

**INSIDE: "FIVE YEARS OF INDEPENDENT UKRAINE"**

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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

## Senate approves \$225 M for Ukraine

by Eugene Iwanciw

WASHINGTON — In a 93 to 7 vote, the U.S. Senate on July 26 approved the Foreign Assistance Appropriations Act for fiscal year 1997. The House of Representatives had previously passed the bill. Containing an earmark of \$225 million of assistance for Ukraine only in the Senate version, the bill now moves to the House-Senate conference committee for resolution of the differences between the two bills.

In its report, the House Foreign Operations Subcommittee wrote: "The committee commends the administration for its support during fiscal year 1996 for reform efforts in Ukraine, a struggling nation whose independence is key to a peaceful Europe. Although the committee has not earmarked funds for Ukraine, or any other nation, it expects the coordinator to allocate to Ukraine approximately the requested level of funding, subject to continuing progress in economic reform."

The House subcommittee, however, reduced the president's request of \$640 million in assistance for the new independent states (NIS), from which aid to Ukraine is provided, by \$50 million. The administration's planning documents indicated spending of about \$170 million for Ukraine if the full NIS appropriations was approved.

The Senate Foreign Operations Subcommittee pursued a far different approach in assistance to Ukraine. In addition to fully funding the administration's NIS request at \$640 million, the Senate earmarked \$225 million of assistance for Ukraine, \$95 million for Armenia and \$25 million for Georgia. The subcommittee, under the chairmanship of Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), took the further step of sub-earmarking the Ukrainian assistance for particular programs.

The sub-earmarks include \$25 million as part of the U.S. contribution to the decommissioning of the Chernobyl nuclear plant, \$35 million for agricultural projects, \$5 million for a small business incubator project, \$5 million for screening and treatment of childhood mental and physical illnesses related to Chernobyl radiation, and \$50 million to improve safety at nuclear reactors.

The Senate subcommittee also devoted two pages of its report to Ukraine, which set a different tone from that of the House. It begins: "The committee is extremely disappointed by the administration's continued reluctance to seriously and fully address Ukraine's requirements. The USAID mission in this country and the program administrators in Washington have preferred to expand existing contracts with Russian-based organizations rather than assess and

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## Ukraine set to mark milestone fifth anniversary

by Marta Kolomayets  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Celebrations marking the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's independence are slated to begin next week and last through December of this year, Presidential Chief of Staff Dmytro Tabachnyk told reporters during a weekly briefing at the presidential administration on August 14.

On Friday, August 23, President Leonid Kuchma will address the Ukrainian people during a celebratory gathering of members of Parliament, government leaders and distinguished guests at the newly renovated Ukraina Palace.

In the address, scheduled to be televised live, the Ukrainian leader is scheduled to outline his "perception and

vision" of the process of state-building, said Mr. Tabachnyk.

Among the highlights of the celebrations for Kyiv residents and tourists alike will be a military parade along the Khreshchatyk, the capital's main thoroughfare. But, unlike the parades of the Soviet era, this procession will exclude all military hardware, such as tanks, heavy artillery and armored personnel carriers. Members of Ukraine's armed forces will march past a reviewing stand that will include Ukraine's top government officials.

An earlier plan to hold an air show has also been canceled, according to Lt. Gen. Mykola Zabely, who is in charge of the parade, as the city's officials are concerned about both its citizens' safety and

keeping costs to a minimum.

Given that the anniversary falls at a time Ukraine is undergoing the difficult transition to a market economy, Mr. Tabachnyk pointed out that many of the events scheduled on this historic anniversary will be funded by private donations.

"These celebrations should be neither expensive nor exhaustive," said Mr. Tabachnyk, emphasizing the fact that they will be popular in nature, ranging from flower shows and outdoor theater productions to Kozak games and sporting competitions.

"And, this holiday is not only for citizens of Ukraine, but for Ukrainians throughout the world," noted Deputy

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Chrystyna Lapychak

**UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY: Members of Parliament bring the blue-and-yellow flag of Ukraine into the hall after they voted to proclaim Ukraine's independence on August 24, 1991.**

## Gilman resolution supports Ukraine's independence

by Volodymyr Chornodolsky  
Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON — Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), chairman of the House International Relations Committee, re-introduced Concurrent Resolution 120 "Supporting the Independence and Sovereignty of Ukraine and its Political and Economic Reforms" at a committee meeting on August 1.

This is the first time in history that such a resolution was introduced in Congress. The resolution was initially proposed in December 1995, but did not gain enough support at that time. Rep. Gilman now feels that with the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's independence proclamation nearing, there should be

enough support to pass the resolution.

The chairman opened the meeting by saying, "Let me state, first of all, that events in Ukraine will inevitably have consequences for all of Europe — both East and West. Too often, unfortunately, we here in the United States have focused our attention on Russia and the tremendous changes taking place in that important country. In the process, we have overlooked the important role that Ukraine will play in Europe."

Rep. Gilman went on to congratulate Ukraine for the recent adoption of its new Constitution, the fulfillment of its commitment to become nuclear-free, and its attempt to implement political and economic reforms, and continue to oppose the emergence of any collective

military bloc on the territory of the former Soviet Union.

The Gilman resolution urges the government of Ukraine to: continue efforts to ensure the rights of all citizens; accelerate efforts to transform its economy; proceed expeditiously with the privatization of state-owned enterprises; place high priority on adopting laws to encourage economic growth based on market mechanisms, private enterprise and the right to own property; and continue efforts to reach agreement with the G-7 states to shut down the nuclear plant at Chernobyl.

It calls on the president of the United States to: support continued U.S. assistance to Ukraine for specified purposes,

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## Ukraine set to mark...

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Prime Minister Ivan Kuras, who heads the working group for planning the anniversary events.

Underscoring the global nature of this event, Mr. Kuras said at the briefing that on August 22 there will be a ceremonial gathering of the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council at the Teachers' Building, formerly the headquarters of the Central Rada of the Ukrainian National Republic.

It is unlikely that any of the Soviet symbols adorning the facades of the Ukrainian Parliament, the Foreign Ministry and the presidential administration buildings will be destroyed by the fifth anniversary of independence. As a matter of fact, Mr. Tabachnyk told journalists that such a move is improbable, given that these buildings are historic landmarks and, thus, are protected by law.

Mr. Kuras said all ministries, departments and administrations have been instructed to examine this issue and bring everything in line with the new Constitution, which does not envision the use of Communist symbols such as the hammer and sickle. (The new Constitution states that the state symbols of Ukraine and regulations for their use shall be prescribed by law, adopted by at least a two-thirds majority of the Parliament.)

Kyiv City Administration officials — in an attempt to keep the crowds more controlled and orderly — have forbidden the sale of alcoholic beverages in the city center (a one-kilometer zone) during the day's festivities. The city has also limited the amount of beverages that will be sold in glass containers to ensure public safety and facilitate clean-up.

Some of the events planned by the president and the Ukrainian government include:

- August 21: opening of the newly renovated Ukraina Palace of Culture.
- August 21-22: meetings and gala concerts in the Autonomous Republic of the Crimea and in the oblasts of Ukraine.
- August 22: opening of an all-Ukrainian art exhibit in the Artist's Building (the headquarters of the artists' union).

## Senate approves...

(Continued from page 1)

respond to the unique social, economic and political requirements in Ukraine."

As the Senate subcommittee was going to mark-up on the legislation, The Washington Times carried a story claiming that Ukraine and Libya had entered into "strategic cooperation." While Ukraine has denied that such an agreement exists, the Senate committee added a provision to the law stating: "Funds appropriated under this heading may not be made available for the government of Ukraine if the president determines and reports to the committees on appropriations that the government of Ukraine is engaged in military cooperation with the government of Libya."

Similar language was added regarding Russia's sale of nuclear technology to Iran. The Senate-passed bill states: "None of the funds appropriated under this heading may be made available for Russia unless the president determines and certifies in writing to the committees on appropriations that the government of Russia has terminated implementation of arrangements to provide Iran with technical expertise, training, technology, or equipment necessary to develop a nuclear reactor or related nuclear research facilities or programs."

The committee also retained language from previous years regarding aggression by any NIS nation. The proposed law reads: "None of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be made available

• August 22: a telebridge titled "From the Dinets to the Tysa" designed to underscore Ukraine's unity.

• August 23: opening of an exhibit dedicated to five years of Ukraine's independence at the Sports Palace.

• August 23: an awards ceremony for recipients of state honors at the Mariyinsky Palace.

• August 23-25: flower shows and concerts in the city center and in various neighborhoods of Kyiv.

• August 26: the third Congress of the International Association of Ukrainianists opens in Kharkiv.

• August 27: presentation of a coffee-table book "Ukraine: Five Years of Independence."

• August: various sports competitions for the Cup of Independent Ukraine.

• August-September: release of a three-volume book, "State Awards of Ukraine"; open competition for the development of a monument of independent Ukraine; all-Ukrainian television festival for children and adolescents.

• August-December: showings of Ukraine's best films in movie theaters and on television.

• Fall 1996 (date to be announced): a conference in Kyiv with the participation of representatives from the parliaments of CIS countries, the Organization for Security in Central Europe, the Council of Europe and the European Union. The working title of the conference is "The Harmonization of Law-Making in the Newly Independent States in the Process of International Integration."

Mr. Tabachnyk said that through the end of the year "Days of Ukrainian Culture" will be held in Bulgaria and Kazakhstan, where there is a large ethnic Ukrainian population. He also told reporters that progress has been made in getting funds for the reconstruction of the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Moscow, located on the Arbat, on the site of the Ukrainska Knyha bookstore. Although there had been some problem with funding, the presidential chief of staff said funds, blocked by the Russian Bank, had been released and the project is now slated to be completed by the end of the year.

to any government of the new independent states of the former Soviet Union if that government directs any action in violation of the territorial integrity or national sovereignty of any other new independent state, such as those violations included in the Helsinki Final Act."

During Senate consideration of the foreign aid bill, a series of amendments were adopted relating to Central and Eastern Europe, including an amendment by Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.) earmarking \$11 million of assistance to Mongolia, an amendment by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) condemning Russia's infringement of the cease-fire agreements in Chechnya, an amendment by Sens. Hank Brown (R-Colo.) and Paul Simon (D-Ill.) similar to the NATO Expansion Bill passed by the House of Representatives, and an amendment by Sen. Brown commending Romania for its progress in democratic reform.

An amendment by Sen. Spencer Abraham (R-Mich.) earmarking \$5 million for an environmental and natural resource institute in Ukraine also was approved as was an amendment by Sen. Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.) designating \$25 million of NIS funds for commercial law reform.

The Clinton administration has stated its opposition to the earmarks for Ukraine, Armenia and Georgia, and has indicated its strong opposition to the various sub-earmarks included in the Senate bill.

The subcommittees of the two houses will meet in a House-Senate conference to resolve the differences between the two versions of the bill when the Congress returns after Labor Day.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Kuchma appoints government officials

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma visited Moscow to meet with Russian President Boris Yeltsin on his inauguration day. Back home, President Kuchma appointed Volodymyr Yevtukh as chairman of the new State Commission on Nationalities and Migration. He reappointed Pavlo Mysnyk to head the State Committee on State Secrets and the Technical Protection of Information, Ukrainian TV and radio reported on August 7. He continued to form his government the next day with the re-appointment of Mykhailo Zhurovsky as education minister, the appointment of Oleksander Osaulenko as statistics minister; Bohdan Babiy as chairman of the State Committee on Oil, Gas and Oil Processing Industry; Stanislav Syvokin as head of the State Committee for the Protection of Consumer Rights and five oblast governors. He later appointed Mykola Biloblotsky as labor minister, Dmytro Khudolii as minister of communications, and Oleksander Omelchenko as mayor of Kyiv. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### IMF to review Ukraine's creditworthiness

KYIV — An IMF mission arrived in Kyiv to review whether Ukraine is meeting the requirements for the disbursement of a stand-by credit. The mission will discuss a \$1.5 billion stabilization fund for Ukraine to introduce its national currency by the end of the year and may begin negotiations that could lead to credits worth \$2.5 billion. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### Electricity cut off to delinquent businesses

KYIV — About 15,000 businesses are without power due to unpaid bills. The Energy Ministry cut off their electricity after being faced with \$1.1 billion in unpaid bills from more than 50,000 businesses. Among those with no power is the aviation squadron of the Black Sea Fleet. It owes Krymenergo 25 billion karbovantsi (\$140,000). The fleet owes the city of Sevastopol 2 trillion kbv (\$11 million) for utilities and 5 trillion kbv (\$27.7 million) for damages to the city. In addition, 500 servicemen have not been paid since January, ITAR-TASS and Ukrainian radio reported. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### Corruption uncovered in industries

KYIV — Evidence of large-scale corruption among officials and managers of various government-financed sectors has been found, Ukraine's Procurator General, Oleksander Khrystenko,

announced. He said his office had discovered dozens of cases of embezzlement of government funds intended as wages in the coal mining, education, health care and other sectors, especially by the managers of 10 coal mines in eastern Ukraine. This greatly aggravated the wage debt crisis there. He also said ministry officials did not monitor the funds' use. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### Mining strike problems continue

KYIV — Leaders of the Independent Union of Miners of Ukraine protested the August 1 arrest of strike leader Mykhailo Krylov, earlier arrests of two strike organizers in Luhanske, and a police search of a union office in Krasnoarmiyske on August 6. They said the police tried to intimidate them by ransacking the office and confiscating documents on the July coal miners' strikes, Ukrainian and Western agencies reported on August 6-7. Meanwhile, a government commission on the July miners' strike concluded that the total loss of output was 4 million tons of coal and 25 trillion karbovantsi (\$66 million). Fifty mines were left inactive, and the current coal output is half of the previous month's, Ukrainian radio reported on August 12. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### President awarded medal for services

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma was awarded the medal of St. Volodymyr the Great by the World Congress of Ukrainians, it was reported on August 13. He was awarded this highest honor for his "tireless performance in strengthening Ukrainian statehood" and "efforts in the adoption of Ukraine's Constitution." The St. Volodymyr medal was founded in 1988 to be awarded for remarkable services performed on behalf of the Ukrainian people worldwide, or the Ukrainian state. (Interfax-Ukraine)

### Crimean legislators seek more autonomy

SYMPEROPIL — Thirty five pro-Moscow Crimean legislators requested a special parliamentary session to discuss Crimean autonomy provisions in the Ukrainian Constitution of which they disapprove, Ukrainian radio reported on August 10. The lawmakers hope the session will call a region-wide referendum on the provisions contained in the Constitution of Ukraine, as well as on provisions in the Crimean constitution that they believe do not sufficiently guarantee the region's autonomy. (Radio Ukraine)

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## Twenty days at the Atlanta Centennial Olympics: a final wrap-up

by Roman Woronowycz



*Spending 20 days in Atlanta during the Centennial Olympics would leave anybody with information overload. So as not to forget the vast array of information, impressions and behind-the-scenes looks that were available The Ukrainian Weekly by reason of the 3x5 card called a press credential which hung around my neck, I kept a journal. Not everything fits into*

*a story. I accumulated many little tidbits and blurbs that I found interesting, but which were of themselves not sufficient to turn into an article. With so many snippets of information, a final wrap-up story on the Olympics could have become a meandering and disjointed piece on various reminiscences. So we decided a list of short anecdotes, stories and impressions of 20 days at the Olympics would be more appropriate. Here they are.*

- The computerized information system instituted by IBM was initially an outright disaster, later a minor irritation and at the end of the Games even helpful. When I first arrived in Atlanta, I met a writer for the Associated Press who made an interesting comment regarding this first attempt at widespread computer usage at an Olympics, which would connect the dozens of venues and provide reporters immediate access to events results. He said, "This is my sixth Olympics, and I haven't used a computer to get information yet. If that's what you need to get information, you aren't doing your job."

He was especially smug a week later with computer databases not functioning properly and most reporters reverting to the old system of telephoning for information or relying on printed matter issued by the various federations and the organizing committee.

- Particularly screwed up was data on the Ukrainian team. Although the system was set up to give biographies on the athletes, medal and competition histories, team and sport histories, medal results and a rundown of how the competitions went, little was available when one prompted the menu on Ukraine. Most often "This data is not available at the present time" would appear on the screen.

The information that was there was in at least one instance glaringly erroneous. One screen, a general history of Ukraine, showed the blue-yellow flag, named the

Ukrainian national anthem and gave other data accurately. However, it identified Pavlo Lazarenko as head of state (should be Leonid Kuchma) and listed the official language as Ukrainian/Russian. ACOG said that each country's National Olympic Committee was responsible for providing such information.

The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games provided information on the current Games, events and medal results, all of which was accurate, although much of it appeared in the data banks many hours after individual events were completed.

- NOC-Ukraine was disorganized on another informational level: printed materials as sources of information for journalists. It had no team guide books available at the information desk. On a sheet that was supposed to list the phone numbers of the 197 NOCs at the Games, NOC-Ukraine's number was one of about five that were not listed.

With better information, maybe more would have been printed about Ukraine's exploits.

- In the Olympic Village, the office of NOC-Ukraine was well-staffed and seemed to have all the components that would make it a real headquarters.

One noticeable inadequacy was a dearth of escorts for guests, including journalists. Everybody except for authorized individuals who wanted to go from the international area of the Olympic Village, which was accessible to all who had daily passes, to the inner confines where the residents stayed, was required to be escorted by authorized individuals at all times.

NOC Envoy Oksana Foltyn explained that there were not enough volunteers to keep running to the gates to escort the dozens of guests they received every day. That left me on my own as I entered the "forbidden zone" after several NOC members got me past the gates and the guards. No problem, except that my accreditation would have been pulled had I been caught roaming the area unescorted.

- Atlantans were friendly and eager to show how happy they were that you were visiting their city. Their sugar-coated greetings of "Hi y'all" and "Y'all have a good time now," became almost nauseating to hear, although I must say everyone seemed sincere in greeting out-of-towners.

One incident in particular was memorable. I was on the MARTA (Atlanta's subway system) and ready to exit at the next stop. A couple was staring at my press accreditation (which was hanging from my neck), as many people did, trying to figure out what it meant. The

couple must have noticed "The Ukrainian Weekly" and my obviously foreign name inscribed on it, for as I was disembarking, the lady blurted out, "I don't know if you understand English, but I would just like to welcome you to Atlanta. I couldn't restrain myself. As the doors were about to close, I turned around and said, "Thank-you, but I'm from the New York area," and walked away, probably leaving her somewhat puzzled.

- Some people were less hospitable, especially the United States' Olympic press office. The gymnasts' press representative, Luan Peszyk, just did not seem to have time for The Ukrainian Weekly. During gymnastics events she would service, seemingly hand and foot, every need and whim of the three reporters who sat in front of me, from the Houston Chronicle, the Indianapolis Star and the Seattle Times.

I asked her at one point if she could tell me the title to the music to which Dominique Dawes danced during her floor routine, music that was interesting to The Weekly because it sounded very much like traditional Ukrainian folk music. Her answer: "I don't know." She did not offer to find out (isn't that part of her job?) until I asked her specifically to do so. I never received a response, although I e-mailed her and paged her several times.

When I saw her again I asked her if she had found out. She said she hadn't "yet," and then pointed me to a gentleman who she said was a gymnastics coach. Well, he wasn't, and when I went back to where I had spoken with her, she was gone.

- Yes, Olympic Rings Fountain in Centennial Park, with its water show and the kids romping beneath the spray, was a delight. But the rest of the park was more like a commercial trade show or a very commercialized World's Fair. It was a series of pavilions sponsored by some very major corporations, including IBM, Swatch, Coca Cola, Budweiser, AT&T, Nike, etc.

- One of the best quotes in my three weeks here was spoken by a person passing the Budweiser pavilion, which featured free beer and, of course, the accompanying long lines. As the dense pedestrian traffic moving past the pavilion slowed and thickened before getting around those waiting to get inside, he said, "It figures there's a 'bottle-neck' at Budweiser."

- The day after the bombing, everything changed in and around Centennial Park. The guards at the Main Press Center, which was located about 200 yards from the site of the explosion, were no longer as cheery in their greet-

(Continued on page 5)



President Leonid Kuchma greets Olympians at Mariyinsky Palace in Kyiv.

## UCC cuts key positions in Ottawa and Winnipeg

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA – In an effort to save money, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) has laid off its two principal spokespeople.

Effective August 1, national public relations director Ihor Shawarsky and Andrij Hluchowecy, who managed the UCC's Ottawa-based information bureau, will no longer work for the congress.

The UCC's finance committee made the decision following a meeting of the congress presidium at the end of June, said UCC President Oleh Romaniw.

"We simply cannot keep everybody and have to be fiscally responsible," said Mr. Romaniw, when reached by telephone at his home in Winnipeg.

Sylvia Ostryzniuk, who worked as a receptionist at the downtown Winnipeg UCC headquarters, also lost her job.

The news came as a shock to Mr. Shawarsky, who told *The Weekly* he was not given any indication the UCC planned to eliminate his position. "I feel like anyone else would feel when they lose their job," said the former Winnipeg radio news reporter who became the congress' PR director five years ago. "I'm now looking for work."

Mr. Hluchowecy could not be reached for comment. The 34-year-old Montreal native had helped establish the UCC Information Bureau in Ottawa nine years ago. Although he took a brief sabbatical last year to manage the Canada-Ukraine Partners Program (CUPP), Mr. Hluchowecy remained the key UCC contact in Canada's capital city.

Of late, he had juggled his bureau responsibilities with promoting CUPP and recently held an open house to officially launch the UCC's new office location in downtown Ottawa.

The move was made to save the congress money; \$900 (US \$670) a month, compared with a monthly lease of \$1,500 (US \$1,100). Mr. Romaniw could not confirm how much the UCC would save by eliminating three of its staff positions.

Mr. Hluchowecy's sudden departure,

left some of his main allies stunned. "We worked very well with Andrij, and he was definitely a strong support for CUPP here and in Ukraine," said Paulette Schatz, program manager of the Canadian Society for International Health. "What this does certainly affects morale."

Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, research director for the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, posted an e-mail message on the Internet chastising the UCC for its downsizing operations. "While we can appreciate how important it is for the UCC to restructure itself, perhaps it is time to seriously examine whether a national office is required in Winnipeg or would be more properly situated in the nation's capital. If the UCC is to have any future – it cannot continue to self-emascuate itself, particularly by doing away with its best and brightest people."

Mr. Romaniw acknowledged the congress' decision was an unpopular one. "There are a lot of disappointed people from east to west," he said. "I know the Ukrainian Embassy isn't happy because they relied on Andrij a lot."

However, the UCC president added that he could not envision why the congress could not "maintain as high a level of service" in Ottawa with Lydia Migus, who remains and will continue to serve as administrator.

Five employees at UCC's Winnipeg office also keep their jobs, including the executive director, Lydia Hawryshkiw. Still, Mr. Romaniw said he was not sure how the UCC would fill the gap left by the departure of its two key public affairs employees. "We will have to wait and see how the pieces come together."

When reached by telephone at his office in Kingston, Ontario, Dr. Luciuk said the staff cuts represent a "certain malaise" from the UCC executive. "Believe it or not, I think the UCC has a role to play in Ukrainian Canadian society," said one of the organization's most outspoken critics. "But I think you have a situation where you have all these arms with no head, and the body is rotten."

## Bilateral Chamber of Commerce bolsters Canada-Ukraine contacts

by Andrij Wynnyckyj

Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO — Since its inception in 1993, the Toronto-based Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce, a membership of important industrial and commercial concerns that reaches from sea to sea in Canada, and an office in Kyiv, has been moving steadily to the forefront of agencies that act as intercedents in commercial and financial contacts between Canada and Ukraine.

A recent two-week trip to Ukraine by the CUCC's president, Gerald Fedchun, and its executive director, Bohdan Myndiuk, did much to solidify this position.

The principal purpose of the journey, which included stops in Kyiv, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivske, Kolomyia and Odessa, was to finalize the itinerary for a Canadian trade mission to be led by Ottawa's foreign affairs minister, Lloyd Axworthy, now scheduled to begin on October 14. Other mission stops (vetted on earlier trips) are to include Dnipropetrovske, Luhanske and possibly Kharkiv.

The first phase of the CUCC officers' junket was their attendance at a special conference on trade and small business organized by the Kyiv-based Integro International Center with the assistance of the U.S. Embassy's commercial attaché, Andrew Bihun.

Held in Kyiv on May 15-17, its estimated 600 participants included Roman Shpek, Ukraine's deputy prime minister; Justice Minister Serhiy Holovaty; National Bank of Ukraine Governor Viktor Yushchenko; Joseph Kinach, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development representative in Ukraine; J. Kiers, president of the Brussels-based European Union of Small and Medium-Sized Businesses; Ihor Figlus, head of the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine; as well as the heads of all regional business administrations in the country.

Mr. Myndiuk opined to *The Weekly* upon his return that, judging from this conference, Ukrainians have still not outgrown their inclination for Soviet-style presentations of dry statistics (which sent delegates scurrying for hall exits throughout the three-day event). However, the CUCC executive director added that one-on-one informal discussions were quite productive.

"A lot of what you accomplish at such events is often not on the agenda," Mr. Fedchun said. He added that a meeting with Lviv regional presidential economic commission representatives greatly aided the CUCC's vetting of western Ukrainian enterprises.

Following the conference, the two Canadian businessmen traveled to Lviv, where, on May 20, they met with Deputy Mayor Borys Kolos and Mayor Vasyl Kuibida's international relations' officer, Taras Vozniak. The succeeding days included talks with Dmytro Aftanas of the Lviv Chamber of Commerce, and western Ukraine's potential in the clothing and textile industries was explored through visits to the Vesna, Elefant and Svitanok factories, and attendance at a "surprisingly Western-style" (according to Mr. Myndiuk) fashion show.

On May 22, in Ivano-Frankivske, meetings with officials of the Promprylad gas meter manufacturing company provided signs that Ukrainian entrepreneurs were grappling with the general questions facing the country's economy by providing specific technical solutions.

On May 23-24, the itinerant pair were in Odessa where, Mr. Myndiuk said, "some of our most productive meetings took place." Youri Dmitriev, head of the famous port's international relations office, was a known quantity, since he had been in Toronto for the "Ukraine and Partners XX-XXI" trade show earlier that month.

They also met with Alexandr Prokopenko, deputy chairman of Odessa's Municipal Council; Viktor Litovchenko, head of the regional administration of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade; and Dmytro Sklonny, head of the oblast center's regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Back in his office in Toronto, Mr. Fedchun told *The Weekly* that Odessa was a city transformed, compared to what he'd seen on an earlier trip. "Everywhere there were signs in Ukrainian; it was quite amazing, because one always thinks of Odessa as a Russified if not outright Russian city," the CUCC president said.

A two-day train ride put them back in the country's capital, where, after a two-day respite, meetings with officials and entrepreneurs resumed, including Roman Jakusewych of the Small Business Association, Valeriy Khmelovsky of the Union of Leaseholders and Entrepreneurs, Rostyslav Zatsypilin of the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Antonian Palamarchuk of the Association of Ukrainian Banks.

On May 28, the agenda-packed day prior to their departure back home, the CUCC officials met with Canadian International Development Agency veteran Emil Baran at the Canadian Embassy, and Mr. Fedchun had a separate meeting with Veles Consulting partner Borys Balan and Dennis Yurkivsky, chief financial officer of the

(Continued on page 17)

## Canadian Ps and Bs challenge UCC's crown

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA – The Ukrainian Canadian Congress' (UCC's) future relevance as the official voice of the community and the geographic location of its headquarters were challenged at the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation (UCPBF) Eastern Canada Conference held in Ottawa on July 12-14.

About 45 UCPBF members participated in four workshops, hammering out recommendations for a national federation strategy. Conference delegates examined such issues as government and community relations in Canada, Canada-U.S. relations and Canada-Ukraine relations. In all four, the UCPBF sees itself playing perhaps the most vital role in strengthening links.

For example, the federation – one of the UCC's so-called "big six" organizations, along with the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood, the Self-Reliance League, the League of Ukrainian Canadians, the Ukrainian National Federation and the recently added Ukrainian Credit Union Council of Canada – "is the only organization that brings expertise from every segment of Canadian society," says one of the recommendations. "It is also the

only organization that does not bring with it any political or religious influence, but represents all of its membership from east to west."

Founded 35 years ago in Winnipeg, the UCPBF has a membership of about 2,000 people who belong to 18 associations across Canada. Given its non-political, non-religious agenda, the federation also believes "it is in a most favorable position to provide objective views on issues affecting the community in Canada."

Since its members come from the professional and business world, the UCPBF suggests that it should lead the development of links with Ukrainian organizations in both the United States and Ukraine.

Essentially, the UCC had best look over its shoulder as the UCPBF prepares to steamroll over the 56-year-old national body. In a report to the federation, Mykhailo Wawryshyn, the UCPBF's representative to the UCC, criticizes the congress for not devoting "enough attention to getting its message across to our community in any language (Ukrainian/English/French). As far as the mainstream media is concerned, we are virtually non-existent."

Mr. Wawryshyn also recommended the UCC's headquarters be moved out of

Winnipeg. "None of our urban centers which have a sizable Canadian Ukrainian community can consistently provide suitable executive material on a continuing basis. Furthermore, any organization which is centered in any city for over 50 years becomes regarded not as a national one, but one that is local in nature. More specifically, the UCC has become regarded as the 'Winnipeg' UCC and not the 'Canadian' UCC."

However, the federation rep to the UCC applauded the congress' decision to hold its next triennial meeting in 1998 in Edmonton – where it was supposed to be held last year, rather than in Winnipeg, where it was held.

Next year, the UCPBF also will hold its biennial meeting in Alberta, when delegates converge on the resort community of Banff in August 1997.

National conference organizers are hoping to see attendance reflective of UCPBF's membership, which comes from as far east as Halifax, Nova Scotia, to as far west as Victoria, British Columbia.

If the recent Ottawa meeting is any indication, getting people involved to implement some of the federation's future policies may be their greatest challenge.

(Continued on page 16)

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Letters "g" and "h" cause confusion

Dear Editor:

In regard to comments of Orysia Tracz (August 4), I would like to confirm that across all regions of Ukraine many people use the letter "g" in English for the letter "h" in Ukrainian. Consequently, I have been receiving letters from Kharkiv to Lviv addressed as "Bogdan" instead of "Bohdan." They also do that with their surnames when getting passports and visas.

This habit has some unusual conse-

quences, because some scientific material that I have been receiving in English contains such words as "gyroscopic" instead of "hydroscopic," "gydration" instead of "hydration" and so on.

Incidentally, this has nothing to do with transliteration, because these words are not Ukrainian in the first place. People in Ukraine appear to overlook the fact that in Ukrainian as well as in German, English, Greek and other language alphabets there have both letters "g" and "h."

**Bohdan M. Slabyj**  
Brewer, Maine

### Twenty days...

(Continued from page 3)

ings. Lines became even longer as police and security became more thorough in their searches of people and possessions. More areas were cordoned off from public access. Even the weather changed: it was the first dreary overcast and rainy day in the 11 days I had been there.

- One of the highlights of my time here was "golden" Monday, when Ukraine took three gold and two bronze. I heard the Ukrainian anthem played three times — twice at the gymnastics event and once after the weightlifting competition.

It felt good to see the Ukrainian flag being raised in the auditoriums, first rising above the U.S. banner and then above Russia's.

- During the medal ceremony, after Rustam Sharipov won the gold medal in parallel bars and just as Ukraine's national anthem was about to be played, a person screamed out in the quiet arena, "U-krai-na," which resounded throughout the hall (and was distinctly heard on NBC's coverage).

A Russian journalist who was sitting between correspondent Pavlo Shilko of Gala News Radio of Ukraine and me, turned to Mr. Shilko and said, "Your people?" To which Mr. Shilko replied rather proudly, "No, that's our diaspora."

- If anybody is wondering why The Weekly did not get an interview with multi-medal winner Liliya Podkopyeva, well, we thought we had arranged it. She and I had agreed that we would meet in the Olympic Village on August 1 for an interview, just before she left for Ukraine. I asked that we do it after 12 noon, when I was to speak with fellow gold-medalist and gymnast Rustam Sharipov. She held out for 6 p.m. because she wanted to go shopping before the delegation left, she explained. I agreed.

The next day Mr. Sharipov, when told when I was to meet Liliya, said that would be impossible. The team was scheduled to leave Atlanta for the airport at 4 p.m. A misunderstanding? Maybe a sly way out of another interview? We'll never know.

It was obvious Ms. Podkopyeva felt burdened by the many interview requests. In her defense it must be mentioned, as Mr. Sharipov explained, that she was a bit overwhelmed by all the attention, and, after all, she is only 17 years old.

- One more note on NOC-Ukraine. When I called NOC-Ukraine the day after Liliya won her gold and bronze in the individual all-around competition, to get a sec-

ond source on the fact that her grandmother had recently died, the person who picked up the phone and hung up before I could get his name said, "Why do you want to know about that, that is not important." Duh. After explaining that maybe it had an effect on her performance, he mumbled a confirmation, that she had passed away a week before the Games began.

- On a tram between the Omni Dome and the Georgia Dome I met a volunteer from ACOG who, after noticing my credentials, explained to me that her grandfather had lived in Ukraine. It seems that he was born in the Bukovyna region of Ukraine (and she surprised me with her knowledge of the tangled political history of that region), and that he had been forced into the Red Army during the Revolution, even though he was Romanian and at one time a Romanian officer. He served a short period of time in Ukraine with the Red Army, before escaping to Vienna, from where he emigrated to the United States.

- Three Ukrainian fencers trying to sell their Adidas warm-up suits at the soiree for the Olympians were an embarrassment. So they wanted to make some money to take home, that's fine. But it was plain rude and offensive to dismiss an older gentleman, after he said he was sorry but he had not brought that kind of money with him, by excusing themselves with the words, "Come on, boys, the 'diadko' (old man) has no money."

- People with Ukrainian blood in their ancestry seemed to come out of the woodwork in the last days of the Olympics. One woman's must be blue and yellow. I met Janet Mykytyn, 35, on the Saturday before the final day of the Games as I walked just outside Centennial Park looking for souvenirs at a discount (there weren't any real discounts until Monday). I stumbled onto the most blue-and-yellow draped person I had ever seen. She wore a blue-yellow baseball cap, a blue-yellow t-shirt, yellow shorts, blue-yellow socks. Sticking out of her knapsack was a (you guessed it) ...flag.

She said she was wearing the garish ensemble because, "I like my heritage." I discovered that she is a fourth-generation Ukrainian American whose great-grandparents arrived at Ellis Island just after the turn of the century and settled in Philadelphia.

By the way, she had purchased the shirt and cap at officially sanctioned kiosks, and they were both Hanes products.

- Then there was the reporter from the Atlanta Constitution, Elizabeth Kurylo, who had been invited as a guest to the party for the athletes held the night before the first contingent went home. She approached me as if I reeked of ink and newsprint and said, "Are you a reporter?" She explained that she was a third-generation Ukrainian born and bred in Iowa and had been a reporter in Atlanta for more than a decade. She said that although her father knew the language, she had forgotten what little she had learned. She did admit that since Ukraine's independence she was slowly getting back in touch with her ethnic heritage.

## Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



### Now's the time to organize, passionately

Ukrainian Republicans need not despair. The GOP is alive and well and ready to do battle.

I was energized by the GOP convention. Jack Kemp is a superb vice-presidential choice, and the Republicans are united in their determination to beat Bill Clinton. A USA Today/CNN poll published on August 12 shows that Mr. Clinton's lead has narrowed to only nine points.

The issues also are on the side of the GOP. Most Americans support a smaller, smarter government, greater economic growth, tax reform, a balanced budget, the restoration of the family as the bedrock of the American social order. They want an end to racial preferences, moral decay, illegal immigration, abortion on demand for any reason, the welfare state, and corporate entitlements that continue to suck the lifeblood out of our economy.

As he finally signed one Republican bill after another (the line-item veto, welfare reform, health reform), even President Clinton realized that bucking the American will was hurting his chance for re-election.

That's the good news. The bad news is that the extreme liberal elite will do everything in its power to keep Mr. Clinton in office. They know that regardless of what Mr. Clinton says (the man is not exactly a person of impeccable character), as soon as he is re-elected, he will embrace their agenda once again.

The most extreme segment of the liberal elite stream in American life can be found among the media. Among other outrages, they have managed to demonize Newt Gingrich, one of the most brilliant and successful House speakers of modern times. His "Contract with America" resulted in a major GOP Congressional victory in 1994. At the end of his first 100 days in office, nine of the 10 contract items (including a balanced budget, an anti-crime bill, lower taxes for families, greater benefits for senior citizens and welfare reform) were passed by the House. The only item not passed was term limits.

Media extremists have also slandered Pat Buchanan, painting him as an anti-Semite (mainly because he believed John Demjanjuk was innocent) and the man who lost the election for George Bush. Contrary to media myth, however, President Bush initially gained in the polls as a result of Mr. Buchanan's speech at the 1992 Republican convention.

Extreme liberal elitists refer to the Reagan era (a period during which we enjoyed our second longest post-war economic expansion) as the "Decade of Greed." Today these same sophists portray the Gingrich-Buchanan year as the "Age of Meanness." The truth is that slowing Medicare growth does not end it, nor does it push your Baba out of her home. GOP proposals will assure Medicare solvency. Rejecting racial preferences will not force minorities to the back of the bus; it will help heal the racial wounds that divide us by establishing merit as the major criterion for advancement. Stemming the tide of illegal immigrants will not destroy America's cultural diversity; it will reward those who have patiently waited in line for their turn to enter this country.

Finally, the GOP welfare bill does not "end welfare." It more than doubles child care dollars (from \$1.1 billion in 1996 to \$2.7 billion in 2002), and provides billions for food stamps, social services and

other benefits. What the bill does end is the never-ending entitlements that some welfare families have received into the third generation.

According to the extremist media elite, the GOP platform calls for an abortion amendment in the Constitution that, in the words of columnist Molly Ivins, would "outlaw abortion in all circumstances."

Sun-Times columnist Dennis Byrne argues that there is no such item in the GOP platform. "What the platform does contain," he writes, "is a plank — whose text is rarely quoted by reporters — that supports an unspecified 'human life amendment' and legislation to apply 14th Amendment protection to unborn children. The new amendment could take many forms. One possibility, which once received 49 votes in the Senate, simply reads: 'A right to abortion is not secured by this Constitution.' This would return the issue to the realm of legislative policy-making, where it belongs."

The GOP wants to end such abominations as "partial birth abortion" (banned overwhelmingly by Congress, but vetoed by President Clinton), which permits a doctor to partially deliver a baby in the ninth month, feet first, and to suck its brains out while the head remains in the mother's womb. The media, of course, doesn't mention such "minor operations" of the multi-billion-dollar abortion industry.

Nor do we get much accurate information regarding tax reform. Ironically, Mr. Clinton, who promised tax cuts but then presided over one of the biggest tax increases and spending programs in history, now argues that Bob Dole's tax cut idea will hurt his efforts to balance the budget. Some economists argue that a personal income tax cut would: fuel inflation because people would spend more money; increase interest rates because the Federal Reserve would tighten credit to fight inflation; slow the economy because high interest rates are bad for business; the stock market would decline because people would sell stocks and invest elsewhere.

According to economist Terry Savage, when President Ronald Reagan lowered taxes, a different reality emerged: interest rates dropped from 21 percent to 7.5 percent; inflation fell from 14 percent to less than 1.5 percent; the stock market nearly tripled from 884 on the Dow Jones industrial average in 1982 to 2,508 in 1989; tax revenues increased \$670 billion (7 percent a year); the share of all income taxes paid by the top 1 percent of taxpayers rose from 17.89 percent in 1981 to 27.58 percent in 1988; economic growth from 1982 through 1990 averaged 3.94 percent a year as compared to 1.74 percent during the first half of the 1990s. What stopped the Reagan boom? Two huge tax increases during the Bush-Clinton years. Even Mr. Clinton admitted that he may have increased taxes too much.

Messrs. Dole and Clinton represent two very different visions of America. Both will project their ideals in the 80-plus days remaining until the election. The issues will be defined. As good Americans, Ukrainians need to study these issues and to take sides. If we care about America we need to organize our forces and become visibly and passionately involved in this election, both at the national and the local levels. If we remain on the sidelines during the election process, we deserve to be ignored after the victors take their oaths of office.

### Correction

Due to a typesetting error, three crucial words were left out of the front-page story on Ukraine's participation in the Summer Olympics. Ukraine took home nine gold medals, and in fact tied for seventh highest over all (not as erroneously noted "highest over all") in terms of the number of gold medals.

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Independence: the fifth anniversary

Five years ago on August 19-21, hard-liners in Moscow attempted a coup d'état to depose Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. In Ukraine, the situation was tense. The chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet (Council), Leonid Kravchuk, was straddling the fence: he did not condemn the coup plotters, nor did he support President Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, who stood firm in the name of democracy. Meanwhile, democratic organizations — united in an ad hoc coalition called Independent Democratic Ukraine — called on the Ukrainian Supreme Council to condemn the coup and to distance itself from the so-called Emergency Committee in Moscow.

Ultimately, the coup, which was aimed at perpetuating the USSR, brought about the exact opposite. Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, speaking in the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, told his colleagues in no uncertain terms: "What has happened is the collapse of the central empire, the full destruction of the structures of imperial power. There can be no illusions: the Soviet Union no longer exists." On the heels of the coup came the Ukrainian Supreme Council's unexpected declaration of Ukraine's independence on August 24, 1991, and that clinched the beginning of the end of the Soviet Union.

On December 1, the Parliament's act was overwhelmingly affirmed by the people of Ukraine, as over 90 percent voted "yes" for independence. Four days after the plebiscite, Ukraine's first president, Leonid Kravchuk, took the oath of office.

And thus, Ukraine embarked on the road to accomplishing the twin tasks of state-building and nation-building — tasks that continue to this day. Although it was apparent that modern-day independence owed much to the sacrifices of the past, it soon became clear that there were new sacrifices that had to be made by the current generations.

Adding to the growing pains experienced by the newly independent state was the pressure exerted by the ever-present "elder brother," as Russia began asserting itself as a great power with a special regional role to play. Internationally, Ukraine was nearly made out to be a pariah as the major powers sought its denuclearization and disarmament, and the closing of the stricken Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Domestically, the president (who did much to make the world understand that, yes indeed, Ukraine is independent), the Parliament and the government were involved in a power struggle, resulting in a deleterious stalemate.

Pre-term parliamentary and presidential elections were scheduled, respectively, for March and June of 1994, and a second Leonid — Leonid Kuchma — then an unknown quantity, was elected president in the July 10 runoffs. He came into office speaking of a Eurasian space, working within the CIS, normalizing relations with Russia and making Russian an official language of Ukraine. But his on-the-job training, so to speak, has apparently been successful, as he has grown into the role of president of independent Ukraine.

Ukraine's orientation now is definitely Westward — toward Europe and beyond; Russia knows where it stands in relation to Ukraine; and Ukrainian remains the only state language (though language rights are guaranteed to all of Ukraine's minorities). Ukraine today is successfully being integrated into international and European structures, and it finally has a new Constitution to boot.

So, as Ukraine marks the fifth anniversary of an event that many of us thought would never come to pass, it is worth recalling where the reborn independent state called Ukraine has been, and where it is now headed. "Slava Ukraini!" And, oh yes, "Mnohaya Lita!"

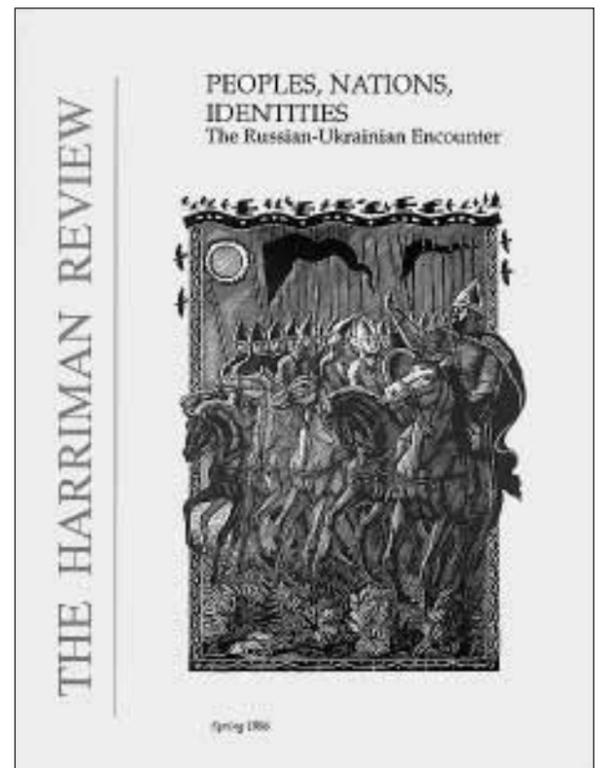
## NEW RELEASE: Harriman Review on "Russian-Ukrainian Encounter"

EDMONTON — The spring 1996 issue of The Harriman Review is a special double number titled "Peoples, Nations, Identities: The Russian-Ukrainian Encounter." The issue contains 21 of the papers delivered at the fourth workshop of the project on Ukrainian-Russian relations organized by Prof. Mark von Hagen of Columbia University, Prof. Andreas Kappeler of the University of Cologne, and Dr. Zenon Kohut and Dr. Frank Sysyn of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies.

Focusing on post-Soviet Ukraine and Russia, the fourth workshop, held at Columbia University on September 21-23, 1995, was jointly sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the University of Cologne, The Harriman Institute, the Center for Russian and European Studies of Yale University, the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies of the University of Alberta and the Chopivsky Foundation. At CIUS, the project is conducted under the auspices of the Stasiuk Program on Contemporary Ukraine.

The issue is introduced by Prof. von Hagen, who explains the general aims of the Ukrainian-Russian Encounter Project. He points out how neglected the field has been until recently, both in the West and in Russia and Ukraine. He also explains that, taking into account the current nature of the topics of the fourth workshop, the organizers decided to publish the contributions immediately. Selected papers from the first three workshops will be included in a volume to be published next year.

The political significance of the workshop is underlined by the remarks by the permanent representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, Sergey



Lavrov, and the permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, Ambassador Anatoliy M. Zlenko, which begin the volume.

They are followed by 21 papers by scholars from the United States, Canada, Germany, Ukraine and Russia. The papers are grouped in four categories: "National Identities in Religion, Education, Culture"; "Political Attitudes and Identities"; "Ukraine and Russia and Their National Minorities"; and "Ukraine and Russia on the World Stage: International Relations."

Expressing divergent views on the Ukrainian-Russian encounter since 1991, the volume contains the most comprehensive discussion of the question published to date.

It may be obtained for \$10 (U.S.). Checks should be made out to Columbia University and sent to: The Harriman Review, 1218 International Affairs Building, Columbia University, 420 W. 118th St., New York, NY 10027; fax: (212) 666-3481.

Aug.  
21  
1991

### Turning the pages back...

The Ukrainian Weekly's correspondent on the scene in Kyiv, Chrystyna Lapychak, reported on the collapse of the attempted coup in Moscow in the issue dated August 25, 1991.

Excerpts of the front-page news story, headlined "Kravchuk criticized as Ukraine welcomes coup's collapse," follow.

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After two days of tension and uncertainty about the future, thousands of relieved Ukrainians welcomed news on Wednesday, August 21, of the collapse of the junta of Communist hardliners who had overthrown Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev two days earlier with a victory rally in the central October Revolution Square.

Chanting "Yeltsin! Yeltsin! Down with Kravchuk!" the crowd listened to representatives of the democratic opposition in the Ukrainian Parliament and various public groups express their gratitude toward Russian SFSR President Boris Yeltsin for his successful standoff against the instigators of the failed coup d'état.

The speakers placed the blame for the coup on the Communist Party and the Soviet president himself for appointing the people who overthrew him, criticized Ukrainian leader Leonid Kravchuk for his failure to strongly condemn the junta and called for the creation of a national guard in Ukraine.

Leaders of Ukraine's Parliament reacted to the end of the coup and reinstatement of Mr. Gorbachev as USSR president by voting on Thursday to hold an extraordinary session of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet on Saturday, August 24, to assess the political situation in Ukraine in the aftermath of the failed coup.

While the dramatic events unfolded early last week in the Russian republic and the Baltic states, Ukraine was relatively quiet as many Ukrainian parliamentary leaders, including the cautious Chairman Kravchuk, adopted a wait-and-see attitude in regard to the self-declared State Committee on the State Emergency in Moscow.

It took two days for the Communist-dominated Presidium to issue a statement on the coup, regarded by observers and members of the opposition as only a half-step because it contained neither a strong condemnation of the creation and actions of this

self-declared committee as unconstitutional and illegal, nor a phrase publicly supporting Russian President Yeltsin in his standoff at the Russian Parliament.

"It is painful, very painful that our Ukraine did not stand alongside Yeltsin," declared USSR and Ukrainian People's Deputy Volodymyr Yavorivsky during the Wednesday victory rally in Kyiv.

During a Thursday, August 22, press conference with foreign journalists, Chairman Kravchuk blamed the delay in issuing a statement on the make-up of the Presidium, which has only seven democrats out of 28 members. However, he defended his cautious approach as a way of preventing "a provocation" leading to a declaration of martial law in Ukraine.

The Parliament chairman said he had spoken to Mr. Yeltsin several times a day since the overthrow of Mr. Gorbachev and had informed him from the start that he would oppose "this unconstitutional act," "this adventure" and would never officially recognize the "self-declared" regime.

The statement issued by the Parliament's Presidium, as well as most of Mr. Kravchuk's public statements declared that the laws and Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR take precedence over all other laws or decrees on the territory of the republic.

The main point of contention in the Presidium's statement was its call on the Ukrainian population to avoid strikes and public meetings and to exercise restraint in order to prevent a declaration of "an emergency situation" in Ukraine like in parts of Russia and the Baltics.

In contrast, the pro-independence opposition, which formed a coalition of democratic organizations and political parties called Independent Democratic Ukraine in response to the overthrow, called on the population to take to the streets and on labor to commence a general strike.

Over two dozen groups, led by the Popular Movement of Ukraine, Rukh, and the National Council, issued a joint statement on Monday demanding that the Presidium of the Ukrainian Parliament officially condemn the State Emergency Committee and convene an extraordinary session.

"I would like to emphasize that in this difficult situation under threat from this anti-constitutional junta with all our shortcomings only the National Council remained the actual acting Parliament, while the Communist majority sat in the bushes waiting to see how it all ends," said Ukrainian People's Deputy Volodymyr Filenko of the Party for the Democratic Rebirth of Ukraine at the victory rally.

Source: The Ukrainian Weekly, August 25, 1991, Vol. LIX, No. 34.

## AN ORAL HISTORY OF UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE

*The most interesting perspectives on Ukrainian independence come from those who built it. Included here are excerpts from interviews with some of Ukraine's most prominent leaders of the independence movement. This material was selected by HURI from the archives of the Kyiv-based Project on Ukrainian Oral History, kindly made available by Margarita Hewko (director-Ukraine) and Sara Sievers (director-U.S. and graduate student fellow of HURI).*

### LEONID KRAVCHUK

*In the 1980s, Leonid Kravchuk was second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukrainian SSR in charge of ideology. He subsequently became chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council and was elected the first president of independent Ukraine in December 1991, serving to mid-July 1994. He is now a deputy of the Parliament of Ukraine.*

**What was your position at the time Gorbachev came to power and when did you begin to notice those processes that eventually led to the independence of Ukraine?**

From 1980 until 1989 I was head of the Ideology Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine. That was, well, a very important position within the party's Central Committee. And one could say without exaggeration that if workers at the Central Committee receive massive amounts of information, then in the Ideology Department the mass of information was significantly greater. I would like to divide this question in two.

First, we began noticing that the position of the Soviet Union started to weaken, as the internal situation was becoming more complicated and external relations were becoming more tense because of the Soviet Union's participation in various conflicts, particularly in Afghanistan, Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary. That was the first phase, frankly speaking – the decline of the Soviet Union. This we began to notice during the so-called period of funerals of the CPSU Central Committee general secretaries. It was in the 1980s, when [Leonid] Brezhnev, [Yuri] Andropov and [Konstantin] Chernenko died literally within three-four years. This fact provided very interesting food for thought, at least for those who engaged in analysis. It showed that the leadership of the Politburo and Central Committee was a leadership incapable, either physically or politically, of providing the necessary level of analysis and administration of the state, or of increasing its power and authority. It was clear to everyone, at least those, I would emphasize, who analyzed things.

But when Gorbachev came to power in 1985, naturally, all the processes that were still quietly smoldering erupted very quickly. Initiating the era of glasnost and perestroika, he tried to resolve both internal and external problems in a democratic way. But this only brought to the surface all the negative processes that were dormant in the society.

I participated in all major meetings in Kyiv and partially in Moscow; I was a member of the Communist Party of Ukraine Central Committee, and since the 26th Congress I had been a member of the CPSU Central Committee. Therefore, I naturally knew a lot that others did not know. That was the beginning of our perception, our philosophy that the Soviet Union would not survive for long.

And, naturally, a second question emerged, the one that you have posed. And if the Soviet Union collapsed, what then? What would happen to Ukraine? What would that system, that empire, that totalitarian regime

turn into? Would it lead to conflict, be resolved in a peaceful fashion, or how, how would it happen? And then, for the first time, perhaps not quite clearly defined, yet the idea of sovereignty, independence of Ukraine was conceived. I do not want to give you just empty words...

Already in 1989, on my proposal and with my participation, and in accordance with my outline, the Communist Party of Ukraine Central Committee adopted a resolution on the economic and political sovereignty of Ukraine – the Central Committee. True, that resolution wasn't exactly the one we would have preferred. But the fact of its adoption by the Communist Party of Ukraine Central Committee, nobody mentions it for some reason. But the documentary evidence confirms this. I repeat again, the fact that such a document was adopted by the Central Committee testifies that such ideas and such perceptions were nurtured not only by those who proposed such documents. I could make a proposal, but it could have been rejected. And it was adopted by the Central Committee plenary meeting, not even by the Politburo or the Secretariat, but 350, I think, people from all regions of Ukraine, and they adopted that document.

And secondly, also very important, at the same time the Supreme Council of Soviet Ukraine passed the law on the state languages, on languages of the Ukrainian SSR, where Ukrainian is recognized as the state language. This again, was a proposal made by myself and [Supreme Council member] Borys Oliynyk. It was the Supreme Council that passed this law. Earlier such questions were in the purview of the Central Committee. And thirdly, the Central Committee passed a resolution to publish a book of documents pertaining to the artificial famine in Ukraine. Here are three facts that I have cited. There could be more, but these three, all of them on record, prove that the political situation within the organs of power, including the [Communist] Party, was gaining a new content and new character. And this, I believe, is sufficient ground to claim that new processes were gaining momentum, which it would be impossible to stop.

**In 1989, Rukh was established... What was the Central Committee's attitude to Rukh? And why is it that Rukh was not banned by the authorities right away?**

[Ukrainian Communist Party First Secretary Volodymyr] Shcherbytsky, a majority within the Central Committee and in the party structures – in the Kyiv City Committee, and in district committees, and especially in Kyiv – viewed Rukh absolutely negatively. Negatively. I cannot say that I belong to those who immediately saw in Rukh something positive, not at all. Like everybody else, I was analyzing very carefully – well, like everybody who dealt with ideology. And I came to realize that Rukh was not simply a game, but a serious matter. This I understood after I established communications with the Rukh organizers.

Why did I understand this? Because I was in communication with them, while everybody else depended on my information. That is, in order to arrive at any conclusion, one had to look and understand what it was that those people wanted. Why wasn't it banned? Because of the fear of Moscow. When Gorbachev himself came to Kyiv, on Shcherbytsky's initiative and his own, he, Gorbachev, decided to meet with members of the Ukrainian Rukh personally. During the meeting in Shcherbytsky's office, there were present: Shcherbytsky, [member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Ukraine Yuriy] Yelchenko and myself – the three of us and Gorbachev. There were not



Leonid Kravchuk

only Rukh members, but also some representatives of the Ukrainian elite. They were: [writers] [Oles] Honchar, [Ivan] Drach, [Dmytro] Pavlychko, and also... I believe, there were six people, perhaps. They came to the meeting. And then I saw. No matter how badly Shcherbytsky tried to prove that Rukh was no good, Gorbachev kept on saying: "Do not be afraid of them, let them do their work."

\* \* \*

**Where did the idea of declaring Ukrainian sovereignty come from?...**

I think we need to go back a little bit. When Gorbachev announced a referendum on preservation, or strengthening, or improvement of the [Soviet] Union, I then proposed my own referendum question at the Supreme Council. Very few remember this, but it was very important, and the Supreme Council upheld it. Thus, it was March 1991, and in March Ukraine held a referendum with two questions: a Moscow one and a Kyiv one. Our question was already premised on the idea of sovereignty, not as explicitly as, say, in the act of August 24, 1991, but it was the idea behind the referendum question. As matters turned out, over 50 percent voted "yes" on the Moscow question, and over 50 percent voted "yes" for ours, but our question received significantly more votes than Moscow's. You see, it was very important; it was the first signal, a very serious signal with reference to the people, and this is of utmost importance: the idea of sovereignty was supported by the people.

When we voted [on total independence] on December 1, 1991, I was asked whether I had any doubts that the vote would turn out negative? And you know, the democratic forces opposed the [December 1991] referendum even more than the left. They simply considered that the Act of Independence was declared by the Supreme Council on August 24, and that was sufficient. But I knew that if we do not conduct a referendum, if we do not go through that difficult but important stage of expressing the popular will, then, firstly, Moscow might react to such independence very critically – and I put it very mildly by saying critically. And the world, oriented toward Moscow, also would regard our decision coldly and cautiously, with reservations about our decision. That was why I proposed holding the referendum on December 1.

**How did you manage to persuade the Communist faction in the Supreme Council to vote for independence on August 24, 1991?**

You know, nobody was trying to persuade them... They were in such a state of shock, so active were the democratic forces... rallies, crowds march to the Central Committee, open the doors, unlock the safes. In other words, they were under such serious attack in Kyiv, and not only in Kyiv, that they understood they had to save themselves and there was only one salvation: to join their fellow deputies...

**The victors.**

(Continued on page 15)

### "Five Years of Independent Ukraine": A HURI project

The fifth anniversary of Ukraine's independence is a historic milestone and a fitting occasion for commemoration, reflection and analysis of the path Ukraine has traveled since August 24, 1991. To mark this occasion, the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University (HURI) is planning over the next few months a number of special projects: seminars, conferences, symposia and publications.

Launching the HURI program on "Five Years of Independent Ukraine" is this two-part series in The Ukrainian Weekly. In this issue, HURI offers readers the following materials:

- "From the Oral History of Independent Ukraine."
- A four-page photo essay on Ukrainian independence.
- "Youthful Perspectives on Independent Ukraine."

The forthcoming issue (August 25) will feature analytical discussions by HURI-affiliated scholars on such themes as politics, foreign relations and security, economics, culture and religion in Ukraine since independence, held in series of roundtables this summer.

These materials were prepared with the active participation of HURI faculty, associated scholars, students and staff. Their contribution is gratefully acknowledged.

– Lubomyr Hajda, associate director

## AN ORAL HISTORY OF UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE



Vyacheslav Chornovil

### VYACHESLAV CHORNOVIL

*Vyacheslav Chornovil, a journalist by profession, is a former dissident and political prisoner. He was elected deputy to Ukraine's Supreme Council in March 1990 as a member of the democratic bloc and that same year became chairman of the Lviv Oblast Council. He was a presidential candidate in 1991, and is now the head of the Rukh political party and a member of Parliament.*

**How do you evaluate the following events: the significance of the March 1991 referendum... and attempts by the CPSU leadership to come up with different variations of a new union treaty?**

Well, as for the referendum, it seems to me that our democratic forces were not quite properly oriented when they supported the Kravchuk version of the referendum so actively and were pushing it in Halychyna. As you may recall, at that time the first Halychyna Assembly convened and passed a resolution to conduct their own referendum – a legal one, because it was implemented pursuant to the resolution of three oblast regional legislatures – regarding complete independence of Ukraine. Can you imagine, within the context of the [Soviet] Union, on March 17, we, the three Halychyna oblasts voted, over 90 percent, for an independent Ukrainian state.

It was no big deal to vote on December 1, when the independence of Ukraine was already declared, when the nomenklatura, for one reason or another, supported the idea of independence, out of expediency. It was very different when one had to go against Kyiv, against Moscow, and still victoriously win the referendum. I believe this had a tremendous effect on the events that followed and on the referendum that took place on December 1. As for the [first referendum]... Perhaps, perhaps it was indeed worth having a referendum on confederation, what Kravchuk had proposed that in essence was a confederation, and what Moscow proposed was a renewed, so-called federation – well, that could not be forced upon us. We in Halychyna could not vote for an independent state and for the union, even in an attenuated form, at the same time. And that was the initial little split inside the democratic forces, between the more consistent and the more conformist, that later grew after the declaration of independence...

And you know, it is interesting that at the beginning, as it happens in politics, slogans can be changed and should be changed, for there was a period when we were supportive of the union treaty, a new union treaty. This was when Moscow didn't want to hear anything about it, in the late 1980s and maybe a little into 1990. We supported the idea of a new union treaty, but when the wave of such national aspiration arose, and when the declaration of sovereignty was there, we rejected the union treaty slogan, but some democrats still held on to it through inertia...

Actually, we did everything, as if foreseeing that this putsch would occur, not to allow the signing [of the treaty]. Besides, Kravchuk then also began to act – and here was the beginning of Kravchuk's transformation, his shift to the statehood position, when he also procrastinated. They were pushing and squeezing us to have the treaty signed that summer, and he used various excuses to delay, waiting for something. We should give him credit for his instincts as a politician. That was the summer of 1991, yes.

### LEV LUKIANENKO

*Lev Lukianenko, who spent over 25 years in prison, labor camps and exile under the Soviet regime, was a founder and head of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group, and later the Ukrainian Republican Party. In March 1990 he was elected to the Ukrainian Supreme Council. He ran in the presidential election of 1991, and then served as independent Ukraine's first ambassador to Canada from 1991 to 1993. Currently he is a deputy in Parliament.*

**What were opinions among democrats, and were they all immediately and unanimously prepared to accept this Act of Independence of August 24, 1991?**

Look, approximately on the 20th or 22nd [of August] it became clear that they [the Moscow coup leaders] lost completely, and on the part of the Communists who participated in the conspiracy there was the awareness of guilt, and they didn't know how it all would turn out for them. They... their coup had failed. Thus, the 22nd passed, we were still at the Union of Writers, we would go to the Supreme Council, back and forth, here and there, yet the Supreme Council did not convene. We would go to Kravchuk, various negotiations were held there, inconclusively. We kept thinking, what should we do next?

On the 23rd we first came to the Supreme Council, at 10 a.m. – the National Council [the democratic faction in

Parliament] convened. I considered it a unique moment. Well, what should be our agenda? We understand that they had lost: they, the Communists, are flirting with us and this is a moment when we could pass a good resolution. So, the task for the National Council was to prepare drafts of resolutions or laws, and so [Les] Taniuk proposes one such resolution, someone proposes something else, and then I stood up and said this is such a unique moment, that we should resolve the main issue: declare Ukraine an independent state. If we do not do this now, we would probably never do it. For this period of confusion among Communists is a short period – they soon came to their senses; and they are the majority, so we have to do it now. I expressed my willingness to write it, and then I was authorized to do so.

I asked [Leontiy] Sanduliak: "Let's go together," well, just not to be alone. He agreed and we went. We agreed – it was 10 o'clock then – we agreed that the National Council would reconvene at noon, and we would present our draft. We went to a separate, well, corner, where there was a desk, and I told Sanduliak: "There are two approaches to the document that we can write: we can make it long or we can make it short. If we write a long document, it will inevitably arouse a debate; if we make it short, there is less chance to create a debate. Let's write as short a document as possible, to give them the least chance to argue about where to put a comma, what to change. He agreed with this idea. Well, I began writing – we wrote, corrected.

By noon we returned; the National Council had already reconvened. And then I explained to the National Council the concept behind the draft, that is, the Act of Independence, that it must be as short as possible in order to gain the maximum number of votes and not debates. And they agreed. I remember [Serhiy] Holovaty made some amendments, so the text was somewhat amended and we then approved it. So on the 23rd, at noon, or shortly after noon, that is, we convened at noon, made some corrections, approved the text and forwarded it to the Secretariat to have it printed and disseminated it. By the 24th the text was already disseminated, and then the National Council authorized me to read it... at the session of the Supreme Council. So the text was already in the [deputies'] hands, it was distributed to everyone, and everyone already knew the text.

Then we convened on the 24th, and – here, well, we should thank Kravchuk that he did not reject the idea, for it could have been torpedoed completely, or it could be said now was not the time and propose another issue for discussion. He went ahead with the business. But then [Volodymyr] Yavorivsky took the platform, he... so to speak, he did not follow the resolution of the National Council, and gave it a formal reading.

Then the Communists, that is [First Secretary of the Communist Party of Ukraine Stanislav] Hurenko, said they needed a recess. They asked for a recess and went downstairs where the movie theater is. The Communists gathered there, and he asked them: "How shall we act?" "What shall we do?" Someone said: "What fault did we commit that we have to declare Ukraine an independent state?" See? But the prevailing atmosphere [in Kyiv] was very dependent on what was happening in Moscow. [Boris] Yeltsin spoke in very tough terms against the Communists. And there was a notion hanging in the air, would there be a hunting down of Communists, as happened in Hungary, in Budapest, in 1956? They were hunted down in the streets then and knifed to death, and they would lie on the pavement until after a couple of days their corpses would be removed. In fact, secret police agents would have their documents placed on them and they were knifed right through their documents. There was a hint of that hanging in the air. So he [Hurenko] after a pause of reflection, said: "We will vote for this act."

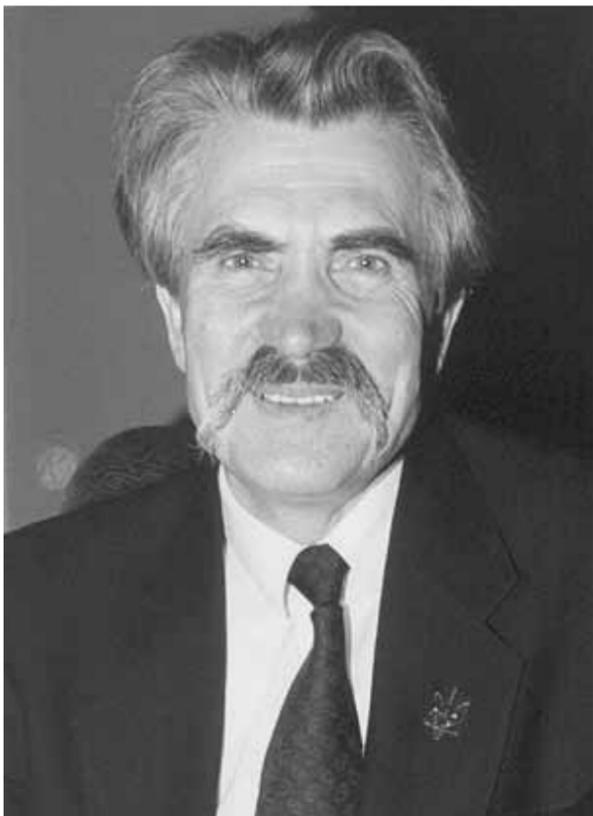
They came back and voted together with us. After that, of course, we rushed outside. There was a huge crowd there in the square, a mass of people hugging each other, you know. Here and there someone was lifted, I was lifted, and people carried us aloft. And then to Independence Square, there we had a long rally; and later about 5 p.m. we came to St. Sophia Square, where before a large, large gathering of people, I read this act.

### IVAN PLIUSHCH

*Ivan Pliushch, whose political career began in the Communist Party of Ukraine, became first deputy chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council in June 1990. He was independent Ukraine's first chairman of Parliament from December 1991 to May 1994, at which time he ran unsuccessfully for the presidency. Presently he is a member of Parliament.*

**What do you think about the vote for the declaration**

(Continued on page 15)



Lev Lukianenko



Ivan Pliushch

# ON THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

A visual documentation of the years leading up to, during and after the historic proclamation of Ukraine's independence prepared by Tania D'Avignon, associate photographer of HURI, is provided in this four-page photo essay.



The exclusion zone around Chernobyl, site of the 1986 nuclear accident that fanned popular opposition to Moscow and Communist Party rule in Ukraine.



The largest of new mass organizations, Rukh, held its founding congress in September 1989.



Ukrainian Greek-Catholics retake possession of St. George Cathedral from the Russian Orthodox Church in August 1990.



A student hunger strike in Kyiv in October 1990 led to numerous political concessions by the Soviet Ukrainian government, including the removal of Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol.



A cultural festival in Kyiv in the spring of 1991, one of many signs of re-emerging interest in historical and cultural traditions.

# INDEPENDENCE ARRIVES



A mass demonstration at the foot of the Lenin Monument on October Revolution Square (soon to be renamed Independence Square) on August 23, 1991.



A pro-independence rally in front of the Supreme Council on August 21, 1991.



Demolition of the Lenin monument on Independence Square begins in September of 1991.



Debates in the Supreme Council during the fall of 1991.



The first president of independent Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk (December 1991 – July 1994).

# IN DEFENSE OF INDEPENDENCE



Speakers at a rally on the seventh anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster held in Kyiv in April 1993: Volodymyr Yavorivsky (left), chairman of the Parliament's Committee on the Consequences of Chernobyl, and Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, minister of environmental protection.



Russian-language graffiti in Kyiv in September of 1991 demonstrate that support for Ukrainian independence transcended linguistic and ethnic divisions.



A vocal defender of Ukraine's statehood in Parliament, Larysa Skoryk.



Ukraine's first minister of defense, Kostiantyn Morozov (1991-1993).



Crimean Tatars express their support for independent Ukraine in Kyiv at the time of the August 29, 1991, visit of a Russian delegation led by Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoi to discuss Ukrainian-Russian relations in the aftermath of Ukraine's proclamation of independence.

## FIVE YEARS OF UKRAINIAN STATEHOOD



A 1994 placard of the Democratic Party of Ukraine demonstrates the emergence of political pluralism.



Adm. Volodymyr Bezkorovainy of the Ukrainian Black Sea Fleet and Metropolitan Filaret at a dedication ceremony launching the coast guard ship Sahaidachny in Kerch in June 1994.



The Parliament of Ukraine in plenary session in 1992.



And life goes on. A young couple shops for a wedding dress in Zaporizhzhia in 1995.



U.S. President Bill Clinton with President Leonid Kuchma, reviewing the honor guard at the Mariynsky Palace in Kyiv on May 11, 1995.

## YOUTHFUL PERSPECTIVES ON INDEPENDENT UKRAINE

Ten students from Ukraine attending the 1996 Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute offer their views – views of a cohort that reached maturity in the post-Soviet period – on generational differences in independent Ukraine and on topics of their particular interest. These excerpts are taken from special essays on the subject and a roundtable discussion held on July 31.

**YURI SMOLNIKOV (of Kyiv, student at the Institute of Ukrainian History at the National Academy of Sciences):**

Over the last five years there has been a major shift in attitudes toward independence among the older generation of eastern Ukraine. There, people of the older generation voted for independence mostly not for patriotic motives, but in the hope that they would improve their standard of living. Now many people of the older generation in eastern Ukraine regret the dissolution of the Soviet Union. This is understandable because they could not adapt to a new way of life. Many of them are pensioners, primarily concerned about the social safety net which was guaranteed them in Soviet times. The younger generation in eastern Ukraine, on the other hand, supports the idea of independence. It expects the government to create and ensure conditions conducive to private initiative, as in business and other spheres. In western Ukraine, the situation is somewhat different. Thanks to a relatively high level of national consciousness, relative to eastern Ukraine, people's view of independence hasn't changed. Both the young and the old support independence.

Relations with ethnic Russians in Ukraine, among both the younger and the older generations, are, on the whole, amicable. But, in my opinion, the generations differ in their attitude toward the government of Russia and its politics. Within the older generation in eastern Ukraine, there exists a relatively strong tendency toward closer integration with Russia. As for the young, the idea of independence has taken strong root. The younger generation wants to be the master of its own house, to make its own decisions, and it strongly rejects the idea of integration with Russia.

**IRENA KOVALENKO (of the Kyiv region, student of Ukrainian and foreign language philology at Shevchenko University in Kyiv):**

My parents' generation is the one that decided the future of Ukraine when 90.3 percent voted for independence during the all-Ukrainian referendum on December 1, 1991. This is the generation whose representatives are now in power, with the strongest influence on the economy and politics, inasmuch as they occupy positions they acquired at the time of the Soviet regime.

In contrast to my grandparents' generation, which is more uniform in its political attitudes (sympathetic to the Communist ideal), my parents' generation is more differentiated internally. It includes both representatives of the "party of power" (former Communists – political transvestites who changed their political orientation to radical nationalism) and former dissidents from the 1960s. These two wings comprise the political elite, which one must admit is not professional or experienced in nation-building, but is still capable of accepting criticism and, on the whole, strives to improve the situation in the country through the creation of democratic institutions. In my opinion, it is this stratum of the population that tries to effect changes itself, rather than waiting for changes to be effected by others, the government, let's say. Representatives of this generation see no problems with reorganizing Ukraine's external relations according to the principles of sovereignty and free



Pictured left to right are HUSI students from Ukraine: Jouri Sakvouk, Natalia Chykyrysova, Maya Burkova, Andriy Bondar, Ulyana Holovenko, Lyudmyla Kudina, Yuri Smolnikov and Roman Zaviyskiy.

trade. As to their attitudes toward Russia, they are capable of a sober analysis of those advantages that relations with the former metropolis can give.

The younger generation in Ukraine is characterized by a very critical stance toward the legacy of the past, since it is the one that has to straighten out the chaos in the country that followed the break-up of the Soviet Union. This generation, which is biding its time, has to completely reform the social, political and economic organization of the country, but for that it requires a good education, for which in fact there are already good preconditions in Ukraine. Educational and cultural relations with the West are being developed, and this is a decisive factor in enabling a new force, well-educated and determined, to replace the "party of power."

**MAYA BURKOVA (of Izmil, student at the Odessa State University of Economics):**

Intergenerational differences have always existed, but in the course of democratization in Ukraine, they exploded more powerfully and gained in importance. These differences are most noticeable in attitudes toward reforms in Ukraine. I don't want to generalize, but the young are more optimistic and progressive in their views. For the young, reforms open up new opportunities for the state and for themselves. For most older people, they represent a retreat from the old system to which they had become accustomed. For that reason, they react to new reforms with apprehension. They look to the government for stability, first and foremost.

**JOURI SAKVOUK (of Lviv, student at the Lviv Theological Academy):**

Differences among generations have existed always – this is natural. In my opinion, however, generational differences have not been particularly sharp in Western Ukraine. My parents, although brought up under the Communist regime, always dreamed about our own independent state. The older generation in Halychyna for the most part did not succumb to Russification, but preserved ancient Ukrainian national traditions and culture. Differences between the older and the younger generations are generally seen, not so much in the realm of ideas, but in the way of life. The earlier generation knew nothing about conducting a private business, using computers and the Internet, while the younger generation has largely acquired these skills. There are different tastes in fashion and music.

I think that the process of generational

change in western Ukraine isn't as sharp or painful as it is in the east. I would call generational change natural – natural in that the young inherited the best traditions of their parents and their ideas, but present and realize them in a new light.

**ANDRIY BONDAR (of Kamianets-Podilsky, student of comparative literature at the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy):**

In my view, the prominence given by some political commentators to intergenerational differences in Ukraine is somewhat artificial, since they are not a central problem in Ukrainian society. It so happens that older people, educated under a command-administrative system, imbued with traditions of victory in the Great Patriotic War, etc., are apologists for the old system. They live with memories of order and economic stability in the Stalin-Brezhnev periods. The majority of young people, on the other hand, are apolitical, lack distinct views regarding the past and future of Ukraine, and are just trying to find their way in a new socio-economic situation. I think that a conflict between parents and children isn't characteristic of the Ukrainian way of life, as children until recently were considered "glorious successors of their fathers." Only now do "children" demonstrate something akin to rebellion and reject their parents' ideals and the past. Nonetheless, intergenerational conflict is not a crucial issue. A larger role is played by social, economic and political factors.

The young and the old view the meaning of Ukrainian independence differently. In my opinion, there are more defenders of the idea of independence among the young, while the older generation now regrets independence and remembers with nostalgia the sausages and socio-political stability of the Brezhnev era.

**NATALIA CHYKYRYSOVA (of Kyiv, student of Ukrainian language and literature at Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv):**

The younger generation is always more progressive than the older. The young adapt to the new and untraditional more easily. We do not long for the stability and passivity of Soviet times, when one could live quietly without resolving any larger problems. Remembering the past, our parents (not all, but most) think that stability, economic reforms, jobs, material well-being – these are problems to be solved by the government. The younger generation looks to its own strength and abilities. They understand that no one else will build a life for them.

This, in my opinion, is the main difference between the generations. The young have the strength to create a new country. They are generally optimists about the future and accept the current economic crisis as a transitional stage, their own "school of life."

**OLEKSANDER SHTEPAN (of Cherkasy region, student of Ukrainian literature at Taras Shevchenko University in Kyiv):**

At the beginning the idea of Ukrainian independence was uniformly received positively (with the exception of the pro-Soviet Communists), as is evidenced by the results of the referendum of December 1, 1991. But gradually the romanticism of independence was replaced by an economic crisis, dissatisfaction, disillusionment, distrust of power and sometimes even nostalgia for old times. The principle of "one's own convenience" came into play, with greater value given to material goods than to ideas.

Ukraine has a future. The appearance of student movements, youth political organizations, the desire to study abroad in the leading universities in the world and bringing back this experience into education, politics, state-building, testify to the non-apathy of conscious youth toward the resolution of the problems of a new state.

**ROMAN ZAVIYSKIY (of Lviv, student at the Lviv Theological academy):**

The Communist system has naturally left its mark on people's way of thinking and forms of social life, but it could not destroy the internal deep-seated freedom of the individual. The older generation, at least in western Ukraine, carried throughout their lives the idea of an independent Ukraine. If today one hears complaints among the older people about independence due to the horrendous living conditions and unstable economic situation, then certainly among the young no one can imagine himself "with a sausage" but without independence.

Among the older generation it is often felt that a restoration of some type of union with Russia would make possible the solution of all problems. The young are aware that the creation of a strong economy is in the hands of the young Ukrainian government.

**ULYANA HOLOVENKO (of Lviv region, graduate of the Precarpathian University in Ivano-Frankivsk with a degree in English and German, currently employed in Kyiv as secretary of the Executive Director of the Council of Advisors to the Parliament of Ukraine):**

(Continued on page 14)

## YOUTHFUL PERSPECTIVES ON INDEPENDENT UKRAINE

(Continued from page 13)

With regard to Ukrainian independence, I think that there are no differences between the generations. For the first time in many centuries, Ukraine is united and independent. In my view, my parents and I have the same understanding of independence. An independent Ukraine is a united state with its center in Kyiv, its own political institutions, Parliament and presidency, possessing a Constitution which expresses the independence and sovereignty of the state and respects the independence and sovereignty of other states.

During the transition from a socialist to a capitalist system, the Parliament and the government must cope with new tasks, and dealing with them often leads to unpopular results: mass lay-offs, non-payment of wages, closure of unprofitable enterprises. The older generation, and they were the first to feel the effects of these methods, of course blames the government and Parliament. The younger generation doesn't expect any miracles from the legislative or executive branches. After all, what can you expect from corrupt bureaucratic power structures?

**LYUDMYLA KUDINA (of Kyiv, graduate of the Kyiv State Teacher-Training Institute with a degree in Ukrainian history, currently employed at the Democracy Fund in Ukraine):**

If we think of attitudinal changes towards Ukraine's independence, we should remember that 80 percent of the population took part in the referendum of 1991, and over 90 percent (and even 54 percent in the Crimea) voted for independence. The decision to create an independent state was made by a majority of the population, both young and old. What do we see today? Intergenerational differences that exist in any society are deepening somewhat. This can be explained by the fact that economic instability affects primarily pensioners, the older generation. The Communists are taking advantage of this and find the most receptive audience for their ideas among the pensioners.

But I don't believe that the decision made by the Ukrainian people in 1991 to build an independent state would turn out substantially different if the referendum were held in 1996.

**Yuri Smolnikov: On history**

The filling of blank spots in Ukrainian history began some years ago, at the time of perestroika, with revelations of Stalin's crimes. At first it affected the Soviet period, and then spread to all periods of Ukrainian history. Despite many positive achievements, historical scholarship still suffers from residues of Soviet historiography on the one hand, and sometimes uncritical idealization of the past on the other extreme.

As for the younger generation's understanding of Ukrainian history, there has been much progress, particularly through changes in the curriculum in secondary and higher education. Knowledge of one's history is gaining prestige among the young.

There are still many differences, especially between western and eastern Ukraine, in the understanding of certain themes: the famine, Ukrainian-Russian relations, World War II. Therefore, an important task facing Ukrainian historians is not only to describe the past, but to create the foundations of a new historiography which would promote national consolidation.

**Irena Kovalenko: On de-Sovietization**

The unmasking of the Soviet myth led Ukraine, as well as other former Soviet republics, to a "re-examination of values." In a historical context, this situation is very reminiscent of the period a full millennium

ago, when the Kyivan Prince Volodymyr faced the dilemma of choosing a new religion for Rus'. This period of "re-examination of values" revealed a stratification of society into supporters of Communist ideology (usually the older generation), "Westerners," atheists, religious faithful, nihilists, and so forth. Unfortunately, the young are often found among the latter. Certainly there is a dose of healthy intellect in this. After all, nihilism begins with a critical approach to everything, and who if not the young is most susceptible to negating what is obsolete? In my opinion, nihilism is intrinsically fruitless. It is incapable of creating something new, but is only a first step toward formation of qualitatively new values. The young should not lose all faith, but should evaluate all alternatives.

**Maya Burkova: On the Izmail region**

Izmail is a medium-sized city of about 100,000 people on the banks of the Danube in one of Ukraine's less known regions, southern Bessarabia (administratively part of the Odessa Oblast). It is unusual for its history and ethnic composition. As part of Bessarabia, Izmail belongs neither in western nor eastern Ukraine. It was under Turkish rule until 1790, the Russian Empire until 1917, and Romania from 1917 to 1940, when it became part of Ukraine. The population is very diverse: Ukrainians (probably not a majority), Russians, Bulgarians, Romanians and Moldovans, and a Turkish Christian group, the Gagauz.

*Ukraine has a future. The appearance of student movements, youth political organizations, the desire to study abroad in the leading universities in the world and bringing back this experience into education, politics, state-building, testify to the non-apathy of conscious youth toward the resolution of the problems of a new state.*

— Oleksander Shtepan

Nevertheless, the idea of Ukrainian independence was welcomed in Izmail. The national movement is not as active as elsewhere, but national consciousness is growing. Most schools still teach in Russian, but all schools now offer instruction in Ukrainian, and the number of Ukrainian schools is growing. Minorities have their own schools, press and cultural institutions. Although Ukrainian consciousness will grow, Izmail will remain a multi-ethnic and multicultural society, though loyal and committed to the Ukrainian state.

**Jouri Sakvouk: On religion**

After many years of a spiritual vacuum, Ukraine today is truly experiencing a process of religious revival. Youth play an active part in this process on the whole territory of Ukraine and especially in the West. This is clear from the large number of youth religious organizations, for example, Ukrainian Youth for Christ, Obnova, Children of Mary. It is also evidenced by the abundance of young people entering seminaries and monasteries. The Lviv Theological Academy has been reopened, and the number of students has reached nearly 200 and is rising. In particular, the new generation of clergy will play an important role in this process.

It's difficult for me to say now what kind of priest I will be, but I have an ideal toward which I am striving. Christ was and remains this ideal. I think that the role of the clergy in society hasn't changed, just as spiritual values and divine revelation don't change. What is changing is the methods of work with the people.

**Andriy Bondar: On the role of the intelligentsia**

Since 1991, the cultural intelligentsia in Ukraine has both rid itself of ideological censorship and lost the support of the state. In my opinion, the intelligentsia is ceasing to be the conscience of society, inasmuch as it does not represent the culture of society: the gulf between the cultural intelligentsia and the rest of society is very deep. The gravitation towards commercialism and pop art among most people is creating a fault line between them.

In my opinion, the cultural intelligentsia should attain the Western level, orient itself toward Western cultural traditions in order to free itself from the influence of Russian culture, and enter into the European and world cultural sphere. Of course, it is important to protect one's own national identity but also to free oneself from the current provincialism of Ukrainian culture. The cultural intelligentsia should be just that, and not the conscience of society. The conscience of society should be the new people in economics and politics, and the cultural intelligentsia should create and ensure a cultural aura for society.

**Natalia Chykyrysova: On Ukraine's relations with the East**

The "mysterious Orient" has always fascinated Europeans with its exoticism. More recently, interest in the East has grown in the field of economic relations: trade and joint business ventures. For Ukraine, such relations open up new possibilities — especially with Turkey, with which Ukraine has

had old (though often hostile) relations. Ties with Turkey require knowledge of the language, familiarity with its history and culture. Unfortunately, Turkology was long neglected in Ukraine, and Oriental studies were concentrated in Moscow and, especially, in Leningrad. Since independence, however, interest in the East has led to the gradual development of Oriental studies in Ukraine. I wish to take advantage of these new possibilities to study Turkish, perhaps also Arabic, and thus help to build bridges to countries that will play an important role in Ukraine's future.

**Oleksander Shtepan: On culture**

With independence, Ukrainian writers, artists and other workers in the field of culture were freed from the shackles of ideology and state control, and now have the possibility of free self-expression. Unfortunately, Ukrainian art practically lost the support of the government because of budgetary constraints, while the lack of tradition and poor economic conditions have not allowed private sponsorship to pick up the slack. We also have poor artists who do not create real art very well. Parallel to this is the rise of a mass pop culture, not always on the highest level, but trying to be "relevant."

Until recently, the Ukrainian stage reflected Russian popular culture, but today there is greater orientation toward Western popular culture. Ukrainian culture is developing at a growing pace, oriented toward the West, building on a national foundation the culture of a healthy nation.

**Roman Zaviyskiy: on religious revival**

The religious revival in Ukraine is an extraordinary experience. Over the past five

years Church life has been reborn, Protestant movements have spread, one sees efforts by various missionaries from the West. Often the young in their search for the transcendental turn to Eastern non-Christian religions. In such situations, it is difficult to analyze the religious revival.

Regarding the role of the clergy in contemporary Ukraine, I think that it has not and cannot change. Only the forms and the methods of pastoral care have changed and new opportunities for the expression of eternal Christian truths have opened. The Church is called upon to exist in the world and at the same time not to become a secular institution, a part of the world. There has been progress in inter-confessional relations. Misunderstandings among Churches are becoming rarer.

**Ulyana Holovenko: On attitudes of eastern toward western Ukrainians**

Because of different historical experiences, there are, of course, many differences between western Ukrainians and their fellow countrymen in the east. And not only because they speak exclusively Ukrainian, but also in their value system: attitudes toward religion, private ownership, their sense of being Ukrainians and not "Soviet people," as many eastern Ukrainians felt during Soviet times.

I felt these differences strongly when studying at the Institute of Foreign Languages in Horlivka in the Donbas in 1988-1989. As the only representative of western Ukraine among students from almost every oblast in Ukraine except the west, I felt somewhat like a "foreigner." There was a great difficulty with language. Initially, I tried to speak Ukrainian. But I wasn't understood, or they pretended not to understand me, or simply snickered. In this non-Ukrainian environment I began to develop an inferiority complex. I tried to speak Russian, but that came out even funnier. Since all subjects were taught in Russian, I followed the path of least resistance: I began to study the Russian language seriously. Because I spoke Russian poorly, I didn't have many friends. Even having learned Russian, I felt like an "outsider," because I spoke two languages and was the only representative from western Ukraine.

I was honestly surprised by preconceptions among the non-western Ukrainians about western Ukraine, as a place where Russians are virtually persecuted and forced to speak only Ukrainian.

**Lyudmyla Kudina: On youth groups**

At the end of the 1980s new student organizations were formed in many cities as an alternative to the Komsomol. The students were filled with revolutionary romanticism. In the fall of 1990, youth from all over Ukraine traveled to Independence Square to conduct a hunger strike against the Communist government. It was poetic and explosive — and successful. Student activism flourished through 1992, and the number of organizations was growing.

But, today student activism has declined. What can be done in order to not lose the young? I think the future lies with new organizations that allow for spiritual growth, professional development and prospects for material improvement. Such organizations are now appearing. I work in one of these, The Youth Alternative. It began in 1994, initially from the desire of the young to take part in the parliamentary elections, to mobilize and overcome political apathy. Now The Youth Alternative is involved in a new project: "Students for Parliament." We prepare university students to work as assistants to Parliament deputies, to take part in the work of government, gain experience in the mechanisms of the legislative process.

## LEONID KRAVCHUK

(Continued from page 7)

The victors. And to vote the way the victor wants, all the more since their colleague Kravchuk, who was one of them, tells them so, and if that's what he says, then he knows what he is saying. Therefore, I took the podium to deliver my speech on the 24th. That speech was very interesting from all points of view. The speech itself did not last too long, but it took two hours to answer questions, yes.

And from time to time... [Rukh activist] Larysa Skoryk pushed me aside from the podium, then [First Secretary of the Communist Party of Ukraine Stanislav] Hurenko came, another side. I told them: "Please speak, ladies and gentlemen." They argued, yet we had our bottom line and that was that we had to pass the document on state independence. That was a defining line in all conversations and conclusions. There was an open vote by roll call - there was an immediate proposal for such a vote - and nobody wanted to attest himself as a conservative in the face of such upheaval in Moscow and Kyiv...

**The preparations for this were made on the 23rd, as I understand it?... How was it?...**

Well, for me it looked like this: we convene the Supreme Council and on the 22nd the decision was made for the Supreme Council to convene. I signed the summons and the telegrams were sent out to all the deputies to report on the 24th, the session to open at 10 a.m. One issue, ours: the situation in Ukraine, our attitude to what had

occurred. Obviously, all thoughts centered on this issue. How? What documents? How would it all turn out?

The consultations and negotiations never stopped. They all were coming to me, members of the Presidium: Pavlychko, [Ihor] Yukhnovsky, [Les] Taniuk, leaders of political parties, movements - they all were coming, and coming, and coming to me with their proposals. The process was under way. I had consultations with the oblasts, other forces here, the military - that was a very important fact, that on [August] the 19th, when it was very difficult, everybody got frightened and kept their silence. Suddenly, a telephone rings at the reception, the "100" line, and the following: "Tell Kravchuk, that we are with them," and hangs up.

### Who was it?

The receptionist reports to me that there was a call on the "100" line, and that means someone very high up. I say, "You know, when he calls again and hangs up, you don't hang up, and in a second they will tell me who called." Another call. He goes again: "Tell him, that we will support them, we will come out. Let Kravchuk stand firm." He hangs up. That is not a problem, only I shouldn't hang up. We call the operator: "Who called?" "Kostiantyn Petrovych Morozov." Then I call him back and say "What is it about?" "You know, someone is tapping," and so on. Here is one example among many, I would like to emphasize. It was so important to me at the time to have people from the military and other officials call me with encouragement, saying to hold firm and expressing support.

## IVAN PLIUSHCH

(Continued from page 8)

**of independence? There is a notion that the majority of Communists voted for independence in an attempt to distance themselves from the brutal anti-Communist actions of Boris Yeltsin in Moscow.**

No, absolutely not. I want to tell you that in that Supreme Council there were about 375 or 376 Communists. I do not recall now the exact number who formed the "Group of 239," if we can call it that. So, some 130 did not join the "group." Here is the picture: these 130, and then 120 or 130 democrats, already this amounts to 260. And to pass a resolution 226 was sufficient. And our logic often is such: if we oppose it or not and a resolution will pass anyway, why should I miss the boat?

So, I would vote "yes" then. So if my vote can only do me harm, I would not vote. So sensing that the resolution would pass anyway, that the balance of power in the Supreme Council was such that the resolution would pass anyhow, the orthodox faction of Communists, about a hundred in all, voted, I will state frankly, just in case, to reserve for themselves the room to maneuver later. Many of them who voted for independence afterwards did everything they could to get rid of it. There was, I can tell you, such an element. I do not want to name names, for this would be wrong, it would look like a denunciation, and I do not want to do this. But, I would like to tell you it was a time, right after the putsch in Moscow, when it was obvious that there were 250-260 members of the Supreme Council who would vote for independence no matter what. So this one hundred - I think that was their logic, that they felt investigations might follow and so on, and they wanted to distance themselves from such a Central Committee, from such a leadership, from such a Politburo, from such orthodox [Communists] - They did this both from fear and also, just in case. I will be bold enough to say that.

And when it was all over, when it happened that a large part of the population

showed dissatisfaction with independence, they do not recall their vote with pride. But I do remember with pride what we then accomplished. It was a fateful decision, and I keep on repeating, and repeating, and repeating it: that Ukraine is fortunate in this. Some people, individuals, write to me: "It's you who is fortunate." But that does not mean that I am happy, or we are happy and so on. I am happy that there is Ukraine. See, I am materially secure today, I am in a better situation [than many]. But I was well-off in the old system as well.

I have had conversations with people who are not as secure in material terms as I am today, understand? And when I ask them: "What did we need Ukraine for, if today you can't afford to buy an under-shirt? If you cannot dress properly? If you can't feed yourself properly, and so on?" And they tell me: "Mr. Plushch, we will go without clothing for another three years, so long as there is a Ukraine." I understand these people, I am happy for them, as much as I am happy for myself.

### Acknowledgements

*The Project on the Oral History of Independent Ukraine has conducted lengthy interviews with dozens of participants in the process that led to the establishment of Ukrainian independence. Full transcripts and videotapes of these interviews will be available to the public in major archives and libraries in Ukraine, the U.S. and elsewhere. This effort is supported by the generous contributions of John, Margarita and Maria Hewko, the Yale Center for International and Area Studies (Council on Russian and East European Studies), the Chopivsky Family Foundation and the Embassy of the Netherlands in Kyiv. Special thanks to: Ambassador William and Suzanne Miller (U.S. Embassy, Kyiv), Prof. Rudiger Dornbusch (MIT), Katya Khulnikova, Dmytro Ponamarchuk (Rukh press), Mykola Veresen (BBC Kyiv office), Oleksandr Tkachenko and Andriy Slobodyan ("Nova Mova" television company), and Baker & McKenzie Kyiv office.*

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## Canadian Ps and Bs...

(Continued from page 4)

Only a handful of executive members of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association (UCPBA) of Ottawa attended the July conference.

"We were really disappointed by the Ottawa group's showing," said UCPBF President Raya Shadursky. "We had people travelling from other cities to be there, but people couldn't find the time to come to our meeting in their own city."

Ms. Shadursky is hoping more western Canadian UCPBA members will attend the next and final regional conference in the fall - especially delegates from the host city, Vancouver.

But if the federation cannot attract people to physically attend meetings, it is trying to keep members linked electronically. The UCPBF home page on the World Wide Web (<http://soma.crl.mcmaster.ca/~kostiuk/>) offers links to 16 local associations in Canada and the United States, as well as trade- and business-relat-

ed sites from the Canadian government and other Ukrainian home pages. The federation web page also has a listserver to send e-mail messages to anyone included in the UCPBF's electronic mail service.

Among some of the federation's home page sites:

- Export Development Canada (<http://www.edc.ca/>);
- Foreign Affairs' guide on investing and doing business with Canada (<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/english/invest/menu.htm>);
- the new Ukrainian Sources guide (<http://c7.com/us/>);
- a directory of Ukrainian businesses ([gopher://infomeister.osc.edu:74/00/ukrainian/communications/commercial.directory](mailto:gopher://infomeister.osc.edu:74/00/ukrainian/communications/commercial.directory));
- the Kyiv Internet white pages ([http://www.osc.edu/ukraine\\_nonpubl/html/kievfnet.html](http://www.osc.edu/ukraine_nonpubl/html/kievfnet.html));
- McGill University's Ukraine home page (<http://www.physics.mcgill.ca/WWW/oleh/ukr-info.html>);
- the Ohio Super Computer's Ukrainian Server (<http://www.osc.edu/ukraine.html>);
- the United Nations office in Kyiv (<http://www.un.kiev.ua/>); and even our own newspaper, The Ukrainian Weekly, which provides excerpts of top stories and special sections ([http://www.tryzub.com/UFWWW\\_Etc/CURRENT.html](http://www.tryzub.com/UFWWW_Etc/CURRENT.html)).

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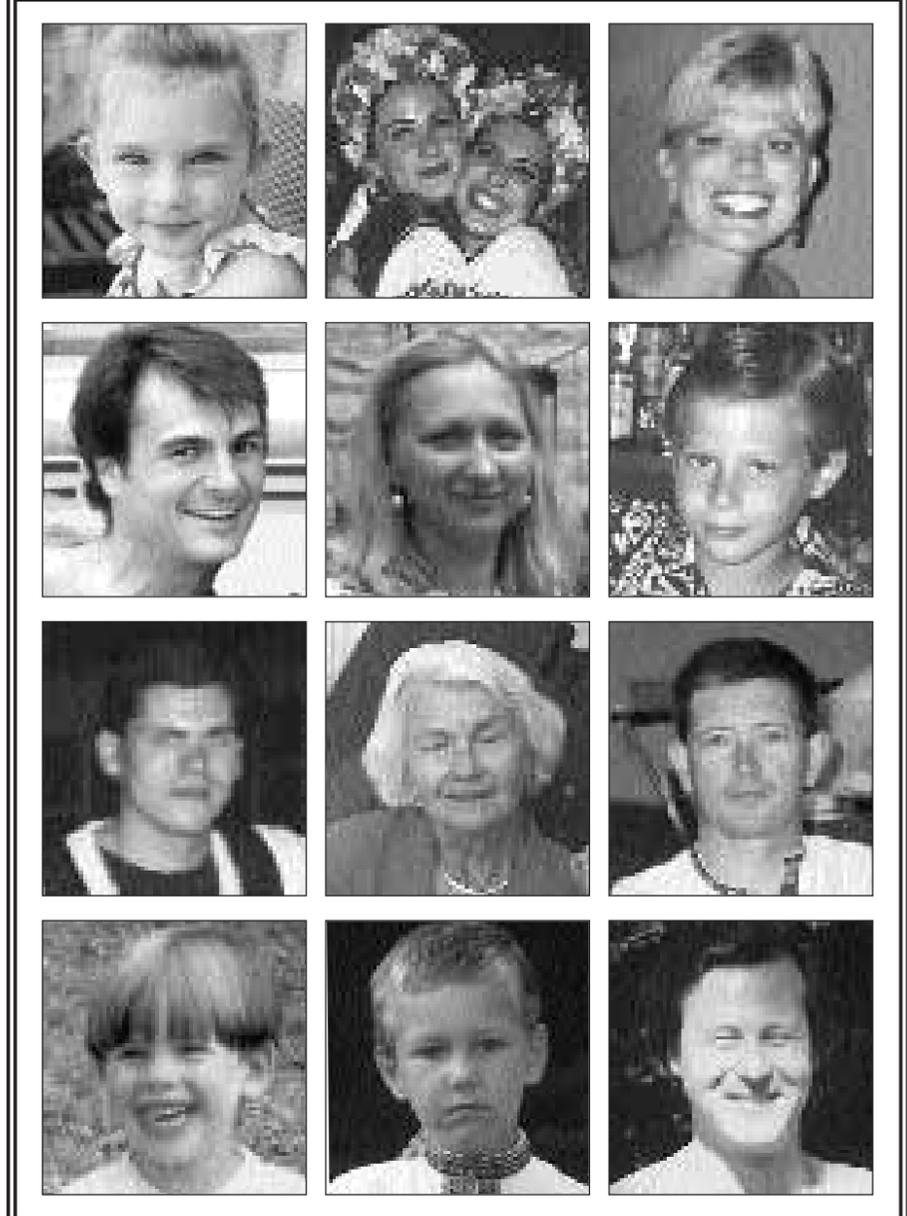
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## Gilman resolution...

(Continued from page 1)

including political and economic reforms; insist that the government of the Russian Federation recognize Ukraine's sovereignty; express support for Ukraine's insistence that it be provided with appropriate compensation for use of facilities on its territory; ensure that Ukraine's national security interests are fully considered in any revision of the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe and that its interests as an integral part of Central and Eastern Europe are fully considered in any review of European security arrangements; and support continued

U.S. security assistance for Ukraine.

The resolution also calls on the United States to continue to support the Ukrainian people in their struggle to bring peace, prosperity and democracy to Ukraine and to the other independent states of the former Soviet Union.

The list of co-sponsors now includes: William Goodling (R-Pa.); Gerald Solomon (R-N.Y.); Martin Hoke (R-Ohio), who sponsored it as it was introduced; David McIntosh (R-Ind.); Sander Levin (D-Mich.); Barney Frank (D-Mass.); William Lipinski (D-Ill.); Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.); Christopher Smith (R-N.J.); Herbert Bateman (R-Va.); Thomas Foglietta (D-Pa.); Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.); and Richard Baker (R-La.).

## Bilateral Chamber...

(Continued from page 4)

soon-to-be-public Ukraine Enterprise Corp.

That evening, the CUCC tandem attended the opening of the U.S. Business Center in downtown Kyiv, which drew in Serhiy Osyka, Ukraine's minister of foreign economic relations and trade; Mr. Yushchenko, Mr. Figlus and U.S. Ambassador William Green Miller.

In line with his expertise, in the course of his Ukrainian sojourn Mr. Myndiuk had meetings with Vitalij Dmytrenko, chief director of the capital's Kyiv Elektrotransport tram car company, and a representative of Lviv's Tramway firm.

Mr. Fedchun, wearing the hat of a former ITT-Sheraton executive with extensive contacts with the organization, explored the possibility of building a hotel in Mickiewicz Square in Lviv, and on the well-known semi-raised site next to the Bessarabsky Market on the corner of the Khreshchatyk and Shevchenko Boulevard in Kyiv.

Mr. Myndiuk summed up the trip with an optimism that is the hallmark of the group he represents. "We were often asked how we could be so positive, given the

hardships people are suffering," the CUCC executive director said. "Maybe it's because I only visit the country every one to two years, but the changes that have occurred at every level are enormous, and they're plain to see — virtually all for the better."

Mr. Myndiuk found the construction boom in evidence across the country and the vigorous, "can-do" attitude prevalent among the younger generation encouraging. He added that the enormous potential of Ukraine's food-processing industry, its capabilities in technology (computers), and the continuing high level of education (including widespread mastery of English) of the population will propel Ukraine toward Western European standards of living.

Mr. Fedchun concurred, in that he also found a big difference from his initial observations, and said the most substantive positive changes were evident in Kyiv.

The CUCC president said applications are still being accepted for participation in the October 14 trade mission. For further information contact Mr. Myndiuk at the organization's headquarters, Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce, 55 Ormskirk Ave., Suite 206, Toronto, Ontario M6S 4V6; telephone, (416) 604-2840; fax, (416) 604-2094; e-mail, shym@msn.com.

## Community Committee to commemorate the Fifth Anniversary of the Independence of Ukraine in Philadelphia

commemorates

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Beginning at 6:00 P.M.

#### PROGRAM

National Anthems - Ihor Kushnir  
Act of the Declaration of Independence - Marko Klos  
Opening Remarks - Metodij Boretsky, Chairman of the Committee  
Greetings - Ulana Mazurkevych  
Keynote Address - Dr. Yuriy Shcherbak, Ukrainian Ambassador to U.S.A.  
Singer - Olena Haymur  
Folk Dancing - Dance Ensemble "Monique Laterey"  
Declamation - Nadya Petryk  
Men's Choir "Prometheus"  
M.C. - Roman Dubenko  
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Sunday, August 25, 1996

Ukrainian Sport Center "Tryzub"  
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Beginning at 1:00 P.M.

#### PROGRAM

Voloshky Dance Ensemble  
Lviviany Music Ensemble  
Duet - Lyuba and Mykola  
Dancing to live music  
Parachutists with flags of Ukraine  
Moon Walk for Children  
Arts, Crafts, Souvenirs  
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M.C. - Dr. Volodymyr Karpynych  
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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

(Continued from page 20)

independence at the Ukrainian National Home at 1 p.m. For further information and tickets, please call (860) 296-3035.

### Saturday, September 7

**PHILADELPHIA:** The Philadelphia Archeparchial Office of Religious Education has planned a day for its catechists at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral. Following a catechist's luncheon, a guided tour of the neighboring National Shrine of St. John Neumann and St. Peter the Apostle Church are just two of the numerous activities planned. The focus of the day is catechetical commissioning of all archeparchial catechists by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephen Sulyk at the Saturday 4:30 p.m. Nativity of the Mother of God vigil divine liturgy. The catechetical theme of this liturgy will be: "Called to Forgiveness." Registration forms have been mailed to each parish. Additional information may be obtained by calling the Archeparchial Office of

Religious Education, (215) 627-0143, or contacting your Regional Proteopresbyteral Coordinator. The Philadelphia Ukrainian Catholic Prototypesbyteries have designated the following regional coordinators: Philadelphia - the Rev. Nestor Ivasiw; New Jersey - the Rev. Robert Hitchens; Scranton - Carol and Christine Chezik; Shamokin - Christine Bogner; Reading - George Maxim. Contact your pastor or your protopresbytery if you need information.

### Thursday - Sunday, September 19 - 22

**PHILADELPHIA:** The 49th annual Ukrainian American Veterans national convention will be held at the Best Western Hotel. There will be an installation dinner and commander's ball on Saturday, September 21, with cocktails beginning at 6 p.m. The cost of the banquet, which will feature music by Vodohray, is \$35. For further information or reservations, call (215) 663-0212.

## TWGCF Fundraising for Chernobyl Challenge '96

The Washington Group Cultural Fund wishes to thank everyone who contributed to its fundraising effort for Chernobyl Challenge '96. We are pleased to report that we raised over \$35,000 from corporations, foundations and individual donors.

One of the highlights of the Chernobyl Challenge '96 commemorative activities was the Odessa Philharmonic Orchestra's Chernobyl tenth anniversary commemorative concert tour. This very successful tour brought attention to the critical Chernobyl-related health, environment and energy problems, as well as to Ukrainian culture at its highest level. The tour concluded with a concert at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., where representatives from the White House, State Department and diplomatic community were in attendance.

Both Chernobyl and the Odessa Philharmonic Orchestra received excellent publicity in The Washington Post and The Toronto Star. A live broadcast of the concert at the United Nations was heard on National Public Radio in New York. In Washington, excerpts from the concert were heard on National Public Radio's Performance Today program, along with an interview of Hobart Earle, principal conductor and music director of the Odessa Philharmonic Orchestra, who discussed Chernobyl and the orchestra's everyday hardships in Ukraine, as well as its hopes and dreams for the future.

The following is a list of those who contributed \$100 or more to the TWG Cultural Fund's fundraising effort for Chernobyl Challenge '96. We gratefully acknowledge your very generous support.

3M, Douglass and Virginia Alexander, Dr. and Mrs. Peter Almassian, Ariadna Lapychak-Bach, Self Reliance Baltimore C.U., Constantine and Teresa Ben, John and Joan Bohdaniw, Dr. and Mrs. Henry M. Bowers, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burka, Susan and Dixon Butler, Dr. Marta Cehelsky, Children of Chernobyl Foundation, Larissa Chopivsky, Chernobyl Committee of Washington, DC, Olga Coffey, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Dawson, The Denysyk Children, John Derkach, Eustachiy S. Derzko, Orest and Karen Deychakiwsky, Mary Dushnyck, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Dzioba, Eli Lilly and Co., Dr. Oksana Folwarkiw, Bohdan and Myrosia Futey, Andrew Fylypovych, The Garber Foundation, Walter Gerent, M.D., Nancy Hammond, Myrosia and Tymish Hankewycz, Zoya Salyk-Hayuk, Hitachi, Maria R. Hryciak, M.D., Walter R. and Nila Iwaskiw, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Jones, Jr., Marika Jurach, Michael and Ann Kikcio, Dorothy and Alan Korey, Bohdan Korolyshyn, Myroslaw and Eugenia Kowalskyj, Paul J. Kritsky, Ada Kulyk, Lydia Martynec, M.D., Paul J. Marushka, George Masiuk, Askold Mosijczuk, M.D., Dr. and Mrs. Leonid Mostowycz, Helen Motorney, Marta Pereyma, Mr. and Mrs. George Powch, Professional Services International, Inc, Nestor N. Pylypec, Ivanna Martyniuk-Richardson, Victor Rud, Maria Rudensky, George Sajewych, Anne Shapiro, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sheffer, Vera Skop, Marusia and Andriy Sloniewsky, Natalie Sluzar, Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Slywka, Roman C. Stelmach, Roman and Luba Turkevich, Dr. and Mrs. Stephan Tymkiw, World Federation of Ukr. Medical Ass'ns., Alexander and Oksana Voronin, Mary and Michael Waris, Myron Wojtowycz, Ukrainian National Women's League, Alyce Ann Woroniak, Drs. Patricia and George Wyhinny, Michael and Roxolana Yarymovych, Inia Yevich, M.D., Peter Zacharkiw, Karl and Sophie Zaininger, Roman and Vera Zaputowycz, Marta Zielyk

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# Ukrainians active in Lone Star State

by Helen L. Filenko

HOUSTON – The Ukrainian American Cultural Club of Houston (UACCH) participated in the annual Houston International Festival, one of the largest in Texas, which boasts an attendance of several hundred thousand throughout the weekends in April. Thousands of local and international groups participate in the festival, giving the public a taste of Houston's ethnic diversity. Each year the festival is dedicated to a specific ethnic group. Africa was spotlighted this year.

The Ukrainian booth, located in the International Section of the festival, provided the public with a broad spectrum of Ukrainian art and culture. The booth overflowed with Ukrainian flags, paintings, embroidery, pysanky, books, carvings, etc. Of interest to the public were the leaflets that gave them a quick overview of Ukraine and Ukrainians.

The officers of the Ukrainian American Cultural Club worked hard to make this event a successful one. The current officers of UACCH are: Nadia Buchai, president; Oksana Danylyk, vice-president; Halia Filenko, secretary; Wolodymyr Guzylyak, treasurer.

The UACCH membership is not large, but very active. The group does a tremendous amount of charity work within Texas and outside of the state. The club has a strong working relationship with Pokrova Ukrainian Catholic Parish and the Ukrainian Women's League Houston Branch. All three organizations worked together to make the 1996 Houston International Festival a successful project.

The UACCH sponsors social activities for its membership and future members. On May 18, the club organized the annu-

al Spring Picnic in Houston's Memorial Park. Now everyone is awaiting the club's winter party during the Christmas season.

During the month of July, the club's executive board, along with students from the Ukrainian Saturday School, are preparing for the celebration of Ukrainian Independence Day on August 24. The keynote address will be given by the Rev. Andrij Dwulit, the new pastor of Pokrova Ukrainian Catholic Church. Tania Hirka, formerly of California and now a resident of Houston, will provide a historical review of the events that led to Ukraine's independence.

The Ukrainian American Cultural Club has provided aid to such worthy causes as: newsprint for Literaturna Ukraina; a book-binding machine for a library in Bukovyna; aid to Ukrainian athletes participating in the Summer Olympics in Atlanta; the Harvard University Ukrainian Studies Fund; Chernobyl relief efforts; and the restoration efforts in Lublin of the historical 18th century church from Tamoshchina. The club sends medical journals from the world-renowned Texas Medical Center to Ukraine.

Locally the club participates in festivals and prepares a yearly Christmas Tree Exhibit at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. UACCH provides aid to numerous individual charitable causes that directly or indirectly impact Ukraine.

This small but very active Ukrainian cultural club has continued to promote the Ukrainian national identity in Texas and beyond. Its members have not forgotten their roots – they have been transplanted to Texas, but have blossomed and added to the multi-ethnic diversity that enriches the Lone Star State.



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## Summer programs 1996

Saturday, August 24 UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

afternoon UNA photo exhibit

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At the Houston International Festival (from left) are: Marika Macko, Eugene Kuchta, Oksana Danylyk, Olia Holowka and Walter Guzylyak.

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**PREVIEW OF EVENTS**

**Wednesday, August 21**

**TORONTO:** A commemorative service in honor of Filip Konowal, recipient of the Victoria Cross and honorary patron of Branch 360 of The Royal Canadian Legion, will be held at 326 Queen St. W. The event begins at 11 a.m. and is co-sponsored by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 360 and the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association. For further information, call Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, (613) 546-8364, or J. B. Gregorovich, (905) 949-4920.

**Saturday, August 24**

**LOS ALTOS, Calif.:** A Ukrainian Independence Day picnic will be held at McKenzie Park at 11:30 a.m., with a short thanksgiving service at noon and lunch at 12:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children age 3-12. Entertainment will include volleyball, softball, water balloon toss and other games. The picnic is sponsored by St. Olga's Sisterhood of St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the church's youth group. For further information call Oksana DiRicchio, (415) 656-2222, or the Rev. S. Kovaliv, (510) 276-1056.

**DENVER:** A musical concert celebrating five years of Ukrainian independence will be held at Lochwood Baptist Church Auditorium, 13545 S. Union Blvd. The program will include Plast children, poem recitals, choir singing and musical performances. For further information call Mrs. Morozevich, (303) 980-6083, or Nadja Barreiro, (303) 693-7148.

**JENKINTOWN, Pa.:** A commemoration of the fifth anniversary of Ukrainian independence will be held at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center at 700

Cedar Road. A Kyiv film will be shown at 5 p.m., and the program will begin at 6 p.m. with a keynote address by Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, Ukrainian ambassador to the U.S. Also included in the program are the Prometheus choir, Monique Laterey dance ensemble, singer Olenka Heimur and declaimer Nadya Petryk.

**Sunday, August 25**

**HORSHAM, Pa.:** A commemoration of Ukrainian independence will be held at the Tryzubivka Ukrainian Sports Center at 1 p.m. The program will feature the Voloshky Dance Ensemble, the Lyuba and Mykola duet, parachutists with flags of Ukraine and activities for children.

**PARMA, Ohio:** A Ukrainian independence celebration will be held at the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church Property, 9672 State Road. Dinner will be served at 1 p.m. and a concert with a keynote speech by Dr. Juriy Kulchycky, Roman Cymbala of the Lviv Opera, pianist Laryssa Chernecka and Ukrainian dance group Kashtan will begin at 3:30 p.m. At 5 p.m. the dancing will begin. Donations are \$10.

**NEW CITY, N.Y.:** The fifth anniversary of Ukrainian independence will be celebrated with ceremonies at the Rockland County Legislative Chambers, New Hempstead Road. This event begins at noon and is sponsored by the Ukrainian American Veterans of Post 19, Spring Valley, N.Y.

**HARTFORD, Conn.:** There will be a banquet with entertainment and remarks by community leaders and dignitaries to commemorate the fifth anniversary of Ukrainian

(Continued on page 18)

**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: August 23-25**

KERHONKSON, N.Y. — The weekend of August 23-25 will be dedicated to the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's proclamation of independence.

The Saturday evening concert, which is slated to begin at 8:30 p.m. in the Veselka auditorium, will spotlight Soyuzivka's Ukrainian Folk Dance Workshop. Young participants of the annual workshop conducted by the renowned Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky will put on a show sure to delight the

audience featuring Ukrainian folk numbers and more.

Afterwards guests at the resort will have the opportunity to dance to the rousing music of the Burya band.

Other highlights of the weekend include the traditional Friday night dance to the music of Soyuzivka's house band, Lviviany.

For further information about Soyuzivka programs or to make reservations call the resort at (914) 626-5641.

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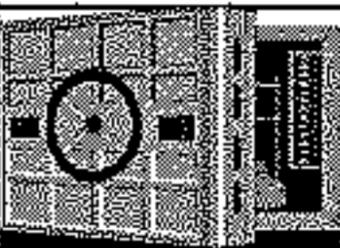
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