermaniuk's leadership as a pastor in Winnipeg prior to the metropolitan's resignation.

Nine years ago, when asked how he would like to be remembered, Archbishop Hermaniuk said, "I always tried to do what my conscience told me was useful to do for the people. If I succeeded, it was the good Lord who helped me. If I failed, I would say to the good Lord, 'It was meant to be.' I tried my best to serve Canada and the Ukrainian Catholic Church. It is up to history to make the final judgement."

On the night before his death, Metropolitan Hermaniuk had attended a youth prayer rally in Winnipeg. Though slower in gait as a result of suffering a broken hip last year, he managed many smiles for the young people in attendance.

Artist Arcadia Olenska-Petryshyn found dead; husband is charged

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — Arcadia Olenska-Petryshyn, 61, noted painter and critic, was found dead in her bedroom in the early morning hours of May 6. She had been beaten over the head with a claw hammer, said New Brunswick police officials.

Police have arrested her husband, Walter Petryshyn, a pioneering researcher and renowned mathematician, and charged him with killing his wife after the two had apparently argued.

At least one long-time close acquaintance of Prof. Petryshyn suggested that the academician was suffering from deep depression and was on the "brink of insanity," reported the Newark Star-Ledger on May 7. Bohdan Boychuk said that Mr. Petryshyn had become increasingly despondent and remote after he discovered an error in a 1995 math textbook he had published.

Ms. Petryshyn, who was born in Zbarazh, Halychyna, emigrated with her parents to the United States in 1950. She completed her studies at Hunter College in New York and the University of Chicago. She worked mostly with lithographs, graphics and oils, most recently doing paintings of cacti and prints of plants and trees. She exhibited at numerous art shows, including ones in New York, Toronto, Brussels, Shenyang, China, Kyiv and Lviv. She also served as art editor for the Ukrainian publication *Suchasnist*.

Mr. Petryshyn, who is a professor at Rutgers University, is known for his



Arcadia Olenska-Petryshyn in a 1982 photo.

development of "A-proper mapping," a theory in the field of non-linear functional analysis. He was born in 1929 in Liashky Murovani in Lviv Oblast and emigrated to the United States in 1950.

Ms. Olenska-Petryshyn was to be interred on May 11 at St. Andrew the First-Called Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J., following liturgical services at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York.

The life and times of Maxim Hermaniuk

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA — For almost half a century, he was the mitre on the Prairies for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada.

In days gone by, his scholasticism would have earned him the label "Doctor of the Church." In these times, Maxim Hermaniuk's aplomb at diplomatic ecumenism made him the penultimate conciliator. His loyalties were many. To Ukrainians, his voice against Soviet communism was considered among the most credible. To Ukrainian Catholics, his loyalty to Rome — especially during the high points of the patriarchal movement from the 1960s to 1980s — was second to none. To Rome, he was, not surprisingly, perhaps the best friend in the Eastern Rite.

Few would dispute the indelible mark Canada's first Ukrainian Catholic metropolitan, who died in Winnipeg on May 3, left on the Church's, if not Canada's, history.

When he attended Vatican II — as chairman of the 15-member Ukrainian Catholic bishops' delegation — Archbishop Hermaniuk was instrumental in securing the release of Cardinal Josyf Slipyj from the Soviet's grasp. Taking advantage of 2,500 bishops present in Rome, he took an ad out in *Il Giornale D'Italia* on November 22, 1962, calling for support in bringing Archbishop-Major Slipyj to the Vatican.

"It was a day that the whole Church listened to our voice," recalled Metropolitan Hermaniuk in *The Weekly* in 1987. Pope John XXIII heard, and sent a delegation to Moscow. On February 10, 1963, Metropolitan Slipyj of Lviv arrived in Rome.

"I remember the feeling I had when we all walked into the Second Session [of Vatican II] with [Cardinal Slipyj] on October 11, 1963," said Metropolitan Hermaniuk. "You could hear a fly, a pin drop. All eyes were directed toward him — they considered him a witness to the persecution of the Church."

Metropolitan Hermaniuk, meanwhile, became known as the "father of collegiality" for promoting equality among the hierarchy through a permanent synod of bishops, and as an ecumenical peacemaker.

"We are a minority within the Roman Catholic Church, and I think Archbishop Hermaniuk's good public relations skills ensured that our voice was heard," the late Bishop Jerome Chimy of New Westminster, British Columbia, said in a 1991 interview.

In December 1965, during the last Vatican II session, Metropolitan Hermaniuk argued that the 11th century excommunication of the patriarch of Constantinople was not the result of any doctrinal differences between the Orthodox and Catholic

Churches.

"When some of the bishops heard that, it was like an atom bomb had dropped," recalled the metropolitan. But his argument was obviously convincing.

On December 7, 1965, a representative of Patriarch Athanagoras heard Pope Paul VI publicly revoke the excommunication of his predecessor. "There was so much applause, the longest of the entire Synod, that it didn't seem to end. It was such a joy for me that after nine centuries of condemnation and incrimination, there was finally an understanding."

Twenty-four years later, Archbishop Hermaniuk — then 78 — experienced a more personal reconciliation when he returned to Ukraine after an absence of 51 years.

He recalled the moment in a 1990 interview with *The Weekly*. "I was leaving [Lviv's] Dnister Hotel to go out and saw a group of people. I was approached by a lady who greeted me with flowers. I said to her, 'Would I know you, dear lady?' She said, 'I'm your younger sister, Nataalka.' When I left home, she was 12. Now, she [was] 62 with children and grandchildren. Of course, she started to cry and so did I. Beside her was another woman crying as well... I'm your older sister, Maria,' she said. She [was] 80."

But beneath his diminutive 5-foot-4-inch exterior lay a Napoleonesque, steely-willed determination. Rules, for Metropolitan Hermaniuk, were rules. When asked about the intransigence to resign by his old friend and similar aged colleague, Toronto's Bishop Isidore Borecky, the archbishop told *The Weekly* in a 1993 interview, "I know his situation, but this is the law of the Church. Bishops and archbishops have to comply. But he prefers to say no."

Two years earlier, Metropolitan Hermaniuk chaired a Ukrainian Catholic commission that created a unique canon law code for the Eastern Church. Among its provisions: a mandatory retirement age of 75 for Ukrainian Catholic bishops.

Yet the gravelly voiced prelate would omit such details in conversation. A scholar's scholar, it was left up to reporters and interrogators to fill in the blanks.

Named an officer of the Order of Canada in 1982 and a member of Manitoba's Order of the Buffalo Hunt 12 years later, Metropolitan Hermaniuk will probably be remembered as embracing the attitude of his episcopal motto, "Thy Kingdom Come."

Certainly, he saw his own life as the result of divine providence. "During my darkest moments, I would always say, 'Lord, it's absolutely up to you what I will do,'" he said. "Relief came in knowing that I was trying to do what I thought was His will."

Winnipeg Archeparchy's vicar-general killed in automobile accident on April 29

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA — The vicar-general of the Ukrainian Archeparchy of Winnipeg was killed in a highway crash in southwestern Manitoba on April 29.

The Rev. Jaropolk Radkewycz, 52, died instantly when the car he was driving collided head on with a tractor-trailer near Neepawa.

The Ukrainian priest was rector of Ss. Vladimir and Olga Cathedral in Winnipeg. The Rev. Radkewycz was travelling with his assistant, the Rev. Nestor Baraniuk, 57. The two were headed to a Ukrainian priests' meeting in Dauphin, Manitoba.

The Rev. Baraniuk remains in critical condition in the Portage la Prairie

General Hospital.

Born in Ukraine, the Rev. Radkewycz had served as pastor in Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie, as well as secretary to Metropolitan emeritus Maxim Hermaniuk of Winnipeg.

In June, Winnipeg Auxiliary Bishop-designate Stephen Soroka was scheduled to assume the duties of vicar-general.

"He was a man who knew how to handle every situation in the diocese," Msgr. Michael Buyachok of Dauphin told the *Winnipeg Free Press*. "There wasn't anyone in Canada who didn't know him."

A prayer service was scheduled for May 6 and a funeral for May 7 at Ss. Vladimir and Olga Cathedral in Winnipeg.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Our mothers, our protectresses

God could not be everywhere, therefore he made mothers. — Proverb.

It was in 1907 that Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia proposed that one day be set aside each year to honor mothers. Seven years after Ms. Jarvis's original idea, the U.S. Congress acted and President Woodrow Wilson signed the Congressional resolution into law, recognizing the second Sunday in May as a national holiday. Ms. Jarvis's original idea was that the special day was to include a church service, a letter, a visit and a carnation for mom. Since then, of course, our celebrations have become more and more elaborate and, yes, somewhat institutionalized. But behind them there still is true sentiment. For, where would be without our mothers? Mom is always there for her children — no matter what happens and no matter how old those children are.

The idea of a special holiday for moms spread around the world quickly. But it was only recently, however, that the idea has become accepted and the day celebrated on former Soviet territory. Previously, in Soviet bloc countries the closest thing to Mother's Day was International Women's Day (March 8) — a day marking the solidarity of women worldwide in the struggle for economic, social and political equality. International Women's Day was first adopted as a holiday by the Second International Conference of Socialist Women in Copenhagen in 1910; since 1965 it had been a day off from work in the USSR. (That tradition continues even today in independent Ukraine.)

Our Kyiv bureau reports that in Ukraine today Mother's Day observances are more and more widespread. This celebration's popularity has grown. Now there are special Mother's Day events, like concerts, and mothers enjoy special attention on this day. The popularity of Mother's Day in Ukraine seems to have increased as the role of women in Ukrainian society has become more visible.

Today there are strong independent women's groups like Soldatski Materi (Mothers of Soldiers), as well as the reborn Soyuz Ukrainok (Ukrainian Women's Association) pressing agendas that include protecting their children and safeguarding the Ukrainian culture. And, of course, where there are children of Chernobyl, there are mothers of Chernobyl, like the vocal Mama '86 organization.

Thus, Ukraine's contemporary mothers are beginning to reclaim their rightful place in society. They are the backbone of Ukrainian society and they are assuming roles and positions that are beginning to demonstrate their influence in all aspects of life. They are once again more than just equal. They are seen as the protectresses of the nation, the bearers of traditions — especially those that were long forgotten under the Soviet regime and are now being reborn. Their role, if we dare say so, is becoming more similar to the role of Ukrainian women in the diaspora.

For it is the mothers of the diaspora who ensured that the Ukrainian heritage was kept alive, even though it was physically torn asunder from the native land, who saw to it that this heritage was treated as a national heirloom and passed on from generation to generation. Consider this: would there even be a Ukrainian diaspora if the mothers living outside of Ukraine did not raise their children with the knowledge of and an appreciation for what it means to be Ukrainian? And remember, they did so while taking care of all those mundane things that every mother does — the cooking, the cleaning, helping kids with homework... (the list goes on and on).

But perhaps the main point to be noted here is that every mother does all these things out of love — the kind of love only a mother could give. As we celebrate Mother's Day this year, let us take time to think about all the priceless gifts our mothers have given us, and let us thank God for making mothers. May God bless and keep watch over our mothers for many, many years to come.

Mnohaya Lita, Mamo!

May
13
1865

Turning the pages back...

The Richelieu Lyceum was a private school for children of Odessa's aristocracy and wealthy merchant class, named after the French governor of the city of the early 19th century. In the

1850s, under the influence of district education superintendent, Dr. Nikolai Pirogov, it gradually gained the status of an institution of higher learning.

Tsarist officials initially opposed the founding of a university in Odessa, since they considered the city a hotbed of unrest, and proposed Mykolayiv as an alternate site. However, pressure from the local nobility and wealthier merchants prompted Alexander II to grant the lyceum university status in June 1862.

Ukraine's third university was officially opened as the New Russia University on May 13, 1865, with three faculties — history and philology, physics and mathematics, and law — and an initial enrollment of 175 students. A faculty of medicine was added in 1900.

Most of its students came from southern Ukraine, the Don region or the Caucasus, although the school also attracted students from the Slavic Balkan countries. All instruction was in Russian, although in 1906 there was an attempt to initiate a Ukrainian history course to be offered in Ukrainian by Oleksander Hrushevsky, the more famous historian's brother.

During the 1917 Ukrainian revolution, attempts were made to Ukrainianize the university. Upon the Bolshevik seizure of power, the New Russia University was dissolved and broken up into research institutes.

In 1933, these were merged again to form what is now known as Odessa University, and in 1945 it was named in honor of the Nobel Prize-winning immunologist Illia Menchikov.

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

CHORNOBYL ANNIVERSARY STATEMENTS

President Leonid Kuchma

Below is the statement issued by President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine on April 26, 1986.

Dear Compatriots! Dear citizens of the countries of the world!

Chernobyl is an intolerably painful and unhealed wound of the Ukrainian people, a symbol of the global disaster that knows no borders. On the tragic day in April 1986, when the most widespread and horrifying technical and ecological catastrophe in the history of mankind took place, we, in fact, began a new count of time.

Chernobyl cannot be referred to in the past tense. It is a long-standing and universal tragedy!

For 10 years we have lived under the bitter Chernobyl star, suffering — some of us suffering more, some of us less. And all this time the alarming sound of Chernobyl's bells have been resounding in our ears, warning about the danger of the uncontrolled atom to all of us.

This is the reason why today, on the International Day in Memory of Chernobyl, in deep sorrow we bow down and pay respect to the pure souls of those who, without hesitation, stepped into the nuclear hell, protecting us with their bodies from the unpredictable, saving the Earth.

The world must not and has no right to forget their sacrifice, their great heroic deed for the sake of mankind.

Our gratitude to those people who, risking their health, entered the unknown in order to tame the merciless element capable of destroying in a matter of hours our life on Earth, in order to eliminate the consequences of the nuclear disaster, is immeasurable. In Ukraine alone there are 350,000 of them. And the same was done by numerous representatives of other peoples! Many of them are no longer with us today.

Today, we also remember those of our compatriots who, within no time, found themselves smothered by the heavy dusk of the ominous Chernobyl shadow that uprooted and drove them from the land of their ancestors, making them face all the bitterness of moving and settling in new locations.

We express our sincere gratitude to the states, international organizations and the tens of thousands of foreign citizens who rendered their support to Ukraine at this time of trial and are assisting us today. We extend our gratitude to all those who right from the start were aware of what had really happened on April 26, 1986.

This is also especially important because the unprecedented disaster from the very beginning was aggravated by lies and distorted information about its causes, scale and consequences.

In fact, Ukraine has become a zone of environmental emergency — a situation it had to face all alone after the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

It would not be an overstatement to say that the Chernobyl disaster has turned into an allegedly "sovereign," private affair of the Ukrainian people.

Prime Minister Jean Chretien

Following is the message of Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada released in Ottawa.

I am pleased to extend my greetings to the members of the Ukrainian Canadian community who are marking the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident in Ukraine.

Canada and Ukraine have a special relationship born of the many Canadians of Ukrainian descent and the growing ties

between our countries. It is fitting that we should join with the people of Ukraine and, indeed, with the citizens of the global community in remembering the victims of the Chernobyl accident and their families on this solemn occasion.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress on having organized these important commemorative events across Canada. Please accept my best wishes, now and in the future.

Facing severe economic problems as a result of the process of creating an independent state and drastic reform of the underlying aspects of our life, we have to deny ourselves basic things and spend 12 percent of our state budget to "cure" the Chernobyl "disease" and its consequences.

During the last four years alone, more than \$3 billion have been spent for this purpose, which is five times more than the total allocations for education, health and culture. This burden is beyond Ukraine's capabilities. Besides, it is unknown for how long our people will have to carry this heavy cross.

The global character of the disaster requires adequate attention and specific assistance in mitigating its consequences on the part of the international community as a whole. What is at stake is not only our destiny, but the future of mankind.

This position of Ukraine was brought by its president to the attention of leaders of the G-7 on April 20 in Moscow.

More than \$3 billion will be earmarked to implement the political decision to shut down the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, and to solve a whole complex of related problems.

Moreover, a decision will be adopted as to financing the construction of a new sarcophagus by members of G-7 and the European community.

This is now possible, in the first place, because the political course taken by Ukraine allows it to reduce substantially the nuclear pressure on our planet, to strengthen international security through practical measures.

Secondly, though it is hard to admit it, it was the Chernobyl disaster that made the world more sensitive and susceptible to the troubles of individual nations and countries, and made us realize how we depend on each other, being a single whole.

Now we enter the stage at which mutual support and mutual assistance, joint efforts and the collective wisdom of peoples will become a reliable guarantee that present and future generations of people will not have to face a similar tragedy.

Dear Compatriots! As has always been the case at times of hard trial, our people responded to the Chernobyl disaster with courage and self-sacrifice, endurance and immeasurable patience.

Thanks to you and all people of good will, life on our planet has been saved. Much has been done, and much more has to be done to make sure that the "shining" sarcophagus, the dead zone and radiation-fertilized soil are not the only symbols of Ukraine that we will leave as our legacy.

I believe in our people, in its wisdom, in its inexhaustible life potential.

I am confident that we will overcome everything on our way to creating a prosperous and thriving Ukraine.

I bow before you, my Dear Compatriots, for staying undaunted in the face of the disaster, for your will to live and for your confidence in the bright future of our Motherland!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ukrainian settlers in Brazil noted

Dear Editor:

I have just returned from a spiritual tour of Brazil, and while it was an exhilarating experience for me, there was one episode that truly inspired me, which I would like to share with the readers.

After our group of 27, mainly from California, toured the sights of interest in the cities of Salvador, Brasilia, Rio de Janeiro, our second to the last flight before departure for home was to Foz do Iguassu, site of the magnificent Iguassu Falls. On the way to the Cataratas hotel adjacent to the Falls, I was pleasantly surprised to hear our bus tour guide, while describing the main points of interest in the vicinity of rich farm lands, turn her talk to European immigrants. On top of her list was the mention of the Ukrainian settlers. What a joy it was for me to hear that familiar, beautiful-sounding name "Ukrainian" in a country so distant and foreign in culture and language.

Later, while touring the hotel and while in Sao Paulo where we changed planes for home, I saw on display our traditional Easter eggs.

Mary E. Pressey
Forest Hills, N.Y.

Now is not the time to turn our backs

Dear Editor:

In his March 31 column, Dr. Myron Kuropas paints a rather dark picture of contemporary Ukraine and its prospects for the future. To quote: "Corruption, an irradicable Soviet mindset, parliamentary intransigence, naivete regarding the diaspora, other shortcomings have contributed to a growing sense of pessimism about Ukraine's future." Dr. Kuropas is not alone with such a dark assessment. A large segment of the diaspora feels very much the same. Unfortunately, this view is overly pessimistic and not at all helpful to Ukraine's future.

Not that Dr. Kuropas and others are wrong, they are simply overly pessimistic. Indeed, there is widespread corruption, parliamentary intransigence, as well as other innumerable shortcomings in present-day Ukraine. Many of the old-guard Soviet apparatchiks who are still in charge try to run the country in the old way. But they have lost much of their former power (derived in the past mainly from Moscow muscle), and their days are numbered anyhow. On a positive note, there was peaceful and democratic transfer of political power in the country, and the new administration remains pro-Western in its orientation.

The Ukrainian Parliament is indeed intransigent. But which parliament is not? Aren't all parliaments designed in the first place to be intransigent? The intent of such a design is to solve disputes by means of verbal arguments, rather than by spilling blood in the streets. And it seems to work in Ukraine. There are democratic as well as Communist blocs in the Parliament, and each represents its constituency in a way democratic institutions are designed to represent different interests groups.

Furthermore, the Ukrainian Parliament is able to argue the pros and cons of a new constitution in a parliamentary setting, and is not being blasted by the tanks of its own army, as was the case in Moscow. The fact that the design of a new constitution is taking rather a long

time underscores the point that this important subject is taken rather seriously.

The president of the country and the current administration are solving internal problems without bombs, assault helicopters or artillery fire, unlike in Chechnya. Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) veterans march under the yellow-and-blue flag and the sign of the trident in Kyiv and Lviv, while Communists demonstrate under the red banner of union with Russia. Neither group is being attacked by the "special forces" as recently was the case in Miensk. In short, when comparing the current political climate in Ukraine to the other former Soviet republics, there is no comparison. And while it might be true that independent Ukraine did not live up to all of our expectations, not all of our expectations have been realistic. One can not change a mind-set formed by 70 years of Communist oppression in a few months.

The act of proclamation of independence in Ukraine was not the miraculous end-point of a centuries-long struggle, but rather a beginning of a long process to regain our national dignity through statehood. The diaspora was steadfast in support of the country of our origin during the darkest hours of Communist oppression, when all hope seemed to be lost. It is not the time to turn our backs on our brethren now when there is hope.

Ihor Lysyj
West Hills, Calif.

How do you spell "Zahorodniuk"?

Dear Editor:

The article by Andriy Wynnyckyj "Ukraine's skaters in top 10 at World Championships in Canada" (March 31) has the correct transliteration of the names of Ukraine's skaters.

But on TV programs covering the World Championship in Edmonton the names of Ukraine's skaters were given as they sound in Russian e.g. "Zagorodniuk," "Belousovskaya." There is no doubt that TV uses names from the official championship directory to which input on Ukraine's skaters is provided by officials of Ukraine.

Does Ukraine's government still have an inferiority complex and therefore prefer to use Russian-sounding names rather than Ukrainian in foreign countries? Is the Ukrainian language still treated as a provincial one suited only for peasants? Are such views of Ukrainophobe Russian literary critic Vissarion Belinsky expressed when reviewing Taras Shevchenko's Ukrainian poetry in 1842 still alive in Ukraine after 150 years?

I just wonder what versions of names of Ukraine's athletes will be provided by Ukraine for the Olympic Games in Atlanta. Will they be Russian or Ukrainian?

Russian-sounding names of Ukraine's athletes only emphasize that Ukrainians use the Russian language and may cause many non-Ukrainians to think: why do Ukrainians want to be separated from Russia when they really are Russians?

Andriy D. Solczanyk
Media, Pa.

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed (double-spaced) and signed; they must be originals, not photocopies.

The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer must be given for verification purposes.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



The ghosts of communism

Can there be any more contemptible news from Ukraine than the disclosure that Ukraine's left-wing parliamentary faction has proposed an alternative to the draft constitution developed by Ukraine's Constitutional Committee?

Signed by 125 parliamentarians – representatives of the Communist, Socialist and Agrarian factions – this second document is nothing less than the "Constitution of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic."

While other former Communist states are exorcising their Bolshevik brigands, Ukraine appears to be moving towards a reconciliation with the very people who plundered and pillaged the nation for 70 years.

In a book titled "The Haunted Land: Facing Europe's Ghosts After Communism," Tina Rosenberg reviewed the endeavors of Polish, Czech and German national democrats to rid themselves of their Communist apparitions.

In February, Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski went on trial for treason before the Polish Parliament's Committee on Constitutional Responsibility. He was the man, who, on December 13, 1981, instituted martial law and gave his army orders to crush the Solidarity labor movement. He argues that martial law saved the Polish people from a Soviet invasion.

That such a trial should take place in Poland is not surprising. No other country under Soviet control resisted Sovietization more vigorously. Poland was never collectivized, the Catholic Church was quite open and active, and Solidarity was a labor union that openly defied the authorities and eventually led the final struggle to bring down the Soviet empire.

In Germany, a group of aging former East German generals were recently assembled in Berlin's Moabit Court to face charges of being accessories to manslaughter. They were the authors of the infamous Order 101, which mandated shooting and killing those who attempted to escape over the Berlin Wall. Their defense is reminiscent of the Nuremberg trials. They maintain they were merely following orders from the Communist Party Politburo. Their trials follow the trials of some 13 border guards who employed a similar defense.

That such trials should be taking place in Germany is surprising. In the words of Ms. Rosenberg, "Communism was imposed from outside everywhere in Eastern Europe, but it was less resented in Germany..." There was little dissent in East Germany because there was little to complain about, according to one German cited by Ms. Rosenberg. "There were 45,000-mark interest-free loans to build your house. People had good jobs in factories and agricultural cooperatives." Hundreds of thousands of East Germans were involved in one capacity or another with the Stasi, "the most meticulously totalitarian spy organization to have graced the annals of history." Along with Bulgaria, East Germany was Moscow's most obedient servant.

Aside from a handful of dissidents associated with Charter 77, the Czechs, too, offered little resistance to the Soviets following the Dubcek era. Their model seemed to be the fictional hero of Jaroslav Hacek's book "The Good Soldier Svejk," a man who survives by going along, keeping his mouth shut and nibbling away at the system.

Life in Czechoslovakia was far easier than in Poland. "Nearly everyone had a

car, an apartment, a cottage," Scarlett Reslova, a Prague biologist, told Ms. Rosenberg. In contrast to Poland, where three-hour lines for foodstuffs were quite common, Czechoslovak citizens rarely suffered shortages of meat, bread, milk, eggs, beer and other basics. As Vaclav Havel, the Czech Republic's playwright/president explained, the average Czechoslovak citizen was willing to forego living in truth in exchange for a life of relative security and basic comforts. "We are all guilty," he said.

And yet, in contrast to Ukraine and other former Soviet-bloc countries, practically no one in the Czech Republic is yearning for a return to communism. On the contrary, prior to its break-up, Czechoslovakia initiated the most stringent de-Sovietization process in the region. In 1991, the first freely elected Czechoslovak legislature passed the so-called "lustrace" (purification) law designed to purge former Communist officials and their collaborators from public positions in the country's fledgling democracy. Few high-level Communists have been "purified" as yet and there has been much discontent with the way the process has worked. Due to expire this year, lustrace has been extended to the year 2000.

And what about Ukraine? No lustrace. No indictments. No trials. No effort to rid the nation of the stench of communism. Ukraine's defilement continues and the entrenched left grows more audacious by the day.

When will Ukraine rid itself of the ghosts of communism? As I wrote in an earlier column, The Civil Liberties Commission of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress published a monograph titled "War Crimes: A Submission to the Government of Ukraine on Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes" in 1992. Written in English, Ukrainian, Russian and French, the monograph was presented to every member of the Ukrainian Parliament as well as high-ranking government officials. Among other recommendations, the submission suggested that "the Ukrainian government form a commission of inquiry into crimes against humanity and war crimes" committed on Ukrainian soil and that the commission be patterned after the royal commission in Canada. Following the establishment of such a commission, Ukraine was urged to approach other governments – Canadian, Australian, British, Swedish, German and American – for assistance in the form of materials from their archives. Crimes by Nazis as well as Bolsheviks were to be reviewed. To date, Ukraine has done nothing more than join forces with the Wiesenthal Center in Israel in demanding the extradition of Bohdan Koziy from Costa Rica.

What about all of the Soviet criminals in Ukraine? When will their turn in the prosecution box come? Can Ukraine afford to forgive and forget its Soviet past and those who devastated it so horribly? When will the perpetrators of the Chernobyl disaster be brought to justice?

"Whoever controls the past controls the future," George Orwell said. "Nations, like individuals, need to face up and understand traumatic past events before they can put them aside and move on to normal life," writes Tina Rosenberg. "A nation's decision about how to face its past are central to the challenge of building real democracy."

500 gather on Ottawa's Parliament Hill for Chernobyl decennial commemoration

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA – Close to 500 people gathered in front of Parliament Hill on April 29 to mark the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

On the eve of the event, Prime Minister Jean Chretien had issued a statement acknowledging “the many Canadians [who] reached out to the victims of the Chernobyl disaster in a spirit of common humanity.” He also noted that “Canada is working with the countries of the region to help ensure that such a disaster will never occur again.”

Hosted by local radio personality, John Lacharity, the supper-hour commemoration included a moleben-prayer service and a vocal presentation by a choir composed of children from three local Ukrainian schools. Several guest speakers addressed the crowd, including Ukrainian Ambassador Volodymyr Furkalo, Ukrainian Canadian Congress President Oleh Romaniw, Independent Sen. Marcel Prud'homme and Joanna Survilla, president of the Canadian Relief Fund for Chernobyl Victims in Belarus.

Referring to what remains the world's worst nuclear accident, Mr. Romaniw said the effects of Chernobyl have likely changed the lives of an entire generation.

“This was a disaster of human technology tinkering irresponsibly with forces it could not fully control,” he said. “This was a disaster of communist ideology taking short-cuts and reckless chances. This was a disaster of contempt for the lives and rights of innocent men, women and children. This was a disaster which need not have happened.”

The Canadian Friends of Ukraine presented an incubator, valued at \$15,000 (about \$11,000 U.S.), to Ambassador Furkalo, which will be used in the neonatal ward of the Zhytomyr Regional Children's Hospital.

Under mostly sunny skies, everyone in attendance placed a candle in an outline of a cross in the middle of the quadrangle of Parliament Hill.

The event was sponsored by the Ottawa branch of the UCC, the Embassy of Ukraine and the Canadian Relief Fund for Chernobyl Victims in Belarus. The trio also organized a photo and art exhibit at the Art Gallery of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton.

The exhibit, from the 4th Block Museum in Kharkiv, contained photographs of the clean-up effort in the aftermath of the Chernobyl explosion, sketches of individuals on the disaster crew by a team member and a collection of children's drawings made by art school students in Belarus. The exhibit ran from April 20 to 27.

Ottawa Mayor Jacquelin Holzman also declared April 26 “The Chernobyl Nuclear Reactor Accident Day of

Commemoration.”

The mayor's proclamation read, in part: “Whereas many Canadians and particularly many citizens of Ottawa are involved in efforts to assist the victims of Chernobyl...I call on all right-thinking citizens to take time from their day to remember that event and, if they are able, to participate in the effort to assist the victims of the subsequent disaster.”

Ottawa Deputy Mayor Joan Wing attended the Parliament Hill ceremony on behalf of the city.

In the past decade, the Canadian government has provided bilateral technical, financial and humanitarian assistance worth \$38 million (about \$28 million U.S.) to deal with the aftermath of the accident and to improve the safety of nuclear power plants in Ukraine. According to Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) officials, that amount represents over 20 percent of Canada's total \$178 million (about \$132 million U.S.) in assistance to Ukraine.

“We will work to help Ukraine overcome the lingering impact of Chernobyl and to improve the equality of life of its population,” said Prime Minister Chretien's statement. “That is the best way to help the victims and to honor their memory of those who lost their lives.”

On April 26, CIDA announced an agreement with SaskPower Commercial to help modernize a thermal power plant in Ukraine. Under the \$3.5 million (about \$2.6-million U.S.) five-year CIDA contract, SaskPower Commercial, the commercial arm of the Saskatchewan Power Corp., will participate in a \$400 million (about \$296 million U.S.) World Bank program to rehabilitate the coal-fired plant at Kryvyi Rih. The plan includes increasing the plant's power output, reducing operating costs, improving its load-carrying capacity and reducing nitrous oxide emissions.

The SaskPower project is just one of several Canadian initiatives in post-Chernobyl Ukraine. The Toronto-based Help Us Help the Children fund has shipped 300 metric tons of medical supplies, infant food and clothing to 167 orphanages in Ukraine in the last three years. In May, 5,000 pairs of shoes and artificial limbs are heading for Ukrainian orphanages.

The four-year-old OSVITA project has received almost \$3.5 million (about \$2.6 million U.S.) in CIDA aid to introduce modern techniques for the care of mothers and children in Ukrainian pediatric hospitals, as well as train lab technicians to upgrade quality controls for the accuracy of such medical tests as blood analysis.

At the April 26 Ottawa commemoration ceremony, Mr. Romaniw called for more assistance. “It is the right thing to do,” he said. “It is the sane response to an insane event.”

House of Commons marks disaster's 10th anniversary

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA – Canada's 295-member House of Commons also marked the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster with an address by Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy on April 26.

The Liberal member of Parliament from Winnipeg expressed condolences to the survivors on behalf of the Canadian government. “We want to pay particular tribute to the courage, commitment and competence of the many Ukrainians, Russians, Belarusians and others who took deter-

mined and effective action to contend with the costs and impact of the accident often at the risk of their own lives. Many, of course, have since perished,” he said.

Mr. Axworthy noted Canada's role in the G-7 to help Ukraine meet its energy needs while closing the Chernobyl nuclear station and “discontinuing its lingering dangers.”

He said Canada intends to continue its “political and economic cooperation with Ukraine in nuclear safety and energy sector development and other vital fields – both bilaterally and multilaterally.”

First lady hosts...

(Continued from page 1)

donations alone are worth more than \$100 million,” the first lady observed. “Today, these efforts convey a message of compassion and healing that tells the victims of Chernobyl that the world will not forget them or the tragedy they have endured.”

Speaking of her own visits to hospitals in Kyiv, Miensk and Moscow, Mrs. Clinton hailed the “extraordinary work being done by health care professionals under extremely trying circumstances.” She added that, “Thanks to the contributions of our government and many organizations – and to the partnerships that our hospitals have established with hospitals in these three republics – lives are literally being saved every day.”

“We are very grateful for all of you in this room, and for the many, many others you represent, who through your work, your prayers and your continued commitment to this important effort have already made a difference and will continue to do so,” she continued.

The first lady made special mention of Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak of Ukraine, who was present along with his wife, Maria, Ambassador Serguei Martynov of Belarus and his wife, Marguerita, and Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov of Russia. Turning to Dr. Shcherbak, Mrs. Clinton said: “Ambassador Shcherbak, we are particularly indebted to you. You were one of the first medical doctors to respond to the tragedy at Chernobyl. And in the years since, few have done as much as you, Mr. Ambassador, to educate people around the world about the medical and scientific realities of the Chernobyl disaster and what they portend for humanity's future.”

Vice-President Gore, introduced by Mrs. Clinton as “a man whose attention to Chernobyl and its aftermath has never wavered, who in many respects tried to warn all of us about some of the issues we are now dealing with because of his commitment to the environment,” spoke about the lingering effects of the 1986 accident.

Those effects, he said, “are measured in the anxiety of young Ukrainian and Belarusian and Russian parents who hope and pray that their newborns will grow healthy and whole. The effects are measured by the degraded natural resources that trace a poisoned arc across Ukraine, through Belarus, into Russia, and reaching as far as Scandinavia. They are measured by the uncertainty that we all share as we wonder whether one day another Chernobyl might once again unleash its fury.”

But, he noted, “out of this mire of tragedy also have emerged great stores of hope, and deep reservoirs of resolve. Selfless men and women – thousands upon thousands of them – risked their lives to protect those of others. And courageous leaders like so many of you here today are working tirelessly still to relieve suffering. Leaders like young Vova Malofienko who have taught the world so much about courage and constancy.”

The vice-president went on to speak of President Clinton's determination “to do whatever our nation can to overcome this tragedy, and to help ensure that all reactors everywhere are safer, cleaner and forever free from the sort of catastrophe we remember on this important anniversary.”

He referred as well to the recent anniversary airlift sent by the United States to Belarus and Ukraine, bringing nearly \$12 million in aid and medical relief to those two countries.

Vice-President Gore also hailed Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's “courageous decision” to close down the Chernobyl plant by the year 2000.

Finally, Mr. Gore reflected on “the most enduring lesson of Chernobyl”: “that only in freedom can people claim their rightful destiny to live in safety and security. Only

in freedom can people insist on public health systems that work and on natural resources that are safeguarded and clean. Only in freedom can people hold bureaucracies accountable for how they manage potentially dangerous technologies.”

Mr. Kuzma, coordinator of Chernobyl Challenge '96, expressed thanks to the first lady for hosting the day's event and for her interest in the issue, as exemplified by her personal visits to children's hospitals in Belarus and Ukraine; to the vice-president “for helping restore America's global environmental leadership”; and to President Clinton and his administration “for keeping Chernobyl on the international agenda.”

He then commented on the composition of “the Chernobyl relief community,” describing it as “a remarkable microcosm of America, including medical professionals and environmentalists, corporate sponsors and student volunteers, ethnic communities and religious congregations, women's and veterans' groups.”

“None of us could have taken on this mission – this monstrous challenge – without the help and guidance of others. We have made some hard-won progress only by pooling our talents and resources, and by working together.” He added, “Just as the disaster of Chernobyl defied borders, so too has our response to it broken down barriers and stretched our capabilities beyond what we thought was possible.”

In conclusion he enjoined those involved in Chernobyl relief to continue their work. “We wish that we could say the worst is over. Unfortunately, many of the health effects and genetic damage will only become evident in the years to come. Chernobyl cannot be overcome by half-hearted or fleeting measures. It requires a long-term, passionate commitment. It will be a true test of our maturity as a nation if we can sustain our commitment during the next decade.”

Mr. Malofienko, whose leukemia is now in full remission (his health continues to be supervised), occupied a place of honor next to the first lady. With his parents, Olya and Alexander, in the audience, the poised 11-year-old confidently walked up to the podium, taking a step up onto the platform that had been placed there for him.

He focused his remarks on those less fortunate than he. “In the city of Chernihiv, where I come from, everyone does not have the medical care they need. I wish that all of them could have the kind of medical care that I received. ... My treatment was very hard, but [my doctors in the U.S.] had the right training and all the medicine and all the equipment they needed to make me better. In Ukraine, there are many wonderful doctors and nurses, too, but they don't have the materials they need to treat their patients properly.”

He went on to thank Mrs. Clinton, “because you and the president did not forget the children of Ukraine and Belarus. You have reminded us that many children here in the United States and many children around the world are in danger.”

“I know you have written a book that says ‘It Takes A Village’ to raise a child. It also takes a village to heal a child,” Vova added.

He also thanked the people gathered in the East Room and those who could not be present. “I know that you have worked hard. You may be tired and you may want to work on other problems, but please do not stop now. Let us make sure that an accident like Chernobyl never happens again, and let us do all we can to make this world a safer, healthier place.”

After the conclusion of the official part of the commemorative program, the audience was invited into the State Dining Room for a reception and into the Blue Room, where the first lady personally greeted each guest in a receiving line.

For full texts of remarks by the first lady and the vice-president, see page 11.

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.

CONCLUSION**Thyroid gland cancer**

Thyroid gland cancer had begun to develop at a rapid rate among children by 1990. Prior to Chornobyl, this was a rare disease among children. The number of cases annually in both Ukraine and Belarus was one to three per year. The sudden and dramatic rise that has occurred was predicted by no one – this has been a feature of the Chornobyl disaster: it brought about the unexpected, whereas anticipated problems, such as leukemia, appear to have longer periods of induction, in contrast to the only really comparable instances of nuclear fallout, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Moreover, the rise in incidence of this disease has occurred precisely in the most contaminated areas. In the north-central areas of Ukraine, for example, the rate of incidence in children has risen by 700 to 900 percent. Such zones of Ukraine and especially Belarus, its northern neighbor, are seeing about 100 new cases of thyroid cancer each year, with no sign of a slowdown.

This disease is a highly aggressive one, which can metastasize rapidly to other parts of the body if not operated on promptly. In about 40 percent of cases, repeat surgery is necessary. Virtually all cases involve children born or conceived prior to the Chornobyl accident, and the majority are children who were under age 5 in April 1986. Thus, today an older group of children is the most affected, especially those in the 10-15 age range. Initially, the cause of their illness was thought to be radioactive cesium, but last November in Geneva at the World Health Organization (WHO) conference, scientists acknowledged what specialists in Ukraine and Belarus had long claimed: i.e., that the cause was Chornobyl-generated radioactive iodine.

The area around Chornobyl has an iodine-deficient soil, and thyroid-related diseases have long been common. Thus after the accident, children's thyroids were especially susceptible to radioactive iodine in the atmosphere.

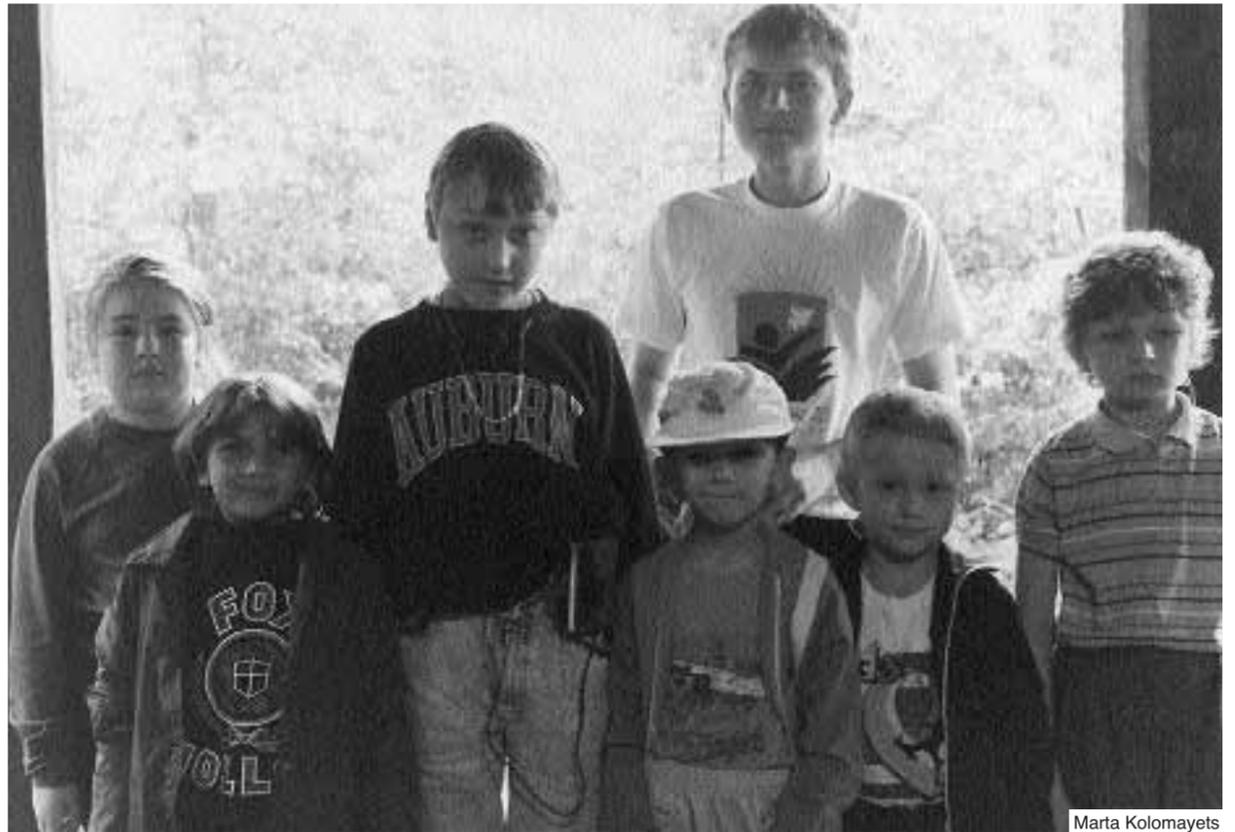
Today over 1,000 children have contracted thyroid gland cancer (thyroid cancer) in the contaminated zones of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. The numbers have also risen appreciably among adults. Among children, the forecast by one WHO expert is that their total numbers could ultimately reach 10,000, or 1 in every 10 children living in the contaminated zones. This means that these children will have to be monitored for the rest of their lives.

Though the survival rate from thyroid cancer is quite high at 90 percent, this would still mean that eventually 1,000 deaths could be anticipated. As we will discuss in a moment, moreover, the conditions of the laboratories, clinics, and hospitals in which sick children are being treated are deplorable by Western standards.

There is also a general consensus that thyroid cancer cannot appear alone, and that other types of cancer will follow. The incidence of leukemia to date is well within the general European range, though the numbers have risen since the accident. Bone cancer – which might be anticipated because of the fallout of strontium – has risen notably in contaminated zones. The least that can be said in this medical sphere is that the future will see an appreciable rise in the incidence of various types of cancers, and not merely those of the thyroid gland.

Other diseases

The Chornobyl disaster has been linked to a general rise in morbidity that has acquired alarming proportions in the zones of significant radioactive fallout. There is no consensus, however, between the rise in oncological diseases and enhanced irradiation of the population. These include a remarkable increase, for example, in early childhood diabetes, anemia and illnesses associated with general fatigue. Local doctors attribute such developments to a sort of Chornobyl AIDS – a weakening of the body's resistance to various diseases. Some Western specialists maintain, conversely, that the phenomenon is related to increased anxiety and tension.



Chornobyl's most susceptible victims: the children. This group of kids from Ukraine was brought to the United States in 1990 by the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund for a stay at actor Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall Gang camp. Second from right in the foreground is Vova Malofienko, then 5, who on May 1 of this year spoke at the White House ceremony marking Chornobyl's 10th anniversary.

One also has to take into account the demographic and general health situation in the country. In Ukraine, infant mortality has continued to rise – it is currently around 15 per 1,000 births – while life expectancy has declined, especially among men. The death rate exceeds the birth rate at 13.4 per 1,000 population (the world average is 9.2). Ukraine has seen also a significant increase in infectious diseases – especially tuberculosis, cholera, and diphtheria – which can be associated partly with industrial pollution, partly with the drop in the living standards of the population, and partly with poor nutrition and unhealthy lifestyles. Only the latter could be linked to Chornobyl, as it has occurred mainly through the fear of eating contaminated food.

That there is a health crisis in Ukraine today is not in doubt. Its root causes, however, are uncertain.

It is inaccurate to say, as some scientists have done, that none of the diseases cited are related to Chornobyl. The most that can be said is that the precise link is unknown. If Chornobyl has proved anything it is the unpredictability of the medical results of radioactive fallout.

Further, independent Ukraine is in no position to deal with Chornobyl unassisted. In 1992, for example, the country could afford to devote 15.7 percent of the state budget to Chornobyl-related questions; in 1993, the percentage dropped to 7.3 and in 1995, the figure was 3.4 percent or about \$430 million (U.S.). The annual costs, however, have not decreased.

The Chornobyl nuclear power station

Ukraine inherited the problem of the Chornobyl nuclear accident from the former Soviet Union, but has been forced to carry this burden at a time of great financial strain. Much of today's expenditure pertains also to the station itself.

Various questions related to the Chornobyl nuclear plant continue to occupy international attention. In December 1995, under some duress, Ukraine signed an agreement with the G-7 countries in Ottawa to shut down the station by the year 2000.

Simultaneously, an intensive propaganda campaign was initiated within Ukraine to keep the plant in operation well beyond that date, inspired by its past and present directors, Mykhailo Umanets and Serhiy Parashyn. The latter has declared it one of the safest plants in the former USSR because of improvements made since 1986.

That Ukraine should plead for the continuance of the Chornobyl station is one of the great paradoxes of modern history. In 1988-1990 there was a massive campaign to stop the further operation of the plant led by the ecological association Green World and later by the Green Party, which resulted in a 1990 moratorium on the commissioning or construction of any new nuclear reactors.

Today Ukraine maintains that it requires \$4.4 billion to close the plant and to build a new energy station in the vicinity, preferably close to the newly built town of Salvutych, 45 miles northeast of Chornobyl, constructed after the accident to replace Prypriat and which contains 28,000 plant employees and their families today.

Economic factors led to lifting of the moratorium in 1993. Nuclear power remains a fundamental part of Ukraine's domestic energy production, accounting in the winter of 1995 for as much as 45 percent of all energy produced. In addition, nuclear power has enabled Ukraine to at least keep some options open in its dealings with Russia, because the latter country has used energy exports as a political weapon against Ukraine on several occasions.

However, the situation in the Ukrainian nuclear power industry appears ominous. The nuclear industry has seen over 8,000 specialists leave for Russia since 1992, where wages and pensions are higher. Safety regulators work for little and frequently for no wages. Ukraine's other stations, VVERs (water/water-pressurized reactors), are unreliable. Accidents are frequent, especially at the giant Zaporizhzhia nuclear power station, which has 6 VVER reactors, each of 1,000 megawatts (MW) capacity. Three accidents occurred in the space of four months last year, one of which was potentially very serious. The Chornobyl-1 reactor had a radiation leakage last November which ranked 3 on the international scale. Several of Ukraine's reactors, including Chornobyl and Rivne-1, are considered obsolete and dangerous by the IAEA and other bodies.

Finally what of the destroyed fourth reactor at Chornobyl? About 200 tons of nuclear fuel are contained within the unit, about 10 tons of which are in the form of dust that could be released into the atmosphere in the event of an accident. About 700 people work currently at this unit, and Ukraine spends several million dollars annually on monitoring the reactor.

The sarcophagus constructed over the destroyed reactor in 1986 is collapsing. At most, it can only last for a further 10 to 15 years, according to official estimates. In 1992-1993 an international discussion took place to devise a plan to cover the reactor with a second cover or sarcophagus. Almost 400 plans were submitted, and an international consortium called Alliance has produced a workable scheme. However, estimates of the cost of a new cover average around \$300 million (U.S.) for a five-year project, in addition to \$2.5 billion over a 15-year period to render safe the destroyed fourth unit. Such costs have not to date been included in G-7 discussions or in loans and subsidies provided to Ukraine to stop operations at the first and third Chornobyl reactors.

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CHORNOBYL: THE FIRST DECADE

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

Alla Yaroshinska, a journalist by training, 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.

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 member of the USSR Supreme Soviet's commission on the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. 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.

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

In your Izvestia article of April 25, 1992, you exposed a series of official lies told by the Soviet government to its citizens. Lie No. 1 concerned the Soviet government's statements about the number of people hospitalized in Chernobyl's immediate aftermath. Will we ever know the truth, or have euphemistic diagnoses such as "vascular vegetative dystonia," arbitrary raising of "permissible levels of radiation" and government obfuscation forever clouding the issue?

Theoretically, it's possible, but this would take an untold amount of money, an incredible amount of research to calculate retrospectively the dosages sustained by the 8 million people living in the affected area, in Ukraine, Belarus, Russia.

Theoretically, it's possible. Even practically speaking, you could begin scanning the effects in the entire population in order to see what the effects are now that 10 years have passed.

But the governments lack the money they supposedly allotted to feed and otherwise assist those living the zone, and those they now recognize as affected by the disaster, so where could they get the money to conduct research on such a massive scale? ...

This alone underscores the simple fact that Chernobyl is not simply a Ukrainian or Belarusian issue. It's an issue that confronts the entire world. The global ecological situation will never again be the same as it was prior to April 26, 1986.

Lie No. 2 concerned the policy of mixing contaminated foodstuffs with the uncontaminated in 1986, and the subsequent contention that "clean" foodstuffs could be produced in contaminated zones. Did anyone follow up on this story, and were any of these meats and foodstuffs eventually traced and appropriately disposed of, or were all of them untraceable and thus eaten throughout the former Soviet Union?

To keep track of the contaminated meat, there was a system of epidemiological sanitary service, just like there is in every country. The problem is that the mendacity of the ideological system, which constantly deceived the people, meant that all government agencies were being deceptive because they took their orders from the Politburo.

They are also heavily responsible. They were the agencies who carried out the Politburo's will... So you had instructions to mix contaminated meat with the clean, and then distribute it throughout the former Soviet Union with the exception of two cities — Moscow and Leningrad.

Do you have any evidence that local authorities or individuals disobeyed the order and simply destroyed the contaminated meat?

No. On the contrary, we mostly have evidence that people, not officials, brought in meat they knew was contaminated, they simply brought it in according to the orders they were given. I've never come across an instance in which somebody defied the order.

Lie No. 4 concerned the participation of the Soviet Red Army in the clean-up. What exactly was at issue?

The Ministry of Defense issued a secret order that no indication of dosage sustained was to be made on the duty cards for all soldiers, regular servicemen or officers, employed in the Chernobyl clean-up.

A minimum of 200,000 soldiers were used in these operations. These kids, young soldiers — Ukrainians,

Russians, they brought them in from all over, this was an international operation, many got lethal doses.

When I became a deputy, I led a group of activists seeking to end the practice of stationing units in the zone. Until 1991 there were people performing their military duties there.

Reservists?

No. Not reservists, those who did their compulsory two years of military service in the army. This was a crime.

Lie No. 5 concerned Slavutych, the city built to replace the abandoned Chernobyl plant workers' town of Prypiat — built in a contaminated zone.

Yes. This is quite an interesting case. There was a decision made to build a new "energy city" of Slavutych in a contaminated area, a conscious decision.

In the Politburo minutes, there is a letter from an advisor to Gorbachev named Akhromeyev, who has since died, saying that it is impossible to build this city in that spot because of the high level of radiation. Quite a normal position of a normal human being.

But after a few days, after a period during which, in my opinion, the Politburo applied some pressure, there's another letter in which [Akhromeyev] contradicts himself and states that it's actually quite possible to clean up the area and build there.

But clearly, this is a town that should also be evacuated.

Isn't it too late?

Well, for those who have lived there for 10 years, who have absorbed radiation every day, it's probably too late in terms of their health. But there are children being born there, growing up, succeeding generations beginning a life there — they should be resettled.

Lie No. 3 concerned information fed to the press inside the former USSR and to the outside world. Have journalists in Ukraine and Russia been able to crack the "levels of deception" since 1991?

Yes, absolutely. There is an entirely different situation now. If you find any additional facts about Chernobyl and you want to publish them, you can, as much as you want. There's absolute freedom of speech now. Basically, if you're a good journalist and you want to publish something, you can. There is no more censorship.

The only problems that everyone continues to face is the problem faced by journalists around the world — how to get information from officials.

But nobody has any problems getting published any more.

Have they been more or less successful in doing so



Ivan Jaciw's 1986 editorial cartoon depicts a cloud of lies emanating from Moscow covering up Chernobyl's radioactive cloud over Ukraine.

than press from the West?

This might not sound very modest, but I believe I have more information on Chernobyl than any journalist from the West. That's no reflection on them in particular, I'm sure I have more material than any journalist in Russia, I have a large archive on the subject.

Have Western journalists been putting it to use?

My archive? No. It's mine. I got it by shedding my own sweat and blood. I'm a journalist, I use the fruits of my investigation, and I can't give it to anyone else. I'm keeping nothing back, I'm publishing it all.

Are journalists from Ukraine at an advantage or disadvantage because of their proximity to the story?

I can't really comment on what kind of problems they face in getting materials from official channels because I haven't worked as a journalist in Ukraine for some time. I haven't lived there for five years.

I visit, I come to see my relatives in the Zhytomyr region, but I can't say. I can only surmise that they also have no problems with censorship in the newspapers themselves.

Whether they have difficulty in extracting information from Academician [physicist Viktor] Bariakhtar, for instance, that's an entirely different matter.

In your book you champion Prof. Elena Burlakova, former chair of the USSR's Council for Radiological Problems at the Academy of Sciences. Where is she now?

She's still in Russia, at the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute of Chemistry, I believe. Her work is very important and continues to be very relevant to the study of the impact of the Chernobyl disaster.

Prof. Burlakova consistently focused on the effect of long-term low-level radiation on humans in the aftermath of the Chernobyl accident, has maintained that it is just as harmful as high doses, and has spared no effort in publishing her results.

Whom did you find most helpful in your investigations?

Generally speaking, I didn't get much help. Hardly anyone offered any support. During the days of the Soviet Union, most people put obstacles in my way or threatened me, saying that the KGB would take an active interest in what I was doing and so forth.

Once I became a deputy, it became somewhat easier to get at information. Once, only once, there was a member of the Ukrainian apparat, whom I don't want to name, I don't even want to say what branch of government he worked in, telephoned me in Moscow when I was a deputy, to arrange a meeting so he could pass on some sensitive material about Chernobyl to me.

In Russia, of course, there was Ivan Laptev, the editor of Izvestia who was great, always very supportive. He is now the head of the Russian state committee on the press.

Please describe your contacts with Japanese agencies and individuals.

Since I received the alternative Nobel, I set up a publishing house whose principal project is a "Nuclear Encyclopedia." Both Japanese and U.S. scientists have been very helpful and supportive, in writing entries on radiobiology, the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and so forth.

I've been working very closely with Japanese scientists and various organizations because they're very interested in these matters.

Could you give an account of the publishing history of your "Chernobyl: Forbidden Truth," which first appeared as "Chernobyl: Sovershenno Sekretno" in Russian in 1992? Did you have any difficulties publishing it in Russia?

There were no obstacles at all in Russia.

I wanted to publish something in Ukraine first. A journalist in Zhytomyr, Yakiv Zayko, very much wanted to have a book on Chernobyl appear in Zhytomyr, but the local printing house was scared to touch it. And so I was forced to publish it in Russia, and it came out as a slim volume, titled "Chernobyl s Nami" (Chernobyl is With Us, 1991) in Russia.

People in Ukraine were simply too frightened to publish it. Although I must say that Mr. Zayko is a courageous journalist, a former parliamentary deputy.

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CHORNOBYL: THE FIRST DECADE

On the medical front: Kyiv pediatric hospital helps Chernobyl's children

by **Marta Kolomayets**
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The debate is ongoing as to how many people were affected by the nuclear explosion at the Chernobyl power plant and what the consequences – both physical and psychological – are of the accident, that 10 years ago spewed radioactive particles over more than 82,000 square kilometers of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia.

Some doctors say the official number of victims of Chernobyl is 31 – the people who died immediately after the accident, including the firefighters who rushed to the scene on April 26, 1986. Other scientists, who attended the recent conference on the radiological consequences of the Chernobyl accident, jointly sponsored by the European Commission and the Ukrainian, Belarusian and Russian governments, report that only 45 deaths are attributable to the 1986 accident. Even the Ukrainian government has offered three different figures for deaths in Ukraine, including 125,000, 148,000 and 167,653, over the last year.

Ukrainian authorities say that more than 3.5 million people were exposed to the accident's radioactive release, which they estimate was 500 times that of Hiroshima.

Among those millions were 700,000 children, who were exposed to varying degrees of radiation and face certain health risks.

No one has conclusively proven that a weakened immune system and various forms of cancer (such as liver and rectal cancer in children), as well as variety of birth defects among newborns, can be directly linked to the 1986 Chernobyl accident. But there have been no disputes among doctors that childhood thyroid cancers – which have increased markedly in the contaminated zone in the last 10 years – are related to the explosion.

"We are seeing a weakening of the immune system in children," said Dr. Oleksander Urin, the director of the Okhmadyt Hospital (Okhorony Materi iy Dytyny – Health Protection of the Mother and Child), the main children's hospital in Kyiv.

"Children are getting sick not only more often, but also for a longer time," he said, adding that he also believes the consequences of the accident will be even more pronounced in the generations to follow.

"The rate of birth defects among newborns in my hospital has more than doubled," he noted. In the last two weeks, he observed, two babies were born at the hospital to Chernobyl zone evacuees, who were children at the time of the accident. "And both have birth defects," he said.

He explained that, fortunately, both could be surgically corrected. The Sushko baby girl's esophagus was not connected at one end, making it impossible for her to receive nourishment orally. The baby had surgery and was reported to be doing well.

But the Shramuk baby girl, the couple's second child, was not as lucky. Born on March 15 with tracheo-esophageal problems also, she had other birth defects, including six fingers on her left hand and deformed ear lobes. (Their first born in 1995 was two months premature, weighed less than 3 pounds at birth and lived only a few days.) The baby's father was 14 and lived in Chernobyl at the time of the accident. Nurses at the hospital said that the family had begun talking about giving up their second baby.

Dr. Urin added that although the rate of childhood leukemia has not increased, children now seem to suffer from liver and rectal cancer, malignancies not commonly seen in the very young.

"These are isolated cases so far, but they are warning signals about what may follow," said Dr. Urin, who has seen 8,401 children who are considered "Chernobyl children" – meaning that they were evacuated from contaminated regions, or they are children of evacuees from the zone.

"And only 24 percent of these children can be given a clean bill of health," he added. "The rest have various kinds of ailments, some more serious than others."

Thyroid cancer is one of the diseases that affects these children," added Natalia Savelyeva, the deputy head of the Chernobyl division at the Ministry of Health, showing tables of statistics pointing to the increases in thyroid cancer.

A substantial increase in reported cases of thyroid cancer, especially in young children, has been generally attributed to exposure to radioactive iodine during the early phases of the accident in 1986. Up to the end of



Marta Kolomayets

One of the luckier babies in Pediatric Hospital No. 14 in Kyiv (Okhmadyt Hospital), the baby girl born to the Sushkos had an esophageal defect that was corrected by surgery.

1995, a total of 800 cases was reported in children who were under the age of 15 at the time of the diagnosis. To date, three children have died of thyroid cancer.

If children from the zone, or children of those from the zone are monitored closely throughout their lives, doctors are optimistic that they can be cured, since treatment of cases caught early is generally successful.

"We had less than 10 documented cases a year prior to 1986, and now that has increased sixfold," added Ms. Savelyeva.

At his hospital, Dr. Urin has noticed that the occurrence of thyroid cancer has increased 3.6 percent in the last decade.

A study on "Thyroid Cancer in Children and Adolescents in Ukraine after the Chernobyl Accident (1986-1995)", presented by a team of researchers from the Institute of Endocrinology and Metabolism at the Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine, whose findings were presented at the Miensk conference, confirms what doctors have found.

Comparing their study to a British study that monitored British adolescents, they found that cases of thyroid carcinoma in Ukrainian children were seven times more common in the last decade. It also showed that Ukrainian tumors differ from thyroid cancer in children in the United Kingdom in that they are more common in younger children and in boys.

The nine-year study by the Ukrainian researchers also concluded that the increase in thyroid cancer is probably due to radiation, since more than 60 percent of all cases have been registered in the five regions that had the most fallout after the accident out of a total of 25 regions.

Recently, Margaret Shapiro of The Washington Post reported that the increase in thyroid cancer among children in Belarus was so high that international experts, initially skeptical about post-Chernobyl health claims in Ukraine and Belarus, now acknowledge that it can be explained only by the radiation from the Chernobyl accident.

And, at the international conference held in Vienna in April on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl accident, Dr. Angela Merkel, Germany's minister for the environment, nature conservation and nuclear safety, stated the following:

"With respect to the more long-term effects on health, we must look into the question as to whether the number of cases of thyroid cancer in children which has been constantly increasing since 1990 – to date more than 600 cases have been identified – is, in addition to the immediate consequences, the only effect which can be proven to be directly attributed to radiation exposure. We are horrified to see that it is children above all who must suffer. Even more, the type of thyroid cancer is very aggressive, and we must ask ourselves whether the otherwise excellent chances of cure for thyroid cancer also apply here."

Warren Christopher at Okhmadyt Hospital

Secretary of State Warren Christopher visited the Okhmadyt Hospital on March 19, during his six-hour visit to the Ukrainian capital. Following are excerpts of his remarks.

... I've just had a tremendously moving time having a tour of this hospital. It brought home to me the terrible harm that the Chernobyl tragedy continues to do to the people of Ukraine. I particularly want to salute and thank the doctors and the nurses, all the staff of this hospital for the dedicated and heroic work that they do. As we all know, the Chernobyl tragedy has caused thousands of deaths and severely taxed Ukrainian natural resources. It continues to reach into the future to claim new victims, and indeed the specter of another Chernobyl continues to hang over this region.

In my brief remarks today I want to speak about what the United States is doing to help Ukraine to overcome this terrible tragedy. I want to touch more broadly on the environmental crises in all the newly independent states, and I want to explain why these issues are so critical to our diplomatic engagement in this region.

In the last two years the United States has delivered over 900 tons of medical supplies to the hospitals of Ukraine. We have helped Ukraine to improve the safety of its nuclear power plants, and we have also helped it to strengthen its regulation of nuclear power. On April 26, the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy, we will deliver another 10 million dollars in aid, medical relief, and we will also provide a mobile laboratory that will enable the Ukrainian government to monitor radiation and environmental contamination throughout the country. We are working with our G-7 partners to help Ukraine meet its commitments to close the Chernobyl reactor by the year 2000, a project that still requires a great deal of work and funding.

It is necessary that we remind ourselves that Chernobyl was not a natural disaster. It was the product of a closed, authoritarian government. It was one of the most cruel legacies of communism, a system that managed to produce virtually all the evils of industrialization with very few of its benefits. One of the surest safeguards against another Chernobyl is a skeptical, open, democratic, questioning society. ...

... it should not take a tragedy like Chernobyl to teach us this obvious truth, that we have a responsibility to protect public health and to safeguard the resources upon which our prosperity as well as our health are based. We must meet that responsibility, for the sake of our people, our security and our future. ...

CHORNOBYL: THE FIRST DECADE

IN CONGRESS: Statements in support of Chernobyl resolution

Following are the texts of statements made by Sens. Robert Dole and Frank Lautenberg and Rep. Christopher Smith upon introduction on April 24 of a concurrent resolution marking the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. The Senate resolution (S. Con. Res. 56) was passed the next day. The House version (H. Con. Res. 167) was marked up by the International Relations Committee on May 8; it is anticipated that the resolution will come up before the full House as early as next week.

Sen. Robert Dole

Mr. President, I am pleased to join Sen. Lautenberg in offering this legislation to remember the 10th anniversary of the terrible nuclear accident at Chernobyl. While 10 years have passed since that tragic day, the health and economic consequences of Chernobyl continue to be borne by the Ukrainian people.

I recall quite well how the Chernobyl accident on April 26, 1986, signaled the inhumanity of the totalitarian system of government. At first the Soviet government feebly attempted to deny the incident – with the effect of causing further harm to those who lived in its vicinity. Ultimately the full scale of the disaster became known, but only after millions in Ukraine, Belarus, Russia and Poland had been exposed to radioactive fallout.

That a government could be so brutal to its people is no surprise to those of us who worked for many years to confront and defeat the totalitarian system. That the Soviet government could be so brutal to the people of Ukraine was no surprise to a people who endured the forced starvation, massacres and genocidal policies of Joseph Stalin in the 1930s. The radioactive wasteland around Chernobyl will, unfortunately, serve as a lasting and hideous monument to refute those who would defend such a system, or whose historical memory has faded sufficiently to allow them to forget its evil.

Within the catastrophe at Chernobyl were sown the seeds of the downfall of the Soviet system. A fiercely independent people such as the Ukrainians cannot be subjected forever to such abuse. I am proud of the role that I was able to fulfill in the Congress, in full support of Presidents Reagan and Bush, as the United States prevailed, the Soviet Union collapsed, and Ukraine again became an independent state in the momentous year of 1991. I was proud to sponsor legislation which called for direct U.S. aid to the republics, rather than through Moscow in 1990. The goal of defeating communism and achieving independence for Ukraine was not easily achieved, it was one that required the combined efforts of many nations and many people, including the Ukrainian American community, who simply refused to accept that communism would prevail over the spirit of Ukrainians.

Democracy is prevailing in Ukraine today, but the Ukrainian people and government continue to shoulder the burden of the Chernobyl disaster. Just as the United

States joined with the Ukrainian people to defeat communism, we must work in partnership to overcome the tragic consequences of Chernobyl. I was pleased to support the Republican initiative in Congress to provide Ukraine with \$225 million in assistance this year, including specific assistance for nuclear safety, the development of alternatives to nuclear power and to address the ongoing health problems due to the Chernobyl disaster. I am certain that working together we can bring peace, prosperity and a better quality of life to the people of Ukraine. I urge my colleagues to support our resolution.

Sen. Frank Lautenberg

Mr. President, I rise to submit a resolution to commemorate the 10th anniversary of one of the most tragic, devastating events in the history of nuclear power – the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The resolution also expresses Congress' unequivocal support for the closing of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. I am pleased that Sens. Dole, Helms, Pell and Levin are joining me in submitting this resolution.

Friday, April 26, 1996, marks the 10th anniversary of the world's worst nuclear accident. Ten years ago, nuclear reactor No. 4 at Ukraine's Chernobyl nuclear power plant malfunctioned. The ensuing explosion and fire spewed a cloud of radiation across Europe, releasing 200 times more radioactivity than the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined.

The results were devastating. Millions of people were exposed to dangerous high levels of radiation.

Chernobyl's legacy is much more than the worst technological disaster in the history of nuclear power. It is a continuing humanitarian tragedy that will always be remembered the world over. The inhabitants of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia continue to be heavily burdened by the social, economic and health effects of the accident, and the entire international community continues to be threatened by the specter of another Chernobyl.

Ten years ago, millions of Ukrainians, Belarusians and Russians, including over 1 million children and thousands of people who cleaned up after the explosion, were exposed to dangerously high levels of radiation. A 30-kilometer radius around Chernobyl was rendered uninhabitable. Families were forced from their homes. Most have never returned.

The tragic effects of this disaster have devastated millions. A 200-fold increase in thyroid cancer among children has ensued. Immune deficiency disorders, respiratory problems and birth defects have increased at alarming rates since the disaster. The region's soil and water supplies have remained contaminated. Ukraine's economy has been overwhelmed by the costs of rebuilding.

Mr. President, the people of Chernobyl and Ukraine have not been alone in their efforts to overcome the tremendous loss. Numerous charitable and humanitarian

organizations have assiduously worked to ameliorate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine and the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, from my state of New Jersey, have lent considerable support to that effort along with many others in the Ukrainian American community. These and millions of other Americans in New Jersey and elsewhere continue to provide valuable assistance to the victims of the Chernobyl disaster. All private organizations who have been at the forefront to help Ukraine deserve commendation for their tireless efforts to assist Chernobyl's victims.

Unfortunately, more work needs to be done. Chernobyl's two working reactors continue to churn out electricity. The protective concrete covering over the obliterated reactor No. 4, the sarcophagus, has developed cracks which dangerously weaken its structure. Corrosion of this structure threatens to release even more radioactivity into the region. Experts warn that another accident is imminent.

Just yesterday, a fire started within 10 kilometers of Chernobyl. While initial assessments by specialists conclude that the abundant smoke produced by the fire may not pose further contamination dangers, all bets are off in the future. The region's inhabitants cannot be assured that radioactive particles which settled in the areas surrounding Chernobyl after the accident will not be carried into their villages or water supplies. They cannot be assured that future fires or even floods will not release dangerous levels of contamination.

This event underscores the ongoing threat Chernobyl poses to safety and the urgent need to close Chernobyl forever.

On December 20, 1995, the Ukrainian government, the governments of the G-7 countries and the Commission of the European Communities signed a Memorandum of Understanding supporting Ukraine's decision to close Chernobyl by the year 2000, and the international community has pledged financial support to facilitate the closure. Last week, President Clinton met in Moscow with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and leaders of other G-7 nations, and Ukraine reaffirmed its commitment to close Chernobyl.

Support from the international community is vital to help Ukraine move forward and close Chernobyl. Ukraine is working hard to implement open economic and social reforms, and its economy is strapped. At this very delicate time in Ukraine's history, the United States should support Ukraine's efforts to rebuild its infrastructure and to secure the alternative energy sources it needs to close Chernobyl in a safe and expeditious manner.

Mr. President, the devastating health effects, social distress, and economic hardship remain in the hearts and minds of the people of Ukraine who lived through the Chernobyl explosion. They cannot forget the radioactive blanket of despair that covered their homes and forced them from their villages. They cannot forget that their livelihoods have been destroyed. For their sake and for the sake of future generations, we should commemorate this event on April 26, 1996, and redouble our efforts to ensure that the devastation of 10 years ago will not be repeated.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Rep. Christopher Smith

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution which recognizes the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, the worst in recorded history, and supports the closing of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Yesterday, I chaired a Helsinki Commission hearing that examined the devastating consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. That hearing, Mr. Speaker, featured the ambassadors of Ukraine and Belarus, the two countries most gravely affected by the disaster. Prof. Murray Feshbach of Georgetown University and Alexander Kuzma of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund also provided sound scientific and medical details about the public health crisis that exists.

A decade ago, in the early morning hours of April 26, 1986, reactor No. 4 at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant exploded, releasing into the atmosphere massive quantities of radioactive substances. The highest amount of radioactive fallout was registered in the vicinity immediately surrounding Chernobyl, some 60 miles north of Ukraine's capital, Kyiv. At that time, the prevailing winds were directed north to northwest, so that Belarus received some 70 percent of the total radioactive fallout. Subsequent shifts of the wind, and rainfall, affected northern Ukraine, southwest Russia and beyond, with excessive levels of



AT THE HELSINKI COMMISSION: Testimony about the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear accident was delivered on April 23 before the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe chaired by Rep. Christopher Smith (center) by (from left) Georgetown University professor of demography Murray Feshbach, Belarusian Ambassador Serguei Martynov, Ukrainian Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak and Alexander Kuzma, director of development at the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund.

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CHORNOBYL: THE FIRST DECADE*AT THE WHITE HOUSE: Remarks by the first lady and the vice-president***Hillary Rodham Clinton**

Below are the full texts of remarks by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore during the White House ceremony held May 1 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl accident.

Thank you and please be seated. And please know how welcome you are here at the White House for this special commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear tragedy. I want to thank all of you for taking part. But there are a few people I would like to acknowledge who are here in the audience: Sen. Claiborne Pell, Brian Atwood, Ambassador Jim Collins, John Holem, Richard Morningstar, others who have worked on behalf of the United States government to assist those who have dealt on the front lines with the tragedy. I also want to extend a special welcome to the ambassadors who were just introduced to all of you – ambassadors of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. They have joined us today to recognize the many individuals and organizations who have helped with relief efforts in the aftermath of Chernobyl – and they are here also to join with us in rededicating ourselves to the healing and recovery that must continue into the future.

Ambassador Shcherbak, we are particularly indebted to you. You were one of the first medical doctors to respond to the tragedy at Chernobyl. And in the years since, few have done as much as you, Mr. Ambassador, to educate people around the world about the medical and scientific realities of the Chernobyl disaster, and what they portend for humanity's future. I would like to ask Ambassador Shcherbak to stand, so that we may thank him.

Before the vice-president and I came into this room, we were in the Blue Room with the ambassadors and the wives who are here, and the other dignitaries that I just acknowledged, and Ambassador Shcherbak reminded the vice-president and me that it was on May 1, 10 years ago, that children were encouraged and even required to participate in May Day activities, despite the dangers of fallout and continuing damages from Chernobyl. And those who are in this room, who have worked on behalf of all of the people affected by Chernobyl, know what a terrible aftermath that has caused in the lives of so many children.

That is why it is a great privilege for me to serve as honorary chair of Chernobyl Challenge '96, which has convened experts, advocates and laypeople from across the spectrum to devise new strategies for coping with the aftermath of Chernobyl. Already there have been symposia of scientists, journalists, academics, church leaders, businesspeople and others who are working on these mat-



Yaro Bihun

A view of the ceremony marking the Chernobyl anniversary held in the East Room of the White House.

ters. This evening, at St. John's Church, there will be a prayer service for the victims of Chernobyl. Each of these gatherings gives us an opportunity to reflect on what we all need to do as citizens of the world to help those still coping with this unfolding tragedy.

Today's event is one both of mourning, but also of hope. Mourning because the people of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia have suffered so much in the years since the explosion and fire at Chernobyl's unit 4 reactor. Today, let us pray for those who lost their lives, and those who live each day with uncertainty about their own health and well-being.

But we are also here for a celebration of hope. As we so often see when tragedies occur, here and around the world, Americans and others respond with concern and compassion. They, and you, the entire human family,

have answered the worst of man-made catastrophes with the best of human nature.

Even before the gravity of Chernobyl was fully revealed, offers of humanitarian assistance began pouring in. And they have continued year after year.

The private voluntary organizations, including those represented in this room, have supplied well over 1,000 tons of medicine and medical equipment and supplies to people in affected areas. Those donations alone are worth more than \$100 million.

Private voluntary organizations have also established special hospitals for those people – many of whom are children – afflicted with thyroid cancers, leukemia, and other disorders stemming from exposure to radioactive

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Al Gore

Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen, and let me begin by thanking you, Mrs. Clinton, for that very nice introduction and very generous introduction, and even more for your moving words about Chernobyl. All of us are in your debt for the hard work that you do to ease the pain and lift the lives of so many people around the world. Your deep concern for the future of the peoples of Ukraine, Belarus, Russia and other nations who were affected by the tragedy of Chernobyl has touched the hearts of all of us here today. And thank you so much for the honor of inviting me to participate with you in this event. I know of how moved you were in visiting the families that included victims of the Chernobyl accident. I also wish to acknowledge Sen. Pell and the others among the distinguished guests who are here: Alex Kuzma, and Vova Malofienko, who will speak in a moment, Ambassador Sergei Martinov and his wife Marguerita, Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov, Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak and Mrs. Shcherbak, Maria. Ambassador Shcherbak and I met with a small group of environmentalists many years ago in Moscow, before the break-up of the old Soviet Union, and he contributed much to my education about these matters. You are rightly honored here with the words of the first lady, today.

To the other distinguished guests who are here, including my colleagues who work along with me, under the president's leadership, on these issues, this is an extremely important occasion, because 10 springs ago, when reactor No. 4 of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disintegrated in a blast of steam, flaming graphite and deadly radionuclides, the promise of a new season of renewal and hope gave way to a long, sad winter of suffering that remains with us to this day.

From that moment on, life for all of us would never

be the same. But especially for those who lived in proximity to the reactor.

Chernobyl caused the complete social disintegration of whole communities. It caused dangerous radiation exposure for over half a million courageous men and women involved in the clean-up and medical care of survivors. In all, well over 50 million curies of radioactivity were released during the accident. Scientists remind us that this is dozens of times the radiation emitted by the atomic explosions over Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined – about 1 million times as much radiation as was released during the Three Mile Island accident of 1979, here in this country.

And the effects of the catastrophe still linger. They are measured in the anxiety of young Ukrainian, Belarusian and Russian parents who hope and pray that their newborns will grow healthy and whole. The effects are measured by the degraded natural resources that trace a poisoned arc across Ukraine, through Belarus, into Russia, and reaching as far as Scandinavia. They are measured by the uncertainty that we all share as we wonder whether one day another Chernobyl might once again unleash its fury.

But as the first lady so eloquently reminds us, out of this mire of tragedy also has emerged great stores of hope, and deep reservoirs of resolve. Selfless men and women – thousands upon thousands of them – risked their lives to protect those of others. And courageous leaders like so many of you here today are working tirelessly still to relieve suffering. Leaders like young Vova Malofienko who have taught the world so much about courage and constancy. We salute you, and we honor you for your heroic efforts. You're a young hero.

And we say today to all those who have worked and who have helped: all Americans stand with you. President Clinton is determined to do whatever our nation can to overcome this tragedy, and to help ensure

that all reactors everywhere are safer, cleaner and forever free from the sort of catastrophe we remember on this important anniversary. The president has been working very hard, most recently in the summit meeting in Moscow, to address these issues in a constructive way.

That is also why the United States has delivered 100 tons of medical supplies to hospitals in Ukraine and Belarus. In cooperation with several visionary private voluntary organizations, we have launched Operation Provide Hope to send critical supplies to hospitals and cancer wards throughout the region. We have also launched through USAID, under Brian Atwood's leadership, several innovative partnerships between American and Ukrainian and Belarusian health providers to improve the efficiency and quality of health care. Our National Cancer Institute, together with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Energy, are hard at work examining the health effects of the accident on children and clean-up workers so that treatment and care might be improved. And just a few days ago, we delivered over \$12 million in additional aid and medical relief to Ukraine and Belarus, including a mobile laboratory enabling Ukraine to test its air, water and soil for contamination more effectively.

That is also the principal reason why the president just recently joined the leaders of the G-7 and Russia and Ukraine at the summit I mentioned a moment ago, called the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security, to work towards the day when another Chernobyl cannot happen again. The president and his counterparts reaffirmed their commitment to a landmark agreement with Ukraine to mobilize over \$3 billion, with more forthcoming, to support Ukraine's decision to close Chernobyl by the year 2000. And we congratulate your government, Mr. Ambassador, on that courageous and

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CHORNOBYL: THE FIRST DECADE

Hillary Rodham Clinton

(Continued from page 11)

elements. As part of the recovery effort, American doctors have gone to the former Soviet Union and patients have come to the United State for care.

Other organizations here today have focused on the disaster's environmental consequences. Some are helping address the overwhelming public health challenges faced in the region. And still others are helping to study and evaluate the long-term effects of the disaster. Through these and other activities the private volunteer community continues to focus the world's attention on the consequences and lessons of Chernobyl.

But these organizations cannot – and should not – do this work alone. I am pleased that the generosity of private volunteers has augmented humanitarian relief efforts by the United States government, particularly the delivery of medicines and treatment.

Today, these efforts convey a message of compassion and healing that tells the victims of Chernobyl that the world will not forget them or the tragedy they have endured.

Two years ago, and again last year, I was in the former Soviet Union, and I had the opportunity to visit hospitals in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. I met with patients, many of them children, suffering from Chernobyl's aftermath. I talked with doctors and nurses who told me they were seeing increases in respiratory illness, heart disease, birth defects, male infertility and other reproductive problems. They told me about abnormally high rates of thyroid cancer and thyroid diseases in children – diseases that before the catastrophe rarely appeared in people so young.

In Kyiv, I talked to pregnant women who worried about what Chernobyl would mean for their children – and their children's children.

And at each hospital I visited, I saw extraordinary work being done by health care professionals under extremely trying circumstances. Doctors and nurses face chronic shortages of medicine and supplies – everything from syringes and simple antibiotics to chemotherapy medications and MRI machines.

Thanks to the contributions of our government and many organizations – and to the partnerships that our hospitals have established with hospitals in these three countries – lives are literally being saved every day.

Just in the brief time I was in Miensk, I saw American doctors from Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh sharing new treatment techniques with their counterparts in Belarus.

I watched soldiers deliver large boxes of blankets, syringes, bandages and medicine provided through Operation Provide Hope, a program run by the United States military that sends surplus medical supplies and equipment to the former Soviet Union. I was able to pass out crayons and coloring books donated by American companies, and even Boston Celtics caps that the team had sent.

Of course, this was just a fraction of the American relief work going on. And a fraction of the work that remains to be done by all of us.

As we celebrate today the many good and important deeds that were born of this tragedy, let's not forget that humanitarian assistance is not a short-term investment. The people and nations of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia are struggling to build the infrastructure and institutions needed to sustain democracy and repair the human spirit after harsh decades of totalitarianism. It is our duty, it is our moral responsibility, as believers in freedom and democracy – to help them.

Chernobyl is rare in the litany of global tragedies. Unlike bombings, wars, earthquakes, other natural and man-made disasters, we may never fully know the extent of damage done by the explosion and fire at Chernobyl 10 years ago.

Some of the more obvious aftereffects are well-documented. But what about the ultimate impact on the environment? On the food chain? On human genetics? And what about our own capacity to recognize that a tragedy like Chernobyl affects not just the people of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, but people in every nation of the world?

The history of the people in the region of Chernobyl is a history of endurance. The nuclear disaster was a horrible chapter in that history. But from that crucible has emerged an opportunity to create something far better in its place. An opportunity to add another chapter that speaks to the resilience of the people of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, and to the caring and compassion of our entire global family.

We are very grateful for all of you in this room, and for the many, many others you represent, who through your work, your prayers and your continued commitment to this important effort have already made a difference, and will continue to do so.

There is certainly much more that we need to be doing, and Chernobyl Challenge '96 I hope will identify those efforts. But we have three people here today, who have been deeply involved in assessing and evaluating, understanding and working to ameliorate the consequences of Chernobyl. First we will hear from our vice-president, he will talk to us about the efforts and commitment of the administration and the United States government. Next, we will hear from Alex Kuzma, who as the coordinator of Chernobyl Challenge '96 will talk to us about the commitment of the American relief community. And finally we will hear from Vova Malofienko, a courageous 11-year-old who will tell of his personal story about the treatment he has been receiving in this country for Chernobyl-related illnesses.

And now, I have the honor of introducing a man whose attention to Chernobyl and its aftermath has never wavered, who in many respects tried to warn all of us about some of the issues we are now dealing with, because of his commitment to the environment and to the future that we all share together in this world – the vice-president of the United States.

Al Gore

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decision. And President Kuchma – to his great credit – announced his commitment to close one of Chernobyl's two operating reactors by the end of this year.

This agreement represents a historic opportunity to eradicate one of the world's gravest environmental threats. Safety is indeed a hallmark of this agreement. But so are energy efficiency and economic prosperity. For in working to close Chernobyl, Ukraine and the G-7 have developed a plan to create a valuable and competitive energy sector that treats energy as the scarce and precious commodity that it is. And in so doing, Ukraine will emerge a stronger economic competitor with the means to sustain the courageous course of economic reform on which it has embarked.

Can we meet these goals? President Clinton believes that we can, but only through the concerted efforts of Ukraine and its international partners. We recognize that much work needs to be done, and that many challenges – such as stabilizing the so-called "sarcophagus" which sits over the wreckage of unit 4 – many challenges like this one, still lie before us. But it is our strong belief that the people of Ukraine, Russia and Belarus have the resilience, the will, and the fortitude to overcome Chernobyl's physical and psychological legacies once and for all time. As President Yeltsin said recently about his own country, Russia "must and will" make sure another Chernobyl does not recur. And let me be clear: this appeal to common sense is not simply for one nation – but for all nations. It is a call for all people everywhere who have a stake in the well-being of their families and their environment, and who nurse a passion for freedom and reform.

Indeed, the future look brightest for those with the will for reform, with the will to take their futures into their own hands.

Chernobyl, after all, was not an act of God. It was caused by man. It was a product of a closed authoritarian system that had little concern for the welfare of its people. In retrospect, I think it was no surprise that just like the faulty nuclear reactor it created, the Communist Soviet system itself would soon implode into ash and dust. Chernobyl – perhaps more than any other symbol of the Communist era – exposed the weakness and corruption of the Soviet system. The people of Russia spoke out, with the people of Ukraine and Belarus and the other former republics, and said "enough." As Secretary of State Christopher rightly said just a few weeks ago, and I quote, "Governments that abuse their citizens too often have a similar contempt for their environment." To put it another way, men and women who are deprived of the right to chart their own destiny and defend themselves, their families and communities against abuse, are more often than not the victims of abuse, because they are unable to resist it.

This, perhaps, is the most enduring lesson of Chernobyl – a lesson that we'd do well to remember on this solemn anniversary: that only in freedom can people claim their rightful destiny to live in safety and security. Only in freedom can people insist on public health systems that work and on natural resources that are safeguarded and clean. Only in freedom can people hold bureaucracies accountable for how they manage potentially dangerous technologies.

Today, at long last, the people of Ukraine and Belarus and Russia have enormous opportunities before them. The promise of democracy and reform burns brightly, and the dream of a Europe no longer at risk of nuclear disaster slowly is becoming a reality. But the future of reform cannot be taken for granted. A more prosperous – and democratic – future will only take hold with the active commitment of all those who truly believe in freedom and the right of all people to have a voice in their own political and economic destinies. President Clinton and all of us who work with him are not natural bystanders. We know which forces we want to prevail, and they are the forces of reform. We have a stake in their prevailing, and we have the capacity through economic assistance, through generous private and voluntary efforts, and through rigorous diplomacy, to help them do so. I know, with God's help, that we will not fail.

Thank you all very much. Thank you.

Before introducing the next speaker, I want to add to those that I have acknowledged previously Congressman David Bonior, who has arrived. We appreciate your leadership Congressman Bonior.



Yaro Bihun

Eleven-year-old Vova Malofienko speaks at the White House ceremony.

COMMUNITY COMMEMORATIONS OF THE CHORNOBYL ANNIVERSARY

New Jersey

by Walter Bodnar

NEWARK, N.J. – New Jersey State Sens. Ronald L. Rice, Raymond J. Lesniak and James E. McGreevey, Democrats representing state and local governments, remembered the 10th anniversary of the worst nuclear accident in the history of mankind at Chernobyl and admonished their local communities as well as the world community to be wary of the “peaceful atom” going awry.

The Newark City Council on April 17 issued a resolution commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The main sponsor and promoter of this resolution was Mr. Rice, also a Newark councilman. Witnessing the ceremony were several community members, including Bozhena Olshaniwsky, president of Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine (AHRU), who accepted a framed resolution on behalf of the Ukrainian community. She reminded the audience in attendance of the importance for each citizen to be aware of Ukraine’s 10-year-long ordeal due to Chernobyl’s aftereffects.

The resolution from the City of Newark, N.J. stated: “The Newark Municipal Council hereby issues this resolution commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster... and duly recommends the closing of the Chernobyl nuclear power station in the

[sic] Ukraine due to its continued endangerment to the health and life of people of the Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, and its destruction of the natural resources of the lands through radioactive poisoning.”

Another Chernobyl commemoration was held during a busy legislative session in the New Jersey State Senate in Trenton on March 21 at 3 p.m. The sponsor of this commemorative resolution also was Mr. Rice, a state senator from the 28th District of New Jersey, which has the largest Ukrainian American constituency in the state.

The New Jersey Senate Resolution stated, among other things, that “the people of Chernobyl, still heavily burdened with the aftereffects of the nuclear explosion, continue to...suffer from diseases and maladies caused by radiation” and noted that the Senate of the State of New Jersey “joins the citizenry of New Jersey in observing the 10th anniversary of the tragedy at Chernobyl on April 26, 1996.”

Prior to the official presentation, the text of the resolution was read by the Senate clerk. Mr. Rice then gave a speech on the floor extolling the qualities of non-governmental organizations such as Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine, who work for the betterment of the community and make up the civil society of our country. He also cited Zelenyi Svit (Green World) and the Greenpeace organization in Ukraine for their efforts to bring to the attention of the world community the dan-



Walter Bodnar

During presentation of the Chernobyl resolution in the New Jersey State Senate from left are: William Bahrey, the Very Rev. Bohdan Zelechiwsky, State Sen. Raymond Lesniak, State Sen. Ronald Rice, Bozhena Olshaniwsky, the Rev. John Fatenko and State Sen. James McGreevey.

gers of radiation poisoning.

He was followed by his colleague, State Sen. Lesniak (D-20th District, Elizabeth, N.J.), former majority leader of the State Senate, who stated that Ukraine had suffered for many years under Soviet domination and, even after attaining her independence, continues to suffer from the consequences of the Soviet disregard for humanity as epit-

mized by Chernobyl.

In addition, State Sen. McGreevey (D-19th District, Woodbridge, N.J.) greeted the attending Ukrainians and thanked the delegation for their concerns to make the world a better place to live in. He invited them to attend a commemorative Chernobyl ceremony on April 26 in the town of Woodbridge, where he also serves as mayor.

Boston

by Andrea Kulish

BOSTON – “I have been in Boston for five days now, and my readings indicate that the radiation levels are the same in Boston as they are in Kyiv.”

This statement by Ukrainian independent filmmaker Volodymyr Kuznetsov initially shocked some of the attendees of the Harvard University symposium “Chernobyl: Ten Years Later.”

Fears were soon dispelled, however, with the explanation that these levels, although twice what they were before the accident, are very small, and nothing to worry about.

The Harvard symposium was one event of the Boston commemoration of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster’s 10 year anniversary. The events spanned academic, religious and fund-raising pursuits.

The symposium began on April 24 with personal recollections of the Chernobyl catastrophe by Lt. Gen. Volodymyr Korniichuk of the Ukrainian Militia, who was in charge of internal affairs of the Kyiv Oblast at the time of the accident.

Mr. Korniichuk stressed the confusion and lack of communication, which added to the problems after the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. For example, he mentioned that because of red tape it took 24 hours for the news of the accident just to get to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Another eyewitness account was given that evening by Mr. Kuznetsov, who has won 10 international awards for his films. “While We Still Live,” which won the Europe prize for European Community Documentation, was shown, as was “The Chernobyl Accident: A Chronicle of the Sarcophagus Construction.” These very sobering films included rare and previously classified footage.

The next day of the symposium featured a wide range of expertise from various fields.

John Dillon, a member of the Ukrainian Environmental Journalism Association, spoke about the environmental problems of Chernobyl. He stat-

ed, “Truth was the first casualty of Chernobyl.”

Sergei Skokov followed with a talk about nuclear power and energy problems. Mr. Skokov is managing director of “Logos 92 Ltd.,” a Ukrainian company that focuses on environmental conservation. He reminded his audience that there still is no international agency with appropriate responsibilities for nuclear safety.

Jane Dawson, assistant professor of political science at Wellesley College, reported what she learned during her extensive research in Eastern Europe, during which she interviewed hundreds of anti-nuclear and nationalist activists.

She explained the evolution of popular attitudes in regard to the Chernobyl crisis, and their complete turnaround from anti-nuclear movements until 1991, to nuclear power’s emergence as a symbol of the new nations’ autonomy after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Ms. Dawson concluded that foreign aid is now the key to the anti-nuclear movement, with money coming predominantly from groups such as the foreign-funded Greenpeace International branch located in Ukraine.

The economic consequences of Chernobyl were described by Anna Klimina, research associate at the Institute of Economics at the Academy of Sciences in Ukraine. Ms. Klimina underscored the complex dilemma of whether or not to shut down Chernobyl, the pros and cons of each decision, and the dire need for foreign aid to Ukraine.

Natalia Lakiza-Sachuk, project director at the Department of Economic Strategy at the National Security Council in Ukraine, outlined the socio-demographic results of Chernobyl.

Ms. Lakiza-Sachuk focused on the changes in Ukraine’s population over the past 10 years, including the current negative population growth rate, fertility problems in half of a men age 13-29 and in one of every five to six women, increases of thyroid tumors, especially in children, greater incidences of leukemia, augmented mortality of young children. All of the foregoing has resulted in mak-



Andrea Kulish

Natalia Chechel, a theater historian from Ukraine who was present at the infamous May Day parade in 1986, reads a poem during the candlelight vigil on the Boston Common.

ing physical health take precedence over the previous priority of intellectualism.

Later that evening, at the symposium’s third session, Mallinckrodt Professor of Physics at Harvard University Richard Wilson gave information about his studies at Chernobyl shortly after the accident.

On Friday, April 26, a candlelight vigil was held on the Boston Common near the Chernobyl commemoration tree. A welcome was given by Alexander Paduchak, chairman of the commemoration committee, followed with prayer offered by the Rt. Rev. Andriy Partykevich of St. Andrew’s Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Boston. An address was then given by Andrew Sorokowski, associate of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. Orest Szczudluk read proclamations of Chernobyl remembrance days by Massachusetts Gov. William Weld and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino.

As candles were lit despite the somewhat harsh winds that evening, a moment of silence was observed. Poignant poems were read in Ukrainian and English, and

a closing prayer was given by the Rev. Yaroslav Nalysnyk of Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church of Boston.

The final event of the week’s remembrances was a joint moleben of Boston’s Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic parishes. St. Andrew’s Ukrainian Orthodox Church was packed to capacity with approximately 400 people praying together for all who have suffered as a result of the Chernobyl disaster. The service was followed by a traditional “spilne sviachene,” the sharing of a blessed meal, with proceeds benefiting the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund.

Mr. Sorokowski said in his remarks at the vigil, “the poems we will hear express the anxiety and desolation experienced by the people of Ukraine. ... The commemorative tree we see before us reminds us to tend nature, not exploit it. The candles we will light commemorate the victims of Chernobyl; they also symbolize hope, and the sanctity of life – spiritual as well as biological. And the children we see among us represent the future generations, to whom we owe a new way of life.”

FOCUS ON THE ARTS: Yara Arts Group to present "Wayward Wind"

The Yara Arts Group, a resident company at the La Mama Experimental Theater in New York City, has been creating theater pieces based on Ukrainian material since 1990. Currently the group is working on "Wayward Wind," which is being presented in workshop productions Thursday-Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. on May 9-19. (For tickets call the La Mama Box Office, 74 E. Fourth St., between Second and Third avenues, 212-475-7710.)

The interview below with Virlana Tkacz, artistic director of the Yara Arts Group, was conducted on April 9 by Roman Baratiak, manager of films and lectures at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Can you please tell us about the genesis of Yara's newest project "Wayward Wind"?

We wanted to do something with "wind," and I was also interested in working on a poem called "Swan," written in 1994 by Oleh Lysheha in Kyiv. Wanda Phipps and I translated the poem from the Ukrainian, and I worked on it last year at our theater workshops at Harvard Summer School. I became very interested in swan imagery.

In many ways this project is an extension of our last project "Waterfall/Reflections." In "Waterfall/Reflections" I was interested in the Neolithic era of Ukraine – an agricultural culture that was very water-based and female-oriented in its imagery. After that project was completed I started thinking about what was before then – the Paleolithic, which was a hunting culture that moved from place to place. In Mezin, Ukraine, this culture left us small carvings of birds and swans that are over 15,000 years old. Similar carvings from that period were found near Lake Baikal.

But how do you make a theater piece about ancient history? About the Paleolithic? What is it that we still have in common with this past? What have we forgotten that we shouldn't have because we've been so sedentary for so long? It's those questions that interest me.

Have you always been interested in ancient history?

No. It's only recently that I've become fascinated by this period of history. When Yara was first formed in 1990 I was very interested in the 1920s and our first pieces reflected this. "A Light from the East," was about Les Kurbas, a director from the 1920s; "Explosions," our piece on Chornobyl, used a 1920s German drama; and "Blind Sight," about Vasyl Yeroshenko, the blind poet who traveled to Japan, was also from that time. I felt I



Virlana Tkacz

understood something essential about that era and that it spoke to me very clearly. "Yara's Forest Song," the Lesia Ukrainka piece we did was also from near that general era – the early part of this century. But what I found particularly interesting in Ukrainka's drama were the mythic elements.

In my last pieces I've attempted to combine modern elements such as poetry with mythic sources. "Yara's Forest Song" combined modern American poetry by Mary Oliver, Van Morrison and David Wagoner with American Indian poetry and Ukrainian folklore. We did this, not to create contrast, but to find the connections between them. The point of my productions is to find a connection between us today and a past. My life has been very much about trying to understand my own connection to a past – to my Ukrainian background.

Are there difficulties inherent in combining sources from the past and the present?

It's not difficult to combine them but it is difficult to make some people understand why they should be combined.

Is it obvious to your actors?

Sometimes it is – and that's when it's good.

I understand the new piece "Wayward Wind" will include Buryat and Mongolian folklore and music?

When did you first encounter them?

A friend of mine had some of the music on tape, plus I had heard some recordings of Mongolian music on various compact discs. Yara is presently working with Vladilen Pantaev, the foremost composer of Buryat music. He'll be collaborating with our resident composer Genji Ito to create the music for "Wayward Wind." I also read a large number of Buryat and Mongolian folk tales. I was very interested in the bird imagery. Our last piece ended with women flying off as birds, so this continuation intrigued me.

The Buryat swan myth forms a natural frame for Lysheha's poem, "Swan." It's interesting to me that the core of our new piece is a contemporary Ukrainian poem, but the folkloric material which supports it is from Asia. Vladilen Pantaev recently told me that in Buryat the word for "swan" literally means "person bird."

How do you go about researching your projects?

I spend many hours at the major research libraries in New York City. For this project a great deal of the information we found on the Internet and that's why the Internet is included in our new project. It's interesting finding out about the oldest things via the latest technology and to think about how the past and the present interconnect. I had posted a notice to a news group on the Internet asking for information on Mongolian music and dance and received a number of responses, including one from Beverly Seavey who had a six-hour videotape of some Mongolian and Buryat dances.

Did you receive any responses from people overseas?

Oh yes. In fact one of the people, Carole Pegg, an expert on Mongolian music who lives in England, is coming to the United States in about two weeks to lecture at Harvard University and then will come to New York City to meet with me. Currently, I've had a great deal of correspondence with colleagues in Ukraine on the topic of swans and Paleolithic and Neolithic archaeological finds in Ukraine. I recently received an e-mail from Mary Mycio, an American journalist working in Kyiv, about her interviews with Marija Gimbutas, the author of "The Goddesses and Gods of Old Europe," whose ideas inspired our last piece. The Internet provides access to ideas and resources which would otherwise be unavailable to me.

How do you develop your pieces?

Most of our pieces are first developed in a workshop at La Mama and then we travel abroad to Ukraine and include actors who speak Ukrainian. We incorporate them, their world view and their opinions into the piece. The piece then becomes the dialogue of the two cultures looking at one thing, and is enhanced by the fact that the American actors are already such a multicultural group. The two groups of actors working together create a naturally bilingual piece. Although the actors don't speak the same language, a shared understanding and trust is created at a higher conceptual level.

The actors work together for several weeks and then we present the piece abroad. For example, "Blind Sight" was rehearsed in Kharkiv and first performed at the Berezil International Theater Festival; "Yara's Forest Song" was developed in Lviv; and "Waterfall/Reflections" was developed in Kyiv. When we return to the U.S. we refine the piece to compensate for the cultural differences in the audience. For example, Ukrainian audiences like the ideas to be more elaborated, whereas American audiences are looking for a quicker and sharper pace.

Will you be following the same steps with your new production?

Yes. The first step in the performance will be a workshop production next month at the First Street Workshop Space La Mama in New York City from May 9 through May 19. During the summer we'll incorporate the new ideas from abroad and present a full production of "Wayward Wind" here in New York in late January 1997.

Can you speak a bit about your work translating Ukrainian material?

The challenge is how to take the wealth of wonderful Ukrainian material and make it accessible to my American friends and other people who can't read Ukrainian. I've noticed that Ukrainian-speaking people my age or younger can also benefit from an English translation of a Ukrainian poem. They then have a better understanding of the subtleties of the original work. We've put a lot of energy into our poetry events to reach the younger Ukrainian American community because we feel they should be aware of the very vibrant contemporary Ukrainian culture to which they, because of language problems, have very little access.

Translation is the key to all our pieces. I'm very interested in translating poetry that can speak to a modern audience. It's the voice I heard. I imagine the poem – be it Oleh Lysheha's, Pavlo Tychyna's or Oksana Zabuzhko's – spoken by my actors who are contemporary young Americans. Spoken poetry has a powerful tradition in Ukraine. Our poetic literature is mostly oral. There's thousands of years of this work.

How is your company received when it performs in Ukraine?

We're received very well in the press and are usually presented as an American theater group working with Ukrainian material. However, it's interesting that this past year we were reviewed as part of the theater season in Kyiv. In one of the big write-ups, theater critic Nelli Kornienko wrote about "Waterfall/Reflections" as one of three interesting new shows engaged in a unique search for utopia. The other shows were directed by Valery Bilchenko and Andriy Zholdak. Good company! So I guess we're considered an integral part of the culture there now.

What is the role of multiculturalism in your work?

Our concept of a world theater really comes from Ellen Stewart, the founder of La Mama. She believes that you need to communicate with the whole world and not to just your own little in-group. The people who initially formed Yara – Wanda Phipps, Watoku Ueno and I – embraced this idea.

What has been the impact on Yara from the fiscal cutbacks at federal and state agencies such as the New York State Council on the Arts?

Smaller groups such as ours are being pushed to the edge and unless there is support coming from the community it will be difficult for these organizations to survive. We have to spend a great deal of our time trying to obtain funding. The funding cuts are extremely devastating to Ukrainian American organizations, and I don't think people in our community realize that.

I think Ukrainian American culture is in crisis today. We don't notice because there has been an influx of performing groups from Ukraine, who tour here. At the same time the whole local structure is disappearing. Who's going to teach the Ukrainian dance groups? Who's going to work with the young kids on theater shows? Who's doing art in the schools now? Can Ukrainian American culture survive into the future?

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Yakov Soroker

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NEW FROM CIUS PRESS

Ukrainian pavilion idea advances at Disney World's EPCOT Center

by Natalia Warren

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. – Jason Harper, president of the Ukrainian Project Fund recently met with George Kalogridis, executive vice-president of EPCOT Center at Walt Disney World, to further discuss plans for the proposed Ukrainian Pavilion.

As a result of the meeting, Mr. Kalogridis added Ukraine to a list that includes two other countries vying for the site between the Chinese and German pavilions. Mr. Kalogridis also gave Mr. Harper the go-ahead to discuss the pavilion project with other Walt Disney Company officials.

"He was very receptive," said Mr. Harper about Mr. Kalogridis' reaction to the idea of a Ukrainian pavilion. "He is very energetic and positive, and has a fresh perspective on what EPCOT is and what it will be," he added.

Although Mr. Harper was not at liberty to discuss details of the March 4 meeting, he did say that EPCOT will definitely have a new pavilion in the not too distant future.

The early morning meeting was arranged by Greg Emmer, former executive vice-president of EPCOT and current executive vice-president of The Magic Kingdom. In 1993 Mr. Emmer hosted then Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States Oleh Bilorus, when the idea of the Ukrainian pavilion was originally raised by the UPF.

According to Mr. Harper, Mr. Kalogridis "took the time at the meeting to become very familiar with the Ukrainian pavilion idea. He was impressed by the proposal and called it very complete."

Besides architectural sketches of Ukrainian-style buildings, a drawing for a roller coaster ride and photos of souvenirs, the proposal includes a videotape of Ukrainian dancing, provided by the Rusalka Dance Company of Winnipeg, which also has lent its name in part to the proposed sit-down restaurant, Club Rusalka.

In an earlier agreement, the Canadian dance ensemble had agreed to perform twice a year to raise funds for the UPF Ukrainian Pavilion project and to appear live for future corporate proposal events.

Philly supports Ukraine's Olympians

PHILADELPHIA – The Philadelphia Regional Olympic Committee on Sunday, March 24, hosted a fund-raising event for Ukrainian athletes who will be competing in the Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Held at the Ukrainian Sports Center (Tryzubivka) in Horsham, Pa., the program was opened by Committee Chairman Ihor Chyzowych and featured videotapes highlighting competitions in which Ukrainian athletes have participated in the last two years. Mr. Chyzowych also gave the latest updates on competition results of Ukrainian athletes appearing in various international qualification tournaments and championships.

Ivan Skira, secretary and treasurer of the Olympic Committee, presented a financial report on the funds raised and disbursed from the time the committee was formed in the fall of 1993 to the present. Guests enjoyed a buffet luncheon, prepared by a group of ladies headed by Vera Andryczyk, the committee's social coordinator.

With generous contributions from various organizations and individuals, more than \$8,000 was raised during the event. Some of the larger contributions came from the Ukrainian National Association's Philadelphia District (\$5,000), the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee (\$1,000) and the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics (\$500).

To date, the Philadelphia Regional Olympic Committee has collected over \$50,000 for the support of Ukrainian Olympic athletes. Donations may be sent to the Regional Ukrainian Olympic Committee of Philadelphia in care of Tryzub, P.O. Box 346, Lower State and County Line Roads, Horsham, PA 19044. The committee plans to publish a list of all contributors after the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

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New York offers Ukrainian exam

HIGHLAND, N.Y. - As in past years, the Education Department of the State of New York will accord high school students the opportunity to take an accredited examination in the Ukrainian language. It corresponds fully in its format to the Regents exams in foreign languages. Upon passing it, students receive three credits toward their high school foreign language requirement.

Ukrainian is not among the foreign languages usually taught at high schools in the U.S. However, exams in such languages as Japanese, Chinese, Polish, Ukrainian, Greek and Russian are set up by special committees of teachers, and are submitted to the State Education Department, which makes them available, on request, to students of various ethnic groups. These exams are placed under the heading "Sample Comprehensive Examination."

The exam will be given in June, at the following schools: Guilderland Central H.S., Albany; Shaker H.S., Latham; Troy H.S., Troy; Frontier S.H.S., Hamburg; Chittenango H.S., Chittenango; George Hewlett H.S., Hewlett; St. George Academy, New York; Benjamin Cardozo H.S., Bayside; Great Neck South S.H.S., Great Neck; Sacred Heart H.S., Yonkers; New Rochelle S.H.S., New Rochelle; Ossining S.H.S., Ossining; Ward Melville S.H.S., East Setauket; Rondout Valley H.S., Accord; Monroe Woodbury H.S., Monroe; Penfield S.H.S., Penfield; Christian Brothers Academy, Syracuse; Riverside H.S., Buffalo.

Students should file their request to take this exam now with the principal of their school, whereupon the principal should contact Kenneth D. Ormiston, Office of Curriculum and Assessment,

Room 761 EBA, New York State Education Department, Albany, N.Y. 12234; (518) 474-0360. Students will be notified by their school office about the date and time of the exam.

Those who wish to take this exam, but do not attend a school on the above list, also have the opportunity to do so. They must apply to the principal of their school, who will make arrangements for them with the authorities of one of the above-mentioned schools.

The exam reflects the contemporary approach to foreign language study. Emphasis is placed on speaking skills and realistic contexts for learning. Grammatical structures, development of vocabulary and the ability to express oneself in writing, are effectively implemented in real-life situations. Students who have completed the intermediate-advanced level of their community Saturday school, and those whose knowledge of basic Ukrainian (in speaking, reading and writing skills) is satisfactory, should pass this exam.

Part 1 of the exam, the oral test (24 points), is conducted in a separate session, several weeks prior to the exam. The written parts 2, 3 and 4, are given in June. Part 2 tests aural comprehension (30 points); part 3 is reading comprehension (30 points); part 4 is writing on a selected topic, and also according to instructions (16 points).

High school teachers of Ukrainian background who have conducted this Ukrainian language test at their school have at their disposal copies of previous tests, as well as a video cassette of a sample of part 1, the oral test. They may use these materials for preparation purposes with interested students.

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Alla Yaroshinska...

(Continued from page 8)

At any rate, I arranged to have a special printing of "Chornobyl Is With Us," — 50,000 copies shipped directly to the Zhytomyr region, for distribution to the people in the region.

Now, as far as "Chernobyl: Sovershenno Sekretno" is concerned, this was published in Moscow, with many of the documents I had gathered. All proceeds from this book have gone to fund the treatment of children in the Zhytomyr hospital, a pediatric hospital in the Briansk region in Russia that was also affected by fallout.

How was it that "Chornobyl: The Forbidden Truth," appeared in the West?

A great degree of credit goes to the European Parliament, particularly a woman from France, Jacqueline Treloun, a deputy of the Green Party. She made a presentation to the Parliament about the importance of my book, and the body apportioned the necessary funds to have it published in French. This was the first time it appeared in the West.

When was this?

I can't remember exactly, in 1992 I think.

So it appeared almost simultaneously with the Russian edition.

Right, that's right. As soon as it came off the press in Russia I sent a copy off to the European Parliament as a gift. After they published it in French, I was invited to appear before the Parliament, which I did and then traveled around Europe with that body's financial support, speaking about Chornobyl.

When I received the Right Livelihood Award in Stockholm together with the U.S. Academic Prof. [John] Gofman, this attracted the attention of European journalists, and so I gave interviews about my book.

So, it came out first in France, then England, then Japan, then Germany, and then in the U.S., just last year at the University of Nebraska Press.

The New York-based Natural Resources Defense Center has suggested that a recent edict of Russian President Yeltsin could result in a **choking off of information about past high-echelon meetings and decisions in general and on nuclear policy in particular. Is this accurate?**

I'm not sure which edict you're referring to. I know that he recently issued one about the construction of an RD-2 nuclear plant at Krasnoyarsk, a plant that would use pre-processed nuclear material, I believe.

I'm not aware of any order curtailing access to information, but this might have been issued recently. I've been out of Russia for just under a month.

Do you think that an accident similar to the 1986 catastrophe could happen again?

Given that there are 16 reactors built using the same design [as the Chornobyl plant] running in the countries of the former Soviet Union, another one could happen any day.

Then there's the question of the Chornobyl sarcophagus, which is crumbling. Something needs to be done about that as soon as possible.

All of these reactors should be brought off line. I understand that this isn't as simple as switching off a light bulb, or turning off a television set. But the Chornobyl-type reactor [RBMK] is extremely dangerous.

Do you think that its effects could be covered-up again, or do you think this would be impossible, given the present atmosphere?

I believe that it would be virtually impossible. However, old habits die hard. Take the incident in Tomsk, in Russia, about a year ago, official circles provided information, let's say, not very objectively.

But nowadays journalists have the right to get at information, inquire where they will, and in the end we found out what happened, and we wrote and published what really happened.

No, I think that today a cover-up would be impossible. If they work with the necessary dedication and desire, journalists will always dig out the truth.



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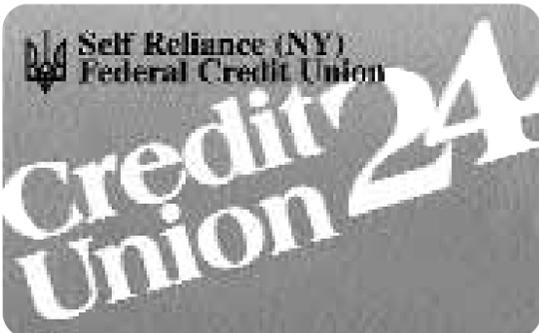
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Statements...

(Continued from page 10)

radiation recorded in northern Scandinavia, various parts of continental Europe, and even as far away as coastal Alaska. Estimated total radioactivity from the blast was 200 times more radioactivity than was released from the atomic bombs dropped at Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined.

Ten years ago, Mr. Speaker, Chernobyl left its indelible mark on the world's consciousness. Given the monumental consequences of Chernobyl and its devastating toll on the environment and on the health of the surrounding population, this disaster must neither be forgotten nor repeated. Indeed, Chernobyl can never be forgotten by those most directly affected. The tragedy is ongoing. And with each passing anniversary, we uncover more and more about its devastating impact and serious radiological, health and socioeconomic consequences, especially on the populations of Ukraine, Belarus and western Russia.

Millions of people – including about 1 million children – in Ukraine, Belarus and western Russia were exposed to dangerously high levels of radiation. Millions continue to live in areas contaminated to one degree or another. Children, in particular, have experienced alarming increases in thyroid cancer and other conditions. These trends have accelerated since the disaster and are expected to increase well into the future. In Belarus' Homiel region, for instance, which was one of the hardest hit areas, thyroid cancer among children is at least 200 times that of pre-accident. Scientists differ over the extent of Chernobyl-related diseases, but few deny that children have been hardest hit by the radiological aftermath. Given the devastating humanitarian, ecological and economic consequences, the resolution calls upon the

president "to support continued and enhanced U.S. assistance to provide medical relief, humanitarian assistance, social impact planning and hospital development for Ukraine, Belarus, Russia and other nations most heavily afflicted."

Because this disaster is the only one of its magnitude, there is much about its long-term health consequences we do not yet know. Among the most affected were the so-called "liquidators," the hundreds of thousands of people who worked to clean up after the accident. Many received substantial doses of radiation. Estimates vary on how many of them have died or become seriously ill. However, we must learn more about the health of those most affected by the disaster, especially the children who were exposed to substantial doses of radiation. The resolution encourages national and international health organizations to expand the scope of research of the public health consequences of Chernobyl. Such research could help not only those directly affected, but can also ensure that the entire world can benefit from the findings.

By supporting assistance and research efforts, we will be doing our part to help overcome the devastating legacy of Chernobyl. Unfortunately, there are still 15 RBMK, Chernobyl-type reactors still being utilized in the former Soviet Union, most of them in Russia. The international community can help Ukraine and Russia improve the safety of their nuclear reactors, especially since Ukraine relies substantially on nuclear power for its energy needs.

Mr. Speaker, one very important component of this resolution is that it urges Ukraine to continue its negotiations with the G-7 to implement the December 20, 1995, memorandum of understanding (MOU) which calls for all nuclear reactors at Chernobyl to be shut down in safe

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