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Kyiv celebrates independence with parades and concerts

by **Marta Kolomayets**
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma emphasized Ukraine's shining future as one of Europe's leading nations and recalled its turbulent yet glorious past during a 70-minute celebratory address on Friday evening, August 23, marking the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's declaration of independence.

Ukraine's emerging role as a stable European player was further underscored on August 24, when Council of Europe Secretary-General Daniel Tarschys joined Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister

Hennadiy Udovenko in a flag-raising ceremony on European Plaza, the newly renamed Komsomol Square, located at the foot of the Khreshchatyk, Kyiv's central avenue.

A blue flag, adorned with a circle of gold stars — the banner of the Council of Europe, was raised next to the blue-and-yellow standard of Ukraine for the first time. Mr. Tarschys warmly greeted the small crowd of people gathered for the ceremony in front of the Ukrainian Home, which was formerly — ironically — the Lenin Museum.

"This flag flies all over Europe, and it is very good to see that it now flies in Kyiv. Let it be a symbol of the determination of the European people to work together to realize a pluralistic democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights," he said.

"Ukraine is now an equal partner in the Council of Europe," he added, explaining that it became a member in November 1995.

This was just one of the many highlights of August 23-26, when Ukrainians not only in Ukraine but throughout the world recalled the euphoria of August 24, 1991, when the Ukrainian Parliament declared Ukraine's independence.

An evening assembly — addressed by President Kuchma, Secretary-General Tarschys and United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Giorgio Giacomelli — at the recently renovated Ukraina Palace, followed by a jubilee concert on August 23, kicked off the weekend of festivities that included a military parade, outdoor concerts, arts and crafts shows, athletic events, and trade and commerce exhibitions.

Perhaps the biggest news marking the fifth anniversary of independence was the presidential decree signed on Sunday, August 25, announcing the introduction of Ukraine's new national currency, the hryvnia, which will make its debut on September 2.

Although the announcement was initially met with unease, government officials began an extensive public relations campaign to calm citizens, promising that they would not lose any money during the transition period from the karbovanets zone to the hryvnia market. [See story on page 1.]

A military parade, complete with 19 battalions and 4,000 Ukrainian servicemen, representing the army, navy, air force, national guard and border patrol, marched down the Khreshchatyk on Saturday morning, August 24, past a reviewing stand that included President Kuchma, commander in chief of Ukraine's armed forces; Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, Parliament Chairman Oleksander Moroz, Minister of Defense Oleksander Kuzmuk, as well as such distinguished guests as Secretary-General Tarschys and Deputy Secretary-

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Ukraine launches monetary reform, hryvnia to be put into circulation

by **Marta Kolomayets**
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The Ukrainian government announced on August 25, amid holiday celebrations marking the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's independence, that it will introduce the long-awaited national currency, the hryvnia, on September 2.

Appearing on State Television, National Bank Governor Viktor Yushchenko and Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk informed Ukraine's citizens that the hryvnia will replace the karbovanets, which became legal tender in 1992 soon after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Both currencies will be in circulation for a two-week period, from September 2 to September 16, but this may be extended if it proves to be an insufficient time frame to complete the changeover, said Mr. Yushchenko. During this period, the karbovanets will be exchanged for the new currency at the rate of 1 hryvnia for 100,000 karbovanets. In effect, Ukraine's monetary reform does nothing more than chop five zeroes off the karbovanets.

As karbovanets have been selling at 176,000 to the U.S. dollar for some time, the hryvnia will initially be pegged at 1.75-1.76 to the U.S. dollar and 1.18-1.20 to the

DM. Buyers will require 3,000 Russian rubles to purchase 1 hryvnia.

Ukrainian National Bank officials said they are considering pegging the hryvnia to a hard currency or basket of currencies, and will apply for an international credit rating in approximately 16 weeks.

In contrast to Russia's monetary reform of 1993, holders of the old Ukrainian currency will be allowed to exchange as much of it as they like, but sums over 100 million karbovanets (about \$600) will be transferred to special accounts rather than issued in cash. In previous currency reforms in many former Soviet republics, people were often given insufficient time to exchange their money, or faced limits on the amount of bills they could exchange.

Ukrainian citizens initially met news of the impending introduction of the hryvnia with panic, scrambling to change their karbovanets to dollars, for fear that their money would depreciate in value. Many lined up at exchanges to buy out dollars, which were in short supply over the weekend. Vendors at various open markets refused to take karbovanets, also known here as coupons, trading only for dollars.

In Odessa, Ukraine's major port city,

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Ottawa diplomats toast Ukraine's anniversary

by **Christopher Guly**

OTTAWA — The day before Ukraine's Independence Day, Ukraine's third ambassador to Canada, Volodymyr Furkalo, opened the doors to his Ottawa residence to mark the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's liberation from Soviet rule.

While diplomats attended the August 23 evening reception in the city's tony Island Park Drive district, the Canadian government was represented at Independence Day celebrations in Kyiv by Manitoba Sen. Gildas Molgat, speaker of the Canadian Senate. While in Ukraine, Sen. Molgat met with President Leonid Kuchma, Oleksander Moroz, speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament, and Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadiy Udovenko.

Back in Ottawa, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy congratulated Ukraine for reaching its fifth anniversary milestone. "Canada is proud to have supported Ukraine's transformation since gaining independence," he said. "We are pleased to celebrate Ukraine's fifth anniversary of independence and its success in implementing its political and economic reform. Canada looks forward to an even closer relationship with Ukraine in the years ahead." In October, Mr. Axworthy will travel to Ukraine to lead a business delegation for the first Canada-Ukraine Intergovernmental Economic Commission and to forge a closer bilateral partnership with Ukraine.

Meanwhile, several embassies

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Ukraine's Embassy in Washington hosts fifth anniversary reception

by **R.L. Chomiak**

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON — A record 30 days of unseasonably cool weather ended in Washington on August 23, and the usual heat, humidity and smog of the summer returned with a vengeance. That was the day the Embassy of Ukraine celebrated independent Ukraine's fifth birthday, and even the muggy atmosphere couldn't intervene in the feast. (Efficient air conditioning in the historic but modernized building housing the Embassy helped to make the occasion festive for some 300 invited guests dressed to the T.)

There are more than 100 embassies in Washington, so almost no week goes by without a National Day celebration at two or three of them. This was the fifth marked by the Ukrainian Embassy (the fourth one in the building in which George Washington himself closed the deal on the location of the American capital), and perhaps the nicest thing about it was how normal the event was — just like a Fourth of July celebration in an American Embassy anywhere in the world, and the U.S. has been doing it for more than 200 years!

It was relaxed and happy. No longer a novelty. A pleasant routine. Ukraine's diplomats have gotten the hang of it.

There was the receiving line headed by Ambassador and Mrs. Yuri Shcherbak, and Deputy Chief of Mission and Mrs. Valeriy Kuchinsky. There were White House and State Department officials, diplomats from other countries' embassies, military attachés in their various uniforms, special friends of the Ukrainian Embassy from all walks of life, a few visitors from Ukraine, a Ukrainian singing group from Philadelphia — and Ukrainian food, American wine, French champagne, Scotland's whisky, England's gin and Ukraine's horilka.

And much conversation, congratulations, and seemingly no one in the rooms who would admit to harboring doubts three or four years ago that there would be a fifth anniversary of independence. Lest anyone forget that this was the fifth, Ukrainian diplomats wore buttons on their lapels with "5" prominently displayed.

Melanne Verveer, whose grandparents came from Ukraine and who now works at the White House as deputy chief of staff to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, read a letter from President Clinton to President Kuchma that began with the "Dear Leonid" salutation. [For full text see page 2.]

"In its five years of independence," the

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COMMENTARY

Independent Ukraine: a personal perspective

by David R. Marples

PART I

I decided it was time to play the role of observer in Ukraine – to be more precise, in its capital, Kyiv. I had last visited the city in May 1992. Subsequently, my research work had taken me to neighboring Belarus, to which I have made 11 visits over the past four years. The latter country is notable for its familiarity to those who recollect the Soviet period. Kyiv came as something of a culture shock.

Physically and externally, Kyiv is in the throes of a dramatic transformation. One can begin with the regular port of entry into the country, Boryspil Airport. I had entered the airport under the auspices of British Airways, en route from Gatwick Airport. The airline is apparently new to Ukraine and at present appears to have little idea that Ukraine is an independent country.

Announcements were made in English and Russian. Upon landing, the plummy-voiced flight attendant announced: "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Russia." I was about to ask whether the plane had been diverted to Moscow, but at the time could find no one to question. We were, in fact, in the capital of Ukraine.

Boryspil used to be among the shabbiest of Eastern Europe's major airports. There were still few international planes in evidence, but the airport itself was remarkably efficient and clean. It lacked the dark, dank appearance of recent memory. I cleared customs within 10 minutes. A vast highway now runs into the city center. Most of the cars around me appeared to be German. The odd Lada driver now occupies the inside lane and can watch the traffic pass by him like an express train. One could be anywhere in Europe in this respect. It was a scene utterly alien to the airport road into Minsk.

Kyiv's city center, always impressive, now functions as a commercial hub. Businessmen in suits with mobile phones are everywhere. Foreign stores have begun to predominate. On Chervonoarmiyska Street, a young woman tried to entice me to install a whirlpool in my home.

The main bookstore in Soviet times now sells computers. Gas stations abound, as do official currency exchange booths. There seems to be a market, large or small, at every major metro station. Some of them extend into the street. Most often the vendors sell individual items and rarely more than five. These markets are less the result of a suddenly thriving capitalism than a reflection of the struggle for subsistence, though this fact was not immediately apparent.

The currency appeared to be relatively stable against the dollar, at 174,000-177,000 kbv, and inflation was negligible, though in both cases suspension of regular wages to state employees has created a false sense of security.

The Soviet period is generally regarded with contempt. In fact, Soviet icons are now marketed with good humor at every souvenir outlet. One of my favorites was a T-shirt depicting the founder of the Soviet state under the golden arches and the slogan "McLenin." Soviet Army coats and caps are for sale, usually costing from \$6 to \$20 per item. At one outlet, I found one of Stalin's works in what appeared to be the original edition of 1950.

David R. Marples is professor of history at the University of Alberta in Edmonton and director of the Stasiuk Program for the Study of Contemporary Ukraine at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, which is based at that university.

"How much is this?" I asked the vendor, fingering the 80-page book.

"Thirty dollars," he answered.

I dropped the wretched thing like a hot potato.

"Why?" I asked him.

"I have no idea," he replied, "because it's not worth 2 kopeks."

Stalin's works aside, nevertheless, the lack of reverence for the past era is striking.

The past, however, has not disappeared. It will take generations to replace the decrepit housing in which most urban residents of Ukraine are obliged to live. As one enters, one cannot help but note the peeling walls and urine-stenched elevators. The apartments themselves provide convenient views into the windows of neighbors, indeed into their daily lives.

Some fare better. One day I visited Misha, a friend of a friend, a businessman who had redecorated his apartment to near perfection by removing the walls separating the kitchen from the living room and bathroom, and taking over part of a neighboring apartment. He had also eliminated the balcony, which had thereby become an extension of the living room. The result was extraordinary: a plush living room with a tapestry carpet on brown-tiled floor and a substantial kitchen with bench seats.

The window overlooked the river and the Pecherska Lavra on the hillside, a vast forest that seemed close enough to touch. The food provided was lavish, and even ostentatious by Western standards: black caviar, roast chicken, salads, a tray of desserts that would have graced the Ritz, all to be washed down with Finnish cranberry vodka, well diluted by a fantastic assortment of German and Finnish fruit juices.

Misha plans to buy out the people who live above him and has plans to build a stairwell and some sort of waterfall (indoors) that can cascade from the top floor to the bottom. I wish him luck. Is this a new breed of Ukrainian resident? Does he represent a new elite in Ukrainian society?

It seems a reasonable assumption to make. Certainly there is a nouveau riche in Ukraine that is notably self-confident. It is a young – often very young – and dynamic sector that has rejected the traditional route to success: education and technical training. Its feet are firmly on the path of business.

The new generation may turn out to be the least educated in 20th century Ukraine. It rarely reads books other than computer manuals, but it has a definite grasp on the principles of a market economy.

The new entrepreneur knows the laws of the country and the amendments that occur almost on a weekly basis. He is in a hurry. At the same time the trappings of the new life must be present: the expensive briefcase, the Italian suit, the car, the cellular phone. He is as likely to be in Tashkent as Moscow from one week to the next, and his work ethic is utterly alien, well nigh inconceivable to the Soviet-trained employee.

A cynic might declare that such wealth can only be attained by working the system, by close links and cooperation with organized criminal elements. Much depends on how one defines the word "crime." Good contacts are essential, but the new entrepreneur must fend for himself/herself once established. The crucial question is where the accumulated wealth is stored, inside or outside the country, and if the former, then in which banks?

The success of the nouveau riche contrasts with the rest of Ukrainian society. In this respect, the changes have left in their wake the majority of the capital's population. Some are on the fringe, trying and often failing with new businesses. Others have never gotten off the ground.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Belarusians granted asylum in U.S.

WASHINGTON — Belarusian Popular Front leaders Zyanon Paznyak and Syarhei Navumchyk received political asylum in the U.S. on August 23. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service said "it has been determined that you have established a well-founded fear of persecution were you to return to your county." Mr. Paznyak said this will help his "work to save democracy in Belarus." Vladimir Zametalin, the deputy head of Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's administration, said the decision "only arouses amazement and regret," and that he hopes it does not signal U.S. backing for political "adventures" to undermine Belarusian authorities. This is the first time that leaders from a former Soviet republic have been granted asylum since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Donetske miners disbanded by court

DONETSKE — The Donetske Workers' Committee was disbanded by the Donetske Court of Arbitration on August 20. The court ruled against the committee for organizing illegal miners' strikes in July, blocking roads and railroad tracks, and causing huge losses for local mines and railroads. Videotaped interviews by local TV reporters with the imprisoned committee leaders were used as evidence. The leftist Civic Congress of Ukraine issued a protest against the court's ruling, calling it a sign of the "advance of totalitarianism...based on a nationalist ideol-

gy." (OMRI Daily Digest)

World Bank loan to Ukraine confirmed

KYIV — The World Bank confirmed a \$300 million loan to restructure Ukraine's agriculture industry, Western agencies reported on August 26. Agriculture Minister Anatoliy Horishko signed the protocol, which will now be submitted for government approval. After the approval, the World Bank will give its final go-ahead for the loan. (IntelNews Economic Review)

Kuchma makes additional appointments

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma re-appointed Serhiy Osyka as minister for foreign economic relations, Ukrainian agencies reported. Valeriy Borzov has been named chairman of the new State Committee on Physical Fitness and Sports, while Volodymyr Kuznetsov has been relieved from his duties as a presidential adviser and appointed chairman of the State Credit and Investment Co. Mr. Kuznetsov replaces Borys Sobolev, who was fired from that post several months ago. President Kuchma also dismissed Oleksander Savenko as president of Ukrainian State TV and Radio, and named Zinoviy Kulyk as acting president. Ukrainian Radio reported on August 26 that President Kuchma liquidated the State Tax Inspection Agency and formed a new, more powerful Institute of State Tax Administration. (OMRI Daily Digest)

President Clinton greets Ukrainians on fifth anniversary of independence

Following is the text of a statement on Ukrainian Independence Day by President Bill Clinton, released by the White House on August 21.

Warm greetings to all those celebrating the fifth anniversary of Ukrainian independence. I am delighted to join with Ukrainian Americans across our nation in marking this special day.

In its five years of independence, Ukraine has emerged as a leader for peace and democracy. The Ukrainian American community can take pride in giving invaluable moral support and financial help that have sustained friends and relatives in Ukraine through this unprecedented and challenging transition.

This past year, especially, has been marked by extraordinary accomplishments that have advanced the sovereignty and prosperity of Ukraine, while

positioning Ukraine as a stabilizing force in an evolving and undivided Europe. Ukraine's decision to complete the removal of nuclear warheads from its territory has been lauded by the international community as an historic step, and the Ukrainian people can be proud of their new Constitution, which exemplifies the principles of democracy and human rights as the bedrock of the political system.

These achievements have won the respect of the United States and other nations around the globe. We remain committed to supporting Ukraine through its ambitious and far-sighted reforms and to working with Ukraine and our European partners to promote Ukraine's integration into the European family.

Best wishes for a wonderful Ukrainian Independence Day.

Bill Clinton

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Editor-in-chief: Roma Hadzewycz
Associate editor: Marta Kolomayets (Kyiv)
Assistant editor: Khristina Lew
Staff editors: Roman Woronowycz
and Andriy Kudla Wynnycykj (Toronto)

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INTERVIEW: Belarusian opposition leaders on the Lukashenka regime

On Tuesday, July 16, the Ukrainian National Association was visited by a pair of wanted individuals from one of the last redoubts of authoritarianism in Europe, Belarus. Zyanon Paznyak, chairman of the Belarusian Popular Front and former parliamentary deputy, and Syarhei Navumchyk, also a former deputy and now the BPF press secretary, are in what, presumably, is temporary, self-imposed exile, denounced by their erratic president, Alyaksandr Lukashenka, for opposing Mr. Lukashenka's pro-Russian, and, in their opinion, anti-Belarusian and dictatorial policies, and marked for "neutralization" by the Lukashenka regime. This interview was conducted by The Weekly Editorial Assistant Yarema A. Bachynsky and Svoboda editorial staffer Serhiy Myroniuk.

Since this interview, the pair have sought political asylum in the U.S. The Lukashenka government has denied all allegations of persecution directed at it by Messrs. Paznyak and Navumchyk. Mr. Lukashenka, in turn, on August 5th gave a lengthy television address in which he described the opposition figures as "terminally ill cases," according to Reuters. Mr. Lukashenka also predicted that opposition to his regime would become increasingly violent and that members of the opposition would "break in through apartment windows and rape your [law-abiding citizens'] wives and daughters."

PART I

For what purpose did you come to the United States, who is sponsoring your trip, and what do you hope to accomplish here?

Zyanon Paznyak: We came to the U.S. by invitation of the National Endowment for Democracy. They, together, with a Warsaw-based organization, sponsored our trip, through provision of a grant and travel coordination. Our goal was to meet with political and state officials in the United States of America, and to discuss problems of our state independence, the threat emanating from Russia and human rights questions. Because, to our mind, the U.S. has thrown Belarus to the wolves. And this has led to the Lukashenka-Yeltsin pact, which is nothing other than a planned annexation of Belarus to Russia. Thus we found it crucial to meet with those political figures who formulate [U.S.] policy vis-a-vis Belarus, inform them of the situation and give our appraisal concerning that situation. Our appraisal, that is the view of the opposition Belarusian Popular Front.

Did your visit here include meetings with congressional representatives or U.S. government officials?

Zyanon Paznyak: Yes. We met with chairmen of Senate committees, as well as State Department officials, congressmen and also with certain non-governmental, private organizations. We met with U.S. Representatives Frank Pallone (D—N.J.) and Christopher Cox (R—Cal.). We also met with officials at the State Department's Ukraine, Belarus and CIS desks, among them Carlos Pasquale, as well as with the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee. During our stay in Washington Zbigniew Brzezinski arranged a luncheon for us. Present at that event were more than 20 representatives of various political organizations, a number of active and retired public officials, among them former U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig. Overall I'd say that our meetings were quite useful and successful, because we dealt with active political figures, many of whom strongly influence formulation of foreign policy and its execution. It was very important to hear what they had to say and to familiarize them with our point of view. Virtually all of them touched on, to a lesser or greater extent, the question of what should the United States do vis-a-vis the situation in Belarus. This direct, perhaps at times even exceedingly direct, nature of our talks, was refreshing. In New York, our program was also arranged by the NED. We appeared yesterday [Monday, July 15] at Columbia University's Harriman Institute, where we addressed regional specialists, and later we were interviewed by *Novoye Russkoye Slovo* [the Russian-language daily published in New York]. We believe those meetings also went quite well.

We understand that there is a warrant outstanding for your arrest, should you return to Belarus. We have also been informed that President Lukashenka has issued an edict for your "neutralization." What does this mean?

Zyanon Paznyak: This means that we are being persecuted for our political views, inasmuch as we do not share the outlook of the Lukashenka regime. The regime's goal here is very simple: destroy the movement and destroy its leader, and insofar as I am the

leader, destroy me. But they have been unable to do this. When [during the disturbances which occurred in Miensk in late April] our apartment was surrounded by gunmen, I was able to literally escape out the back door, get into a cab and get across the border to safety, to Ukraine. There the communists nearly started a fight over my arrival. As soon as word was out about me in Kyiv, Lukashenka ordered the appropriate authorities to seek my extradition from Ukraine. In this vein the Belarusian Procurator General demanded my extradition by the Kyiv Procurator, but the Ukrainian side did not even bother to respond to the procurator's demand. Later, we went to the Czech Republic, met there with government officials, the head of President Havel's administration, with officials at the foreign ministry, gave press conferences, interviews with newspapers, television. We found supporters amongst the Czechs. In Poland, where we had been for over two months, our information is distributed every day, on television, over the radio. The Polish public is well aware of the current situation in our country. Regarding Ukraine, we have active relations with that country. Our position is simply that Belarus, Poland and Ukraine need to coordinate policy regarding the East, because the East threatens all our lands. Belarus has almost been captured, and if Belarusian democracy and independence are not defended now, then a similar threat will emerge against Poland and Ukraine. On June 24, at a Warsaw meeting on the subject of Eastern European security, NATO expansion etc., representatives of the three countries formed an understanding of the significance of this process to our region. On April 26 I quietly returned to Belarus from Poland for the Chernobyl commemoration. There was a large demonstration, Lukashenka's security forces tried to get at me as I was addressing the crowd [numbering between 50-70,000 according to BPF estimates], but when, at 10 p.m. they raided the headquarters of the BPF, arresting everyone present, I still escaped them, coming across the border again. Soon after, Lukashenka called in his security chiefs, the KGB etc., severely scolded them for their failure to apprehend me, and thereafter branded me an "enemy of the people" who carries on anti-presidential activities from the safe harbor of foreign countries. Later, he issued a secret order to "neutralize" us. The meaning of the word is well known to many Americans. We take this threat quite seriously and just today, having spoken with Miensk, we learned that he has again threatened us while addressing Parliament. These rantings of a psychologically ill personality must be taken seriously. He is obsessed and as such his threats must be taken seriously.

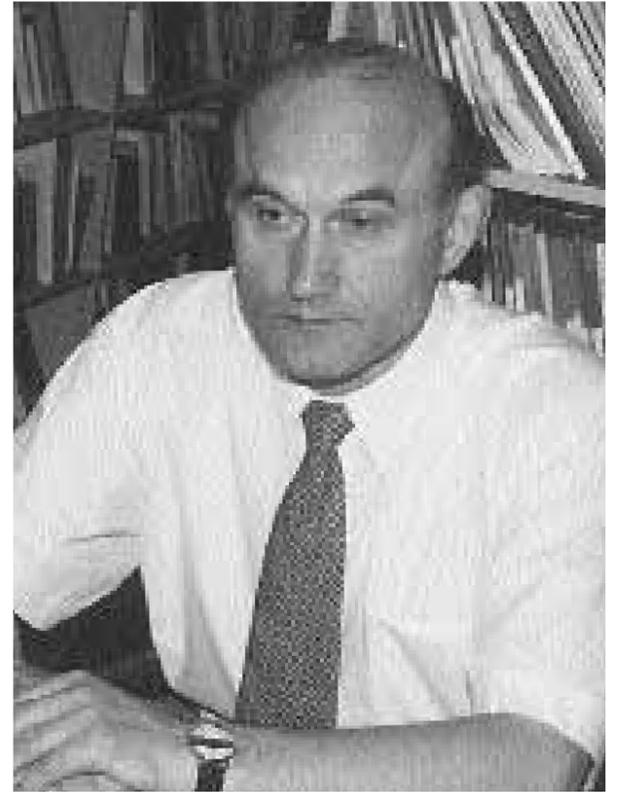
What do you mean when you say he is obsessed?

Zyanon Paznyak: He has promised to become president of Russia. He does everything to further this. Take the Russian-Belarusian union. Naturally, Russia is interested in this union. But he has his own personal interest in it. People can't understand, how is it that a president of a state acts directly against the sovereignty of his own state. This is idiocy, moronic behavior. There is no logic to this behavior, except his own sick, twisted logic. He thinks he can become president of all Russia. But how can the citizen of a foreign state become president of Russia? Very simply. He proposes such a tight integration between our Belarus and Russia that Belarus will cease to exist as a sovereign entity. He has publicly said that "sovereignty is nonsense" on national television. And in his dealings with Yeltsin in preparation of the Russian-Belarusian union, he demanded that a single, joint government be created. But Yeltsin, the imperialist he is, said "No. Russia must remain sovereign." And Belarus of course, should remain sovereign, according to Yeltsin's logic. But Lukashenka believes that with a new, unitary state, new presidential elections would be required. And he figures he can accede to the presidency in this manner. He has taken control of the government apparatus, reined in the banks and put the economy on the mat.

He has spoken officially in this manner?

Zyanon Paznyak: No, he does not say these things nowadays. But if we go back one year, after the referendum [the 1995 referendum in which Belarusian voters elected to give Russian equal status with Belarusian, to revert to Soviet-style national symbols and to pursue close economic integration with the Russian Federation], he stated "For me Belarus is a bygone stage."

Syarhei Navumchyk: Let me correct this statement. Lukashenka, as was reported by the independent press at that time, immediately following the referendum, said



Zyanon Paznyak, Belarusian Popular Front chairman.

not only that Belarus was a bygone for him, but also that "Now it is time to orient ourselves on the Kremlin."

We understand that Mr. Lukashenka has even tried his hand at what is known, in the United States as shuttle diplomacy.

Zyanon Paznyak: Last summer Lukashenka bought himself a presidential airplane for \$45 million. Well, once you have bought a plane, you must fly somewhere, no? So he flew to visit Boris Yeltsin and play tennis with him in Sochi [a Black Sea resort city southern Russia]. Once there, he had to wait half a day for Yeltsin to sober up. Finally they met, but the planned tennis match between Yeltsin and Lukashenka did not take place. Instead, [Mr. Yeltsin's former security chief Alexander] Korzhakov faced him on the court. Yeltsin continued partying... None of the official media sources mentioned this; we learned it only through internal diplomatic channels. Later, during a discussion with Yeltsin, Lukashenka proposed that Belarus and Russia unite, with the two presidents of the former states taking turns on an annual basis at the helm of the unified state. Yeltsin found this interesting, but told Lukashenka to bring [Ukrainian President Leonid] Kuchma on board. So he flew on to Kyiv, where he waited for over a day before Mr. Kuchma received him [the Ukrainian President was in Dnipropetrovske at the time on a regional visit.]

Syarhei Navumchyk: And Lukashenka complained about having to wait for Kuchma, as if someone had been expecting his arrival in the Ukrainian capital, stating "I am here, but where is Leonid?"

Kuchma listened to him but gave no commitments whatsoever, after which Lukashenka flew to see [Russian Prime Minister Viktor] Chernomyrdin. Chernomyrdin, however, was less diplomatic than Yeltsin, saying to Lukashenka, "This [Russia] is not a kolhosp" [in a reference to Mr. Lukashenka's previous executive experience as manager of a collective farm in Belarus].

It seems as if Mr. Lukashenka strikes almost a comic figure at times.

Zyanon Paznyak: What I am saying sounds funny, but the fact remains that it is very dangerous, this schizophrenic fixation of his on becoming leader of Russia. Naturally, what he has done is useful to Russia, the ruination of the Belarusian economy, surrender of sovereignty etc. One wonders why the president of a country would call national sovereignty "nonsense." But he has his own way of thinking, his own goals. And it is important to understand that similar goals were shared by that group of people who came to power years ago, created artificial famines throughout Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan etc. How many died in your Ukraine? Six million? More, perhaps? A band of criminals took power under a lumpen ideology called scientific communism, terrorized 70 million by force, and for what? So it was with the communists. Or take Hitler, a man people laughed at. So we see, that despite

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Mavka-like Tanya Kost crowned Miss Soyuzivka 1997

by Serhiy Myroniuk

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KERHONKSON, N.Y. — Although she misidentified the gender of the Ukrainian National Association's president, it didn't prevent her from getting the wreath of Miss Soyuzivka 1997 at the UNA estate on August 18.

Twenty-two-year-old Tanya Kost of North Royalton, Ohio, was chosen from among nine young women who competed in the UNA's 41st traditional contest. Wearing a wreath of wild flowers and smiling to people who cheered her at the south end of the Veselka Terrace after midnight, she resembled the Mavka from Lesia Ukrainka's play "Lisova Pisnia" (Forest Song).

Two first runners-up from New Jersey, Zenia Helbig, 20, of South Orange, and Krystyna Kosz, 26, of Clifton, as well as second runner-up Olenka Rojowsky, 19, of Brooklyn, N.Y., shared the moment with the new queen.

Earlier, however, when asked by a three-person jury to name the current UNA president, Ms. Kost did it correctly but said it was a gentleman rather than a lady, which prompted the panel to explode with laughter, since the president

is Mrs. Ulana Diachuk.

"I am rather embarrassed, but at least I got the name correctly," said Ms. Kost, smiling after the crowning ceremony. "I had heard the name and, in fact, my sister had told me who it was, and unfortunately I didn't recall what she said."

After operatic singers of Lviv Lesia Hrabova and Roman Tsybala ended their evening performances in the Veselka Auditorium, the jury began the process of selecting a new Miss Soyuzivka. The judges — singer Olya Chodoba-Fryz, Sonya Semanyszyn, Soyuzivka's office manager; and UNA Advisor Alex Chudolij — evaluated the young women's fluency in the Ukrainian language, participation in the Ukrainian community, knowledge of current events in Ukraine as well as academic standing and physical appearance. To participate, a contestant had to be over age 17, never married, and a UNA member.

UNA Advisor Stephanie Hawryluk monitored the process.

Due to the higher number of contestants this year (last year only five young women competed), the panel missed the deadline that had been set for 11:45 p.m. and made its decision well past midnight.

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Serhiy Myroniuk

Tanya Kost shares her first dance as Miss Soyuzivka with the estate's manager, John A. Flis.

Ukraine launches...

(Continued from page 1)

people were trading the karbovantsi for 250,000-300,000 to the dollar on Monday. In Kyiv, soon after the presidential decree was signed, the karbovanets was trading as low as 220,000 to the dollar, down almost 50,000 from just the previous week.

Government officials stepped up a public relations campaign to calm Ukrainian citizens during this transition period. "No one will lose money in this exchange," promised Mr. Yushchenko. "We hope never to return to the time when serious economic decisions were built on political games," added Mr. Pynzenyk.

Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko also appeared on Ukrainian State Television after a hotline phone number for citizens who had inquiries about the new currency was established on August 25.

"There are no grounds for concern. The reform is completely transparent, without restriction or confiscation. All money held by the population, without exception, will be gradually exchanged in the two weeks between September 2 and September 16.

"I want to stress one point and ask all of Ukraine's residents not to rush to exchange their money today. There is no need to play into the pockets of commercial banks and commercial structures with your rash actions. They seek to make additional profits from every decision taken by the government," said the prime minister.

The government also hopes that Ukrainian karbovantsi, stashed away in cupboards and mattresses and circulating in the shadow economy, will be drawn

back into Ukraine's banking system. Mr. Yushchenko estimated that these funds add up to 376 trillion karbovantsi (over \$2 billion) — twice the size of the money turnover in the official economy.

The National Bank governor said citizens of Ukraine will be able to change their money at more than 330,000 exchange points, including their places of employment and post offices. Foreigners and citizens who are not employed will be able to exchange their money at almost 20,000 different currency exchange offices/banks throughout Ukraine.

Mr. Yushchenko also noted at the August 27 news conference, where he showed samples of the new banknotes in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 hryvni, that Ukraine's monthly inflation rate could jump between 8 and 10 percent as the new currency is introduced. He added that this would be due to speculation on the new currency and rising energy costs, as gas and electricity prices are reaching world market prices.

However, Mr. Yushchenko said no inflation would be sparked by the government, and no additional money would be printed.

In an effort to boost trust in the government, the Cabinet of Ministers announced on August 27 that it would freeze prices for goods and services for one month, beginning on September 2, the day the hryvnia is introduced.

It has also threatened to revoke licenses of currency exchange offices that have been selling dollars at inflated rates and exploiting rumors that the old currency may be confiscated once the new banknotes come into circulation.

"It's the best moment to introduce the

new currency, because we have now managed to stabilize the economy," explained Mr. Yushchenko.

The Ukrainian government has been promising for years to introduce the hryvnia, but economic conditions were never considered sufficiently favorable. The new currency, printed in Canada and England, has remained sealed in bank vaults in Kyiv since 1993.

This year the inflation rate in June and July was 0.1 percent, and the exchange rate for the karbovanets has held steady since December of 1995. Therefore, the fifth anniversary period of Ukrainian independence — prior to the onset of winter and its attendant soaring of energy prices — seemed ideal for the introduction of the new currency.

Ben Slay, an analyst for the Prague-based Open Media Research Institute, said the introduction of a national currency in a post-Communist country can create powerful new symbols of national identity.

This can be precisely what reformers in Ukraine need to implement new economic policies, restructure enterprises and financial institutions, and encourage exports and foreign investment.

Markian Bilynsky, the director of the Pylyp Orlyk Institute, a private U.S. organization monitoring reforms in Ukraine, said "The hryvnia's introduction may renew confidence in the Ukrainian currency, which in itself is a factor of stability."

However, Mr. Bilynsky added, "Perhaps the government should have waited until they finalized their stabilization fund deal with the International Monetary Fund."

Countering such suggestions, Mr. Yushchenko said, "The introduction of a new currency does not depend on the IMF." He explained that the Ukrainian government will continue its talks with the world financial organization in September.

One government official said he believed that Prime Minister Lazarenko had already won approval for the IMF-backed \$1.5 billion stabilization fund during his visit to Washington in late July, while National Bank insiders said that the introduction of the hryvnia may, in fact, act as a catalyst for Ukraine to receive the funds.

"The loan would reflect international confidence in Ukraine's reform program," explained the National Bank governor.

Description of the new money

The multi-colored hryvni will feature portraits of Ukraine's historical figures.

The 1 hryvnia note — dark green in color — will feature a portrait of Prince Volodymyr the Great on the front, and an image of the ruins of Khersones, the site where he converted to Christianity, on the back.

The 2 hryvni note will feature the portrait of Prince Yaroslav the Wise on the front. Rust-brown in color, it will depict the Cathedral of St. Sophia on the back.

Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky will appear on the 5 hryvni note, which will be dark blue in color. A picture of the historic St. Elijah's Church in Subotiv, where he was once buried, will appear on the back.

The 10 hryvni note — violet in color — will feature a portrait of Hetman Ivan Mazepa; the back will include a depiction of the Kyivan Cave Monastery (Pecherska Lavra).

Poet and national leader Ivan Franko will be featured on the 20 hryvni note, which will be greyish in color and depict the Lviv Opera Theater on the back.

Also violet in color, the 50 hryvni note will feature Mykhailo Hrushevsky, Ukrainian historian and president of the Ukrainian National Republic. The back of the bank note will feature the Parliament building in Kyiv.

The 100 hryvni note will feature Ukrainian national bard Taras Shevchenko on the front. Green in color, the back of the note will depict St. Sophia Cathedral.

Also debuting on September 2 will be "kopiivky" (kopecks), coins in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 25 and 50, on which the national symbol, the trident (tryzub), will appear surrounded by a wreath of wheat stalks and oak leaves.

The coins will be minted in 1, 2, 5, 10, 25 and 50 denominations. The 1, 2 and 5 will be silver in color, the 10, 25 and 50 will be gold in color.

In an effort to show how state-supplied goods will now be priced, the National Bank submitted the following examples: bread will now cost 66 kopecks, a liter of milk will be priced at 50 kopecks, sugar will be available at 1 hryvnia 17 kopecks per kilogram, and pork will run about 3 hryvni 69 kopecks a kilogram.

Soap will cost 70 kopecks and a box of matches will be 5 kopecks.

A ride on the subway, previously set at 20,000 karbovantsi, will now cost 20 kopecks, while a stamp that cost 5,000 karbovantsi will now cost 5 kopecks.



The 100 hryvni note depicts Ukrainian national bard Taras Shevchenko.

Kravchuk addresses audiences in Toronto and at Soyuzivka

Constitution is 'Ukraine's passport'

by Andrij Wynnyckyj
Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO — Ukraine's former president, Leonid Kravchuk, appeared before an audience of about 750 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in this provincial capital's downtown on July 22 to speak on a topic of immediate interest for Ukraine and the diaspora: the newly adopted Constitution and the Russian presidential elections.

The evening's sponsors were the Canadian Friends of Ukraine, and executive member Prof. Jurij Darewych, who served as master of ceremonies, did much in the way of following protocol and encouraging an atmosphere of respect for the honored guest.

In his word of introduction, Prof. Darewych hailed Mr. Kravchuk as a man who "has engraved his name in the book of Ukraine's history," and who "will take his place alongside [Hetman Bohdan] Khmelnytsky, [Hetman Ivan] Mazepa, [Ukrainian National Republic President Mykhailo] Hrushevsky and [UNR Directory President Symon] Petliura."

Former CFU president Bohdan Myndiuk (currently also the executive director of the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce), then rose to commend Mr. Kravchuk for having participated in the first peaceful transfer of power in newly independent Ukraine following the 1994 presidential elections and for having actively cooperated with current President Leonid Kuchma in securing Parliamentary ratification of the new Constitution, thus averting a potentially divisive national referendum on the subject.

It was also announced that Mr. Kravchuk would be heading a newly formed agency called the International Union of Ukrainian Businessmen, set up as a wing of the Ukraina Association, and that Dr. Eugenia Pasternak of Toronto (director of the Ivan Franko Home for the Aged) would serve as liaison officer in Canada. Mr. Kravchuk did not elaborate.

According to a mission statement since obtained by The Weekly, the businessmen's union intends to "establish a communications network for entrepreneurs worldwide, and to provide organizational, methodological, legal, financial and other support for business-entrepreneurial organizations, including marketing services."

In his address, Mr. Kravchuk offered comments on some particulars of the historic Constitution, its expected impact on Ukraine's society, and the effect of its adoption on his country's international "imidzh" — a word with which many Ukrainian politicians now pepper their speeches, — i.e., image.

Mr. Kravchuk said the new Constitution is "Ukraine's passport into the international community," which he said now recognizes Ukraine as a nation on the path of democracy and the rule of law.

To thunderous applause, the former president stressed that Ukrainian has been firmly enshrined as the state language, and said that he can no longer be blamed for "coercing the Supreme Council back in 1989" on the question. He added that Article 10 provides a better formulation regarding the state's support for the maintenance and development of other languages, in that it does not require hair-splitting and debate over what constitutes "a concentrated settlement of a minority" as the old Law on Language did.

Mr. Kravchuk hailed the adoption of the blue-and-yellow flag and "golden trident on the blue shield of Volodymyr" as national symbols.

He went on to say that the Constitution would gradually transform Ukrainian society, and that politicians will become more accustomed to being ruled by an authoritative legal document.

"Now there is a law that everyone must follow, from the president on down," Mr. Kravchuk said, "It is something people will have to get used to."

He said the new document provides for a clear division of powers between the various branches of government, and that a new system of authority is being confirmed. But Mr. Kravchuk voiced his opposition to those calling for immediate elections for all levels of government, saying that the country would not be able to withstand the strain in its current economic condition.

Referring to the Parliament's change of heart after years of arduous debate over the charter's adoption, the former president said the Supreme Council became more accommodating as the realization spread that the document would have been adopted without Parliament. Mr. Kravchuk opined that the Agrarian, Socialist and Communist factions realized that even they would not

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Halyna Kolessa

Leonid Kravchuk is welcomed to Soyuzivka by Dr. Roman Baranowsky (right). On the left are Consul-General Viktor Kryzhanivsky and UNA President Ulana Diachuk.

'Ukraine exists and will continue to exist'

by Halyna Kolessa

KERHONKSON, N.Y. — Leonid Kravchuk, the first president of independent Ukraine, spoke here at the Ukrainian National Association's upstate New York resort before an overflow audience of 700, addressing the topic of "Ukraine after the Adoption of the Constitution."

Mr. Kravchuk's July 27 visit to Soyuzivka was arranged during his visit to the U.S. as representative of the Fund to Promote the Development of the Arts in Ukraine. He was welcomed to the resort with the traditional Ukrainian greeting of bread and salt by representatives of the local Ukrainian community, Dr. Roman Baranowsky and members of the Plast and SUM-A youth organizations, as well as by the Soyuzivka management.

Once inside the Veselka auditorium, the former president and current member of Parliament was welcomed with a standing ovation. He was then seated on the dais along with UNA President Ulana Diachuk, Ukraine's Consul-General in New York Viktor Kryzhanivsky and fellow Parliament Deputy Yaroslav Kendzior, as well as Bohdan Mysko, foreign adviser to the president of Ukraine, and Roman Lun, a representative of the Porozuminnia (Understanding) organization.

Mrs. Diachuk welcomed the distinguished visitor and introduced him to the audience by noting his significant role in the re-establishment of independent Ukrainian statehood.

Taking the podium, Mr. Kravchuk underlined the fact that Ukraine had gained its independence five years ago

"without a single shot being fired, without a single drop of blood being shed." Within a very short time, he noted, the Soviet empire disintegrated and Ukraine was recognized by nearly all the world's countries.

He characterized this as "a historic event, one, I would say, of planetary proportions, as this was the beginning of strategic changes in the world, the beginning of new relations among nations in Europe, and not only in Europe. And Ukraine, as a great European state, immediately took its rightful place in the world community."

Noting the Ukrainian populace's diversity, he said that despite that diversity "there was not a single village, town, city, region or oblast where less than half the population voted for independence" during the December 1, 1991, plebiscite on the issue. Even in the Crimea and Sevastopol, he underlined, the vote for independence was greater than 50 percent.

The first president of independent Ukraine also offered his opinion of the achievements of the newborn state. "The Ukrainian state is developing; it is gaining authority among the world; it is proceeding along the democratic path of democracy, and economic and political reform; and it is strengthening its statehood, independence and security." He pointed to the appearance of new people and new enterprises, and said "the people are becoming the true masters of their own state, their own land."

While acknowledging current problems — low salaries, the non-payment of wages, paltry pensions — he observed that new forms of life are emerging. Besides, he asked, "Where and when was it possible in a

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Former President Kravchuk: still walking between raindrops

by Serhiy Myroniuk

KERHONKSON, N.Y. — Two years after he left office, the first president of Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk, still has the ability to walk between raindrops and keep dry (as people in Ukraine usually describe it).

When asked why the Communist Party hasn't been banned in Ukraine, Mr. Kravchuk, a deputy of the Supreme Council, told a 700-strong Ukrainian American audience at Soyuzivka on July 27 that this is "justified." He got a big round of applause.

"Rukh and other democratic parties organize a whole series of actions to ban the Communist Party or take it to the court," he said. "And a significant number of people sign those petitions. But the government is not persecuting the Communist Party or trying to take it to the court because today I think such a policy

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Roman Iwasiwka

Leonid Kravchuk speaks at

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

A run for your money

The introduction of Ukraine's new national currency the hryvnia – on September 2 may become a watershed event in this nation's economic history.

To be sure, Ukraine's government leaders took a gamble by announcing the debut of the hryvnia at this time. However, according to many insiders, it is a politically correct move.

"It's a logical move for the government to make, showing people – in the midst of Independence Day celebrations – that there is economic stability in Ukraine," said one Kyiv economist. "But, economically, such moves are made in the spring months when life is about to get easier and less expensive, not before the approaching cold winter, when energy prices are going to soar."

With such factors as a 0.1 percent inflation rate in June and July, the dollar-karbovanets exchange rate holding steady since last December, and an expected growth of 1.5 -2 percent in the gross national product, there has been some positive economic news in Ukraine, where the transformation to a market economy has moved at a snail's pace. Never before have economic conditions in independent Ukraine been more favorable to leave the transitional karbovanets behind and introduce a convertible, national currency.

Even the popular unease exhibited after rumors began circulating last week that the hryvnia would be introduced in the very near future has subsided over the last few days. The panic-buying of dollars has also tapered off, not only because citizens have calmed down, but also because the government has announced that it will revoke licenses of banks and businesses trying to make a profit on jittery residents.

Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko has tried to reassure Ukrainians that there is no reason to panic over the introduction of the new currency. He has reiterated on various occasions that the monetary reform will be fully transparent and that there will be neither restrictions on exchanges nor confiscation of currency, something many Ukrainians feared would transpire as it did in Russia in 1993, when only a certain amount of rubles could be traded for the new currency.

It seems that the government has earned the trust of its citizens, something that has not happened since independence was gained five years ago.

If economic reforms are to move forward in Ukraine, this trust is worth its weight in gold. It is the citizens of Ukraine who will determine whether or not these reforms take off in Ukraine.

Ben Slay, an analyst for the Open Media Research Institute, pointed out that if the Ukrainian currency began to slide, it could jeopardize the recent exchange rate and price stability that had originally created the favorable preconditions for the hryvnia's introduction.

But, he added that "the introduction of national currencies in post-Communist countries have often had the effect of creating powerful new symbols of national identity. These symbols in turn can help reformers sell their citizens on economic policies that maintain (or strengthen) the value of the new currency by keeping inflation low and encouraging exports and foreign investment.

"Ukraine has reached a critical point in its economic transition: continued progress requires socially painful restructuring of enterprises and financial institutions. The introduction of the hryvnia could help tilt the political balance in favor of reform, and help Ukraine through what will almost certainly be a difficult phase in its economic transition," he explained.

Now, if the government stands by its word and the transition period on September 2-16 goes smoothly, there is a good chance that economic reforms will take off in Ukraine. The hryvnia can appreciate in value and independent Ukraine will live long and prosper.

FOR THE RECORD

Below, in an exclusive, The Weekly reprints a correspondence between Rep. Robert Torricelli of New Jersey and President Bill Clinton regarding the \$225 million earmark for Ukraine in the Foreign Assistance Act for fiscal year 1997.

Rep. Torricelli urges support for earmark...

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to urge you to support an earmark of \$225 million in aid for Ukraine as part of the Foreign Assistance Act for 1997. As you know, Ukraine is going through a very difficult adjustment period as it transforms to a market economy. Ukraine desperately needs financial aid to close down the Chernobyl nuclear station and to develop alternative sources of energy by the year 2000.

In the past, you and Secretary [of State] Warren Christopher have expressed strong support for Ukraine and its President Leonid Kuchma, who advocates market reforms and shows an unwavering commitment to human rights and the development of a pluralistic society. Since 1991, Ukraine has actively promoted the cultural and religious diversity within its borders, and has gone out of its way to pursue peace in Eastern Europe. Ukraine's participation in the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and its removal of nuclear weapons have earned

America's unqualified support.

I hope that you will use your influence with our Democratic colleagues in the House [of Representatives] and speak out in favor of the allocation of \$225 million for Ukraine when the foreign aid bill reaches the conference committee. This is a very modest investment to promote democracy in a nation which Secretary Christopher has called the "strategic linchpin" of Eastern Europe. This earmark has won bipartisan support in the Senate, but I am concerned that the administration and the Democratic leadership in the House must show strong support for it because it is being closely watched, not only in New Jersey, but in other key states with large Ukrainian American communities such as Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Florida.

I would be glad to discuss this issue with you and your staff in greater detail.

Robert G. Torricelli
Member of Congress

...President Clinton's response

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter on Ukraine's economic needs and the important role of our assistance programs.

I share your concern that Ukraine faces a difficult adjustment period, but I am also pleased that steady perseverance is showing positive results. President Kuchma's economic reforms have cut monthly inflation from 18 percent to 1 percent, stabilized the currency and shifted half the economy to private hands. We are also optimistic that Ukraine's new Constitution, adopted on June 28, will provide a legal foundation for investment and growth.

In meetings with President Kuchma and Prime Minister Lazarenko over the last few weeks, senior members of my administration have reaffirmed our strong support for

Ukraine's reform program. We have helped mobilize \$1.9 billion in international commitments for Ukraine in 1996, and we continue our advocacy for quick action on the \$3 billion G-7 program, crafted under U.S. leadership, to close Chernobyl. Bilaterally, we have budgeted for Ukraine more assistance in FY 1996 than for any other country in the NIS: \$330 million in grants under the Freedom Support Act and other accounts, and \$675 million in trade credits.

I believe our outstanding record on support for Ukraine makes an earmark unnecessary. You can be assured that, as Ukraine moves forward with reform, my administration will continue to mobilize international support.

Sincerely,
Bill Clinton

Sept.
3
1991

Turning the pages back...

As Ukraine's Supreme Council reconvened in plenary session on September 3 – its first session since the declaration of independence – it was a different body in a different Parliament chamber.

Following are excerpts from the news story filed in the wake of independence by Chrystyna Lapychak.

Conspicuously absent from the hall on the first day of the plenary session on September 3 was the Lenin statue above the chairman's podium, removed the evening before by a decision of the Parliament's Presidium.

The gesture followed the Presidium's historic decision on August 29 to dissolve the Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU) for its support of what it called the "unconstitutional" failed coup in Moscow on August 19-21.

The landmark decision banned the CPU, an organ of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which ruled the entire Soviet Union and Ukraine with an iron fist for over 70 years.

Although hardliners in the Supreme Soviet during last week's two-day plenary session attempted to have the decision overturned with a statement signed by 90 deputies (out of the original Communist bloc of 239), calling it illegal, they were soundly outvoted. After suffering one defeat after another, a visibly upset Oleksander Moroz, leader of the Communist majority in the Supreme Soviet, announced on September 4 that the majority was officially dissolved within Parliament because the CPU leadership had "betrayed" them.

On September 4, the Parliament voted after three tries to raise what it called the "national flag," the blue-and-yellow flag, next to what remains the red-and-blue "state flag" of the Ukrainian SSR above the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet building. Both flags were to fly until a referendum on national symbolism is held and proper changes to the Constitution are made.

Thousands of people who had gathered outside the Parliament building during the two-day session watched as the red-and-blue flag was taken down just after 6 p.m.,

when the plenary session adjourned until September 10.

The crowd, however, was angered when the blue-and-yellow flag was raised along with the red-and-blue on the single flagpole atop the Supreme Soviet building, and stormed up to the front steps, which were barricaded off.

The angry crowd broke down the barricades and shoved its way through the Interior Ministry forces to the front door, demanding the red-and-blue flag be taken down.

On September 3, the Supreme Soviet approved a new minister of defense of Ukraine, Maj. Gen. Kostyantyn Morozov, an air force commander, by a constitutional majority, 323 to 3, with 11 abstentions.

Speaking in Russian, Maj. Gen. Morozov told the legislators that he would be willing to become a civilian and leave his military ranking if the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet required the new minister of defense to do so.

After a last ditch effort by General Procurator Mykhailo Potebenko to overturn the Presidium's decrees banning the CPU and establishing a temporary commission of inquiry into the behavior of officials during the failed coup, his proposal to introduce debate on the issue was voted down.

Because there was no Ukrainian state procuracy, and since Mr. Potebenko was appointed by Moscow to his position, the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet voted to end Mr. Potebenko's authority and that of his fellow chief procurators on the collegium, and approved the establishment of a new post, general procurator of Ukraine.

Victor Shyshkin, an attorney and deputy from the Kirovohrad region, was elected, 280 to 19 out of 337, as the new general procurator. Chairman Kravchuk and most deputies in the session hall, particularly the democratic minority, were visibly delighted by Mr. Shyshkin's selection.

At the same time, it should be noted, throughout the land monuments to Lenin came tumbling down. On September 5, the acting mayor of Kyiv, Oleksander Mosiyuk, announced that the city's main monument to Vladimir Illich – all 1,000 tons of it – would begin to be dismantled on September 9. Among the first cities to remove the ubiquitous Lenin were Pidvolochyske and Monastyrsk; meanwhile, in Kremets and Khmelnytsky, residents assembled at public meetings demanded that their Lenin monuments be dismantled.

And so, in the first few days of independence, the icon of communism was the first to feel the effects of newfound freedom.

Source: *The Ukrainian Weekly*, September 8, 1991; Vol. LIX, No. 36.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

St. Sophia sidewalk not appropriate grave

Dear Editor:

The Church's stubbornness, militancy and unwillingness to "Render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's" forced the Ukrainian government to capitulate by allowing the erection of a memorial over the sidewalk grave of Patriarch Volodymyr.

Legend has it that Apostle Andrew blessed the hills of present-day Kyiv. All the land of Ukraine is sanctified with the blood of our ancestors. Common sense tells us that to be buried in Ukrainian soil, anywhere (not beneath a sidewalk), would be honorable and a proper place to have eternal rest.

Why did the Church leaders pick St. Sophia for the patriarch's burial place? Who are those leaders who knowingly led innocent, gullible mourners into the wall of riot police who had the "ugly" duty to protect the laws of the land and themselves?

Even a memorial the size of a pyramid would not correct the shameful spectacle made of the patriarch's funeral. It is done and recorded, and the peoples of the world will read about it on the pages of "Ripley's Believe It or Not" and will marvel at our "wisdom" for years to come.

How sad that "a 10th century treasure" will now become a gravesite of ever-feuding patriarchs of Ukraine. Unfortunately, as sure as there is a tomorrow, not being able to tolerate each others' religious differences, the St. Sophia site will become a mecca for fist fights and name-calling.

Where is the Church's piety, humility and its teachings about good and evil? The Church should distance itself from the craze of costly memorials and set an example to those who in these trying times are tearing the very shirt from Ukraine's back to finance self-glorifying monuments. As for our late Patriarch Volodymyr, he should be buried, or rather reburied, at St. Volodymyr Cathedral or at Baikiv Cemetery — not under a sidewalk.

Let's give him a Christian burial without sticks, stones and riot police, and the ever-present "crusaders" of UNA/UNSO. This would please God and Ukraine, and give eternal peace to Patriarch Volodymyr.

Ivan Jaciw
Windsor, Ontario

Florida community welcomed Shcherbak

Dear Editor:

The Ukrainian community in Florida awaited the arrival of Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak with joy and anticipation. On March 8 the ambassador met with Gov. Lawton Chiles and other high-ranking officials in Tallahassee. His next stop was the Ukrainian American community in North Port, which is the cultural and social center of a large Ukrainian settlement. St. Andrew Religious and Cultural Center plus the new St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church and other religious denominations attract droves of winter and summer visitors. During the winter season the North Port area is a beehive of cultural, educational and social activities.

On Saturday, March 9, the ambassador was joyously welcomed to our community with the traditional bread and salt, and a get-acquainted breakfast at the Boca Royale Golf & Country Club. The spacious dining room overlooking the golf course was packed with guests eager to meet the ambassador and his charming wife, Mary. The ambassador confined himself to a few

words pertaining to the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy and the help needed to care for the growing number of sick due to radiation; the help the Ukrainian athletes need for equipment, etc. for the Olympic Games in Atlanta; and the upcoming 5th anniversary celebration of Ukrainian independence.

After breakfast the ambassador and his wife walked to each table, shook hands and exchanged pleasantries with everyone, thus endearing themselves to all. The feeling in the dining room was spiritually uplifting, and in our opinion the ambassador is a first-class diplomat. The breakfast committee was headed by Lesia Tatarko, and the master of ceremonies was Dr. Korol. It was truly an elegant affair.

In the evening the ambassador was a guest speaker during the Taras Shevchenko memorial concert held at St. Andrew Cultural Center. The main theme of his speech was poetry of the great bard. His opinion of poetry was precise, reverent, deeply analytical and most likely many listeners began to understand Shevchenko's poetry in a new and more profound light. Artist of Ukraine Yaroslav Maksymchuk recited a number of Shevchenko's poems with a depth and emotion that brought tears to many in the audience.

It must be acknowledged with pride that the concert was a combined effort of the local communities and with available local talent. The choir performed melodiously and on the whole the concert was a huge success both spiritually and financially. President of St. Andrew's, Roman Shramenko, opened the program with appropriate remarks, and Ms. Tatarko was mistress of ceremonies.

Sunday, March 10, the ambassador visited the Ukrainian American community in St. Petersburg.

On Monday, March 11, a public meeting was held at 2 p.m. at the St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church. George D. Mullen, chief commissioner of the town (North Port operates without a mayor), presented the ambassador with a proclamation naming him a "Honorary Citizen of the City of North Port." The ambassador then delivered an hour-long speech on the state of Ukraine's health; its past, present and future prospects; its economy; privatization program; state of the new constitution; international relations; expanded cooperation with the United States and the help the Ukrainian community provides and how badly that help is needed in Ukraine.

The ambassador presented to several members of our community a "hramota" plaque as a thank-you gesture for their service to Ukraine. The meeting was moderated by Ukrainian activist Yaroslav Haywas.

The sponsorship of the ambassador's visit was undertaken jointly by the local branches of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America headed respectively by Michael Belendiuk and Jaroslav Kostyshyn. Both men contributed an inordinate amount of their time and effort to assure that the reception of Ambassador Shcherbak was smooth and dignified as behooves the representative of an independent country.

As with all public affairs, mistakes were made that should be avoided in the future. It was a mistake not to invite the city officials to participate in welcoming ceremonies for the ambassador. At the insistence of the publicity committee, the mistake was corrected at the last moment. The committee was also frustrated time and again in their effort to generate appropriate newspaper and TV coverage for the ambassador's visit, due to the self-glorification of some people who place their personal ambitions above the good of the community.

Joseph Iwaniw
Venice, Fla.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Give Ukraine a high five

Ukraine just celebrated its fifth birthday. All over the country, including Russified eastern Ukraine, there were parades, concerts, poetry readings, panel discussions and television shows to commemorate the occasion. Blue-and-yellow flags, posters and bunting were all over the place, even, I've been told, in the Crimea.

There was something for everybody. For those who still yearned for the "good old days" of Soviet rule, Ukrainian Television offered nostalgia film footage of the gulag, churches being destroyed, a few shots of the famine, live action shots of Vlad (like in Lenin), as well as President Roosevelt's old buddy "Uncle Joe" (like in Stalin) and Lazar Kaganovich, architect of the famine.

Some 450 leading lights of the North American diaspora were invited for the official festivities in Kyiv, which were conducted in the Ukrainian language.

There were a few missteps. Some goofy singer from Moscow sang a song tying Ukraine to "Mother Russia." Everybody waited politely until he finished and then booed him off the stage. Poor dope probably thought he was at a celebration of the Treaty of Pereyaslav.

Over all, there was much to celebrate. Ukraine has a Constitution that guarantees the right of private ownership — including land an official language, a national flag, and — an official currency (hryvnia) that will be introduced this year at 1.77 to the dollar. Inflation is down, and the economy appears to be headed upward.

Ukraine's newly enacted foreign investment law (FIL) has given new hope to those who want to do business in Ukraine. According to law notes published by Patterson, Belknap, Webb and Tyler, a New York law firm, FIL "provides the fundamental benefits and state guarantees for protection of foreign investment that have become traditionally expected.

"First, foreign investors are guaranteed 'national treatment,' that is, they will be treated the same as domestic businesses and not discriminated against because they are foreign. Second, the Ukrainian law explicitly acknowledges that preferences can be established for specific foreign investments on the case-by-case basis to develop 'priority sectors in the economy, social sphere and territories ... to help alleviate the country's energy dependency on Russia, Ukrainian authorities have identified oil and gas exploration and development as areas of special priority.'"

Other provisions of FIL "guarantee unhindered transfer of profits, revenues and other proceeds in foreign currency obtained legally ... as well as a 10-year 'guarantee against change in legislation,' albeit a restricted guarantee."

Although all of these developments point to a brighter future, there are still serious problems that need to be overcome.

Taxes, for example, are still confiscatory. As one American businessman told me, "it is hard for anyone to conduct a profitable business in Ukraine legally."

Commies in the Verkhovna Rada are still putting the brakes on meaningful change, and the next parliamentary elections don't take place until March 1998. A lot of mischief can be initiated between now and then.

Even more scary is the fact that the younger generation seems disinterested in politics. They're into "business," buy-

ing and selling products from Turkey and Poland. The older generation, on the other hand, is interested in politics because independence has brought few benefits. For many senior citizens the misery quotient has risen during the past five years. In their minds, payless pay days, devalued pensions, higher prices and other such dislocations are the result of independence. As bad as things were under the Soviets, pay checks came on time, and they could afford the basic necessities of life as well as the occasional luxury. Who can blame them for wanting the return of Soviet-like rule?

Ukraine's education system, from preschool to graduate school, is another area of considerable concern. Teachers and professors are ill-paid. There is a great shortage of books at all levels, especially in the social sciences. University professors can't keep up with the latest developments in their chosen field of expertise. And although Ukrainian-language schools are multiplying, they are still too few to serve a generation in need of a new national identity. Older Ukrainians are of little help because they too are unsure of who they are.

Compounding problems facing Ukrainian youth is the lack of a viable extracurricular youth program following the demise of the Young Pioneers and Komsomol. Plast is growing but it's mostly in western Ukraine.

Corruption has not been stemmed, and gangsterism has infiltrated all aspects of Ukrainian life, even, it would seem, the American Embassy. There are people walking the streets of the United States who have purchased their visas illegally from racketeers who advertise their services openly in the Ukrainian press. The militia is poorly paid and either fearful of the mobsters or on the take itself. Trials of major criminals are rare.

And finally, there is little interest in prosecuting the criminals directly involved in the horrendous crimes of Bolshevism at a time when other formerly Communist states are not so reticent. The Washington Post reported on July 9 that Ethiopia has begun trying 46 top officials of the Marxist regime of dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam, who now lives luxuriously in Zimbabwe, the guest of President Mugabe. "Over the next several years," reports the Washington Post, as many as 3,000 former officials of Mengistu's regime could face trial, many on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity." It seems to me Ukraine could learn from Ethiopia.

Yes, there's good news and bad news coming from Ukraine. From where I sit, however, most of it is good news. A foundation for statehood has been laid in Ukraine, and the nation is slowly moving out of Moscow's long, dark shadow. Given the horrific devastation wrought by the Bolsheviks during their bloody reign; given the fact that Ukraine almost lost its history, its culture and its language; and given the lack of a professionally trained nationalist leadership and an unfamiliarity with the democratic process, the Ukrainian people have done extraordinarily well during their first five years on the world stage. That Ukraine is still around after five years is for many of us a miracle.

For this, if for nothing else, the people of Ukraine deserve one big high five from all of us.



Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadiy Udovenko (right) greets Council of Europe Secretary-General Daniel Tarschys (second from left).



Ukrainian folk dancers perform in the Ukraina Palace.

Ukrainian independence sparks genealogical interest in Canada

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA – Prior to Ukraine's 1991 declaration of independence, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress' Winnipeg headquarters received "perhaps one or two phone calls" from people interested in Ukraine, said UCC Executive Director Lydia Jaworsky.

"In the last five years, we have, at times, been inundated with people either telephoning or visiting us trying to find out a bit more of their Ukrainian heritage or trying to track down their family connection to Ukraine," she said. "There was no question older people always maintained their connection with the old country. But now, I'm seeing a lot more younger people trying to find out where they come from."

In fact, the interest in genealogy within the local Ukrainian Canadian community is de rigueur. One of the busiest sections at the Kyiv Pavilion at this year's Winnipeg multicultural festival, Folklorama, was a room devoted to helping people plant their Ukrainian family trees – sponsored by the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center, Oseredok.

In fact, Oseredok's director of archives, Zenon Hluszok, has personally been flooded with a couple of hundred inquiries in the last five years from Ukrainian Canadians (real and aspirants) interested in finding out where they come from. "When there's a lot of attention on Ukraine in the mass media, that's when the phone starts to ring," said Mr. Hluszok.

Although Oseredok does not actually trace someone's ancestral tree, Mr. Hluszok's archival section will help them locate a family village on a Ukrainian map. Often, the 17-year-veteran Oseredok archivist will help them embark on their personal genealogical journey. "I always tell them you need patience and need to be a good detective," he said.

Mr. Hluszok advises family-tree growers to begin by documenting all biographical details of the most recent generation and then work backward. "The first hurdle to overcome is ensure that you know as much information as possible about your family connection in Canada."

Tracing one's roots back to Ukraine then becomes a bit trickier. Knowing the name of an emigrant relative's birthplace is one thing; knowing when they arrived in Canada is another, since Canada's national and provincial archives have records of all immigrant arrivals. Often, they include details about the emigre's family.

However, finding that information requires sound detective skills. "There were three ports of entry into Canada," said Mr. Hluszok. "Halifax, Quebec City and Montreal. You can trace the ship records from one of those cities by the year, but some years had as many as 800,000 people arriving in Canada."

But while Ukraine's five-year-old independence has prompted many Ukrainian Canadians to identify their origins and keep archivists like Mr. Hluszok frantically busy, the now country-to-country connection between Canada and Ukraine has also produced a down side. Twice in the last five years, Mr. Hluszok said people were hoodwinked into sending their personal Ukrainian Canadian archival collection to a contact person in their ancestral villages.

"In both cases, someone from Ukraine contacted these people in Canada and requested that they donate their books or whatever to a museum that was about to be opened in their mother village in Ukraine," he said. "While playing on emotional heart-strings, the person at the Ukrainian end also asked for money to support the project. But, in both instances, after the individuals on the Canadian side sent their collection and their money, they lost contact with their Ukrainian counterpart, as well as their money and their collections."

With a country still struggling through economic growing pains, Mr. Hluszok is not entirely surprised that con artists in Ukraine would resort to such ingenious archival scams.

Then again, the ploys may also be part of the negative by-products that come with nationhood. "Sure, you have bogus artists at work in Ukraine," said Mr. Hluszok. "But you also have them in Canada and the United States."



President Leonid Kuchma delivers a fifth anniversary address in the Ukraina Palace.

Marta Kolomayets

D.C. panel provides overview of Ukraine's first five years

by R.L. Chomiak

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON – At age 5, Ukraine is doing surprisingly well, say three experts who have followed these developments closely, and by its seventh birthday, one of them predicted, Ukraine should enjoy economic recovery.

This candid, “warts-and-all” view of Ukraine was offered at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington on August 21 by a panel organized jointly by CSIS and The Washington Group (TWG).

Economist Oleh Hawrylyshyn, now an International Monetary Fund official who had represented Ukraine at the IMF and before that was Ukraine's deputy minister of finance, admitted that two years ago he was critical of Ukraine. “Today,” he said, “it's impossible to be critical. Ukraine looks like it's catching up.” Its inflation, he noted, has been stopped, but productivity is not there yet. Now, if Ukraine continues to keep the inflation down, waits for change to occur without forcing it, and fights the forces that seek to block this change, then by its seventh birthday Mr. Hawrylyshyn said he would expect Ukraine to have an economic recovery.

Roman Popadiuk, the first American ambassador to Ukraine and now international affairs adviser to the commandant of the U.S. Industrial College of the Armed Forces, recalled that a fellow ambassador in Kyiv had argued Ukraine wouldn't last five years.

At that time, he said, Ukraine had two main problems: security and identity. By now, Mr. Popadiuk continued, the identity problem has been solved, and the first credit for that should go to President Leonid Kravchuk and then Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, who “made a big effort to extend Ukraine's reach,” to open up Ukrainian Embassies in many countries.

The security problem is still there, the former ambassador said, and he included in it Ukraine's energy deficiency, friction between those who want to continue Soviet-era subsidies and those who want privatization and ties to the West, but foremost the fact that Ukraine can't count on

help in its security system from friendly countries large and small, because none of them would want to irritate Russia. That factor is always present in any of Ukraine's foreign policy initiatives, Mr. Popadiuk contended.

Adrian Karatnycky, president of Freedom House, who has kept a finger on Ukraine's pulse and frequently reported the results since long before independence, expressed “substantial optimism” about Ukraine's future.

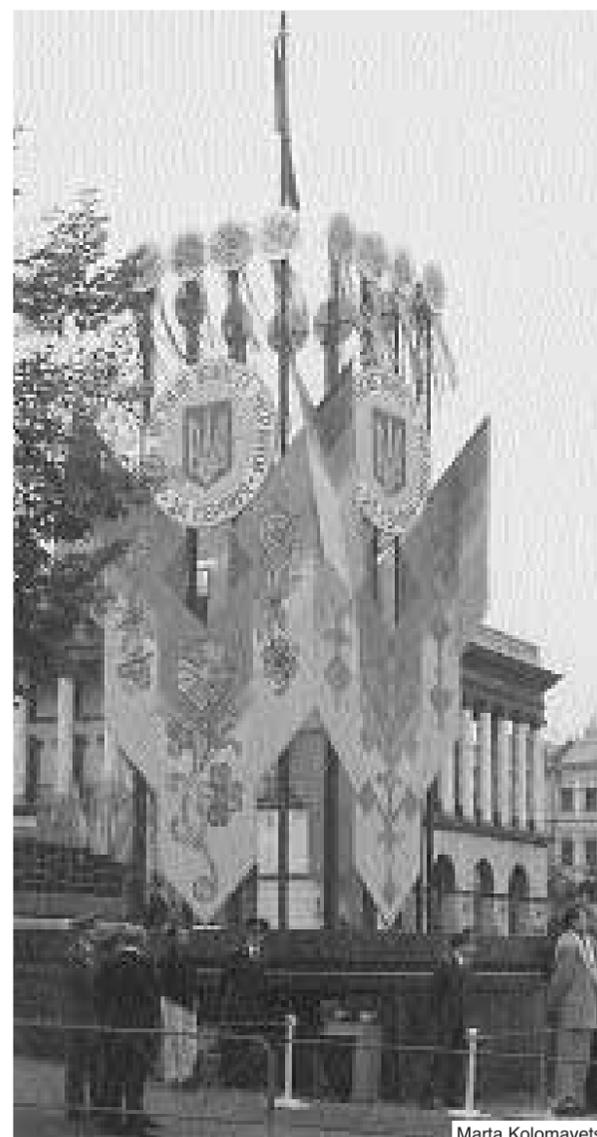
He noted that despite many problems over the past five years, Ukraine now “is stabilizing in a democratic direction, and to a large extent this has to do with the kind of leadership that has been exhibited by the two people who have been custodians of that state over its first five years – President Kravchuk and President Kuchma.”

While justifying the optimism about Ukraine's future, with democracy and civil society continuing to evolve there, Mr. Karatnycky also warned that it was important not to “turn away from many shortcomings that are natural to a transition from a 70-year legacy of totalitarianism.”

In a discussion after their presentation, which was moderated by Richard Murphy, who is both a senior associate at CSIS and member of the board of directors of TWG, Mr. Hawrylyshyn suggested Ukraine should not give up easily when its exports are blocked with charges of dumping (as was the case last year when the U.S. said women's coats made in Ukraine were selling at dumping prices). In a similar situation, he said, Taiwan would hire some smart lawyers to find loopholes in anti-dumping regulations.

Mr. Karatnycky discounted a suggestion from the floor that there are strong forces in Ukraine pulling it towards Russia. He said he didn't see that as a major factor. Mr. Popadiuk agreed with this and recalled that when he traveled through Ukraine at the height of the problems in the Crimea, there wasn't much serious talk of going back to some form of union. But Russia, he said, hopes Ukraine will fall on its own, without any need for an aggressive takeover.

If Ukraine gets its economic house in order, he said, it will survive.



Marta Kolomayets

A banner in Kyiv announces Ukrainian Independence Day.

Kyiv celebrates...

(Continued from page 1)

General Giacomelli, who is the director of the Vienna-based U.N. European Department.

“Our national armed forces are a model of loyalty to the country's national interests and historic and military traditions of the past generations,” said Gen. Kuzmuk. “They know who and what they are to defend,” he added, explaining that their motto is “For Ukraine and its freedom.”

Other distinguished foreign guests celebrating Ukraine's fifth anniversary of independence included Malta's Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Guido de Marco and Canada's Senate Speaker Gildas Molgat.

Despite the fact that it was void of mili-

tary hardware, the 30-minute parade recalled Soviet-style celebrations and lacked the spirit and color of an American production, such as a small-town Fourth of July parade.

Ignoring the cloudy weather, thousands of people came out to view the parade and the various attractions prepared by the Kyiv City Council for this historic fifth anniversary. Many of them were visitors from the United States, Canada and Europe — representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora — from around the world, who were proud to be in Ukraine to help celebrate its fifth birthday.

They were not forgotten by President Kuchma, who, during his address on August 23, paid tribute to “our great predecessors,” expressed gratitude to “our contemporaries, the statesmen and politicians

who have done much to ensure Ukraine's independence,” and voiced heartfelt thanks to “our brothers — Ukrainians worldwide, who supported Ukraine by word and deed, and dreamt of its resurrection.”

A grand fireworks display on Saturday evening, August 24, was a colorful sight that lit up Kyiv's evening skies; simultaneous fireworks displays both in the city center and off of one of the mighty Dnipro's little isles were a captivating scene, enjoyed by Kyiv residents and guests alike.

On Sunday, August 25, parties continued not only in Kyiv but throughout Ukraine, in such cities as Poltava, Ivano-Frankivske and Sumy, and in towns and villages throughout Ukraine.

In Lviv, a bronze monument depicting Ukraine's history and crowned with a

depiction of “Mother Ukraine” was unveiled next to the monument of Taras Shevchenko in the city center, at the site where the first meetings calling for Ukrainian independence were held in 1988.

Meanwhile, in the sometimes restive Crimean Autonomous Republic, the blue-and-yellow flag was hoisted atop the Parliament building in Symferopol, a first in modern Ukrainian history.

Even the Crimean Parliament, with its ethnic Russian majority, congratulated its residents on Ukraine's fifth year of independence.

“For Crimea, as well as for all of Ukraine, the past five years have been a period of difficult trials and hardships in every sphere of life. It took a great effort to overcome them and ensure further consolidation of healthy forces in society, attain constructive goals and secure a dignified way of life,” read the message from the Crimean leaders.

On August 24, military units of the Sevastopol garrison marched in a parade devoted to Ukraine's fifth anniversary of independence. Troops were reviewed by Deputy Defense Minister Vice-Adm. Volodymyr Bezkorovayny. The commander of the military review was Deputy Navy Commander Rear Adm. Olexiy Ryzhenko.

In honor of Ukraine's independence, one of the squares in a Sevastopol bay was renamed Svoboda (Freedom) Square.

In Kyiv's Independence Square, various musical groups — pop, rock and folk artists who have made names for themselves in such festivals as Chervona Ruta — performed throughout the weekend. Singers and musicians from the Tavria Games festival, held in the Kherson region in July, also entertained the audiences on Saturday evening, August 24.

And, Kyiv's City Council suggested that the sole monument of Vladimir Lenin remaining in the capital city be removed, underscoring once again that there is no going back to the past for this five-year-old European state.



A military parade marches down the Khreshchatyk, Kyiv's main thoroughfare.

BOOK REVIEW

Czech ethnographer's photos illustrate book on 19th century Ukraine

The Land They Left Behind: Canada's Ukrainians in the Homeland. Stella Hryniuk and Jeff Picknicki. Introduction by Nadia Valaskova. Photography by Frantisek Rehor. Winnipeg: Watson & Dwyer, 1995. 107 pp. illus. ISBN 0-920486-13-4 \$24.95 (Distributed by General Publishing: 1-800-389-0172 in western Canada, 1-800-387-0141 in eastern Canada).

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

"Photography by Frantisek Rehor." It is the last note on the title page, and yet without it, this book would not exist. Rehor (pronounced Rzhigorzh), the Czech ethnographer and folklorist (1857-1899), fell in love with things Ukrainian. In the introduction, Nadia Valaskova writes: "By birth he was a Czech but he lived for much of his life in Ukrainian Galicia, a region whose unique ethnic coloring and rich culture so fascinated the young Rehor that he dedicated the whole of his creative life and work to its study and documentation."

That documentation included a 2,000-item collection of Ukrainian folk art and craft, 300 articles on Ukrainian themes, and a photograph collection of 350 glass plates, 9x12 cm in size, of life in Halychyna, or Galicia, the term used by the authors of the book.

Many fortunate events came together to create this treasure of a book. Ms. Valaskova discovered the photo collection in the course of her ethnographic work in the National Museum of Ethnography in Prague. For some reason, whether financial or otherwise, other Canadian scholars were not interested in acquiring the rights to these photographs.

Dr. Stella Hryniuk of the University of Manitoba doggedly pursued this project, trying to find a sponsor. This was accomplished with the generosity of the Canadian Province of the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate, who were looking for a fitting way to celebrate their centennial: Their founding a century ago was in the general region depicted on the photographs. Jeff Picknicki, an accomplished Winnipeg researcher and writer, wrote chapters 2-11 of the book, describing so ably the life and rituals the photographs depict. To do this better, he even learned Czech, adding to his growing linguistic arsenal. As Mr. Picknicki writes, his work "was truly a labor of love."

In contrast to other books that may include photographs of village and town life in Ukraine from the end of the last century, these photographs are either not posed at all, or are moments caught in time. The

impression is that the photographer just called to the people to look his way, and they did. The other photographs are of people, places and events without anyone paying attention to the camera at all.

The front and back cover photos are sepia (rather than black or grey) on white, giving the reader the feeling that he/she is entering the past. The photos in the book are black and white. The glass negatives are reproduced on the pages in an unusual way, giving the reader a sense of antiquity, or at least of stepping back in time. The edges of the photos are not sharp, but fade, just the way the negatives were developed. This adds a dreamy, almost other-worldly quality to the scenes.

And yet these scenes are so fascinating, and so down-to-earth. Before seeing these photographs, the only images I had of Ukrainian village life of the last century were from artwork – the mostly pretty and idealized paintings by Shevchenko, Vasylkivsky, and so many other fine artists. The few photographs I was familiar with before this book were posed portraits of couples and families, sitting and standing stiffly for the camera in all their finery (in the chapter "Some of the People," there are a few posed family portraits, but outdoors, as the photographer caught them). My other images are from literature, which described village life, but each reader's imagination conjures up different images of what this life was.

In "The Land They Left Behind," we see actual people, seliany [villagers] and mishchany [townspeople] living their life. The camera captured them as they were, not always attractive, and sometimes downright grubby. But then, how else is a maziar [greaseman] at work supposed to look? I imagined women washing laundry at the pond or lake or river, and here I see them, not exactly the way they appeared in my mind.

The 11 chapters of the book clearly define the photographs. Dr. Hryniuk, in Chapter 1, discusses "The Land of the Photographs," the Halychyna in which these people lived, and from which they emigrated to North America. Even though the book is all about Ukraine and



Ukrainians, her wonderful title "The Land They Left Behind" connects that land and its people to Canada as the subtitle explains, "Canada's Ukrainians in the Homeland."

Dr. Hryniuk emphasizes (as she did in one of her latest books, "Peasants with Promise: Ukrainians in Southeastern Galicia 1880-1900"), that at the turn of the century, Ukrainian peasants in this region were not the downtrodden illiterate poor we have been lead to believe. They were becoming more prosperous, more educated, more active politically and socially. "As the villagers' feelings of dignity and self-worth increased, so did their expectations of a better life, for themselves, and especially for the next generation. For some of them this would lead to emigration to another country," she writes.

Chapters 2-11, written by Mr. Picknicki, are the meat of the book. Without his extremely detailed, well-researched text, the photos would have remained interesting pictures, but without meaning. The chapter titles say it all, and we learn all about each of the subjects: "House and Home" (house construction, the farm yard, manor house, wells, fences), "Working the Land" (in the fields, haying, bringing in the crops, the potato harvest), "Supplementary Occupations" (blacksmithing, tanning, cultivation of special crops, beekeeping, basketweaving and plaitwork, the greaseman, from peat to palyvo, burning limestone),

"A Woman's Work" (managing the household, wash day), "To Market To Market" (Zhydachiv, Bolekhiv, Kosiv), "Some of the People" (villagers, townsfolk, the Hutsuls, Jews, beggars), "The Built Landscape" (schools, churches, roadside crosses and chapels, road building), "Special Days" (1848 remembered, Corpus Christi, Obzhynky) "Easter" (the Great Day, hayivky, Easter games, Drenched Monday, a time to remember), "To the Other World" (funerals, cemeteries).

Completing the book are a bibliography, a glossary of Ukrainian words, index, and toponymy of settlements where photographs were taken as of 1900 [this is given in the transliterated Ukrainian and in Polish, both village, town, and county].

Mr. Picknicki may be familiar to The Ukrainian Weekly readers from his "Baba Chronicles," about his grandmother. He is also the author of "Generations: a Family History" (Winnipeg: Sanford Evans, 1990).

Who would have thought that a photograph of a blacksmith would be interesting? But not only do we see a horse being shod, we see that it is a Hutsul pony, and we see that his owner came to Kosiv to the market dressed in his kyptar, with a tobivka, and wearing postoly and kapchuri. Most of the other photos also show us the folk costume of the areas in all their detail,

(Continued on page 13)

Czech academic carves niche in Ukrainian ethnographic studies

by Jeff Picknicki Morski

Slovak by birth, Czech by nationality and living in the city of Prague, Dr. Nadia Valaskova may seem misplaced when included among the list of leading researchers and academics working in the field of Ukrainian ethnographic studies.

In fact, not only does she belong on this list for her significant contribution to the field, within it she has carved for herself a unique niche through her extensive work on the legacy of 19th century Czech ethnographer Frantisek Rehor. Her solid academic training, strong background in ethnography and love and affection for her subject has made her one of today's leading specialists in this field of Ukrainian studies.

Nadia Surkalov Valaskova was born in the city of Presov, Slovakia, and graduated with a Ph.D. in ethnology and folklore studies from Prague's Charles University in 1969. In 1966-1969, she worked as a researcher at the Museum of Ukrainian Culture in Svidnik, Slovakia, and then at the Cabinet of Ethnology of Comenius University in Bratislava. In 1972, she began her work as a researcher at the Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences in

Prague, which she continues to the present day.

With varied interests ranging from the study of the Ukrainian minority in the Czech Republic and Slovakia to the family cycle of rites and rituals, a great deal of Dr. Valaskova's research and writing activities have, in addition, centered around the life and work of Frantisek Rehor. Rehor, a Czech ethnographer who lived in present-day western Ukraine during the late 1800s, amassed an enormous collection of Ukrainian ethnographic artifacts, photographs and writings that with little exception, has remained largely unstudied since his premature death in 1899.

Dr. Valaskova, in continuing the work of researcher Michal Molnar and others, has devoted years of study to surveying Rehor's collections at the National Museum in Prague and working through his written materials in the city's Literary Archive. One of her most comprehensive articles on this subject appeared in the Czech-language journal Cesky Lid (The Czech People) in 1990 on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of Rehor's death.

Concurrent with her work on Frantisek Rehor, the most recent of which has been amending the bibliography of his published works, Dr. Valaskova has also

undertaken a study of the former Czech social and cultural activist Vojta Naprstek. Naprstek, whose Czech Technical Museum in Prague was the original home to Rehor's Ukrainian ethnograph artifacts, provided financial support to Rehor during the time he spent in western Ukraine and encouraged him in his further study and documentation of the Ukrainian people. Other current research projects include a study of the immigration of Ukrainians to the Czech Republic following the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Like Messrs. Rehor and Naprstek before her, Dr. Valaskova has made an invaluable contribution to the study and preservation of the Ukrainian culture. Most notably it is her dedication to the Rehor legacy that has set her work apart from that of others. By using these mostly untapped and previously forgotten sources, she has been able to show, in details seldom before seen, the rich, vibrant and progressive society that was the Ukrainian homeland.

Jeff Picknicki Morski's book "The Land They Left Behind: Canada's Ukrainians in the Homeland" (Watson and Dwyer, Winnipeg) is based around the photograph collection of Frantisek Rehor.

Ukraine's Embassy...

(Continued from page 1)

letter read, "Ukraine has emerged as a leader for peace and democracy." President Clinton also promised to work with Ukraine and America's European partners "to promote Ukraine's integration into the European family."

Adding some personal observations, Ms. Verveer recalled how pleasant it was for her, who as a child had been taught to sing the Ukrainian national anthem, "Shche Ne Vmerla Ukraina," to stand on the soil of free Ukraine in May 1995, when she accompanied President Clinton on his state visit.

She also noted that "building democracy is not easy; we know from our own experience - 220 years now for the United States - that it is never-ending work. But it is a most noble cause and we are committed in our support for your efforts."

Ambassador James Collins, coordinator of ties with new independent states at the Department of State, brought greetings from Secretary Warren Christopher. He said that "in the fifth year Ukraine demonstrated great capacity for courage and leadership and its strength as a partner for the United States," in the removal of nuclear arms, in leadership for the extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which "led the way toward a safer world and a more secure Europe."

He also mentioned the work for peace by Ukrainian soldiers in Bosnia, and added that this year's passing of Ukraine's Constitution "opens the way for Ukraine to flourish as a democracy, as its people begin the second half of

their first decade of independence.

"And the steady, courageous efforts of Ukraine's people to transform their economy," Ambassador Collins added, "has opened the way for closer ties with Europe and the United States in pursuit of mutual prosperity and the well-being of all."

The national anthem of Ukraine was sung by a male octet from Philadelphia called Haydamaky, while Renata Hron led in the singing of the American anthem.

Ambassador Shcherbak, host of the evening, noted that the event was being held "in a historical place - at the crossroads of the past, present and future. In this building ... more than 200 years ago, the first U.S. president, George Washington, worked. He was one of the most ardent champions of independence. It's not accidental that Taras Shevchenko, the greatest Ukrainian bard, dreamt about the coming of our own Washington, 'with new and righteous law,' and prayed that this time would certainly come.

"In this building, the modern history of Ukrainian-U.S. relations is being created. I believe that this place, illuminated by the spiritual genius of Washington and Taras Shevchenko, will continue to play a prominent role in the further forging of our partnership."

And the ambassador raised a toast "to the strengthening of Ukrainian-American friendship, to Leonid Kuchma, president of Ukraine, and to Bill Clinton, president of the United States of America.

"Long live the independent Ukrainian state. Slava Ukraini - Glory to Ukraine. God bless America." By then in Kyiv it was already early morning of August 24 - the sixth August 24 of independent Ukraine.

Ottawa diplomats...

(Continued from page 1)

throughout Ottawa joined in Ukraine's anniversary celebrations.

Croatian Ambassador Zeljko Urban emphasized Croatia's "friendship" with Ukraine, which "goes beyond the fact that both countries are emerging democracies which liberated themselves from a Communist past," he said. "We found ourselves many times in a similar situation, and roughly about the same time, we were able to secure our freedom and independence. Today, both countries are developing democracy and prosperity, and fighting very hard to get rid of the difficulties inherited from the old systems."

L.P. Klopper, first secretary of the South African high commission, said the relationship between her country and Ukraine has "really taken shape" since the opening of Ukraine's Embassy in Pretoria earlier this year. South Africa is looking forward to the first visit of Ukraine's minister of the

Cabinet of Ministers in November, she said.

"[We] also have great appreciation for Ukraine's participation in peacekeeping efforts in Angola, which was demonstrated by the arrival of Ukrainian troops to build bridges in Angola," said Ms. Klopper. She added that South African President Nelson Mandela had extended his personal congratulations to President Kuchma on the fifth anniversary of Ukrainian independence.

Meanwhile, at the Slovakian Embassy in Ottawa, Ambassador Anton Hykisch said Ukraine was one of his country's "best friends." There are an estimated 30,000 Ukrainians living in eastern Slovakia.

"We are probably just behind the United States, with the second-highest rate of established joint ventures between our two countries," said Mr. Hykisch. "We also share a common history. Ukraine broke free of its Soviet masters. We broke free of our Czech masters - although, with our January 1, 1993, independence, we are still a little younger than Ukraine as a free country."



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Join the UNA!

Czech ethnographer's...

(Continued from page 10)

for example, women wearing embroidered shirts and some kind of beads even for everyday work, the hairstyles, and the ornament on the back of a svyta [coat] of a man going to market in Zhydachiv.

The details in the photos are fascinating: the wattled fence (plit), the patterns in the thatched roofs, the finely plaited baskets, the musicians accompanying people headed to work the harvest, girls collecting poppy seeds (the lovely cover photo), and we see an actual "perelaz" in the fence. The details in the text also add to the richness of information. Mr. Picknicki not only describes the rituals depicted, but he explains the reasons for them. For example, in the chapter "To the Other World" (from the Ukrainian "na toi svit"), we learn why the deceased was carried out of the house feet first, and why still-hot freshly baked bread was carried to the cemeteries for the memorial service.

In her essay on Rehor, Ms. Valaskova explains why not all events of village life were photographed:

"... Not all of these groups [of photographs] however, are equal in size and some, such as christenings, weddings, and other family celebrations are completely absent from the collection, even though Rehor himself participated in these events and described them in his articles. The reason, of course, was his lack of a camera of his own [the one he used was borrowed] and the inability to photograph the interiors of houses or buildings because of technical considerations...

"Territorially, the collection includes, first of all, Zhydachiv and its environs, and also several villages in the former counties of Stryi, Dolyna, Kalush,

Tovmach, and Kosiv in the Hutsul region, and Horodenska and Ternopil in Podillia...

"The photographic collection, it cannot be overstated, exists within the legacy of Rehor's life and work truly as an anomaly. Taken with a borrowed camera and at a time when photography as a part of ethnographic fieldwork was seldom used, the photographs reconstruct in considerable detail the social and cultural ambience of the era as it was seen by someone who lived through it..."

Even though this is such a special and valuable book, some improvements could be made for the next edition. One gets the impression the publisher was in too big a hurry to get this book out because, very obviously, basic proofreading was not done. For example, on the map, "countries" instead of "counties," and Slovakia labeled as "Slovenia," and in the text, "wedding" songs instead of wedding songs. The type of the text could have been a bit larger, because it is hard to read; even the page numbers are hard to find. The captions for the photos are placed on the edges of the photos themselves, and often are also difficult to see.

The term for "skasuvannia pan'shchyn" is translated as "abolition of compulsory labor." To this reviewer, "abolition of serfdom" would be a much clearer, definite translation. Serfdom and compulsory labor, while similar, convey different meanings. The Glossary of Ukrainian Words is much too short, considering the terminology in the text.

This is a special book, one-of-a-kind. This reviewer hopes that a revised edition appears, and receives mainstream attention. This material leaves you wondering what all those other Frantisek Rehor photographs show, and what he wrote about in his many articles.

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Constitution...

(Continued from page 5)

be able to capitalize on the divisiveness a referendum could provoke, particularly in difficult economic times.

In turning to economic affairs, Mr. Kravchuk claimed that Ukraine's difficulties with rampant corruption are no different than those facing other former Soviet states. He said this is an inevitable symptom of the co-existence of "the new and the old" in Ukraine's political and administrative order.

Mr. Kravchuk called Ukraine's industrial sector "unnatural" and "deformed by the Soviet legacy" and needful of "geographical reorientation" toward the West and redesigned for lesser dependence on former ties established under the ancient regime.

Typically, he cited statistics about the non-viability of the local coal industry, saying that Polish coal costs \$35 a ton to produce, Russian coal \$21 a ton, while in Ukraine it is being produced at levels ranging from \$72 to \$400 a ton. For Mr. Kravchuk, the involvement of about 2 million people in this industry and the struggles of pensioners seeking to live on \$20 a month are the gravest economic

problems facing his country.

Mr. Kravchuk said the middle class is growing in Ukraine, suggesting that it now includes 10 percent of the population, but added that impoverishment is sucking ever more people down.

The former Communist ideologue said he frequently confronts those who assert "they lived better" under the Soviet regime. "Who lived better? I know who lived better, and it wasn't you," Mr. Kravchuk related.

Describing the political climate prior to the recent presidential elections in Russia, Mr. Kravchuk said that "people were marching around the Russian Parliament with eyes ablaze, ready to assume roles of executioner, ready to decide who will hang from what lamppost."

However, the former president said "history spoke otherwise" and expressed confidence that Ukraine and Russia will be "equal partners" economically and politically.

Apart from opining that re-elected Russian President Boris Yeltsin is a known quantity and thus preferable than any alternative, Mr. Kravchuk made no further comments about the changing political scene in Moscow.

Ukraine exists...

(Continued from page 5)

mere five years to build a new state, perfect in all respects?"

With the approval of the Constitution of Ukraine on June 28 "a new period in the life of Ukraine began." He went on to state, "The Supreme Council on the morning of June 28, 1996, became different. In one night it became different. In the process of adopting the Constitution and debating it, there was a definitive polarization of all political forces that exist in the Supreme Council." Even among the Communists, he said, there were those "who understood that it is impossible to go back. Just as no one has yet been able to revive a dead person and raise him from the coffin, it is impossible to revive the Soviet Union, the socialist system or the Communist Party."

Continuing on the topic of Ukraine's newly approved Constitution, Mr. Kravchuk commented:

"Why was it so important to have a Constitution? This serves to underline the path we have taken. This is the beginning of a new stage: Ukraine became mature; it has its own passport; it will develop its own laws and life based on the new Constitution.

"Is our Constitution perfect? We, of all the countries that arose on the territory of the former Soviet Union, took the longest to adopt a constitution. But, I believe that as of today we have one of the best constitutions, the best that could be adopted in Parliament in 1996 with its current membership. And this happened because centrist democratic factions in the Supreme Council were active, not missing a single opportunity to underline the objective necessity of adopting the Constitution. It

was thanks to this that the work of the Supreme Council, the presidential administration and political forces, parties and movements came together and on June 28 gave us the new Constitution."

Mr. Kravchuk cited as the Constitution's pluses the fact that it clearly states that the state language of Ukraine is Ukrainian; that national minorities are recognized; that it enshrines the Ukrainian flag and emblem; and that Kyiv is recognized as the capital of Ukraine. "Thus, there will be no more falsifications" regarding "these fundamental historical and national questions," he explained.

Our most important task, now that there is a Constitution of Ukraine, is that "we have to learn to live by the Constitution," the former president observed. "Our people, who lived at the time of the Soviet Union, during the rule of the Communist Party, knew well that there were no functioning laws, that there was only one law: the decisions of the Communist Party."

In concluding his remarks, Mr. Kravchuk said: "Regardless of the most impossible obstacles, regardless of internal problems and external pressures — and these do exist, especially on the part of our northern neighbor [Russia] — we can state that Ukraine exists and it will continue to exist. No one will change this, no matter what he does. Because this is the will of the nation."

Mr. Kravchuk's address was followed by a question and answer session. Afterwards, Mr. Kendzior screened a videotape of the historic events of June 27-28 in Parliament when the Constitution of Ukraine was adopted.

(The news story above is an abridged version of the Ukrainian-language news story filed by Halyna Kolessa, member of

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Former President...

(Continued from page 5)

is justified by political prudence.”
 Mr. Kravchuk referred to the 15 million Ukrainian pensioners who suffer most from the disastrous situation in the economy. Many of them used to work for the old regime and had numerous privileges that disappeared with the demise of the Soviet Union. The Communists could use them and other economically dissatisfied segments of the population to spark social unrest if the government decides to crack down on the Communists, he warned.
 Mr. Kravchuk, who used to be the party's ideology chief, said the Communist Party has shrunk from 3.5 million in 1991 to 170,000 today. Only fanatics with burning eyes and a desire for revenge remain in the party, he said. Educated people, or the “elite,” had left it long ago.

Here at Soyuzivka, among Carpathian-like scenery and a friendly Ukrainian audience, he proved once again that he is one

of the most savvy representatives of the old “elite” as he delivered a speech on the situation in Ukraine after the adoption of the new Constitution in June. Being the first president of Ukraine, he also gave a brief account of his tenure.

Mr. Kravchuk took advantage of the upcoming fifth anniversary of Ukrainian independence and distributed copies of the independence proclamation personally signed and sealed by him, as the chairman of the Supreme Council five years ago. The price: \$20 per copy.

Beautifully designed and rendered in old Ukrainian-style letters, the proclamation was not, however, a facsimile of the original. And, it contained one spelling error: instead of “navysla bula,” it says “navysla bulo.”

Proceeds from sales of the “document” will go to the Fund to Promote the Development of the Arts in Ukraine, which provides aid to gifted Ukrainian students and creative individuals who need support. Mr. Kravchuk is the head of the fund.

Independent Ukraine...

(Continued from page 2)

And there are the state workers and the elderly, for whom life could scarcely be worse, whose sacrifices of the past can now be deemed worthless, who have no savings and evidently no future. They are the reason why Parliament today still comprises a strong Communist and Socialist element.

They are epitomized by the Donetsk coal miners. No industry has ruined the health of its workers over the past 30 years more than that of the Donbas, but the industry today has become obsolete. Its workers have resorted to militancy in an effort to receive due wages, which are often months in arrears. The chief union leader was arrested suddenly two weeks ago in what the miners widely regard as an unnecessary provocation.

It is unlikely that the Ukrainian coal

mines will ever turn a profit again, but their death will be a gradual and lingering affair. The same applies to many of the traditional old industries of Ukraine. President Leonid Kuchma has been reluctant to apply the sort of shock treatment administered in Poland or Russia – though one feels that such a policy might over the long term be more humane.

Pensioners are in the worst crisis of all. Few can subsist on their pensions. Many congregate at markets, often clutching a package of cigarettes. Often they plead with pedestrians to help them, to buy their meager offerings. They are the forgotten generation. The past is a distant memory. One can only imagine the impression that the recent changes must have made on them. Some 22 percent of Ukraine's present residents are pensioners and that figure will increase further as the century draws to a close.

Tanya Kost...

(Continued from page 4)

Even before Halyna Kolessa, the estate's mistress of ceremonies for 1996, began to announce the selections on the Veselka Terrace, where guests gathered to enjoy the music of Burlaky, a portion of the crowd started to chant, “Zenia! Zenia!” The reference was to Ms. Helbig, who became one of the two first runners-up. A summa cum laude graduate of Mount St. Mary Academy, she is now a sophomore at Drew University, where she studies physics and world religions.

Her tied competitor Ms. Kosz is a graduate of Rutgers University and has a bachelor's degree in marketing. Second runner-up Ms. Rojowsky, a recipient of a special UNA scholarship award for 1996-1997, is a biology major at Barnard College, Columbia University.

As Ms. Hawryluk laid the wreath on Ms. Kost's head (outgoing Miss Soyuzivka Tania Sawa, who was to perform this part, wasn't around at the moment), the crowd cheered and applauded. Mavka-like Ms. Kost was smiling, her eyes radiating irrepressible joy.

Then she danced the traditional first dance with the estate's manager, John A. Flis. They were joined eventually by the runners-up and the judges with their dance partners.

Ms. Kost, a summa cum laude graduate of Case Western Reserve University with two bachelor's degrees, in physics and German, didn't expect to be selected. When asked before the contest whether she was going to win, Ms. Kost replied this was not a fair question because there were a lot of worthy competitors to choose from.

“I am just curious what they are going to ask me,” said Ms. Kost as she sat in the last

row in the Veselka Auditorium and waited for her turn to be interviewed by the judges.

Speaking of two young women from Ukraine who didn't advance to the top, she said the only difference between her and them was her experience in the Ukrainian community, especially in UNA programs. Ms. Kost is an active member of Plast and is director for “novatstvo” (children up to age 11) of the U.S. National Plast Command. As part of the UNA program “Teaching English in Ukraine,” she traveled this summer to Zolishchyky, Ternopil Oblast, where she taught the language.

“I am sure if these girls would have done the work I did they would possibly be in my shoes as well,” she said.

Indeed, 17-year-old Martha Tatarevich and 24-year-old Lesia Kalynska had completed applications for UNA membership just before the contest and didn't score high on UNA activities.

However, Ms. Kalynska of Kyiv, a graduate of the Drahomanov Ukrainian State Pedagogical University with a degree in Ukrainian philology, was probably one of the strongest competitors when it came to social activism in the Ukrainian community. A member of the Ukrainian Student Union, she had participated in the famous student hunger strike that prompted Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol to resign in October 1990. Specializing in the newest Ukrainian literature, she is now pursuing a literary career.

Noting how difficult it was to make the selections, the members of the jury expressed their admiration for all of the contestants.

Miss Soyuzivka will receive \$500 in prize money and a free week at the UNA's estate. Each of the two first runners-up will also enjoy an all-expenses-paid, one-week stay at Soyuzivka, while the second runner-up is entitled to any free weekend there.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, September 6

LAS VEGAS: The Ukrainian American Social Club of Las Vegas will hold a pot luck dinner in honor of Ukrainian Independence Day and Labor Day. The dinner will be held at 1844 Westwind Road beginning with cocktails at 6 p.m. Admission is \$7; for reservations or further information call Jan. (702) 434-1187.

Friday - Saturday, September 6 - 7

CARNEGIE, Pa.: In conjunction with Carnegie Days, St. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox G.C. Church will hold a food fair and bake sale at the Ukrainian Hall on Mansfield Boulevard at 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Friday, and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on Saturday.

Saturday - Sunday, September 7 - 8

WATERVLIET, N.Y.: The St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church will hold its 15th annual street festival on 5th Avenue and 25th Street at 1 p.m.-midnight on Saturday, and 1 p.m.-8 p.m. on Sunday.

Sunday, September 8

STAMFORD, Conn.: The annual Ukrainian Day Festival sponsored by the Connecticut state Ukrainian Day Committee will be held at St. Basil's Seminary on Glenbrook Road. It will begin with a pontifical liturgy at 11 a.m. A program of Ukrainian dance, song and music will begin at 3 p.m. with the Vesna, Doryshka, Veselka and Zolotyj Promin dance groups, the Lvivany Ensemble and singer Olya Chodoba-Fryz. Tickets are \$3 at the gate or \$2 through Helen Rudy, (860) 568-5445.

Wednesday - Wednesday, Sept. 11 - 18

NORFOLK, Va.: Two Ukrainian naval ships and a large landing ship will be docked at the U.S. naval base in Norfolk. An official visitation by U.S. citizens will be held on September 14-15 and an official reception on board the Vessel "Hetman Sahaidachny" will be given by the commander of the Ukrainian navy. For more information call the Office of the Defense Attaché of Ukraine, (202) 342-6031.

Saturday, September 14

EDMONTON: A Chernobyl Commemoration Blood Drive will be held at Edmonton Blood Center, 8249-114 St. Volunteers who donate blood between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. will get Ukrainian meals donated by "Granny's Ukrainian Foods." This event is sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union and the Edmonton Blood Center, Canadian Red Cross. Blood also can be donated throughout the week at other locations. For further information call Volodymyr Boychuk, (403) 432-7752, or Tracy Larson, (403) 431-0202.

WARREN, Mich.: Pianist and composer Myroslav Skoryk will perform a concert of his works at St. Josaphat Banquet Center at 7 p.m. Also on the program are pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky and soprano Marianna Vynnytsky. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors, and are available at EKO Gallery, Ukrainian Self Reliance Michigan Federal Credit Union and Ukrainian Future Credit Union.

Sunday, September 15

BROOKLYN, N.Y.: Branch 158 of the Ukrainian National Association will host an address on "The Chernobyl Accident" by Senior Assurance Engineer Sofia Korduba Toth. The presentation will be held in the auditorium of the Ukrainian Catholic School of the Holy Ghost, 162 North 5th St., at 1 p.m.

CHICAGO: St. Joseph Ukrainian Catholic Church is hosting a concert of classical music performed by the Cresta Verde String Ensemble at 3 p.m. at 5000 N. Cumberland. Seventeen musicians from the Chicago Symphony, Civic Opera and Chamber Orchestras will perform Handel, Hovhanness, Telemann, Bach and Britten. Tickets are \$12.50 for adults and \$5 for children, and are available at the door. For further information contact St. Joseph's, (312) 625-4805.

BLOOMINGDALE, Ill.: A famine memorial ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 300 E. Army Trail Road.

Saturday, September 21

HOLMDEL, N.J.: The 22nd Annual Ukrainian Heritage Festival will be held at the PNC Bank Arts Center. There will be a soccer tournament at 9 a.m. and Ukrainian dance groups at noon. The stage show will begin at 3:30 p.m. with the Troyanda Dance Ensemble from Canada. Also featured are the Luba and Mykola Ensemble and the Cheres Ensemble, which specializes in Carpathian folk music. Traditional arts, crafts and food will be available until 6 p.m. Ticket prices are \$10 for general admission and \$20 for box seats for all over age 10, and can be purchased in advance by calling (908) 442-9200.

Tuesday, September 24

CHICAGO: The Kyiv Symphonic Choir and Orchestra will hold a concert at the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago at 7:30 p.m. in the Fourth Church sanctuary, Michigan Avenue and Delaware Place. The program will include "Solemn Vespers" by Sergei Rachmaninoff, "March of the Nobles" by Nikolai Rimski-Korsakov, Ukrainian anthems and folk songs, and an American tribute. Suggested donations are \$10. For further information call (312) 787-4570.

Congressional reception to be held in D.C.

WASHINGTON - The Capitol Hill commemoration of Ukrainian Independence Day is an important tradition in Washington that has greater meaning on the fifth anniversary of Ukrainian independence. Following such a tradition, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America Inc. (UCCA) and the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council (UACC) will coordinate this event and provide a forum for members of Congress to express their solidarity with the Ukrainian people and the Ukrainian American community.

In observance of the fifth anniversary of Ukrainian independence, a special congressional reception will be held on Capitol Hill on September 18. Sponsored by Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, the UACC and the UCCA, the two-hour event will be held in the Senate Caucus Room (located in the Senate Russell Office Building). Over 30 senators and representatives have endorsed the congressional reception by serving as supporting members of the event.

Beginning at 12 p.m., the congressional reception will feature a luncheon, remarks

from members of Congress and the Ukrainian government, a musical program, and an exhibit of paintings and Ukrainian artifacts in the Senate Caucus Room. The hierarchy of the Ukrainian Churches (Catholic, Orthodox and Baptist-Evangelical) have been invited to participate, along with leaders of Ukrainian American organizations. The participation of the entire Ukrainian American community is of utmost importance in order to convey the appreciation of the community to the members of Congress who will join in the celebration of Ukraine's fifth anniversary of independence.

The cost of the congressional reception is \$35, which includes a complete luncheon. RSVP for the congressional reception by September 11. Checks should be made payable to the UCCA and sent to the following address: Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), 214 Massachusetts Ave., NE, Suite 225, Washington, DC 20002.

For further information contact Michael Sawkiw Jr. at UNIS, (202) 547-0018, or Ihor Gawdiak of the UACC, (301) 680-8414.

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