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Ukraine to seek special partnership with NATO

by Marta Kolomayets
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Apparently worried about Russia's opposition to the eastward expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and keen on becoming an integral part of European structures, Ukraine plans to seek associate membership in this security alliance, a top Ukrainian diplomat told reporters on June 25, during a Foreign Ministry press briefing in Kyiv.

"Ukraine favors a special partnership with NATO and the signing of a relevant agreement. The essence of this partnership may be expressed in Ukraine's 'associate status in NATO,'" said Ihor Kharchenko, the chief of the Foreign Ministry's political analysis department.

His words echoed the actions of President Leonid Kuchma, who on that same day, during an official visit to Poland, signed a joint declaration with President Alexander Kwasniewski on mutual support for joining "as soon as possible" European economic, political and security structures.

Calling Poland Ukraine's "special strategic partner," President Kuchma said that this western neighbor wants to be Ukraine's bridge to European Union structures. He also made it clear that Ukraine would not oppose Poland's full membership in NATO, which it has been seeking since 1989.

"NATO expansion is no menace to Ukraine," said President Kuchma, but he cautioned that the alliance must take Russia into consideration when expanding. "A nation like Russia cannot be left out of processes currently under way," he added.

However, both President Kuchma and Ukrainian Foreign Ministry officials — perhaps in an attempt to allay Russia's concerns — stressed that although Ukraine has a stake in the development of special relations with NATO, it does not raise the question of admission as a full member. But, it has already submitted a proposal to the NATO leadership and to all member-countries of the alliance to grant Ukraine a special associate status. This comes at a time when NATO itself is reviewing its strategy and changing its mechanisms.

Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko presented this idea of a "special partnership," during a NATO

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Parliament adopts Constitution in marathon session

by Marta Kolomayets
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The Ukrainian Parliament adopted a new Constitution — a historic moment for the five-year-old independent state — at 9:18 a.m. Friday, June 28, after an all-night intense marathon session in the halls of the legislature.

"We have a Constitution," proclaimed Parliament Chairman Oleksander Moroz, after the deputies voted 315-36, with 12 abstentions to adopt the fundamental law. The jubilant lawmakers responded with resounding applause and a standing ovation, while the newly adopted anthem, "Shche Ne Vmerla Ukraina," was played in the chambers.

Despite a 16-hour plenary session — which began at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday evening and ended at 9:30 a.m. Friday morning with no breaks — the mood among the lawmakers was euphoric, as they posed for a group picture outside the Supreme Council building to mark this historic occasion. They then made their way to the parliamentary buffet for champagne victory toasts, where they spent hours laughing and singing old Kozak songs, an atmosphere reminiscent of the day when the

Parliament declared Ukraine's independence on August 24, 1991.

"Today, we proved we are Ukrainians. Today we look so good compared to Russia. And, slowly but surely, we will show the world who we are. They all think we are ruski [Russians]," said Kateryna Vashchuk, a deputy from the Agrarians for Reforms faction.

President Leonid Kuchma attended the final hour of the plenary session and witnessed the vote on the Constitution, an event that he, through his political prowess, had helped orchestrate.

It was his decree to hold a national referendum on the Constitution, made public on Thursday, June 27, that had triggered the lawmakers into instant action.

"This historic event, which took place in this historic hall, will go down as one of the most significant moments in the annals of the modern history of the state of Ukraine," said a visibly pleased President Kuchma, addressing the Parliament after the vote.

Holding his hand over his heart, he also thanked the lawmakers for their efforts during the constitutional process and asked them to accept his apologies "for stimulating this process in perhaps not the most conventional way." These remarks

were met with robust laughter from the lawmakers, who though exhausted, were elated by the events of the day.

"But, this last event proved that we, in a critical moment, are worthy of being called the representatives of the Ukrainian people," continued the Ukrainian president.

Immediately after the vote, Chairman Moroz expressed his gratitude to all the members of the Parliament — those who voted for and those who voted against — for their commitment to Ukraine.

"I also think that we are all grateful to the president of Ukraine, for his constant, and perhaps at times somewhat original participation in the constitutional process," added Mr. Moroz, referring to President Kuchma's referendum ploy. This comment, too, was greeted with laughter, as the tensions of the long night subsided and the hall echoed with cheers and shouts.

Chairman Moroz underscored: "The strength of this Constitution is the fact that it created a precedent of unity in the Supreme Council, which I hope will be a lasting factor in the work of the legislature."

"We are now one united family, a feeling that has for so long evaded us," he

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Youngest Canadian bishop consecrated in Winnipeg

by Frank Guly and Christopher Guly

WINNIPEG — Bishop Stefan Soroka says he had "a lump in his throat" and was filled with emotion when Ukrainian Catholic Archbishop-Metropolitan Michael Bzdel led him around the altar at Winnipeg's Ss. Vladimir and Olga Cathedral.

Kissing the altar's four corners, as part of his June 13 consecration ceremony as the archeparchy's new auxiliary bishop, brought home the "awesome-ness" of the moment, said the 44-year-old cleric, who grew up in the city's multicultural North End.

"It was a very humbling experience," said Bishop Soroka, who especially noted the moment during the divine liturgy when his three consecrators asked him questions about his faith based on the Nicene creed. "I thought, 'Gulp, this is really happening.'"

When Metropolitan Bzdel, Saskatoon's Bishop Cornelius Pasichny and Philadelphia's Auxiliary Bishop Walter Paska conferred episcopal ordination on him, Bishop Soroka became auxiliary to the Canadian metropolitanate and Canada's seventh Ukrainian Catholic bishop.

He is also the country's youngest Catholic bishop; Ottawa's Latin-rite Auxiliary Bishop Fred Colli recently turned 47. Appropriately, Bishop Soroka is valued as a strong link to the Winnipeg archeparchy's young people.

"The youth have felt Bishop Stefan's

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Andrew Sikorsky

Bishop Stefan Soroka blesses the congregation after his consecration. On the right is the Rev. Walter Klimchuk, who served as proto-deacon during the service.

Belarusian Americans protest Lukashenka's rights violations

by Alexander Silwanowicz

WASHINGTON — A group of about 50 Belarusian Americans assembled on June 5 in front of the Belarusian Embassy on New Hampshire Avenue to voice their concern about serious violations of human rights in Belarus, the growing dictatorial rule of President Alyaksandr Lukashenka and possible re-absorption of Belarus into the Russian empire.

The demonstrators were from various Belarusian-American groups that have joined the Coalition in Defense of Democracy and Human Rights in Belarus and came from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

They were also joined by about a dozen members of the AFL-CIO who wanted to show solidarity with the Belarusian trade unions unlawfully banned by President Lukashenka.

The Coalition in Defense of Democracy and Human Rights in Belarus consists of

13 Belarusian American and two Belarusian Canadian organizations. The coalition was formed in October 1995 and was responsible for staging a massive demonstration on October 22, 1995, at the United Nations in New York City during Mr. Lukashenka's visit for the U.N.'s 50th anniversary celebration.

The Washington demonstration began at about noon on a quiet tree-lined street. The weather was warm and sunny. Several patrol cars were parked on the street nearby with two Secret Service security guards standing in front of the gate to the embassy. Most of the demonstrators were carrying American and Belarusian national white-red-white flags (the latter outlawed by President Lukashenka) and anti-Lukashenka placards. The demonstrators walked in a single file shouting slogans: "Down with dictatorship," "Belarus — yes, Lukashenka — no," "Down with Lukashism," "Free our Ukrainian friends,"

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Ukraine to seek...

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workshop on political-military decision making, held in Warsaw on June 21, which would result in an associate membership for Ukraine.

At the Berlin meeting of NATO foreign ministers on June 3-4, said Mr. Udovenko, "NATO once more confirmed its decision to open its membership for Central and Eastern European countries, as well as to 'further enhance its strong relationship with Ukraine.'"

The Ukrainian diplomat also said that "Ukraine regards the NATO enlargement as part of a broad and comprehensive process of building up a new European security architecture, which itself represents part of an over-all European integration process, that includes also the EU enlargement, as well as regional European cooperation development."

"Standing firmly against the creation of new dividing lines in Europe, we in Ukraine are convinced that, with enough political will, it would be possible to find appropriate, mutually advantageous modalities of European integration processes, including different level integration of new European democracies into such basic structures as the EU, the WEU and NATO," explained Mr. Udovenko.

And, according to Mr. Kharchenko, the 1949 Washington agreement on NATO, which provides for only full-scale membership in the alliance, was formed in a different era.

"It was signed in an absolutely different historical situation," said Mr. Kharchenko, explaining that it was created during the Cold War as security against an enemy that does not exist today. "The alliance's goals were somewhat different from today's," he noted.

"The strategic aim of Ukraine, as President Leonid Kuchma stated recently in Paris, is a full-fledged integration into the European and Euro-Atlantic institutions. And, this is, in President Kuchma's words, not political romanticism, but a very pragmatic decision. On one hand, this vocation is based on our deep feeling of being a natural historical and cultural part of Europe, on a strong desire to restore historical justice — Ukraine's return into Europe, rebirth of its former linkage and unity with the rest of the continent. However, on the other hand, it is caused by very objective reasons, the very urgent needs — our security concerns as well as economic transformation process necessities," Foreign Minister

Udovenko said in Warsaw.

Ukraine already is part of the NATO Partnership for Peace program, which has given 27 countries a kind of associate membership. Ukraine, which was the first former Soviet republic to join the PFP (in February 1994), is also active in the Bosnian peace-implementation force (IFOR).

And in September of 1995, Ukraine reached an agreement with NATO, on a 16 + 1 cooperation (16 being the member-states of NATO and 1 being Ukraine). Ukrainian officials would like to see this relationship broadened.

But, Mr. Udovenko frets that this may not be enough for his nation of 52 million. "I would like to emphasize that stability and security, due to our sensitive geopolitical position, have a very special value for Ukraine," he said.

"They are indispensable and basic for radical economic and social transformation processes. With the growing uncertainty in the East, including the further political development of Russia and of the CIS on one hand, and the development of European integration processes in the West on the other hand, Ukraine can ensure its legitimate interests not to become a 'buffer zone' between the two integrating communities only by essential activation of its relationship with European structures, including NATO. And we expect understanding of our position and interests," explained Minister Udovenko.

Although Ukraine does not oppose its western neighbors' accession to NATO, "it does not even accept the theoretical probability of the deployment of nuclear weapons in immediate proximity to Ukrainian borders," cautioned Mr. Kharchenko.

Speaking at a press conference in Warsaw on June 25, Presidents Kuchma and Kwasniewski both said that they did not believe there would be any need to deploy nuclear weapons on the territories of Central and Eastern European countries.

Ukraine, once the third largest nuclear power in the world, voluntarily removed nuclear weapons from its territory after the break-up of the Soviet Union, and it will never consent to the deployment of nuclear weapons on the territory of NATO's new member-states, stressed Mr. Udovenko during the Warsaw workshop sponsored by the alliance.

"The establishment of a nuclear-free zone in Central and Eastern Europe will definitely enhance confidence and stability in this region, and it would also be in keeping with NATO policy to relieve Europe of nuclear arms," said the foreign minister.

NEWSBRIEFS

Disastrous harvest predicted for Ukraine

KYIV — The land known as the "Breadbasket of Europe" and producer of a quarter of the former Soviet Union's grain, faces a disastrous harvest this year, Ukrainian and Western agriculture experts said on June 25. "This will be the worst year in the last 17 years," a Western official said at a two-day international grain seminar. The official predicted a harvest of about 28 million metric tons, down from official forecasts of a mediocre 36 million tons, and blamed a drought in the first part of the year. Last year's harvest stood at 36.5 million metric tons. "It was 50-odd million in 1990 and this is half the level," he said. "This is quite serious." Five years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Ukraine's farming system remains highly collectivized and grossly inefficient. Shortages of fuel, equipment, spare parts and storage cause huge losses and waste. Ukrainian grain exports so far this year have totaled 690,000 metric tons generating \$75 million in state revenues. Government officials predict more than 1 million tons in grain exports for the year. (Reuters)

Ukraine rejects union with Russia

KYIV — A top Ukrainian official gently rejected on June 26 an appeal by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to forge a new union and suggested the proposal was part of the Kremlin leader's re-election campaign. "Ukraine is satisfied with its current membership in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), which in itself is sort of a union," Dmytro Tabachnyk, President Leonid Kuchma's chief of staff, told a news conference. "This has emerged during the Russian election campaign and we fully understand that." Mr. Yeltsin proposed creating a close-knit union with Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan in an annual report on national security to the Russian Parliament made public on June 25. He said such a plan was contingent on the "good will" of Ukraine, which has opposed any form of political integration within the CIS since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union. Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan signed an accord aimed at closer union with Russia earlier this year. (Reuters)

Shushkevich judged sane

MIENSK — Russian Duma Deputy and professor of psychology Galina Starovoytova said Belarusian deputy Stanislau Shushkevich is mentally healthy, NTV reported on June 24. Her statement was in response to a demand made by Uladzimir Zamyatalin, chief ideologue of Belarusian President Alyaksandr

Lukashenka, that Mr. Shushkevich undergo a psychiatric examination because of his criticism of the Lukashenka regime's dictatorial policies. According to Ms. Starovoytova, Mr. Shushkevich's "intellect is considerably more highly developed than the average CIS level." In other news, Reuters reported on June 25 that liberal politicians have denounced the beating of the wife of an RFE/RL correspondent. The woman was attacked by unknown assailants in her home. The attackers threatened her husband, who works for RFE/RL and *Belarusskaya Delovaya Gazeta*, an independent weekly newspaper banned by the Lukashenka government. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Chornobyl 1 to close in November

KYIV — The management of the Chornobyl power plant announced plans on June 24 to shut down the station's oldest reactor, No. 1, on November 30, Western agencies reported. Plant officials said they will dismantle the reactor over the next five or six years. That will leave only one reactor, No. 3, in operation, as the No. 4 reactor was destroyed in the April 1986 explosion and No. 2 was closed down after a 1991 fire. A plant spokesman said the shutdown was part of Ukraine's promise to phase out the entire station by the year 2000, in exchange for \$2.3 billion in Western aid. Ukrainian officials complained the previous week that the U.S. and other G-7 governments have yet to provide any of the promised funds to close Chornobyl and build new reactors elsewhere to replace the lost energy. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Armed forces in crisis, survey says

KYIV — Only 4 percent of officers feel the Ukrainian armed forces can perform their main duties, while 57 percent are convinced they are unable to defend the state, *Zerkalo Nedeli* reported in its June 15-21 issue. An opinion poll of 1,003 officers found that 74 percent felt there had been no real reform of the army, only an "uncontrolled" reduction, and 70 percent said the uncontrolled sale of military equipment was one of the army's most serious problems. The most common preference in security policy among the officers was maintaining Ukraine's non-aligned status (41 percent). About 12 percent favored a NATO orientation, while 8 percent leaned toward the Tashkent Collective Security Pact, and 37 percent said they were not opposed to setting up a Russian-Ukrainian-Belarusian security bloc. Only a quarter were satisfied with their service, and a third said they would not choose to be officers again. (OMRI Daily Digest)

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Ukraine's environment minister emphasizes G-7 commitments

by Yaro Bihun

WASHINGTON – Yuri I. Kostenko, Ukrainian minister for environmental protection and nuclear safety, says the G-7 countries have not been forthcoming with promised assistance, without which Ukraine will not be able to keep its side of the bargain to close down the Chornobyl nuclear power plant by the year 2000.

Mr. Kostenko, who was in Washington for talks with U.S. government and congressional leaders, discussed the G-7 agreement and other energy-related issues at a news conference here on June 12.

During the news conference, U.S.-Ukraine Foundation President Nadia K. McConnell announced the launching of the foundation's newest project, dubbed "Chornobyl 2000," which aims to help Ukraine close the ill-fated power plant and achieve energy independence.

Tracing the history of Ukraine's promise to close Chornobyl and the G-7 promise of aid, Mr. Kostenko noted that during the talks with the G-7 following President Leonid Kuchma's announced intention in April 1995 to close Chornobyl, Ukraine identified four conditions that had to be met before the nuclear plant could be closed:

1. The lost energy-producing capacity would have to be compensated for by the completion of two reactors under construction at the Khmelnytsky and Rivne power plants.

2. The Chornobyl sarcophagus would have to be made secure.

3. A nuclear waste conversion plant and waste repositories would have to be built to handle Ukraine's needs. He noted that 95 percent of Ukraine's nuclear waste is currently being stored at Chornobyl.

4. The social needs of dislocated workers would have to be addressed.

The G-7 accepted these conditions, he said, and in a memorandum of understanding agreed to last December, grouped these needs into two categories: profit-making programs (like creating new energy-producing capacity) for which Ukraine would get credits, and non-profit-making programs (like the Chornobyl decommissioning and sar-

cophagus) for which the assistance would be in the form of grants.

Mr. Kostenko said that in the first category, if Ukraine does not receive the credits necessary to complete the Khmelnytsky and Rivne plants soon, it cannot close Chornobyl by 2000. "As yet we do not have the credit sources for the completion of these two units," which will require \$280 million and 30 months to complete, he said.

In the second category, he explained, more than \$1 billion in grants is needed over 10 years to decommission Chornobyl, and from \$1.6 billion to \$2.5 billion to secure the sarcophagus. So far, he added, only \$500 million has been received for the sarcophagus and all of the other grant needs.

The problem with the G-7 agreement is that it is a political document which does not spell out the details. The United States will head the G-7 next year, he said, and that is why he is in Washington, discussing the issue with U.S. leaders. He added, however: "So far, our negotiations have managed to define neither the sources from which these grants will come, nor which country will pay how much."

"Ukraine cannot do it alone," he stressed.

Mr. Kostenko pointed out that Ukraine spends almost a \$1 billion a year on the aftereffects of the Chornobyl tragedy and almost singlehandedly covers the costs of its denuclearization program. U.S. assistance via the so-called Nunn-Lugar funds "is not quite enough to cover this wide-scale disarmament program," he explained.

"And to further burden the national budget with the cost of closing the Chornobyl plant will result in the collapse of our entire social welfare system with all of its expected negative political consequences," he said.

Mr. Kostenko described the sarcophagus problem as critical. There are 3,000 cubic meters of radioactive water in Chornobyl, he said. "And if this water transfers through the cracks into the Dnipro River – the main water basin of Ukraine which supplies two-



At the National Press Club (from left) are: Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak, NPC Morning Newsmaker host Peter Hickman, Minister Yuri Kostenko, US-Ukraine Foundation President Nadia K. McConnell.

thirds of our population and economic potential – and pollutes it, it will be impossible to use this water."

"The main problem for us is the source of financing, and our talks with G-7 experts and officials of the U.S. government have shown that now nobody knows what kind of financial sources will be financing this very long and very expensive program," he said.

While in Washington, Mr. Kostenko met with Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) and other congressional leaders, as well as with James Collins, the State Department's coordinator for the new independent states, and other officials at the departments of State and Energy, the National Security Council, U.S. Agency for International Development and the World Bank. His weeklong U.S. visit also included a two-day visit to national parks in the Pacific Northwest.

U.S.-Ukraine Foundation President McConnell explained that the Chornobyl 2000 program will include an information campaign to develop public support for the G-7 plan to close Chornobyl by the year

2000 and help Ukraine achieve energy self-sufficiency.

"The enormity of the consequences of Chornobyl have not peaked," she said. "Let's not forget the innocent victims of Chornobyl, but let's also help create something positive: an energy independent and Chornobyl-free Ukraine."

Mrs. McConnell noted that the initiative was being launched with the support of Ukraine's Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety and its Embassy in Washington. It has also received pledges of support from such Ukrainian American organizations as The Washington Group, Ukraine 2000, the Tri-State Children of Chornobyl Relief Committee, Friends of the Popular Movement of Ukraine (Rukh) of Northern New Jersey and the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine.

The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization whose goal is to foster democratic and free-market development in Ukraine.

INTERVIEW: The Helsinki Commission on its 20th anniversary

Orest Deychakiwsky is a staff adviser with the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe whose areas of responsibility include Ukraine, Belarus, Bulgaria and Hungary. On the Helsinki Commission staff for nearly 15 years, he has served on U.S. delegations to over a dozen CSCE/OSCE meetings; part of his responsibilities at these meetings included liaison with non-governmental organizations. Mr. Deychakiwsky has been an international observer of elections in Ukraine, Russia and Bulgaria, and he also coordinates the intern program at the commission.

In the early 1980s he was a member of the editorial board of the *Smoloskyp* quarterly magazine, which focused on human rights in Ukraine. Before joining the commission, Mr. Deychakiwsky was project manager at the Republican National Committee. While on a leave of absence from the commission, he served a four-month stint with the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation in early 1992-1993.

Hailing from the Cleveland area, Mr. Deychakiwsky was involved with various Ukrainian American organizations as a youth. In his role as a Helsinki Commission staffer, he is a well-known to scores of Ukrainian community leaders, especially those active in the human and national rights arena during the 1980s.

He holds a B.A. from the University of

Notre Dame and an M.A. from Georgetown, both in the field of government and international relations. He is a founding member of The Washington Group and currently serves as secretary of that organization of Ukrainian American professionals, and is a member of the TWG Fellowship Committee. He is married with three children and has lived in the Washington area since August 1979.

The two-part interview below was conducted with Roma Hadzewycz.

PART I

What exactly is the Helsinki Commission, or more properly the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe? Many people think it is a congressional committee. What is its role?

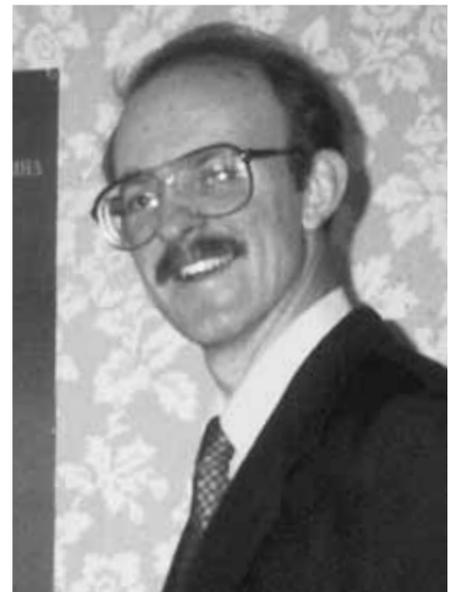
Most people do, indeed, associate the commission with Congress, as 18 of 21 of the Helsinki commissioners are members of Congress, including the chairman and co-chairman, currently Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.) and Al D'Amato (R-N.Y.), and for good reason. We do many of the things that congressional committees do: hold hearings and briefings, issue reports, and do casework, though the commission per se does not have legislative responsibility. Also, many commission actions are initiated by our congressional members (e.g. resolutions, let-

ters, meetings with foreign officials, etc.)

Actually, though, the Helsinki Commission – formally known as the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe – is an independent agency of the U.S. government. It is a unique institution in that it is composed of nine members from the Senate, nine members from the House of Representatives, as well as one member each from the departments of State, Defense and Commerce. That is, it encompasses members from both the legislative and executive branches of the U.S. government.

Another source of confusion is that people often think the commission is a branch office of the 55-state Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which until last year, was known as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). We are independent and call our own shots with respect to our mandate, which is to monitor and encourage compliance of the participating states with the Helsinki Final Act of 1975. We do, however, participate in the work of OSCE institutions and various OSCE meetings as members of U.S. delegations.

This month marks the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Helsinki Commission. How, and more importantly, why was it formed?



Orest Deychakiwsky

To answer this, we need to back up a bit. In 1975, 35 countries signed the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. That document is a politically binding agreement consisting of three main sections, known as "baskets," which contain a broad range of measures designed to enhance security and cooperation in

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Parliament adopts...

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said as he referred to the traditions of Ukraine's past, in particular that of Mykhailo Hrushevsky, a chairman of the Parliament and Ukraine's first 20th century president.

Political observers who spent the long night in the press gallery of the Parliament said that it was Mr. Moroz who played a pivotal role in getting this Constitution adopted, as he refused to take breaks, working diligently and searching for compromise among the polarized factions in the Parliament.

"If not for Moroz, we would not have this Constitution today," said Yevhen Zherebetsky, a member of the Reforms faction.

Also credited with the success of the marathon session was Mykhailo Syrota, chairman of the ad hoc committee, who stood at the podium for 16 lengthy hours, reading corrections, reviewing articles, proposing alternatives, yet not compromising his principles in the process.

A hero's welcome

He received a hero's welcome from the deputies after the session, as they picked him up and threw him into the air.

Other deputies who were instrumental in pushing through the new Constitution were Ukraine's former prime minister, Yevhen Marchuk, who convinced the left-wing forces to vote for Ukraine's national symbols, and Volodymyr Musiaka, the president's representative in the Parliament.

In hindsight, it is now clear that this latest twist in the labyrinth of Ukrainian politics and power struggles was intended to spur the deputies into action, a ploy President Kuchma has used in the past to bully the Parliament into giving him what he wants. A little over a year ago he had cautioned the Parliament that he would call for a vote of no-confidence in the president if the constitutional accord between the two branches — a kind of petit constitution — was not signed.

This time the lawmakers called President Kuchma's bluff. Interpreting the decree on the referendum as an intimidation tactic against the legislative branch of power, which the Ukrainian leader has often called ineffective and unproductive, the deputies rolled up their sleeves and vowed not to go home until a new Constitution was adopted. On Friday, June 28, President Kuchma hailed the deputies for their action and said that from now on "there should be no doubt about the effectiveness of the Parliament."

Deputies show determination

"We will continue working until the Constitution is passed," declared Petro Osadchuk on Thursday afternoon. A member of the Derzhavnist faction who had originally supported the idea of a referendum on the Constitution, like many other deputies, he was determined to show that the Parliament is not a superfluous structure.

It is perhaps just short of a miracle that the lawmakers were able to adopt the 161-article Constitution and resolve issues that just last week seemed insurmountable in the current Parliament.

"Understanding our responsibility before Ukraine, we were able to rise above inter-party and personal conflicts. The turning point did not only take place in the Supreme Council; a new era in the development of Ukraine has begun," said Mr. Moroz during his speech to the lawmakers, government officials, journalists and guests present in the hall after the adoption of the Constitution.

Some of the most thorny articles in the

draft constitution were passed, including the points dealing with state symbols. The Parliament adopted the blue-and-yellow flag as the national flag of Ukraine; the state emblem is the golden trident (tryzub) against a blue background, and the anthem is the music of "Shche Ne Vmerla Ukraina," with the words to be adopted under a separate law in the future.

In what has been interpreted as a compromise with the Communists — in exchange for adopting the national symbols — the Constitution also grants the Crimea the status of an autonomous republic with its own Constitution. However, the Crimean Constitution must be in line with the Constitution of Ukraine approved by the Parliament.

The official language of Ukraine is the Ukrainian language. "The state ensures the comprehensive development of and use of the Ukrainian language in all spheres of social life on the entire territory of Ukraine," reads the document. Simultaneously, the Constitution guarantees the "free development" of the Russian language and other languages spoken by the citizens of Ukraine.

Ukraine is described as an independent, democratic, social, law-governed and unitary state with one citizenship.

The new Constitution also guarantees the right to private property and the right to own land.

Because the process went so swiftly, many of the articles have to be edited for language and literary style, and the entire edited text will be made public only next week. But, as a whole, the Constitution was favorably accepted by both the national democrats and the centrists, many of whom noted that the Communists had lost on many of their positions. The president's powers were watered down in the final draft, but, Mr. Kuchma graciously accepted the final draft, relieved that the referendum can now be canceled.

Despite the fact that the president made the motion to retract the referendum after the deputies adopted the Constitution, Mr. Moroz, thanked him for the gesture, but insisted that the Parliament vote on cancellation of the referendum.

The deputies will no doubt be happy to oblige, and Mr. Moroz demonstratively added that the money saved on the referendum can now be distributed to pensioners who have not received their wages over the last few months.

After passing the Constitution on Friday morning, the deputies also passed a three-point resolution, adopting the new Constitution as the fundamental law of the land and putting it into effect immediately, annulling the Constitution of April 20, 1978 (that is, the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR) and canceling the Constitutional Accord of June 8, 1995, which for the past year had served as the petit constitution of Ukraine.

Legal holiday declared

The deputies also passed a resolution declaring June 28 Constitution Day, a legal holiday in Ukraine. President Kuchma announced that the deputies of both the last and current convocations of Parliament will be awarded state medals for their work in the constitutional process.

He also announced that on July 3 government leaders and Ukraine's deputies, along with their spouses, will mark the historic date of June 28 with a grand reception.

"Now our main goal is to learn to live in accordance with this Constitution," said Leonid Kravchuk, independent Ukraine's first president and currently a deputy in the Parliament.

Youngest Canadian...

(Continued from page 1)

humor, hugs and hospitality," said Virginia Peristy, who belongs to Bishop Soroka's former Winnipeg parish, St. Anne's, with her husband, Don. "As parents, we are grateful to him for the spiritual impression and guidance he has made with our children and ourselves."

Pharmacist Myron Kurjewicz, who grew up with the new bishop, said Bishop Soroka's "robust, towering stature is minuscule when compared [with] his big, warm and disarming smile. His kindness, understanding and empathy for his fellow man are several of his many qualities we all strive for."

That reputation no doubt helped fill the cathedral — despite sweltering temperatures over 85 degrees — with a crowd of close to 1,400 people who later attended a wine-and-cheese reception.

Most of North America's Ukrainian Catholic bishops, including Archbishop-Metropolitan Stephen Sulyk of Philadelphia and Toronto's Isidore Borecky (Canada's oldest, active bishop at 84), were in attendance, along with Winnipeg's two Latin-rite archbishops, Leonard Wall and Antoine Hacault, and Metropolitan Wasyly Fedak of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada.

Auxiliary Bishop Julian Gbur of the Lviv Archeparchy represented Cardinal Myroslav Lubachivsky, primate of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Each of the three bishop-consecrators held special significance in Bishop Soroka's life. Archbishop Bzdel is the hierarch whom he will assist as auxiliary bishop; Bishop Pasichny was pastor of the Basilian St. Nicholas Church where the new bishop once belonged; and Bishop Paska was rector of St. Josaphat Seminary in Washington, where he was a student.

Bishop Paska replaced retired Canadian Metropolitan Maxim Hermaniuk, who died on May 3, as one of the co-consecrators. It was Metropolitan Hermaniuk who had ordained Bishop Soroka exactly 14 years earlier to the day on June 13, in Ss. Vladimir and Olga Cathedral.

In his remarks following the consecration ceremony, Bishop Soroka credited

Belarusian Americans...

(Continued from page 2)

"Freedom for Belarus," "Respect human rights," "Trade unions — yes, Lukashenka — no," "Freedom of the press — yes, censorship — no," etc. Leaflets were handed out to passers-by.

The shouting of slogans and waving of placards and flags went on for about one and a half hours, after which the demonstrators assembled across the street and listened to several speakers. One of the speakers was Alyaksey Khadyka, son of the Belarusian Popular Front's (BPF) deputy chairman, Yuriy Khadyka, who until recently had been on hunger strike in a Minsk prison for 27 days. He read a letter from his father, thanking all the people and governments that had expressed outrage over the Belarusian government's unlawful imprisonment of rights activists.

Yuriy Khadyka and BPF Secretary Vyachaslau Sivchik were arrested along with scores of others on April 27 after the largest mass demonstration in Minsk on April 26, marking the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. Among the arrested were 17 Ukrainians, seven of whom are still being held in jail.

Dr. Vitaut Kipel, Dr. Jan Zaprudnik and Alex Silwanowicz spoke to the rally participants, providing the latest information on developments in Belarus.

After an inquiry by the security guards with the Embassy, a delegation consisting of Mr. Silwanowicz, Dr. Zaprudnik and

the recently deceased archbishop and Bishop Paska for encouraging him to pursue his academic studies.

After receiving his bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Manitoba in 1973, the Winnipeg-born bishop worked for the Manitoba government's probation services for six years. During that time, he earned a master's degree in social work at the same university — specializing in group therapy for incarcerated sex offenders.

In 1979, Bishop Soroka enrolled in St. Josaphat Seminary, where he studied sacred theology at the Catholic University of America and obtained a baccalaureate in 1982. Three years later, the new bishop earned a doctorate in social work there after successfully defending his thesis on "The Relationship between Organizational Stressors and Priests' Perception of Stress."

Bishop Soroka returned to Winnipeg in 1985, when he was appointed vice-chancellor of the Winnipeg Archeparchy; he became chancellor in 1994.

Now, in addition to serving as Metropolitan Bzdel's right-hand man, Bishop Soroka will serve as the archeparchial vicar-general. His work has already begun.

The day following his episcopal ordination, Bishop Soroka met with the visiting Ukrainian Catholic bishops. In July, he heads for the Vatican, where he will participate in the 400th anniversary celebrations of the Union of Brest, which united the Ukrainian Church with Rome, and will meet with Pope John Paul II.

Bishop Soroka also said he plans to spend most of the summer visiting parishes in the archeparchy. "I don't want to just go out and celebrate the liturgy and attend a banquet afterward," he explained. "I would like to spend a few days in a community meeting with the various parish committees." The Archeparchy of Winnipeg includes 16 Winnipeg and about 50 rural Manitoba churches.

In the meantime, Bishop Soroka said he's still "on a high" from the June 13 celebrations. Still, there's one adjustment Winnipeg's new Ukrainian Catholic bishop will have to make. "I'm not used to wearing the [episcopal, right-hand] ring. It really hurts when someone gives you a handshake."

Russell Zavistovich was received by Second Secretary Alexander Asrtouski on behalf of Ambassador Serguei Martynov. The delegation explained the reasons for the protest and presented a letter to the ambassador, asking him to convey a statement of grievances to President Lukashenka, his government and the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus. The meeting lasted for about five minutes and was businesslike.

At around 2 p.m. the demonstrators boarded a bus and cars and drove to the Russian Embassy on Wisconsin Avenue. Only 15 persons at a time were allowed to march in front of the Embassy's gate. The rest had to wait their turn on the other side of the street. There they waved flags and placards and chanted slogans:

"Down with Russian imperialism," "Freedom for Belarus," "Hands off Belarus," "Yeltsin take Lukashenka — please," "No big brother," "Long live Belarus," etc.

An hour into the demonstration, the same delegation informed the security officer that they wanted to deliver a letter to Russian Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov. About 15 minutes later, a young man appeared at the gate with a U.S. security officer and began introducing himself, when another man ran out of the guardhouse waving and shouting, "Nichevo nye byeri! Nyet! Nyet!" ("Don't accept anything! No! No!")

The demonstration lasted for about one hour and 45 minutes. The letter to Ambassador Vorontsov had to be sent by registered mail, but the statement was made.

UCC opens new office in Ottawa

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA – The Ottawa branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) held an open house on June 11 at its office's new location.

In late May, the UCC office moved from Barrister House on Elgin Street – where its operations were based for almost five years – to new digs at Constitution Square on Albert Street.

"We're now a lot closer to Parliament Hill," said Andrij Hluchowecy, director of the UCC's Ottawa office.

The new Canada Ukraine Partners Program (CUPP), established in January and which Mr. Hluchowecy administers, is also based in the new office. The UCC directly manages one component of the CUPP – the Promotion and Advisory Services Unit, which serves in an advisory capacity to the CUPP and the program's funders, the Canadian International Development Agency.

Rent is cheaper at the new UCC Ottawa location: \$900 a month compared with \$1,500 (about a \$670-to-\$1,100 ratio in U.S. dollars) at the old spot.

Some Canadian organizations involved in Ukrainian partnerships are also situated in Constitution Square, including the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

The UCC now also has access to a spiffy, second-floor boardroom. In fact, that is where the Ottawa branch held its June 11 wine-and-cheese reception at which some of the 30 students of the Ukrainian Academy for Public Administration were present. This year marked the conclusion of a three-year, \$4.5 million (about \$3.4 million U.S.) Canadian internship of the academy's students in the master's in public administration program.

Prior to last June, the academy – now affiliated with the Office of the President in Kyiv – was known as the Institute of Public Administration and Local Government, headed by Canadian Dr. Bohdan Krawchenko.

For the last three years, students have served one-month internships in Canada, the United States, Britain, France and Germany. In Canada, the universities of Manitoba and Toronto have been involved in hosting the former students. This year, it was Ottawa's Carleton University.

"The one-month internship is intended

to introduce Ukrainians to a mixture of theory and practice in public administration," said Tom Monastyrski, program manager for the exchange project at the Canadian Bureau for International Education in Ottawa.

"We try to get Canadian professors to give them lectures on public administration in Canada and bring in different departments to offer them a little bit of theory on such subjects as Canadian human rights policy and multiculturalism," he added.

Sergey Ostroverkhov, who specialized in local government control at the academy's Dnipropetrovske branch, said he came to Canada to better understand the country's distribution of executive, legislative and judicial administrative powers.

"There is a lot of discussion on this subject at the moment in Ukraine," said the 28-year-old, who works as an administrative planner for the Zaporizhzhia Oblast government.

Meanwhile, Ivan Shkurat's mission in Canada was more political. A member of Ukraine's Liberal Party and chief of the electoral commission in Donetsk, the 32-year-old has his eye on a future political career back home.

"I am interested in political stabilization and would like to know how Canadians, and specifically the Liberal Party of Canada, approaches this subject," he said. "Canada has its problems with Quebec, and Ukraine has its problems between the East and the West."

But their one-month visit to Canada wasn't limited to a look-see for the two Ukrainians. Both told The Weekly they wanted to use their time in Ottawa to promote Ukraine as a place for business investment.

"I have been asking the Canadian businessmen I meet, 'Why not invest in Ukraine?'" said Mr. Shkurat.

Mr. Ostroverkhov, who arrived in Ottawa later than Mr. Shkurat, said he hoped to visit as many regional governments and embassies in Ottawa to learn more about their decision-making operations and share information with them about the Ukrainian experience.

"I want to know about the management process in the financial, cultural and social spheres," he said. "I want to meet Canadian businessmen who are interested in my region and find future partners," he said.

Students from NIS to compete in Junior Achievement "challenge"

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – Teams of students from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine are among eight teams of Junior Achievement students from five countries who will compete in the final round of The Hewlett-Packard Global Business Challenge, a worldwide competition in which students manage computer-simulated businesses.

Teams from Argentina, Belarus, the Czech Republic, Russia (which has four teams in the finals) and Ukraine will travel to Hewlett-Packard Co.'s corporate offices in Palo Alto, Calif., to compete in the championship round on August 19.

The eight finalists were among more than 370 teams from 36 countries, including the United States, Japan and Mexico, which started The Hewlett-Packard Global Business Challenge in February. During the first two rounds of this multi-week competition, students made managerial decisions affecting computer-simulated businesses. Decisions were sent via e-mail to Harvard Associates, a processing center in Cambridge, Mass. Teams with the most profit advanced to the next round.

"These finalists have gone up against the best Junior Achievement students from around the world in this competition," said Sam Taylor, chief operating officer of Junior Achievement International. "Making it to the final round is an accomplishment in itself."

Junior Achievement is the world's oldest, largest and fastest-growing non-profit economic education organization. By bringing volunteer business people into the classroom to share their experiences with students, Junior Achievement gives young people a better understanding and appreciation of free enterprise. Junior Achievement International is responsible for developing and serving Junior Achievement programs outside the United States. Each year, over 2.5 million primary, secondary and university students in 97 countries participate in Junior Achievement programs.

Hewlett-Packard Co. is a leading global manufacturer of computing, communications and measurement products and services. HP has 102,300 employees and had revenue of \$31.5 billion in the 1995 fiscal year.

OBITUARIES

Leo G. Wynnycky, 65, activist in Students' Union and Plast

OTTAWA — Leo G. Wynnycky, 65, former president of the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) and Plast activist, died in a local hospital on May 31, after a battle with a rare neurological illness.

Born on February 21, 1931, in Yablouiv, Chortkiv district, in Galicia, Mr. Wynnycky fled westward with his family before the Red Army advance in 1944, then emigrated to Canada in 1948.

Having settled in Montreal, Mr. Wynnycky attended Concordia University and obtained a bachelor of commerce in 1953, a B.A. from Sir George Williams College in 1955, then an M.B.A. from the University of Western Ontario (London) in 1957, and rose to the rank of major in the Canadian Armed Forces reserves.

In December 1953, he took part in the first Ukrainian Canadian students' congress in Winnipeg, as a delegate of the Zarevo student association. Mr. Wynnycky served on the congress's organizing committee, and after SUSK was founded at that gathering, held positions on its first two national executives. He was elected to two terms as SUSK president in 1958-1960.

Mr. Wynnycky was also active in the

Plast Ukrainian Youth Association, serving as the Montreal "koshovyi" in 1953-1955 and "stanychnyi" in 1962-1964. He served on Plast's Canadian national executive council in 1965-1967, and was a member of the "Lisovi Chorty" scouting fraternity.

From the mid-1960s, Mr. Wynnycky devoted himself principally to his professional vocation as a management consultant. He worked extensively in North America and the Third World, often through firms in which he was a founding partner, and on behalf of institutions such as the Canadian International Development Agency and the World Bank.

Mr. Wynnycky served as the president of the Canadian Society of Management Consultants in 1973-1974, and obtained a doctorate in financing from Pacific Western University in 1985.

Funeral services were conducted at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Toronto on June 4. Interment followed at the York Cemetery.

Mr. Wynnycky is survived by his wife, Marta; children, Andrij, Julian, Tetiana, Levco, Marko and Khrystyna; his brother, Ivan; and his mother, Jaroslawa.

Michael Herman, 85, teacher and authority on folk dance

by Helen Smindak

NEW YORK – Michael Herman, a teacher and an authority on folk dance, died on May 10 in North Shore Hospital in Glen Cove, N.Y. He was 85 and lived in Babylon, N.Y.

Born in Cleveland to Ukrainian parents, Mr. Herman began performing folk dance as a member of the Ukrainian Folk Dance Group founded in Cleveland by Ukrainian dance impresario Vasily Avramenko. He came to New York in 1930 to study violin and became a member and teaching assistant of Avramenko's New York dance group, where he met his wife, Mary Ann, nee Bodnar.

The two were instrumental in helping to make folk dance popular in America and encouraging others to believe with them that there should be no national factions in folk dancing. The credo became the title of Mr. Herman's popular 1947 book on the subject, "Folk Dances for All."

During the 1930s, Mr. Herman taught

folk dancing at International House and at the New School for Social Research, while Mrs. Herman headed the administrative office at Svoboda. Together, they conducted a Ukrainian-language radio program under the sponsorship of the Surma Book and Music Co.

Expert in many national dance forms, the couple attracted thousands of advocates to folk dancing during their informal folk dance sessions at the 1939-1940 World's Fair. In October 1940, they opened the Community Folk Dance Center (later Michael Herman's Folk Dance House) at the Ukrainian National Home on East Sixth Street.

As folk dancing took hold, the center was moved to larger quarters at the Polish National Home (also called Arlington Hall) on St. Mark's Place, drawing such celebrities as the world-famous photographer Gjon Milis, folk singer Burl Ives, dancer Gene Kelly, columnist Walter

(Continued on page 10)



Mary Ann and Michael Herman in a 1992 photo.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

An enriched education

What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the soul.
— Joseph Addison, English essayist (1772-1719).

Recently we had an opportunity to attend the graduation banquet of schools of Ukrainian studies of the Metropolitan New York area. There were 20 graduates from four schools: Ridna Shkola of Newark, N.J.; Ridna Shkola of Jersey City, N.J.; the Self-Reliance School of Ukrainian Studies of New York and the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM-A) School of Ukrainian Studies, also of New York.

Why only 20? Because these are extraordinary students who completed 11 to 12 years of study, or the equivalent, in Ukrainian studies — language, history, literature, geography, culture. (That is an accomplishment in itself in this day and age when our youths are involved in more activities than there is time.) Next, these graduates also had to pass the "matura," an extensive oral and written examination that is usually given over the course of three school days. Among this group of 20 there were some truly exceptional students who had "aced" their matura.

These students devoted much time and effort to learn about our Ukrainian heritage and about the proud history of our nation. No small measure of credit is due also to their parents, who saw to it that their children would complete the required course of study and were properly prepared for their final exams. To be sure, congratulations also go to the teachers who shared their knowledge and gave of themselves to benefit the next generation of Ukrainians raised in this country with an awareness and appreciation of their Ukrainian roots. These graduates, it could be argued quite strongly, are the future of our community here. As well, they represent the future of our contacts with Ukraine.

[Concern about the future, is precisely the reason that the oldest and largest Ukrainian organization, the Ukrainian National Association annually recognizes our Ukrainian school graduates via financial awards. The UNA expresses its commitment to our future also by helping teachers of our schools of Ukrainian studies; it provides financial support for the annual teachers' seminars organized by the Educational Council of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America at its upstate New York resort, Soyuzivka.]

As we congratulate these graduates, whose number seems to decrease each year, we simultaneously underline that it is important for Ukrainian studies schools to maintain their standards by attracting qualified teachers and by expecting a certain level of performance on the part of their students. And, that expectation, indeed, that requirement, must be supported by today's parents, who often feel that their children deserve to pass the matura just because they've "survived" Ukrainian school. The reason is a very practical one. As Prof. Eugene Fedorenko recently told audiences in New Jersey, completing the matura at a school of Ukrainian studies that is part of the UCCA Educational Council system, is recognized by most colleges and universities as an academic achievement. Thus, we cannot afford to cheapen that achievement by demanding less of graduating students.

The matura is beneficial to students entering college or university as they may receive academic credits for these studies; alternately, the matura may be accepted as proof of fulfillment of a college's foreign language requirement. In addition, the Educational Council head emphasized, knowledge of the Ukrainian language and its history is something that, in today's world of expanding international trade, is seen as a definite career plus. After all, a huge market of 52 million people has been opened.

And so, as we watch this latest crop of graduates of our schools of Ukrainian studies go forth into the world with an education that has been enriched by their Ukrainian experience and with souls enriched by that education, it is fitting that we salute them and bid them continued success in life.

July
6
1851

Turning the pages back...

Born on July 6, 1851, in the Galician town of Dolyna, near Stanyslaviv (now Ivano-Frankivske), Ivan Levynsky graduated from the Lviv Technical Academy in 1875 and soon after opened

his own architectural firm, a building materials company and an artistic pottery studio. He became a professor of architecture at the Lviv Polytechnical Institute in 1903.

Levynsky designed and built many of Lviv's public buildings in the Moderne style, into which he incorporated motifs from Ukrainian folk architecture and ornamentation. Among the landmarks he contributed to the city are the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the main railway station, the George ("Zhorzh") Hotel, the Dnister Insurance Company Building (1905), the student residences of the Ukrainian Pedagogical Society and the Akademychnyi Dim, and the Lysenko Higher Institute of Music (1916).

He also designed and built hospitals and sanatoria in the Galician capital, in Horodenka, Kolomyia, Ternopil, Vorokhta, Zalishchyky and Zolochiv.

Levynsky was a founding member of the Prosvita Society and a patron of the Postup Society for workers' enlightenment, the Osnova Student Society and the Silskyi Hospodar Society. He was a member of the board of the National Museum.

Deported to Kyiv in 1914 by the retreating Russian imperial authorities, the indefatigable Levynsky founded the Pratsia agronomic and technical society there in 1917 and built a Ukrainian Catholic church in the Hutsul style.

He returned to Lviv in 1918, founded a branch of the Pratsia society there. He died on July 4 of the following year.

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



Journalist's notebook in Ukraine

by Marta Kolomayets
Kyiv Press Bureau

Warning: this column may be hazardous to your health

Before you begin reading this column, I feel I should warn Weekly readers who have heart conditions or high blood pressure, or suffer from being tried and true Ukrainian patriots and idealists, to stop here and turn to the next page.

Unfortunately what you are about to read is not fiction, nor is it history dug up from the annals of the bad old days of the Soviet empire.

It happened right here in Kyiv, right now, June 24, 1996, two months before the fifth anniversary of Ukrainian independence. And, if I had not seen it with my own eyes, I would not have believed it.

It all began on Monday afternoon, June 24, after an unproductive Parliament session on Friday, June 21, regarding adoption of the draft constitution in its second reading.

Although they were not getting anywhere on Friday, Parliament Chairman Oleksander Moroz was determined to have the deputies get to work on Monday, at noon, despite the fact that the last week of the month is always devoted to lawmakers' work in their oblasts and raions.

Ignoring threats from left-wing factions in Parliament, who seemed hell-bent on stalling adoption of independent Ukraine's first constitution until after Russian presidential elections on July 3, Mr. Moroz (who is the leader of the Socialist Party and, therefore, a member of the left wing himself) was firm in his commitment to work on Ukraine's fundamental law.

He even put a ban on any travel outside of Kyiv for the 422 lawmakers currently holding mandates to ensure that there would be a quorum in the Parliament chambers on Monday, June 24.

Sure enough, 392 deputies registered for the session, enabling the tedious work of adopting, article by article, the 161-article draft constitution (which needs 301 votes to pass) to begin. The work day was even extended until 8 p.m. to allow the deputies more time to examine matters as integral for a neophyte democracy as state symbols, the status of language and the right to private property.

But, the work went slowly, as the deputies could not even agree on the first phrase of the preamble to the constitution: "We the Ukrainian people... (Ukrainskyi narod)." Such staunch members of the left as Natalia Vitrenko (former Socialist Party member who quarreled with Mr. Moroz and left a few months ago to form her own left party) and her sidekick, Volodymyr Marchenko, voted against this idea. Oleksander Tkachenko, vice-chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council, abstained from voting on this issue. Which leads this writer to ask: What is he then? (Is he not one of the "Ukrainian people"?)

[The good news is that the next day, the Parliament did adopt the preamble in full, which begins: "We, the Ukrainian people — Ukrainian citizens of all nationalities..."]

However, on Monday no one knew what was going to happen on Tuesday, or if there was even going to be a Tuesday session, because Monday looked very bleak indeed.

I have chosen to talk about the debate regarding Ukraine's state symbols: the blue-and-yellow flag, the trident (tryzub), which dates back to the times of Prince Volodymyr the Great; the Ukrainian national anthem; and the capital of Ukraine. Well, this discussion — or should I say shouting match — was quite an eye-opener.

Mykhailo Syrota, who belongs to the Centrist faction in Parliament, for the last

two months has had the thankless task of attempting to find compromise on scores of issues, trying to keep deputies from all factions on the ad hoc committee out of fist fights and dubious diatribes, striving to plow through over 2,000 suggestions submitted by lawmakers and incorporating the best into this latest version of the draft. He is now true to his name (syrota — orphan) — he is the lonely guy who stands in front of the podium, reading the ad hoc committee's proposals for various articles, which Chairman Moroz then puts to a vote.

And so, Mr. Syrota, who had yet to lose his cool, was — unbeknownst to all — about to lose it on the issue of the Ukrainian flag.

Article 20 reads: The state flag of Ukraine is the a blue-and-yellow banner (two horizontal stripes of equal size). When Mr. Syrota read this and it was put to a vote, only 202 deputies voted for the flag, while 122 voted against it. For the record, among those who voted against the blue-and-yellow flag, which was adopted as the national flag by law in 1992, were: Anatoliy Franchuk (President Leonid Kuchma's in-law), Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko, Inter-Regional Deputies group leader Yuriy Boldyrev and Parliament Vice-Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko.

While the right and center forces expressed outrage and began to stomp out of the legislature, Mr. Syrota tried to deal with the bedlam, hoping to reason with his colleagues in the chambers.

Mr. Moroz then stated the following: "Unfortunately, we don't have national symbols in Ukraine, as of yet."

Mr. Syrota: "What do you mean, we don't have symbols?"

Mr. Moroz: "Legitimate state symbols we don't have..."

Mr. Syrota: "We have state symbols in Ukraine, and they are, respected colleagues, recognized throughout the world.... Perhaps some of you don't want these symbols, but we do have them."

"Look at the flag that has been flying over the Parliament, on our cupola for the last five years...."

"We will not let you remove it, we will not allow it," said Mr. Syrota, choked up.

Mr. Moroz then acknowledged that the flag had been adopted by law in Parliament — but, he noted, this was not a constitutional majority decision.

Bedlam continued in the corridors of power, with left-wingers yelling out obscenities, right-wingers walking out, pulling out their cards of registration.

One Communist (I can't swear which one it was) yelled out that the blue-and-yellow banner is not a flag, but a rag (in Russian).

Mr. Syrota continued to defend his country's flag and honor.

Needless to say, the trident of Volodymyr the Great also did not get the necessary majority to pass in the Parliament.

Although deputies did provide a constitutional majority granting Kyiv the status of capital of Ukraine (344 votes), seven deputies voted against and six abstained. Among those against this motion were Communist Yevhen Marmazov, as well as two members of the Peasant Party, one from the Inter-Regional Bloc of Deputies and two from the Independent faction of deputies. One can only wonder: Is it Moscow they want as their capital?

I could go on and on about the various issues under attack today in free and independent Ukraine. But, I'll save it for a time when I can laugh about it instead of cry....

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I'll take Clinton any day...

Dear Editor:

My recent letter to The Weekly cited President Bill Clinton's positive policy toward Ukraine as a sound basis for supporting his re-election. At the same time, I noted opposition of past Republican administrations to Ukrainian independence and other issues important to our community as evidence of poor judgment that resulted in bad policy for the United States and not just for our own community. It was thus gratifying that your correspondent, Mary Pressey, agreed on June 2 that President Clinton's policies toward Ukraine have been more favorable than those of the Republicans. I certainly agree with Ms. Pressey that the president's record on this issue alone is not enough for those of us in the Ukrainian American community to make up our minds. Domestic issues are just as important. Fortunately, Mr. Clinton's record in domestic affairs far outstrips that of Mr. Dole and other Congressional Republicans. I'll mention just a few examples.

As a strong supporter of a clean environment, I am strongly opposed to Republican efforts in Congress to block enforcement of the Clean Air and Water Act, to weaken the Endangered Species Act and in general turn back the clock on progress in environmental clean-up. If I were a single issue voter, that alone would turn me against Bob Dole, who was in a position as Senate majority leader to block Newt Gingrich's assault on the environment but chose not to do so. I also find it alarming that Bob Dole supports legalization of military assault-style weapons and would repeal the Brady Handgun Control Bill. That might appeal to militia groups in Texas, but not to this Ukrainian American from Chicago. I could go on: from support for higher education to having more policemen patrol city streets, President Clinton just seems to have a more reasonable, future-oriented policy focused on growth, security and the well-being of our children. I shudder to think of the alternative: Bob Dole signing bills coming out of a Newt Gingrich-controlled Congress. Give me President Clinton any day.

Andrew Ripecky
Chicago

A summer camp for teen leaders

Dear Editor:

A Ukrainian Summer Teen Camp organized by the Ukrainian National Federation of Canada will be held at Camp Sokil, near Hawkestone, Ontario, on August 3-18.

The aims of the summer camp are to provide a base for the continued existence of the Ukrainian community in Canada; to bring up Ukrainian youth in the spirit of keeping Ukrainian language and traditions alive in this country; to give our youth the opportunity to develop their talents and potential within the Ukrainian community; and to give our youth the opportunity to meet other Ukrainians, which will enable them to work with the Ukrainian community in the future, as leaders.

The UNF owes its success to the vision, courage and efforts of its pioneer members, both old and young.

One individual deserves special mention: Dr. Pavlo Macenko, who in the 1940s dedicated his efforts to organizing the first summer courses that were sponsored by the UNF and the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center.

Without a doubt, these courses were an

outstanding success, since virtually all the activities of the UNF are now carried out and led by former participants, such as Dr. Volodymyr Klymkiw, conductor of the Oleksander Koshetz Choir; Olya Mysyk-Rohatyn, director of the Dnipro Ensemble; Anna Mysyk-Wach, editor of the Woman's World magazine; and Mary Howika-Pidkowych, UNF president.

Summer course participants have not only become leading members of the UNF, but also have remained active in various Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian organizations in major North American cities.

Today, the Ukrainian community faces many more problems than it did in the past. The exigencies of modern life have had a marked effect — the higher standard of living we have all enjoyed and the increased tempo of modern life have unfortunately not contributed to the growth of Ukrainian organizations, especially youth organizations.

There is a noticeable lack of youth involvement in our organized activities. Television, the rise of numerous community recreational centers, after-school programs and sports have all drawn away our youth membership.

Born in Canada, many Ukrainians do not concern themselves with Ukrainian issues. Mixed marriages also have created some problems, in that children are not raised to take part in various activities organized by the Ukrainian Canadian community.

We all agree that these problems must be faced and overcome. If the Ukrainian Canadian community is to exist in the future, we must reach out to our youth. Our youth is our future.

It is not only the responsibility of parents, but also of the whole community to do its share in providing leaders for generations to come. Parents and community leaders should consider it their moral duty to assist programs financially that contribute to the upbringing of our youth.

I appeal to all parents: send your children to Ukrainian Teen Camp, so that they may be taught to take part in the Ukrainian community and be instrumental in preserving the heritage our ancestors brought to this country.

Only a nationally conscious youth will have the national pride that is the best assurance for a bright future of the Ukrainian community in Canada.

All teenagers of Ukrainian descent who are 13 years old or who will be entering high school in September are eligible to enroll in the UNF's Summer Teen Camp.

Cost of registration is \$350. For more information, please write to Ukrainian National Federation of Canada Inc., 2336 Bloor St. W., P.O. Box 84572, Toronto, Ontario M6S 4Z7; or call (416) 225-9845 or (416) 235-1848.

Mary Pidkowych
Toronto

Canadian Legion support noted

Dear Editor:

Re: "Remembering the once-forgotten soldier" (June 2) by Chris Guly. Without the moral and financial support of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 360 (Konowal Branch) of Toronto, most of the forthcoming commemorative events honoring Ukrainian Canadian Victoria Cross winner, Filip Konowal, would not be happening.

Mr. Guly should have underscored this point in his otherwise welcome column.

Lubomyr Luciuk
Kingston, Ontario

CANADA COURIER

by Christopher Guly



A nicer story on internment

Fresh from attending a garden party at Prime Minister Jean Chretien's official residence in Ottawa, Ivan Loun and Yuri Dzera spiritedly walk through Ottawa's downtown shopping mall, the Rideau Centre, on their way home.

Their pockets stuffed with cans of Coke, from the soiree at 24 Sussex Drive, the pair of best friends mutter observations to one another — mostly about girls. "If you take off 10 pounds from a Canadian girl she might be as pretty as a Ukrainian girl," chuckles 19-year-old Mr. Loun. He and his chum, Mr. Dzera, will soon be home, which for the past several months has been a students' residence at the University of Ottawa.

Attending a prime ministerial event in Canada was the gravy on the meat of a parliamentary student internship program that ends in July. This year's record number of Ukrainian students — 31 — also got to go on wilderness canoeing trips and attend Parliament Hill functions.

But they worked hard for that gravy, said Ihor Bardyn, the Toronto-based program director of the six-year-old Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program (CUPP). To begin with, the students don't get paid a salary. Their sole monetary gain is the \$50-a-week (about \$37 U.S.) lunch allowance — enough for some fresh fruit and milk.

Beyond working for members of Parliament and senators on the Hill, 10 of the students were seconded to work on a federal by-election campaign in the Hamilton East riding.

Six helped with campaigning duties for Reform Party candidate Andy Sweck; four with incumbent Deputy Prime Minister Sheila Copps, who resigned her seat in May after admitting she broke a 1993 federal election promise that she would leave if her government didn't kill the dreaded Goods and Services Tax. Ms. Copps won her seat back on June 17.

Victoria Hladylova, 19, a third-year economics student at the Ivan Franko State University in Lviv, was among the six who helped Mr. Sweck — who finished fourth. "We started as early as 8 a.m. and went door-to-door [canvassing] until 10 p.m.," says Ms. Hladylova, who works in Reform leader Preston Manning's office. She kept that pace for six days — a far cry from the economic-related research she was initially assigned to do for the party's communications section on the Hill.

Beyond getting some sore feet, the election experience inadvertently offered Ms.

Hladylova a new career perspective. Fluent in English, she initially planned to complete her five-year undergraduate program in Lviv and go on to pursue a master's degree in economics. The Ukrainian student hasn't entirely scrapped that strategy, but is now thinking twice.

"At first, I thought I might end up working in a bank. But now, I realize I really am interested in politics," she said. "Not to become prime minister, perhaps, but maybe to work as an economist in the political arena."

If Mr. Loun wasn't so keen on playing a foreign correspondent, he would fit nicely in the glad-handing world of politics. Armed with a boyish appearance that belies a sense of worldliness, Mr. Loun averred he'd had enough time to assess Canadiana while taking care of administrative duties for Ukrainian Canadian Liberal MP Ron Fewchuk of Manitoba.

Back home, Mr. Loun, a third-year international relations student also at Lviv State University, pens a regular column for the student newspaper at Lviv Polytechnic — which is sold throughout the city at a cost of 20,000 karbovantsi (or about 11 cents U.S.). It's called Mirror Hall, and named after Lviv State University's meeting place, where the rector greets visiting dignitaries. "I met [former Ukrainian] Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko," he boasts.

While in Canada, Mr. Loun, whose older brother, Ostap, is also participating in the CUPP, has been writing about his experience as a politician's assistant. "I will tell them about the day-to-day lives of Ukrainian interns in Canada," he noted.

Two of his colleagues have been working with Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Stephane Dion — Ottawa's man charged with the duty of keeping Canada united. Former Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada Victor Batiuk's son, Peter (who spells his family name "Batiouk"), a fluent French-speaking third-year international law student at Kyiv University's Institute of International Relations, is one of the two.

Roman Didenko, meanwhile, augmented his work in the office of Secretary of State for Veterans Lawrence MacAulay with mediation training. As a result of attending alternative dispute resolution training at St. Paul University, the fourth-year history student at the Luhanske Pedagogical Institute has embarked on a new career that could find him helping to resolve conflicts between governments or in boardrooms.



Student intern Ivan Loun (left) with Ukraine's ambassador to Canada, Volodymyr Furkalo.

Scholar and politician square off in multiculturalism prize fight

by Andrij Wynnyckyj
Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO – As part of its program to refocus Canada's Ukrainian community on issues it faces within the country rather than questions that concern Ukraine, the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation sought to have the issue of multiculturalism debated by two compelling speakers who passionately hold opposing views, while the present federal government conducts a review of it as an official policy.

Readers of The Weekly will know that parliamentarian John Nunziata and veteran scholar Dr. Manoly Lupul have taken high-profile positions on the subject, and so it was only fitting that the UCPBF made them part of its "Canada in Crisis" series, the brainchild of Michael Wawryshyn, the federation's Ukrainian Canadian Congress liaison officer.

Mr. Nunziata has been one of the most vocal opponents of multiculturalism and issued a call for a nationwide debate on the subject in April 1995. Dr. Lupul has been among Canada's best known champions of the policy, and since March 1994 has been ringing alarm bells about the negative effects of the right-wing agenda of the Reform Party of Canada.

This encounter was anticipated like a prizefight and, like many such confrontations, it was rescheduled a number of times. In the end, it took place on March 29 at the Valhalla Inn in Etobicoke, Ontario.

The moderator was Olya Kuplowska, a veteran broadcast journalist, currently a director of research at TV Ontario. Ms. Kuplowska said the Ukrainian Canadian community accords great importance to the idea and spirit of multiculturalism, over and beyond the policy as it was practically applied by governments.

She added that it is "good to take stock of its impact on the individual lives, on society and the country's institutions, particularly this year – the 25th anniversary" of multiculturalism's formal adoption as policy by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau in 1971.

The debaters

Mr. Nunziata, a graduate of Toronto's prestigious Osgoode Hall Law School, a recipient of several awards for service to his community, and a brash member of Parliament (MP) from the heavily Italian Canadian riding of York South-Weston, made a name for himself as one of the "Rat Pack" when sitting in opposition to the government led by Progressive Conservative Brian Mulroney in 1984-1992.

As a backbencher in the Liberal government swept into office in 1993, Mr. Nunziata continued to make headlines. In the spring of 1995, he denounced multiculturalism, seemingly an integral plank of his party's platform, a policy backed up by legislation (the Multiculturalism Act of 1988) and entrenched in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms of the recently patriated Constitution.

Since the debate described in this report, Mr. Nunziata's contrarian ways have cost him a place in the Liberal Party caucus. When he voted against a government-sponsored bill in April, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien ejected him.

Dr. Lupul is professor emeritus at the University of Alberta faculty of education (where he has taught since 1958), a man instrumental in the establishment of the Ukrainian-English bilingual program in Alberta's provincial school system, a co-founder and first director of its Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies (1976-1986). Harvard educated (Ph.D., 1963), Dr. Lupul has published widely in the fields of history, multiculturalism and cultural heritage.

The moderator described him as one of multiculturalism's strongest proponents even before the policy was officially adopted in 1971, as a man who has since been intimately associated with its development and evolution (he served as national vice-chair of the Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism in 1973-1979).

Dr. Lupul's "yea"

Dr. Lupul said multiculturalism appeared as an inexact concept that generally described "Canada's demographic reality," as perceived by the late Saskatchewan Sen. Paul Zuyk's generation of Canadian-born Ukrainians and other ethnic Canadians who sought to "liberalize the bicultural [French and English] thrust of two founding peoples in the terms of reference of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism" established by the government of Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson in July 1963.

The veteran scholar explained that the bicultural movement sought to "achieve greater linguistic living space" for the French language in Canada, and that Ukrainian Canadians had "joined in the same appeal by raising the multicultural umbrella," asking that such a



MP John Nunziata



Prof. Manoly Lupul

linguistic living space be "increased still further to permit additional cultural expression against the homogenizing tendencies of Anglo-American culture."

Dr. Lupul said multiculturalism presents a model for the "over-all sharing of power and opportunity among the people who share Canada."

In order for multiculturalism to be a workable national state policy and in the interest of national unity, Dr. Lupul suggested that Canadians should put aside "hostility to the concept of two founding peoples at the base of Confederation, with such special status [including recognition of French Quebec as a distinct society] as that implies."

Dr. Lupul said a degree of assimilation is expected and even desirable, but should not be forced as in the U.S., driven by the concept of a national melting pot. "The mark of all of Canada's peoples [should] be clearly discernible in the public culture that emerges," Dr. Lupul emphasized.

The clinching argument for the professor was a global one. "[Multiculturalism] is good cultural policy not just because it gives Canada's diverse peoples a greater sense of belonging through a larger share of the public culture, but [also] because it strengthens the country's economic potential as a trader in a shrinking world and ... raises the level of Canadian civilization."

Multiculturalism's unfinished business

Dr. Lupul said that the multiculturalism policy was often "at the mercy of manipulative politicians." He asserted that the perception of the policy as "grants to ethnic dance groups, cooking classes and festivals" was "invented by politicians at all levels almost as soon as the multiculturalism policy was announced."

Given the often symbolic quantities of funds appropriated, Dr. Lupul said he has observed an increasing tendency for people to turn their backs on the policy altogether.

He called this a "temptation" which has become stronger because the Ukrainian Canadian community has "realized much of its language and culture agenda," particularly in terms of institution-building. However, the CIUS founder pointed out that many of these successes would not have been possible without the impetus for matching fund programs and other initiatives fostered by the multiculturalism policy, and would be jeopardized if it were eliminated.

Dr. Lupul said Ukrainian Canadian professional and business associations should "hound unrelentingly and forcefully" cultural agencies such as the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to "honor [their] mandate to all of Canada's citizens."

Criticisms blunted

Turning to the criticisms leveled at the policy of multiculturalism, Dr. Lupul said most can be blunted on principle. Ethnicity is not merely a private matter, as those hostile to the policy assert, "but also a matter of social equity," he said.

"The goal of multiculturalism was not only to take ethnicity out of the closet, where the chauvinistic narrow nationalists had historically swept it, but to give it an equal and honorable place in the country's ... public culture," stated the Alberta-born academic.

Countering the argument that the policy creates

"hyphenated Canadians" who have "divided loyalties," Dr. Lupul asserted that "the more responsive the public institutions are to ethnocultural aspirations, the less need will there be for separate institutions that marginalize or segregate ethnocultural groups."

Dr. Lupul denounced such critics as Liberal MP John Bryden who question achievements made under the multicultural policy as "mere pandering by government to special interests, as if ethnocultural interests were somehow improper and had to take a back seat to the country's other special interests."

Simply put, Dr. Lupul had two answers: 1. In a democratic, pluralistic society, all interests are special interests; 2. Canada's citizens, all from immigrant backgrounds, have earned their share and deserve a more equitable distribution of its resources.

Enemies identified

The scholar said the policy's supporters should not yield to the "narrow nationalists" of Quebec, such as Jacques Parizeau, former provincial premier and Parti Québécois leader, and those of English-speaking Canada, "the members of the Reform Party of Canada."

Dr. Lupul indicated that the English-speaking segment draws on the tradition of "nativists" who dominated the country prior to World War I and enforced "Anglo-conformity," while the more extreme Quebec separatists had revived notions of "pure-laine" (pure wool, or old-stock) French chauvinism.

The Alberta-based academic singled out Reform leader Preston Manning's platforms as particularly invidious. He stressed that the party's "principle that individuals or groups are free to preserve their cultural heritage using their own resources" is actually a formula under which "all ethnocultural groups, apart from the Anglo-Celts and the French in Quebec, would be equally excluded from participating in the development of Canada's public culture on the quality footing that public funds alone can ensure."

Referring to Mr. Parizeau's bitter complaint that votes controlled by "money and ethnics" caused the recent slim referendum defeat for the separatist side in Quebec, Dr. Lupul said "the irony of the supposedly divisive 'ethnics' actually helping to save Canada last October has still to register with English-speaking Canada's own narrow nationalists – the members of the Reform Party of Canada."

Dr. Lupul contended that multiculturalism breeds mutual respect, and this respect is best able to hold Canada, a heterogeneous country, together. "It is not divisive, but the strongest possible cement," he said.

Mr. Nunziata's "nay"

Mr. Nunziata began by greeting "his fellow ethnic Canadians" and distancing himself from other critics of multiculturalism. "I don't consider myself to be a narrow nationalist," the MP said, "I don't particularly like Jacques Parizeau, and I certainly don't subscribe to the policies of the Reform Party. Yet when I'm asked whether there's a place for multiculturalism in Canada's 21st century, the answer is, in my view, an unequivocal 'no.'"

"In my view," Mr. Nunziata said, "[multiculturalism] served its purpose for a limited period of time." Although he dismissed contentions that Mr. Trudeau was "not sin-

(Continued on page 12)

ON THE ROAD TO ATLANTA: Ukraine makes final preparations

First Olympians arrive next week

by Roman Woronowycz

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — The initial contingent of the approximately 220 Ukrainian athletes who will eventually compete in Ukraine's first Olympic Games begin arriving next week to prepare to take part in 25 Olympic events. Beginning July 19 and for 17 days afterward, Ukrainians everywhere will focus on their feats and failures.

With the world watching, medal hopefuls like Inessa Kravets, Lilia Pidkopayeva, Hryhoriy Mysiutyn and Olena Vitrychenko will vie to take their places in the history of the 100th Olympiad.

An initial group of 130 athletes, coaches and officials of a total Ukrainian delegation that will reach 400 are due in Atlanta on July 6 by charter jet. Already 45 cyclists are in Arizona doing high-altitude training.

Funding question is resolved

Laryssa Barabash Temple, U.S. representative for the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, said the concern that the Olympic team would not be adequately funded has been resolved. "There was a two-week period in early May, when it seemed Parliament was not going to fund the team," she said. But since then Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma has released the needed money.

She said that finances, always a concern, are sufficiently adequate to allow for the athletes already qualified to compete. What has not yet been determined is how many of the supporting players will be able to travel.

Ms. Temple has been one of the central driving forces in helping Ukraine coordinate preparations for its first competitions on the Olympic stage. She took on the responsibility, which is a volunteer position, three years ago at the

behest of Minister of Youth and Sports Valeriy Borzov. Last year she was instrumental in recruiting the city of Carrollton, Ga., to help sponsor pre-Olympic training and acclimatization for the Ukrainian athletes, an effort that went off without a hitch.

She has also secured a hospitality center that will allow the NOC of Ukraine to entertain guests and dignitaries. It is a classic Georgian Colonial estate located in the very exclusive Buckhead area of Atlanta, complete with electronic gates. "It was very important for us to do this," she explained. "We felt it was important to show Ukraine in the best possible light. We also wanted to thank those who have supported us in the best way possible."

The estate's use was donated for the duration of the Olympics by Eric (Ihor) Prockow and his spouse, Diana Stadnycze, who are originally from Montreal. Mr. Prockow is CEO of Sun Data Corp. Ms. Stadnycze is president of the local branch of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.

Right now the NOC hopes to host several parties on the grounds of the Prockow place, including a bash for many of the athletes who will be finishing up their competitions in the first half of the Games. A party is currently planned for July 31, when the athletes will mix with visitors, guests and dignitaries.

Reception for official delegation

Also scheduled is a reception for the official delegation from Ukraine, which currently is to be headed up by Valeriy Pustovoytenko, minister of the Cabinet of Ministers and will include Cabinet ministers and deputies from Parliament.

In addition, Minister Borzov, who heads the NOC of Ukraine and is a member of the International Olympic Committee, will host a party for NOC delegations of other countries and for members of the IOC.

The entertainment and the service for the hospitality center are being provided by the Bowman Group, whose owner, Roman Olenych, also has coordinated ticket sales for Ukraine through his International Sports Corp. The various buffets, receptions and dinners will include entertainment from Ukraine.

Ms. Temple said ticket sales have been brisk in Ukraine, including the sale of most of the 120 sponsorship packages that were offered.

Another event, this one scheduled for Carrollton, where pre-Olympic training occurred, is the annual gathering of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM-A), which was scheduled specifically for the Atlanta area during the Olympics. Close to 150 Ukrainian American and Canadian youth are scheduled to spend July 17 through July 28 camping on the grounds of the local West Georgia College. Ms. Temple called them "our ready-made cheering section."

There will also be a celebration on July 16 in Carrollton, when the Olympic torch passes through the city on the final leg of its journey across the world to Atlanta. "We'll do a little celebration in town around midnight, when the torch is expected through, the athletes will come out," said Ron Young, president of Carroll 96.

The effort in Carroll County that brought the Ukrainian athletes to Carrollton to prepare for Olympic competition and provided them with training facilities and accommodations was funded by \$160,000 raised primarily through local corporate contributions. Local offi-

cial also gathered \$350,000 in loans and grants to rebuild the track at West Georgia College to bring it to Olympic specifications.

The city of Carrollton is winding down its pre-Olympic effort in order to allow the athletes to concentrate fully on their preparations. Mr. Young explained that for the most part their effort is over. "Now the athletes want to focus on their final preparations. So we are not planning anything else major."

He said that during the course of the last year the teams had been meeting with city residents and putting on athletic exhibitions while they were in the city for training. Two more exhibitions, in volleyball and basketball, are still scheduled.

Mr. Young said that his central task now is to coordinate transportation between Carrollton, which is one hour west of Atlanta, and the Olympic Village for the athletes who will arrive on July 6 and a second group scheduled for July 31.



Laryssa Temple, U.S. representative of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine.



Carrollton Mayor Joe McGinnis presents world champion pole vaulter Sergey Bubka keys to the city during his stay there.

UNWLA branch display greets Olympic torchbearers in Jersey



Roman Woronowycz

The Olympic torch relay passed through Jersey City on the morning of June 18 on its circuitous journey to Atlanta and the 100th Olympiad, where it will arrive on July 20. Celebrations included displays of dance, song and cultural artifacts by several ethnic groups part of the city's make-up. Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 71, located in Jersey City, displayed Ukrainian ceramics, embroidery, pysanky and wood carving. From left: Stefania Ciolko, Anna Kucyj, Halyna Hawryluk, Halyna Bilyk and Anna Wiszka.

Ukraine to have consular presence at Atlanta Games

by Roman Woronowycz

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — Ukraine will have an official presence in Atlanta during the Olympic Games. The State Department has asked that Ukraine open up a temporary consulate with full consular services for the course of the competitions.

State Department spokesperson Ann Johnson said that all foreign embassies are being asked to set up offices with a consular officer and a political officer on hand. The smaller countries are merely being asked to dedicate an official to Olympic matters in their Washington embassies.

Chief of the Consular Section of the Embassy of Ukraine Heorhiy Ilchenko said that a full consular representation will be in Atlanta for the duration of the Games.

He explained that details will be worked out when the assistant director of consular sections of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mykola Kyrychenko, arrives in the U.S. in two weeks.

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Michael Herman...

(Continued from page 5)

Winchell, and actors John Garfield, Carole Lombard and Peter Lorre.

The center was housed for a time at the High School of Fashion Industries on West 24th Street. In 1950, the Hermans established Folk Dance House, a Manhattan school and center for folk dancing in the old Humphrey-Weidman Dance Theater, which they directed until 1970.

Folk Dance House, at 108 W. 16th St., became a hub for America's folk-dance world, offering folk dance classes, square dancing and contra dancing, as well as workshops, teacher training courses, music, films, costume displays, crafts, foods and a newsletter.

Among famous dance troupes that visited the center were the Bulgarian Koutev Ensemble, the Robert Iglesias Spanish Troupe, the Beryozka Ensemble and Igor Moiseyev's dancers, who asked Mr. Herman to teach them the Virginia Reel. The dance was performed as an encore surprise during the group's first U.S. tour.

The Hermans edited The Folk Dancer, a magazine, and taught at schools and colleges throughout the nation. They conducted folk festivals in New York City's parks and at Rockefeller Plaza, and were sent by the U.S. State Department to Japan after World War II to teach folk dancing in 21 cities. Their costume collection was shown at the New York Library

for the Performing Arts in 1980.

Recognizing the scarcity of folk music records, Mr. Herman founded the Folk Dancer Record Co. in the 1940s, and used the Michael Herman Folk Dance Orchestra (he was the first violinist) to record international dance melodies. The orchestra also made 15 records for RCA Victor.

For 44 years, the Hermans ran the Maine Folk Dance Camp, one of the top dance camps in the country. The camp offered classes conducted by specialists, with a different nationality spotlighted each day, a costume reference library and a scholarship program.

Mr. Herman is the author of an article on folk dancing in the World Book Encyclopedia, a popular reference source in American schools.

From 1970 until Mrs. Herman's death in 1992, the couple taught folk dancing every Sunday night at the Bayshore-Brightwaters Public Library in Brightwaters, N.Y. Mr. Herman continued to attend sessions of the Sunday Nite Folk Dance Group until he suffered a heart attack in April.

Mr. Herman's vitality and dedication to folk dance were recalled by members of the group during a June 2 memorial program at the parish hall of Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Church in West Islip, N.Y. Besides spoken testimonials, the reading of letters and a moment of silence, the program included what was dearest to Mr. Herman - folk dancing.

Mr. Herman is survived by two sisters, Helen Busser of Maple Heights, Ohio, and Julia Jurat of Parma, Ohio.

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Junior high school students exposed to career "discovery"

by Maria Koropecy

TORONTO — Imagine building a working rocket, witnessing a live news broadcast, or learning the tricks of computer animation. These were just some of the exciting workshops recently offered to Ukrainian junior high school students in Toronto.

Organized by Nell Nakoneczny from the Ukrainian National Federation's Community Center Library, the second annual March Break Career Discovery Week showed students what kind of career opportunities exist for them. "We wanted to introduce children to non-traditional, creative careers."

Thirteen seminars, taught by Ukrainian professionals from the Toronto area who volunteered their time, also covered topics such as haute cuisine, sports journalism, interior design, newspaper reporting, film and TV scripting, creative science, home building, fashion design, professional coaching and photography. Some workshops were conducted in the UNF's library at 267 College St. downtown, but many were presented in the actual setting of the volunteer instructor's workplace.

"We went to Global TV and saw how the 'News at Noon' was produced," said student Anna Pokotilo. The students watched the live broadcast, met a few celebrities and got a tour of the studio. "I'm thinking of becoming a reporter on TV," said Anna. "Either that or a newspaper journalist."

The students also went on site to the [local daily] Toronto Sun and saw the steps involved in producing a daily newspaper. They watched Sun reporter Marianna Lewyckyj write an article on "Taking a byte out of taxtime," and then read it a few hours later in print — hot off the press.

This year, 55 students participated in the program, with only those from grades 6, 7 and 8 invited, according to the organizer, Ms. Nakoneczny, "because this is the time when they start thinking about careers."

"It was an exciting experience," said student Mark Shumelda. "It was a good way of learning professions by doing hands-on activities." Mark's favorite workshop was the rocket-building class. "In mid-April, our teacher [Taras Tataryn] will take us to a park and we'll be able to launch them, he said."

Thirteen students signed up for the photography seminar taught by freelance photographer Ola Sirant. Armed with cameras and black and white film, the students set off to cover the Kensington Market beat near the UNF Hall. The kids' assignment was to study the character of the neighborhood (one of Toronto's most vibrant and picturesque), and to document a few hours of life in

the market.

Ihor Andrusieczko enjoyed taking a picture of a squid, while Michael Szubelak liked capturing "a cat sitting on fruit."

"From the photography class," Ms. Nakoneczny explained, "the children will learn to appreciate and analyze what is a good picture...They may choose to pursue photography as a vocation, but they may choose to pursue it as a hobby, and use it in home situations," said the program director.

Justyna Szarek attended several workshops over the weeklong program held March 9-13, including haute cuisine, broadcast news, the front page, photography and fashion design. "I want to become a fashion designer when I grow up," Justyna said. "I learned a lot about how to pursue the career."

The instructor of the interior design workshop, Irka Sochaniwska, a graduate of the Domus Academy of Design in Milan, was impressed by her charges. "They really showed a great perception of space," said Ms. Sochaniwska. "A vast amount of thought went into [the plans the children made], and they took it upon themselves to do a lot of work outside the program."

The class was held in two parts, and the students learned how to design a home office by making a scale model. "I loved designing," said Bianca Kwasnycia. "I think I will go along that line and see what happens."

Computer animation was the most popular workshop. Two separate groups visited Rick Kogucki at Alias Software. They practiced creating and animating their own computer images.

At the end of the jam-packed week, the students, teachers, volunteers and parents were invited to an open house at the library. All of the finished projects, including computer animation posters, black and white photographic contact sheets, a wooden model house and the orange model rockets were displayed.

Ms. Nakoneczny had words of high praise for the many adult volunteers who also assisted by joining every group and making sure that, for instance, transporting students to and from the satellite classrooms was taken by someone other than the instructor.

The UNF librarian singled out the sponsoring firms and professionals for recognition. "They gave up their time in order for children to learn from a professional. It certainly gives an indication that the community is behind the workshops," Ms. Nakoneczny said.

"[The children] learned quite a lot. They had access to things they wouldn't have normally," said parent Bohdan Leschyshen.

St. George Academy graduates 33

NEW YORK — Thirty-three graduates received their diplomas from St. George Academy on June 8. After the 2 p.m. divine liturgy at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, the graduates marched into the school auditorium and, accompanied by Sonia Szereg, sang the American and Ukrainian anthems.

After prayer, the salutatory address was delivered in both Ukrainian and English by Nicholas Bohdanowycz.

Bishop Basil Losten next delivered the commencement address and then awarded diplomas.

The following awards were then distributed: \$1,000 to Erica Hryniuk from the Turansky Fund; \$750 to Mr. Bohdanowycz from Self-Reliance; \$100 to Eugene Evans from Arka; \$167 to each member (Taras

Mazur, Iryna Prystach and Nazar Shcheglov) from the Ukrainian National Association; \$100 to Roman Jaworuk from the Ukrainian American Soccer Association; \$100 to Eugenia Seryakova from Branch 83 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America; \$50 U.S. Savings Bonds from Dr. Walter Baron for scholastic achievement to: M. Michajlo, E. Hantula, D. Szawrycka, S. Daborska, S. Odomirok, A. Galuszka, V. Krasnodebska, M. Petrykow; \$50 Savings Bond to Miss Prystach from the Schumylovyh family, honoring Dr. Luke Luciw.

Following the valedictory address by Miss Hryniuk, the Rev. Patrick Paschak, pastor of St. George Church, thanked all for coming. The program closed with the singing of the alma mater and recessional.



Valedictorian Erica Hryniuk and Salutatorian Nicholas Bohdanowycz.



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TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 320 in Baltimore, MD

As of June 7, 1996 the secretary's duties of Branch 320 in Baltimore, MD were assumed by Ms. Maria Rad.

We ask all members of this Branch to direct all correspondence regarding membership and insurance, as well as their membership premiums to the address listed below:

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Scholar and politician...

(Continued from page 8)

cer" in introducing the policy, the maverick politician added: "Unfortunately, what was great philosophically has not succeeded in the pragmatic reality of society."

"Simply declaring multiculturalism in law does not translate into a multicultural society," Mr. Nunziata added. The Toronto-based MP asserted: "Canadians have not embraced the concept that we are all part of the multicultural mosaic; that we are all ethnic and therefore equal."

Mr. Nunziata recalled an incident in the early 1980s when politicians from all parties addressed a meeting of the Canadian Ethnocultural Council. "John Turner, the leader of [the Liberal] party said 65 percent of my constituency is multicultural," the MP related, "then [New Democratic Party leader Ed] Broadbent stood up and said 70 percent of his constituency was multicultural. Each tried to out-do the other," the legislator said.

Mr. Nunziata said, "If the policy was a success, then 100 percent of every constituency, 100 percent of every community would consider themselves to be part of multicultural Canada."

Seemingly heedless of the criticism of politicians voiced by Dr. Lupul, Mr. Nunziata derisively reiterated the perception of multiculturalism as "quaint activi-

ties, festivals, folk dances."

Multiculturalism as segregation

The MP claimed that "instead of undercutting the concept of second-class citizenship, multiculturalism encourages it by preventing the full integration of all ethnic groups into mainstream Canadian society."

Mr. Nunziata asserted that Bill C-18, which became the Multiculturalism Act of 1988, was merely a blatant attempt [by a government he opposed] to win the ethnic vote. Mr. Nunziata pointed out the compartmentalization of the issue after the Multiculturalism Act was passed, with separate ministries of culture and of multiculturalism. He compared this to the segregation of African Americans in the southern states of the U.S.

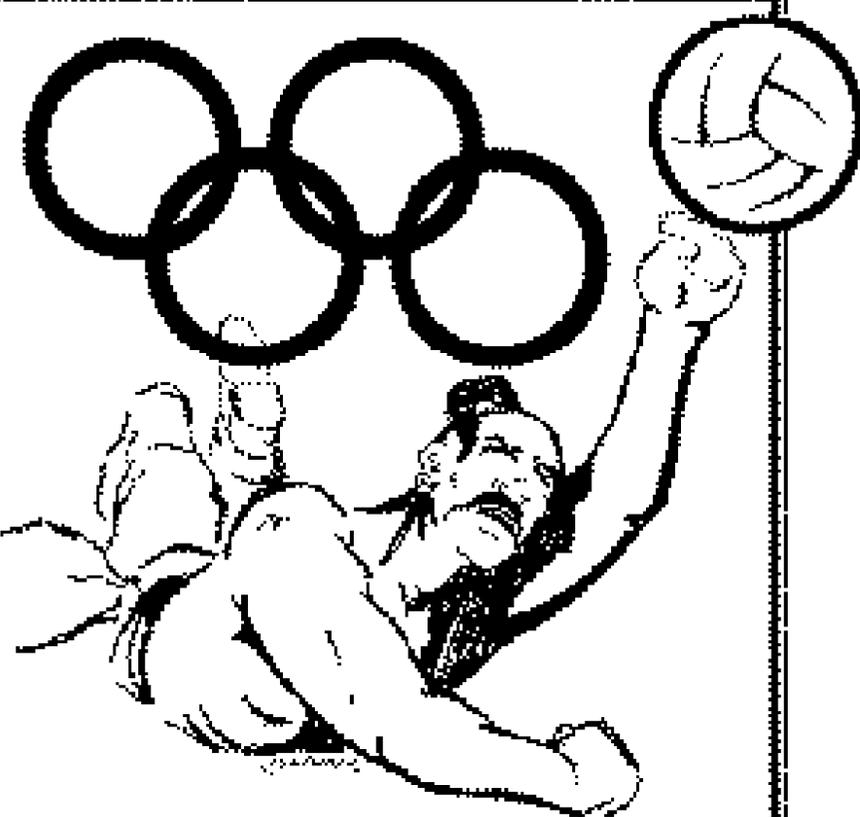
He expressed outrage that the issue of redress to Japanese Canadians interned during World War II was treated as a multicultural issue, "when it had everything to do with fundamental justice."

"Could you imagine," Mr. Nunziata asked, "if the Nazi war criminal issue were handed to the minister of multiculturalism?"

He stressed that the source for all rights of all citizens of the country was found in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. "We don't need the policy to give us, or any other individual, any greater rights," Mr.

(Continued on page 13)

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Scholar and politician...

(Continued from page 12)

Nunziata said.

"The greatest damage created by Canada's multiculturalism policy is not to our budget," he continued, "but to the creation of an 'us versus them' mindset, which perpetuates this mentality among policy-makers — it ghettoizes, segregates, marginalizes and forces people to become hyphenated Canadians because of their heritage."

"Professional ethnics" denounced

"Multiculturalism in Canada has become a self-perpetuating tool used by professional ethnics to manipulate politicians and used by politicians to manipulate votes," Mr. Nunziata said.

He caustically described how "politicians up until a few years ago used to march into the Railway Committee Room in Ottawa every time the [Canadian Ethnocultural Council] would come forward; these politicians would suck up to them, as if these professional ethnics could deliver the 'multicultural vote.'"

Mr. Nunziata bitterly recalled his resentment at being referred to as "the ethnic MP from Toronto" when he first joined the Liberal caucus in 1984.

Mr. Nunziata said it was too easy to dismiss the opposition of Messrs. Parizeau and Manning as "racist," contending that the policy is widely unpopular in Canada, and not simply among bigots and "narrow nationalists."

Mr. Nunziata asserted, "The time has come to move on. What we should move toward now is toward a policy of Canadianism; of unhyphenated Canadianism. We need to emphasize, promote and encourage what we have in common." He said that Canadians have difficulty in expressing their patriotism and defining their identity, and that multiculturalism has compounded the muddle.

Mr. Nunziata added that it is time to debate the question nationally, and thanked the UCPBF for having provided a forum for such a discussion.

Fiery discussion

A lively discussion followed the two presentations and, prompted by questions, the differences between the two debaters were stripped down to their ideological essentials: that Mr. Nunziata believes no further intervention or manipulation of society is necessary in order to redress imbalances because sufficient progress has been made; while Dr. Lupul holds that considerable systemic problems persist that can be overcome only with a purposeful creation of a better climate, by way of an ongoing multicultural policy.

Mr. Nunziata said funding for heritage language instruction is "not multicultural funding," simply a reflection of a particular community's political influence. He suggested that "the Ukrainian community is in positions of power and influence, and you have only yourselves to blame if a history of the Ukrainian involvement in Canada isn't written."

Mr. Nunziata also challenged his hosts, the UCPBF, directly. "I don't know how politically active your professional and business association is; I have no idea, I've certainly never received a letter from you to act on your behalf as an MP," he added.

Luba Zaraska, head of the local branch of the Ukrainian Canadian School Board, offered a riposte to the MP's suggestion that the multiculturalism policy produces institutional compartmentalization. Ms. Zaraska asserted that the bureaucracy and both the present and previous governments abetted this cynical manipulation, and that he was being disingenuous in blaming the policy for it.

Dr. Lupul took the floor to relate his experiences in dealing with bureaucratic and political fiefdoms in securing funding. "Even when times were more prosperous than now, no heads of departments would want to share their 'limited funds' — whether it was a minister or a bureaucrat, especially at the upper levels."

"If [the government is] serious about this [multiculturalism] policy for Canada," Dr. Lupul said, "then [it should] simply provide the additional bucks, it's as simple as that."

The academic conceded that disbursed grants are not always used wisely by recipients in the community, but added "I will not defend the actions of any politician or bureaucrat in this area."

Dispute over a "Canadianism Act"

Mr. Nunziata was asked what legislation could adequately replace the Multi-culturalism Act, so that its scrapping is not seen as a victory by "the Mannings" whose Canadianism is defined very narrowly.

Mr. Nunziata said he is drafting a bill for a prospective Canadianism Act. He mentioned that in his preamble he would draw on the experience of the failed Meech Lake and Charlottetown constitutional accords to "define Canada."

When Mr. Nunziata proposed a preamble that referred to aboriginal, English, French and "immigrant" Canadians, a heated exchange took place. Dr. Lupul charged the parliamentarian with perpetuating stereotypes of the English and French as somehow "non-immigrant."

Dr. Lupul predicted that the situation in the country will worsen because those in power don't understand how to benefit from diversity by sharing power and resources in a time of increasing scarcity.

As the discussion continued, Mr. Nunziata directed a "professional ethnic" jibe directly at Dr. Lupul, and the latter jumped to his feet and angrily denounced the MP as "nothing but a professional politician" who has "absolutely no idea what a citizen's duty as a Canadian" consists of in the field of education and ethnic affairs.

After this conversational meltdown, Mr. Nunziata graciously apologized for allowing "his Italian heritage" to get the better of him, the Ukrainian scholar made similar conciliatory noises, and the assembled crowd descended on the MP to harangue him in a more private fashion for some time after the formal proceedings were adjourned.

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The Helsinki...

(Continued from page 3)

Europe. The baskets deal with security issues, economic, scientific and environmental cooperation, and human rights and humanitarian issues.

Many people, including many East European ethnic groups at the time saw Helsinki as a sell out, in which the Soviet domination of Eastern Europe, that is, the post-World War II status-quo, was essentially accepted by the West. The West, of course, rejected this interpretation.

Following the signing of the Final Act, a congressional delegation visited the Soviet Union. New Jersey Republican Congresswoman Millicent Fenwick, troubled by what she saw there and heard in meetings with dissidents and Jewish refuseniks, decided that the human-rights language of the Helsinki Accords could prove useful in assisting the dissenters. In September 1995, she introduced a bill calling for the establishment of a Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe to monitor implementation, by East European governments, of Helsinki's human-rights provisions. This truly marvelous woman saw that it was important to keep the spotlight on those repressed for their convictions and determination to see their governments live up to their Helsinki commitments.

The Ford administration, with Henry Kissinger at the helm as secretary of state was, to put it mildly, not warm to the idea and saw the proposed commission as interfering with the prerogatives of the executive branch. Despite this opposition, and with the support of various Jewish and East European ethnic groups (including, for instance, Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine), Millicent Fenwick and her colleagues in the House and Senate were able to prevail.

On June 3, 1976, a bill creating the commission was signed into law and Rep. Dante Fascell became its first chairman. A few weeks earlier a group in Moscow calling itself the Moscow Helsinki Monitoring Group was formed to monitor Soviet government compliance with the Helsinki Final Act. Later that year, in November, the Ukrainian Helsinki Group was formed, and others in various then-Soviet republics as well.

As you know, the individuals who formed these groups, especially the Ukrainian group, suffered tremendously as a result of their courage and commitment, and some, such as Vasyl Stus, Oleksa Tykhy, Yuriy Lytvyn and Valeriy Marchenko, sacrificed their very lives.

The members of these groups laid the groundwork for the events that were to follow culminating in the fall of the Soviet empire. Frankly, I sometimes think that many in the Ukrainian American community, especially those who have become involved with Ukraine since independence, fail to appreciate the debt owed the dissidents of the 1980s. Perhaps the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group (in November) will provide an opportunity to recall their sacrifices and appropriately honor their courage.

Given the State Department's opposition to the creation of the commission, what were relations like in the early days?

This was before my time, but from what I understand, relations were not smooth. To cite but two examples – it took a lot of prodding, for instance, to get the State Department to allow commission staffers access to classified documents and cable traffic, which were important in enabling the commission to carry out its mandate. Also, the adminis-

tration tried to block the commission from traveling to Eastern Europe to fulfill its mandate by having direct contacts with those states. Thankfully, commissioners were able to force the State Department's hand in these and other areas.

Also, and this is something I experienced somewhat afterwards, at various CSCE meetings, the commission, encouraged by human-rights and ethnic non-governmental organizations, including Ukrainian groups, often pushed for a harder line on human-rights issues when dealing with Communist governments, including the raising of specific cases, while often the State Department was more cautious. Eventually, they came around.

I would note that now, relations between the commission and the State Department, including at the working level, are very good, despite diverging views on certain specific policies, most notably Chechnya and Bosnia.

How does the Helsinki Commission implement its mandate? The changes that have taken place with the fall of the Soviet empire must have had an impact on the commission. How have these changes affected its work?

Indeed, the work we do now at the commission is markedly different from in the 80s, yet there are still many common elements. Before 1990, there was more of a focus on human-rights casework – trying to help release individual political prisoners, or Jewish refuseniks, or helping Romanian families reunite – now there tends to be more emphasis on broader issues of democratization, rule of law, and market reforms. These are issues that not so many years ago would have been impossible to pursue. For instance, in the last six years we have monitored and written reports on more than 50 elections that have taken place in the OSCE region and been observed by commission staff. Obviously, this would have been impossible to do before 1990.

Lately, also, we have especially focused on areas with conflicts, as these are where the greatest number of human-rights violations – and the most egregious ones – occur. Thus, we have had numerous public hearings and briefings on Bosnia and Chechnya, and have advocated a stronger U.S. stance with respect to those conflicts. On Bosnia, commissioners, for instance, introduced legislation last year on lifting the arms embargo that was so hurting the Bosnians who have been the principal victims of the brutal Serb aggression and genocide.

Also, even though to a lesser degree than before, we still do human-rights casework. Just in the last few weeks, for example, commissioners sent letters to Belarusian authorities on behalf of two leading Belarusian democratic opposition leaders arrested in connection with the recent demonstrations there criticizing the Belarusian government's pro-Moscow policies, and one signed by commissioners urging the unconditional release of a Catholic priest in Bosnia being held by Bosnian Serb forces.

I should point out that the commission publishes numerous reports on various OSCE issues – reports on human rights in a given country, or election reports, or reports on OSCE institutions – as well as a monthly newsletter on OSCE-related developments, which goes out to about 6,000 addressees – other government agencies, ethnic or human rights oriented non-governmental organizations, OSCE country embassies, university libraries, etc. In fact, there are several hundred Ukrainian American institutions and

(Continued on page 15)

Share The Weekly with a colleague.

The Helsinki...

(Continued from page 14)

individuals who receive our publications. Also, we now have a home page on the Internet which gives even greater access to commission materials.

Ukrainian Americans are most familiar with the work of the commission because throughout its history the commission has been an active supporter of Ukrainian aspirations, especially human rights. What are some of the activities the Helsinki commission has engaged in with respect to Ukraine?

Well, there have been many over the years, and I have to tell you that I am very proud, as a Ukrainian American staff member of the commission, of the commission's consistent work with respect to Ukraine, especially before Ukraine was on the foreign policy establishment's radar screen as it is today. The commission was focused on and supportive of Ukraine long before independence. To cite just one example, then-commission Chairman Sen. Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.) and then-commission member Rep. Don Ritter (R-Pa.) introduced congressional resolutions in fall 1991 - prior to the historic December 1 referendum on Ukrainian independence - calling on the administration to recognize Ukraine.

The resolution, with strong support from the Ukrainian American community - and opposition, I might add, from the State Department - passed the Senate in late November. A few months before that, Sen. DeConcini was the first to publicly criticize President George Bush for his infamous August 1, 1991, "Chicken Kiev" speech.

Among the other activities of the commission with respect to Ukraine: the commission was instrumental in ensuring that numerous cases of individual Ukrainian political prisoners, as well as general issues, such as the plight of the Ukrainian Churches, were raised publicly and privately at various CSCE conferences and in direct contacts with Soviet officials throughout the 1980s. We also published documents of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group, held hearings on the situation in Ukraine where Ukrainians have testified, especially former Ukrainian dissidents now living in the United States. The commission in the last 20 years wrote many letters to Soviet officials, and even to our own officials, and individual commissioners have introduced or co-sponsored legislation concerning Ukraine, for example, the Millennium resolution which called for legalizing the Ukrainian Churches.

One of my highlights at the commission was our commission visit, with nearly a dozen senators and congressmen, to Moscow in 1988, where we invited dissidents from all over the Soviet Union, including Ukraine, to meet with us and hosted them at a U.S. Embassy reception and set up meetings and roundtables between them and Soviet officials with us as - well, for lack of a better word, "facilitators."

This was somewhat unprecedented at the time, as some of these people had even recently been released from the gulag, and it was a thrill for me - actually, almost a surreal experience - to meet with people whose cases we, and the Ukrainian American community, had been vocally defending for years - people like Vyacheslav Chornovil, Mykhailo Horyn, Bishop Pavlo Vasylyk of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Oles Shevchenko, and others.

Don't forget, during most of the 80s, the human rights situation was so bad in the Soviet Union that often we - by we I mean the commission, Ukrainian Americans, the human rights community - felt we were engaging in an exercise in futility by raising these issues because the Soviets were so intransigent. In retrospect, it was clear we were not and, indeed, it is clear that these efforts, too, contributed to the fall of the Soviet empire and creation of an independent Ukraine.

And more recently?

More recently, we have held hearings and briefings, and issued reports on Ukraine. My colleagues and I have covered virtually every election in Ukraine since March 1990 and issued reports on the elections - comprehensive reports - discussing, of course, the political context of elections and not just limiting ourselves to what we observed during poll-watching.

In fact, when I look back at some of those earlier elections such as in March 1990 and March 1991, there were very few international observers, and I think that our earlier reports were especially valuable because Ukraine was still a "terra incognita." Starting with the December 1991 referendum, election observation (and political and democracy development, for that matter) has become somewhat of a growth industry, even as groups who wouldn't touch Ukraine with a 10-foot pole before independence now get into the act. I guess it's better late than never, and many of them are doing good work there.

We also often meet with visiting Ukrainian officials, including parliamentarians, to discuss various policy issues and have visited Ukraine, meeting with the highest officials there. Whenever we do travel there, we issue and disseminate reports, thereby adding to the growing pool of information about Ukraine and demonstrating Congressional interest.



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 - Saturday, July 13
 - 8:30 pm **CONCERT** - Folk Ensemble **CHERES** Director: **Andriy Milavsky**
 - 10:00 pm **DANCE** - music provided by LUNA
 - Saturday, July 20
 - 8:30 pm **CONCERT** - Vocalist **Yaroslav Hnatiuk** Pianist - **Svitlana Hnatiuk**
 - 10:00 pm **DANCE** - music provided by VODOHRAI, LUBA and MYKOLA
 - Saturday, July 27
 - 8:30 pm **CONCERT** - **DUMKA CHOIR**, New York **VASYL HRECHYNSKY**, conductor
 - 10:00 pm **DANCE** - music provided by LUNA
 - Saturday, August 3
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 - 8:30 pm **CONCERT** - **YARA THEATRE GROUP**
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 - Sunday, August 11 **UNWLA DAY**
 - Saturday, August 17
 - 8:30 pm **CONCERT** - **ROMAN TSYMBALA** **LESIA HRABOVA**
 - 10:00 pm **DANCE** - music provided by BURLAKY
 - 11:45 pm Crowning of "MISS SOYUZIVKA 1997"
 - Sunday, August 18
 - 2:00 pm An afternoon with "EKO KOZAK"
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 - Announcement of winners and presentation of awards
 - 8:30 pm **CONCERT** - **SOYUZIVKA DANCE WORKSHOP RECITAL** Director: **ROMA PRYMA BOHACHEVSKY**
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Tuesday, July 9, and Thursday, July 11

CHICAGO: The Chicago Grant Park Music Festival and the Chicago-Kyiv Sister Cities Committee are proud to present, in concert, the Kyiv Chamber Orchestra, with a special appearance by pianist Mykola Suk, at the Petrillo Band Shell, Grant Park, at Jackson Blvd. and Columbus Drive, starting at 7 p.m. The orchestra will perform works by Rossini, Barber, Liszt, Elgar, Mozart, and the U.S. premiere of music by Ukrainian composer Levko Kolodub. The concerts are co-sponsored by Motorola and McDonald's Corp. Free admission. Please come early for better seating. Lawn picnics available. For further information call Marta Farion or Jacqueline Souroujon, (312) 744-1379.

Friday, July 12

CHICAGO: The Chicago-Kyiv Sister Cities Committee is pleased to host a reception to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Chicago-Kyiv Sister Cities Agreement. The celebration, at the Chicago Cultural Center, corner of Michigan Avenue and Randolph Street, starts at 6:30 p.m., and will be attended by Ambassador and Mrs. Yuri Shcherbak, mayoral delegations from Chicago and Kyiv, a Ukrainian consular representation and other invited guests. Sponsored by the law firm of Altheimer and Gray, the program will include a brief performance by the Kyiv Chamber Orchestra, official presentations and a signing of the Proclamation to Continue Cooperation between Chicago and Kyiv. Tickets are \$50. All funds will be used for exchanges between the two cities. For further information please contact Marta Farion or Jacqueline Souroujon, (312) 744-1379.

Friday - Sunday, July 12 - 14

SACRAMENTO: Enjoy the foods of Eastern Europe at the 20th Annual European Food Festival at 7001 Florin Road (half a mile east of Florin Mall). Sponsored by St. Philip Byzantine Catholic Church and St. Andrew Ukrainian Catholic Church, the festival will feature varenyky (potato, cheese and sauerkraut dumplings), holubtsi (stuffed cabbage in tomato sauce), kovbasa (smoked sausage) and kapusta (sauerkraut prepared "old-country" style). Slavic pastries and other foods will also be available. The festival opens on Friday at 6 p.m. and will feature lively folk music, the Rozanie Polish Dancers and dancing to the tunes of the 17-piece Legionnaires Band. Saturday's program begins at 4 p.m. and will feature Greek Folk Dancers, the Northern California Bandura Ensemble and dancing to Gary Siebert's Polka Power Band until 11 p.m. Sunday's fare includes divine liturgy at 10 a.m., the ban-

dura ensemble and dancing to Guenter Gunnor's band until 8 p.m. The festival is open to the general public. Admission and parking are free. For more information call (916) 383-1552 or (916) 481-8545.

Friday, July 12 - Friday, August 2

CLARK, N.J.: The Skulski Art Gallery of the Polish Cultural Foundation is pleased to present an art exhibit of paintings by Dorota Orosz and sculpture ceramics by Ivan Bratko. The opening reception will take place on Friday, July 12, at 8 p.m. An added attraction that evening will be a musical program featuring Bohdan Savchuk, a graduate of Drohobych Music Academy, on classical guitar, and Ihor Lyshyshak of the Lviv Conservatory on violin. The public is welcome and admission is free. Refreshments will be served. For more information call (908) 382-7197.

Sunday, July 14

LANSDALE, Pa.: The annual Ukrainian Festival hosted by Presentation of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church, 1564 Allentown Road, will start at noon, on the spacious 16-acre tract and in the church hall. Divine liturgy will be celebrated at 11:30 a.m. The festival will be held rain or shine and will feature performances by the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble. Polka music featuring the Pennsylvania Villagers Polka Band, begins at 1:30 p.m. and continues until 7:30 p.m. Ukrainian cuisine will be in the offering for those caring to sample varenyky, holubtsi and other fine fare. For more information call (215) 368-3993.

Monday, July 15

OTTAWA: Canada's only Ukrainian Victoria Cross winner, Filip Konowal, will be honored in special ceremonies coordinated by Veterans Affairs Canada and the Ukrainian Canadian community. A new grave marker will be installed at the deceased serviceman's burial site in the Notre Dame Cemetery here. The marker will be consecrated in a special ecumenical service beginning at 1 p.m. Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada Volodymyr Furkalo is expected to speak at this commemorative service. A trilingual historical plaque recalling Mr. Konowal's World War I valor will be officially unveiled by Canada's ministers of national defense and veterans' affairs, in the Cartier Square Drill Hall at 2:30 p.m. The events have been organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Legion Branch 360; the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Ottawa and the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, working in cooperation with the Governor-General's Foot Guards. For more information call Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, (613) 546-8346.

PLEASE NOTE: Preview items must be received one week before desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Preview items will be published only once (please indicate desired date of publication). All items are published at the discretion of the editorial staff and in accordance with available space.

At Soyuzivka: July 4-7

KERHONKSON, N.Y. — The Ukrainian National Association Estate kicks off its summer season with a three-day weekend of song, dance and sun. The weekend comes on the heels of Independence Day celebrations, to be commemorated as part of the traditional "Hutsul Night" festivities.

On Friday, July 5, dance to the tunes of Fata Morgana, starting at 10 p.m., on the Veselka patio. Or spend some time unwinding in the famous Trembita Lounge.

On Saturday, July 6, relax during the day. Then convene at the Veselka pavilion for "Darka and Slavko — Unplugged," at

8:30 p.m. The well-known duet, which has played venues throughout the world, including the 1989 Chervona Ruta Music Festival in Ukraine, will present its distinct blend of vocal and instrumental arrangements to the delight of all assembled.

Also appearing in concert will be the Tempo band, with Ireneus Kowal emceeding the program.

Following the concert, revel under the starlight at the Veselka pavilion, as Fata Morgana, Burlaky and Tempo supply the rhythm of the night.

Sunday, relax and enjoy the sun, swimming pool and sumptuous sights before you repair home for the week.