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Historian publishes new findings about 1947 "Akcja Wisla"

by Marta Dyczok

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

TORONTO — While many talk about the need to re-examine Soviet-era history and fill in the blank spots, some are actually doing it. Historian Yevhen Misylo, who published a collection of documents on "Operation Vistula" (known in Polish as "Akcja Wisla") was in North America in November-December 1996 to gather funds for continuing research and to touch base with supporters in the scholarly community and the community at large.

Dr. Misylo's book, titled "Akcja Wisla" (Warsaw: Archiwum Ukrainskie, 1993), was the result of 10 years of archival research in his native Poland. Its 524 pages tell a harrowing tale about an event in the history of Ukrainians that has received little attention to date.

Document 42, a top secret memorandum of the Polish Internal Affairs Ministry dated April 16, 1946, demonstrates that "Operation Vistula" was designed as Poland's "final solution" to its troublesome "Ukrainian problem." (Zadanie: Rozwiazac Ostatecznie Problem Ukrainski w Polsce).

Dr. Misylo has labeled these events the ethnic cleansing of over 150,000 Ukrainians from Poland's eastern borderlands in 1947. Some 20,000 Polish military personnel were used to deport all ethnic Ukrainians, including members of mixed Ukrainian-Polish families, from their ancestral homes, ostensibly in retaliation against the operations of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA).

Ukrainians were forcibly resettled in western territories newly acquired by Poland from Germany, known as the *Zemie Odzyskanie*, and ethnic Poles, many of whom had been expelled westward out of Ukraine by Stalin immediately after the second world war, were settled in the formerly Ukrainian areas. The documents of the Polish Ministry of Internal Affairs now show that *Akcja Wisla* was a Polish initiative, supported by, but not launched, in Moscow.

"We need to speak about the full truth now, but based on documentary evidence," said Dr. Misylo during his visit to Toronto. Talking about the situation of Ukrainians in Poland today, he added, "Pseudo historians and politicians continue to play a role in shaping public opinion, and Ukrainians cannot feel like full-fledged Polish citizens while they continue to be stigmatized and targeted as the enemy of the Polish people."

All discussion of the Vistula deportations was officially silenced until 1990, when the Polish Sejm recognized the action as a historical injustice perpetrated

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Kuchma declares war on corruption in government

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma fired the first salvo in his war on corruption by releasing two high-level government officials and dismissing the head of the committee on corruption and organized crime in Ukraine on February 14. It was the president's version of a Valentine's Day massacre.

Gone are Ukraine's Agriculture Minister Anatolii Khorishko and First Vice Minister of Transportation Leonid Zhelezniak, as well as the chairman of the Coordinating Committee on Corruption and Organized Crime of the Cabinet of Ministers. The committee chairmanship was given to Vice Prime Minister Vasyl Durdynets.

Maybe President Kuchma finally had his fill of the government's stalled efforts at rescucitating Ukraine's stuporous economy, which he in part blamed on regional- and ministerial-level leaders who pursue their personal agendas.

Or perhaps his resolute action was a result of his meeting with World Bank Chairman James Wolfensohn in Davos, Switzerland, at the International Economic Forum, where the banker noted the increase in corruption in Ukraine. According to Interfax-Ukraine, Mr. Wolfensohn called corruption a "threat to the growth of investments and the resolution of economic problems."

What is known is that at the February 14 meeting of the Coordinating Committee on Corruption and Organized Crime President Kuchma came down

hard on everybody and accused all parts of the government for the growth of corruption in government. His speech implicated the Verkhovna Rada, district and city officials, heavy industry and health care, and his own prime minister, Petro Lazarenko, whom Mr. Kuchma accused of being soft on anti-corruption efforts.

President Kuchma's words were strong and clear: corruption at the highest levels of government would not be tolerated.

He specifically criticized several government ministries. "The situation in transportation is abysmal. The cost of train travel has risen 40 percent, while the floor has dropped out of the quality," he explained. He accused managers of the transportation industry of building "three- and four-story dachas" at a time when there are no longer enough trains on the tracks to accommodate travelers.

In agriculture, he implicated oblast leaders in hoarding grain and thus preventing government contracts from being filled.

He backed up his words after his presentation by signing decrees relieving Messrs. Khorishko and Zhelezniak of their portfolios.

President Kuchma also upbraided enforcement agencies for being lax in dealing with corruption in the energy and alcohol industries, "for whom certain participants in the domestic markets for natural gas, petroleum products, electricity, sugar and alcohol remain sacred cows," he said.

The president further lashed out at the government committees organized to fight corruption, a not-so-veiled criticism of the

committee before which he spoke. "The media is uncovering more corruption than the committees that are supposed to fight it," he declared. "Corruption has infected a significant part of the state apparatus."

He said too many public officials had "dirty hands" and that it was time for a clean up effort, which he likened to the "clean hands" program in Poland, where an in-depth review has taken place to ferret out government administrators linked to corruption and crime.

The problem, however, as he explained it, is that "no sooner does the president mention the phrase 'clean hands' than he is confronted with a slew of insinuations, and what is most noteworthy is that it comes from those whose hands are not altogether clean."

The president did not absolve himself of blame for the spread of corruption, although he brought everybody else into the picture with him. "I have not and will not cleanse myself of the responsibility — the president is answerable for all that takes place in the country. But all parts of the government must shoulder their responsibility — the government, central and local administrations of government," he stated. They are to blame, first of all, for the failure to establish market reforms and a competitive market in Ukraine.

"The drawn-out transitional stage of society and the associated atmosphere of uncertainty and rudderlessness is a breeding ground, not only for social cynicism and apathy, but also for criminality and corruption," said President Kuchma.

Ukraine's court system: the Constitutional Court

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

Today Ukraine's jurisprudence system is organized into three major courts: the Constitutional Court, which is responsible for issues involving the Constitution; the General Court of Competence, which deals with civil and criminal matters, and at the top of which stands the Supreme Court of Ukraine; and the Court of Specialization (commonly known as the arbitration court), which, basically, handles contractual conflicts and is overseen by the High Court of Arbitration.

This is the second in a series designed to give our readers a closer look at how the three separate courts of Ukraine function. Last week we described the arbitration court system. In this installment we look at the Constitutional Court.

The court consists of 18 judges, 16 of whom already have been appointed. The judges are appointed by various sectors of the Ukrainian government. The president appoints six, the Verkhovna Rada six and the Supreme Court six. Today the court still is awaiting the appointment of

the last two judges by the Verkhovna Rada, which has been stalled by political maneuverings.

This edited interview was conducted with Ivan Tymchenko, chairman of the Constitutional Court, who was appointed by President Leonid Kuchma and took his oath on October 18, 1996. The conclusion of the interview will appear next week.

What are the responsibilities of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine?

(Reading from his notes) The Constitutional Court draws conclusions and renders decisions in matters regarding: the constitutional legality of laws and legal acts passed by the Verkhovna Rada, acts of the president, acts of the Cabinet of Ministers and acts of the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea; on the relationship of the Constitution of Ukraine to international treaties signed by Ukraine or international treaties that are submitted to the Verkhovna Rada for approval; on maintenance of the constitutional process in matters involving the removal of the president of Ukraine

from public office in an impeachment process, as delineated in articles 111 and 151 of the Constitution; on the legality of draft laws on changing the Constitution of Ukraine as delineated in its statutes; on the disregard for the Constitution and laws of Ukraine by the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in the instance that the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine begins proceedings to halt the authority of the autonomous republic; on official interpretations of the Constitution and laws of Ukraine.

Its authority does not include questions on the legal aspect of acts of government organs, government organs of Crimea, organs of city government or the competence of judges of the General Court of Competence.

Does the Constitutional Court have the authority to set precedents with its interpretation of the Constitution?

We do not, as you know, have the law of precedents. The Constitutional Court by law does not have the right to change

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ANALYSIS: Nuclear power dilemmas

by David R. Marples

The G-7 countries and Ukraine are locked in a dispute over credits assigned to the Ukrainian energy industry which were tied to the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power station by the year 2000. Ukrainian Energy and Environment Minister Yurii Kostenko berated the G-7 following the organization's February 11 meeting in Washington, noting that it has not yet agreed (and may well decide not to agree) to provide funds for the construction of new nuclear reactors at the Rivne and Khmelnytskyi nuclear power stations in western Ukraine.

The dispute dates back to April 1994, when an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspection declared the Chernobyl nuclear power station to be unsafe and recommended its earliest possible closure. Subsequently, Ukraine and the G-7 had a series of meetings to discuss credits and subsidies to Ukraine in compensation for the station's closure by 2000, the sealing of the destroyed fourth unit, and the start-up of new reactors that had been under construction for a number of years at the Rivne and Khmelnytskyi plants.

In April 1996, at a meeting of the G-7 countries in Moscow — which coincided with the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster — an aid package to Ukraine totalling some \$3.1 billion was drawn up, but was made conditional upon the prompt action of the Ukrainian authorities to begin the process of shutting down Chernobyl.

The Chernobyl nuclear power station is a graphite-moderated (RBMK-1000) plant, which in 1986 had four 1,000-megawatt reactors in operation and two under construction. These latter two reactors were abandoned after the 1986 accident. The first three units, however, were all returned into service by the end of 1987. In 1991 a serious fire led to the removal of unit 2 from the grid. On November 30, 1996, unit 1 was shut down, ostensibly "to conduct technical operations." The Ukrainian Energy Ministry implied that the shutdown was temporary.

On November 28, 1996, the Ukrainian State Nuclear Energy Commission declared plans to restart unit 2 by the fourth quarter of 1997. This move puzzled international experts. Nuclear experts in the U.S., Germany and France concurred that it would not be economically feasible to restart any Chernobyl units if Ukraine is to adhere to its commitment to close down the station completely by 2000. The units require upgrading, and the funds expended on that process could not possibly be recouped in so short a time. Ukraine, then, appears to have changed course dramatically since April 1996.

Ukraine's new position has resulted in part from two major grievances against the G-7 group.

First, it has long been held that the attention paid to the Chernobyl station was one-sided, and that Russia, which has similar RBMK stations (Sosnovyi Bor near St. Petersburg; Kursk; Smolensk) and Lithuania, which has a larger capacity version (an RBMK-1500 at Ignalina) have not received such close scrutiny. Serhii Parashyn, director of the Chernobyl station, maintains that his plant is technically safer than its Russian counterparts, precisely because of the improvements made as a result of international inspections.

Second, Ukraine has maintained that the G-7 countries have been sluggish in providing funds. The two new reactors at

Khmelnytskyi and Rivne could in theory compensate for the closure of the first and third units at Chernobyl. However, with no funds available, Ukraine has maintained it has had no freedom to bring into service these new reactors.

In addition, Ukraine is facing particularly severe energy problems and a water shortage. Nuclear power currently accounts for up to 40 percent of its total electricity output. Ukraine's total capacity at its nuclear stations is 14,000 megawatts. The major station is not Chernobyl, but the 6,000-megawatt giant at Enerhodar (the Zaporizhia Atomic Energy Station) on the Dnipro River. The accident rate, particularly at the latter station, has been alarmingly high. Safety standards are generally low, partly because of a dearth of safety regulators and low morale among plant personnel.

Hydroelectric stations are at peak capacity, while thermal power stations, which still produce a plurality of electricity output, are dependent upon imports of oil and gas from Russia. Ukraine is also facing a financial crisis. Without outside funds it has no money to finance nuclear energy expansion. Like other workers, employees in the industry have not received regular wages for several months.

Earlier this year, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) criticized Ukraine for failing to look beyond the nuclear sector within the overall energy sphere. This criticism is a reiteration of similar comments made by Greenpeace International. Ukraine has retorted by declaring that the G-7 also did not look beyond the nuclear energy industry when agreeing to offer the credit, particularly since Ukraine has new reactors that could be brought on line within a short timespan. In short, both the providers of credit and the recipient have failed to find a common ground. Each side is accusing the other of bad faith.

Perspectives

In the short term, Ukraine will likely continue to operate the Chernobyl station well beyond the year 2000 and in the face of international protest. If the second unit is restarted later this year, once overhaul operations have been completed, then Chernobyl could have two (and possibly all three) of its reactors in operation beyond the assigned time limit. In so doing it would forfeit its aid and credits from the G-7.

President Leonid Kuchma also acknowledged recently that the various projected international designs for a new covering for the fourth reactor have been shelved. The current cover, which has a projected lifespan of 15 years, will continue to suffice. Ukraine is not only operating Chernobyl, internationally acknowledged as an unsafe plant (because of its faulty reactor design), but also lacks the financial means to resolve the problem of the covering of the destroyed fourth reactor, posing a long-term threat of the release of radioactive dust into the vicinity of the station.

Does Ukraine realistically have energy alternatives? Sources such as Greenpeace say it does, and that a rigorous energy efficiency plan could compensate for the loss of Chernobyl (which provided just 6.2 percent of Ukraine's electricity output last year). Ukraine is reportedly using three times as much electricity than is used to produce a similar product in Western Europe. The answer lies in energy conservation, according to this viewpoint.

For the Ukrainians, however, energy and politics are closely tied. The country is seeking energy self-sufficiency, and in the short term nuclear power is the best guarantee to remove energy dependence on

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NEWSBRIEFS

Rada fails to ratify "zero option"

KYIV — After a lengthy and heated debate, the Verkhovna Rada failed to ratify an agreement renouncing Ukraine's share of Soviet assets in return for Russia assuming Ukraine's share of the Soviet Union's foreign debt, international agencies reported on February 19. Instead, national deputies voted 233 to 70 to present Russia with a list of conditions for ratification. The main condition was Russia's release of detailed information on the Soviet debt and money held in the central Soviet banking system when the USSR broke apart. Ukraine's share of Soviet assets includes claims to gold, diamonds, hard currency and property. Under an agreement signed by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and former Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitalii Masol in 1994, Ukraine was to give up its share of 16.37 percent of Soviet assets in exchange for Moscow picking up Kyiv's 16.37 percent share of the \$81 billion Soviet debt. The "zero option" agreement has proved highly controversial in Ukraine's Parliament, but Russia is unwilling to renegotiate. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Justice officials sacked for corruption

KYIV — Justice Minister Serhii Holovatyi announced an investigation has found evidence of corruption and abuse of office by several officials of the Ministry of Justice, Ukrainian radio reported on February 18. First Vice Minister of Justice Volodymyr Chernysh and several heads of the ministry's departments were fired. Mr. Holovatyi said the evidence has been sent to law-enforcement bodies to initiate criminal proceedings against Mr. Chernysh. Earlier this month, President Leonid Kuchma had launched a campaign against corruption in state bodies. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Kyiv to investigate missing German funds

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma has ordered a criminal investigation into the misuse of funds by Gradobank and a government foundation, international news services reported. Gradobank and the National Foundation for Understanding and Reconciliation are accused of embezzling more than \$50 million (U.S.) from a \$237 million (U.S.) German government grant intended for survivors of Nazi persecution. There are an estimated 600,000 such victims in Ukraine. Gradobank's accounts have been frozen since it stopped dispersing the money in December 1996. The Cabinet of Ministers passed a resolution earlier this month which proposed that special compensation bonds be issued to war victims through another commercial bank. The Financial Times reported in its February 15-16 weekend edition that one German offi-

cial said "The German money was used for loans to insiders and members of the ruling establishment." Germany had agreed in 1993 to provide humanitarian settlement of 1 billion DM (about \$590 million U.S.) to Russia, Ukraine and Belarus for victims of World War II, including persons who were forced laborers or were interned in concentration camps. (OMRI Daily Digest, Financial Times)

Five killed in mining accident

DONETSK — Five miners were killed on February 7 in the Donbas when a block of ice crashed into an elevator they were using to ascend from the coalface at the Karl Marx Mine in Yenakiyev, 30 miles northeast of Donetsk. Murtzai Churadze, a local emergency official, said, "The ice fell when miners were on their way to the surface after their shift. Five were killed, five were injured and taken to the hospital." The miners were some 1,200 feet below the surface when the accident occurred. (Reuters)

Ukraine third in foreign investment

GENEVA — Russia has led foreign direct investments to the ex-Soviet Union with \$6.6 billion as of 1996, while Ukraine was in third place with \$1.1 billion. Kazakhstan ranked second in foreign direct investments with \$3.24 billion. Moldova and Belarus were at the bottom of the league with just \$104 million and \$350 million, respectively, reported the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe, a specialized United Nations agency for economic cooperation in Europe. The report was based on official data from central banks as of mid-1996. Western Europe accounted for the bulk of foreign direct investment, with an 80 percent share in Belarus, 70 percent in Russia and 60 percent in Estonia, Ukraine and Latvia, but only 17 percent in Kazakhstan. (Reuters)

Kuchma dismisses agriculture minister

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma has sacked Agriculture Minister Anatolii Khorishko but no replacement has been named, a press spokesman for Mr. Kuchma said on February 17. "We are still waiting for an official signed order and the name of the new minister," the spokesman said. Mr. Kuchma had referred to "serious inadequacies" in the ministry's work when he announced the decision. Mr. Khorishko was appointed last summer after a drought that led to a record low grain crop of 25.4 million tons against 36.5 million in 1995. This compared to crops of up to 50 million tons regularly produced in Soviet times. President Kuchma said last month that it was essential that within the next two to

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Ukrainian Canadian Congress flexes muscles over CBS program

by Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj
Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO — After the Ukrainian Canadian community flexed its muscles, an Edmonton TV station decided to delay airing "Canada's Dark Secret," the CBS "60 Minutes" program concerning the presence of alleged Nazi war criminals in the country.

According to a February 6 report in the Toronto Star daily, Alan Brooks, news and programming manager at CFRN, a Baton Broadcasting Systems affiliate, chose not to air the segment in its usual Sunday evening time slot, initially intending to shelve it entirely.

The Weekly has learned that on January 27 officials at the Ukrainian Canadian Congress's Toronto Branch faxed to UCC national headquarters in Winnipeg press reports anticipating the airing of the CBS program on Sunday, February 2, in the U.S. and Canada.

On January 31 UCC President Oleh Romaniw sent a letter, since obtained by The Weekly, to the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, the federal regulatory body, asking to preview the segment.

Mr. Romaniw mentioned the invidious precedent set by the CBS "60 Minutes" program "The Ugly Face of Freedom," broadcast on October 23, 1994. The UCC president wrote that "this segment caused widespread outrage throughout Ukrainian communities in North America and elsewhere."

"It was likewise criticized," Mr. Romaniw continued, "by serious spokespersons of Jewish communities and the government of Ukraine."

Mr. Romaniw also expressed concern that the program would "misrepresent the Canadian government's measures in regard to alleged war criminals in Canada, as well as the numbers and

nationalities of these persons."

In order to head off the possibility of "distrust and rift[s] among ethnic communities in Canada," Mr. Romaniw requested that prior to broadcasting "Canada's Dark Secret" the segment be "previewed by representatives of the Canadian Ukrainian, Jewish and other East European communities, and unanimously approved in order to prevent misrepresentations of the issue to the Canadian public."

The Winnipeg-based lawyer concluded by expressing the UCC's conviction that such a measure would "ensure that ethnic hatred and irresponsible journalism with unpredictable harmful consequences to the fabric of Canadian society are not freely disseminated through [Canadian] media."

For background, it should be noted that following intense pressure from the Ukrainian Canadian community over the airing of "The Ugly Face" segment, the Edmonton based CFRN-TV station broadcast an apology to the Ukrainian Canadian community almost exactly a year later, on October 22, 1995.

The CanWest Global network, which owns Canadian broadcast rights to the "60 Minutes" program, also broadcast an apology to the Ukrainian Canadian community on its flagship channel in Toronto in November 1996.

When February 2 rolled around, television viewers in the Edmonton area did not see the "Canada's Dark Secret" segment, and that week's installment of "60 Minutes" was supplanted by an earlier feed of the same program.

According to a statement issued on February 5 by CFRN executive Alan Mabee "very serious and specific allegations made in the program" had caused the station to shelve "Canada's Dark Secret."

Mr. Mabee added that "senior management and legal counsel were unavailable for consultation late Sunday after-

noon [February 2] when CFRN personnel first had viewing access to the program, and accordingly a decision [was] made to delay the broadcast."

On February 5, a few days after "Canada's Dark Secret" was blacked out in the Edmonton area, Richard Helm, television critic for the local Journal daily, blasted CFRN for "censorship" in an article subtitled "Sensitivity to Ukrainian community doesn't justify paternalistic behavior."

Mr. Helm wrote, "It was specifics about Ukrainian war criminals that raised the red flag with [Mr. Brooks]. Edmonton, of course, has a large and influential Ukrainian community — some figures suggest up to 12 percent of the population is of Ukrainian origin."

"CFRN apparently wanted a little more assurance as to the veracity of some of the material," the columnist continued, "second-guessing the estimable fact-checkers at the CBS News division."

In his February 5 article, Mr. Helms quoted only viewers who supported his position, and offered no statements from Ukrainian Canadians, or from those who agreed with CFRN's decision, no matter what their background.

The Star report did mention the UCC's petition to the CRTC and its reasons for filing one. It also quoted Toronto-based Canadian Jewish Congress director Bernie Farber's opinion that "it's mind-boggling that one person could make this decision for the entire viewing audience."

On February 6, CFRN decided to air the "60 Minutes" program that included "Canada's Dark Secret" on the upcoming Saturday evening (February 15) at 9 p.m., not during the program's regular time slot.

In that day's Edmonton Journal, Mr. Helm wrote of commendations offered to CFRN by James Jacuta, past president of the UCC's Alberta Provincial Council,

for holding off on the broadcast. "Maybe some people call it censorship," Mr. Jacuta, an Edmonton-based lawyer, was quoted as saying. "The issue is fair and balanced comment and getting the other side of the story out there."

On February 11, the Journal also printed letters from current UCC-PCA President Bud Conway and Special Projects Director of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association Borys Sydoruk of Calgary.

Mr. Conway pointed out that in the "Ugly Face" segment of October 1994 "Ukrainians were obliquely called 'genetically anti-Semitic'" and that CBS had not apologized or corrected its story "despite many protests, which included Ukraine's chief rabbi."

Mr. Conway also asserted the UCC's belief that "Canada's Dark Secret" is biased; unfairly painting Canada as the Argentina of the North. Yet Canada adopted a policy towards suspected war criminals based on the report of Justice Deschenes Commission of Inquiry on War Criminals."

The UCC-PCA president pointed to Justice Jules Deschenes' finding that "public statements by outside interveners concerning alleged war criminals in Canada have spread increasingly large and grossly exaggerated figures as to their estimated number."

Mr. Sydoruk wrote that "60 Minutes" had previously "seriously distorted the nature of contemporary society in Ukraine, relying on innuendo, mistranslation and partial accounts to portray Ukraine as a hotbed of anti-Semitism and ethnic hatred."

"CFRN Television in Edmonton has learned its lesson," Mr. Sydoruk concluded, "It was heavily criticized for its airing of 'The Ugly Face of Freedom.' This time it decided to view the program first. For this, CFRN is to be commended."

Ukraine's court...

(Continued from page 1)

its decisions, it can only review a decision if new factors arise that were not known earlier. But if the Constitutional Court receives new applications or proposals based on decisions already rendered then those applications are not accepted. The court does not review cases where the facts are similar to those in past decisions. In this way you might say precedents are used.

But that is not the same type of precedent that exists in, let's say, England.

Please explain how the Constitutional Court of Ukraine differs from the Supreme Court of the United States by its authority and procedures.

I will not answer that question right now. At the end of March and the beginning of April, all of our judges will be traveling to the U.S. for two weeks to study the organization, procedures and work of the Supreme Court. Then they will be able to answer this question with more competency.

Right now, I could answer this question only in a general manner based on what I have read. But I would feel better doing so after we travel to the U.S. and learn more. I think that we will borrow much from the practices of the U.S. Supreme Court, especially on how to deal with constitutional questions. We have already developed regulations for the 1997 session, but they can be changed if we learn ways to improve our system.

How will you ensure the independence of the Constitutional Court from influence or pressures from other government bodies — the Verkhovna Rada,

the Cabinet of Ministers or the Office of the President — on your rulings?

That type of pressure does not yet exist because we have not yet handed down any rulings. That's first. The fact that the executive branch is responsible by law for ensuring the material and financial needs of the Constitutional Court cannot be equated with having influence over it. But influence over the court by the Verkhovna Rada as a body, or the executive body in the form of the Cabinet of Ministers or by the president himself, or by the Supreme Court, as such, will not occur. There will not be pressures or influences from the organs as a whole because I believe that neither the Verkhovna Rada, the Cabinet of Ministers or the president will accept a decision [by the other government bodies] that would influence specific decisions of the Constitutional Court.

However, there is another matter. We cannot exclude the possibility that, for example, a deputy or an official within the Cabinet of Ministers or a member of the Cabinet may individually attempt to exert pressure or influence a specific ruling. But the judges that are part of the court are highly qualified, and I do not think that these judges will buckle and render decisions on an unprofessional level. If they do give in, they will be discrediting themselves.

The renderings of the Constitutional Court are broad-ranging and therefore are read by a wide array of people. Common people will read the decisions, officials in government structures, experts in various fields of the law. And, because each Constitutional Court judge must vote for or against a case — he does not have the right to abstain — the stand of each judge will be known.

And each judge's opinion will also be public, because each one has the ability to write a commentary regarding the rendering. Legal experts will be able to analyze and grade the rationales for the rulings. I do not think a judge will work unprofessionally in favor of his personal interests. Since he knows his work will be reviewed by experts, he will not want to discredit himself.

As far as judicial commentary, by law the judges have no right to discuss the cases that are before them from the time the application is placed on their desk. For example, I already had received the documents on the appeal to the Constitutional Court against the liquidation of the Communist Party when [Petro] Symonenko and [Vasyl] Kriuchkov visited me to discuss the case. I told them that because I had received the documents on the case I was not at liberty to discuss it with them. I invited them to visit me after the case was decided. Judges are allowed to discuss the cases only after decisions have been rendered.

Are the judges of the Constitutional Court appointed for life? What is their term of office?

By the Constitution, a judge's term of office is nine years. He can work until he is 65 years old. If a judge is appointed at the age of 60, although he has a nine-year term, he will only be able to work for five years, until his retirement at age 65.

The chairman of the Constitutional Court is elected by his fellow judges for a three-year term, and cannot be re-elected. The deputy chairmen are also elected for three-year terms. On October 18, 1996, the judges took the oath of office before a session of the Verkhovna Rada. We began our official work that day.

We gathered for a special plenary session of the Constitutional Court. The head of that plenary session was the oldest of the judges, who turned out to be Petro Martynenko. We nominated three people for the post of chairman. The nominees were myself, Mykola Koziubra and Vitalii Rozenko, I believe. We voted by secret ballot, and I received the most votes. By the law I needed 10 votes but received 11.

I recommended the candidates for the positions of deputies and they also were elected by secret ballot.

I just thought I should make something clear here: the chairman serves his three-year term as part of his nine-year term as a judge on the Constitutional Court.

Another important matter. The court is divided into three judicial collegiums, which is delineated by the law on the Constitutional Court. One collegium of six judges will handle submissions by citizens for review; a second collegium will handle petitions by government bodies for review; and the third collegium will handle a mix of both submissions and petitions.

The chairman and the deputy chairmen are part of the collegiums, not as chairman and deputies, but as equal members of the court. There I sit as a judge, and the collegium is run by the secretary. In this way it is a democratic structure.

If a judge dies, what is the procedure for filling his seat?

If a judge dies, if he loses his citizenship, if he resigns, his vacated position is filled by that government body that appointed him. That is, if he was one of six appointed by the president, then the president appoints his successor, if it was the Supreme Court then they do so, if the Verkhovna Rada ... and so on.

Bishop Vsevolod to be elevated to archbishop

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – With the blessings of Bartholomeas I, ecumenical patriarch of Constantinople, the Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. has announced that Bishop Vsevolod of the titular See of Scopelos will be elevated to archbishop and then enthroned as ruling hierarch of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

On Sunday, March 2, the enthronement of Bishop Vsevolod will take place at the Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Volodymyr in Chicago. The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. will participate in Bishop Vsevolod's elevation and installation with Metropolitan Constantine presiding.

Bishop Vsevolod was born Vsevolod Kolomijew-Majdanski, son of the late Rt. Rev. Protopresbyter Vasilij in Kalisz, Poland, on December 10, 1927. He received his theological education at Warsaw Theological Seminary and the Dillingen Theological University in Dillingen, Germany.

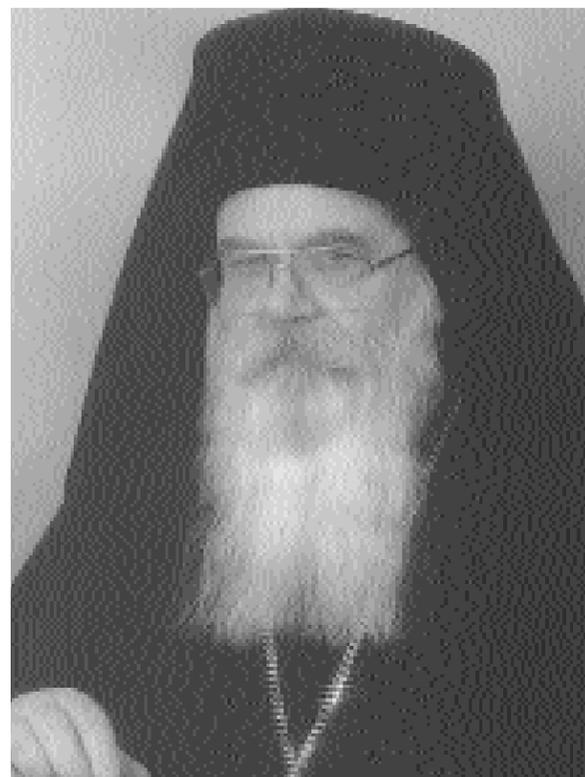
After earning a bachelor of arts in philosophy from Sydney University in Sydney, Australia, in 1956, he attended Melbourne University in Victoria, Australia. In 1964 he obtained a master's degree in social work from Yeshiva University in New York. Bishop Vsevolod is

fluent in several languages.

In addition to other professional positions, he has served as principal associate in medicine on the faculty of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, an affiliate of Yeshiva University in New York. His consecration to the episcopacy caused him to leave that position in order to devote more effort to his work for the Church.

He received monastic tonsure and was ordained to the priesthood by the late Metropolitan Andrei in 1985. Following the death of Metropolitan Andrei, Archimandrite Vsevolod was consecrated by Archbishop Iakovos to the episcopacy in 1987 with the blessing of Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I of Constantinople.

Bishop Vsevolod has been very active as a representative of the ecumenical patriarch in the ongoing dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church and has participated in numerous ecumenical conferences. He is well-published regarding Church unity. Bishop Vsevolod was also chosen to represent the ecumenical patriarch at the Jerusalem Conference of Science and Religion and at the Milan Conference on Religion. He is a member of the Standing Council of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the Americas and of the Orthodox-Catholic Bishops Dialogue.



Bishop Vsevolod

Bishop Losten feted on 25th anniversary

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Basil Losten of the Eparchy of Stamford celebrated the 25th anniversary of his episcopal ordination at a banquet held at the Sheraton Center Hotel in New York City on January 12.

Over 300 guests and representatives of 45 Ukrainian American organizations gathered to honor Bishop Losten on his silver jubilee. Msgr. John Terlecky, coordinator of the Diocesan Jubilee Committee, read a greeting from Gov. George Pataki of New York, and two representatives of Rudolph Giuliani extended greetings from the mayor.

The banquet was opened by Myroslaw Shmigel, chairman of the New York Metropolitan Jubilee Committee. Bishop Vsevolod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. offered an invocation. Celebratory remarks were offered by Leo Gallan, Iwan Sierant, knight of the papal Order of St. Gregory, and Ambassador Anatolii Zlenko, Ukraine's permanent representative to the United Nations.

The Very Rev. Patrick Paschak, pastor of St. George Parish in New York and vicar general of the Stamford Eparchy, served as the evening's master of ceremonies.

Guests were entertained by the Syzokryli dance

ensemble, which performed a "Pryvit" (Welcome) dance and greeted Bishop Losten in the Ukrainian tradition with bread and salt; the Ukrainian Stage Ensemble directed by Lydia Krushelnytskyj and a choir of seminarians from St. Basil College of the Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Stamford, Conn.

Msgr. Losten was consecrated bishop on May 25, 1971, by Metropolitan Ambrose Senyshyn of Philadelphia, Bishop Jaroslav Gabro of Chicago and Bishop Michael Dudick of Passaic, N.J., in the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia. He was named bishop of the Stamford Eparchy in 1977.

Diocese-wide celebrations of the bishop's silver jubilee took place from September 1996 through January 1997 in Albany, Buffalo, Johnson City, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers, N.Y., and Hartford, Conn. Bishop Losten earmarked all proceeds — \$160,000 from the jubilee banquets held throughout the Stamford Eparchy and \$40,000 raised at the New York banquet — to support seminarians from Ukraine studying at St. Basil College.

This spring Bishop Losten will be marking the 40th anniversary of his priestly ordination.

OBITUARY

George Chranewycz, political, sports activist

by Ihor Lysyj

SECAUCUS, N.J. — George Chranewycz, a prominent activist of the Ukrainian diaspora, died on December 29, 1996.

A son of a former colonel of the Ukrainian National Republic (UNR) Army, he was born in Warsaw in 1930. During World War II, his family moved west to escape communist oppression. They were part of a major migration of political, professional, intellectual and business segments of Eastern and Central European societies that were escaping the destructive forces of communism. Known as Displaced Persons (DPs), they established their camps in western Germany before being resettled largely in North and South America, and Australia.

The formative years of Mr. Chranewycz's youth were spent in Camp Orlyk, located in the Bavarian Alps near Berchtesgaden. There he graduated from the Ukrainian Gymnasium in 1949. An accomplished linguist at age 18, he won a scholarship (after a discourse in fluent Latin with a selection committee representative) at the prestigious Yale University, within a year of his family's arrival in America.

Mr. Chranewycz graduated from Yale with a B.A. degree in 1955, and from Columbia University with an M.S. degree in city planning in 1962. His professional career was mainly with the Newark Redevelopment and Housing Authority in various positions, including that of director of planning, engineering and research.

A fully integrated member of American society, Mr. Chranewycz, in the best tradition of his family, remained deeply involved in the affairs of the Ukrainian diaspora through membership on the executive board of the U.S. committee of the Ukrainian Government-In-Exile. He was an officer in the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada and the Sich Ukrainian sports club.

His professional, social and political activities were not limited, however, to the diaspora. After the collapse of communism, Mr. Chranewycz made major contributions to the restoration of humane society in Eastern Europe by playing an important role as a consultant in planning the redevelopment of cities and the renewal of infrastructure in Ukraine, Poland and Hungary. Especially notable were his efforts in the revitalization of the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv.

Mr. Chranewycz is survived by his wife, Oxana. Burial was at the Ukrainian Orthodox cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J.



Yaroslav Kulynych

Bishop Basil Losten (right) during a banquet held in his honor in New York City. Also seen in the photo is Consul General Viktor Kryzhanivsky (second from right).

Cleveland time capsule includes artifacts from Ukrainian community

by Andrew Fedynsky

CLEVELAND – A hundred years from now, when the city of Cleveland celebrates its 300th birthday in 2096, the Ukrainian community will be represented regardless if there will be any actual Ukrainians living in Cleveland.

This was assured when Ivanna Shkarupa, representing the Ukrainian National Women's League of North America (UNWLA) and Martha Savchak Kraus, representing the Ukrainian Museum-Archives, participated in a time capsule sealing ceremony on December 18, 1996, at the Western Reserve Historical Society. This culminated a year of events associated with Cleveland's Bicentennial.

Working through the Ukrainian Museum-Archives, the Bicentennial Time Capsule Committee, organized by Women Celebrating the Bicentennial, asked the Ukrainian community to prepare a representative contribution of materials to be included in the time capsule that was sealed for 100 years until the next centennial of Cleveland in 2096.

To make sure that future Clevelanders would appreciate the contributions of the Ukrainian community to the civic life of the city, the Cleveland Chapter of the UNWLA assembled an envelope with 12 items, among them a Ukrainian flag, a photograph of the Lesia Ukrainka monument in Cleveland, memorabilia related to the commemoration of the Chernobyl catastrophe, booklets on Ukrainian crafts and a pysanka created by Tanya Osadca.

A total of 110 organizations and individuals contributed items for inclusion in the Bicentennial Time Capsule. The

Cleveland Plain Dealer, which devoted a full page to a story about the time capsule, selected the Ukrainian submission as one of a handful of focus features. Others included the Jewish community and the Cleveland participants in the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women held in China. The focus feature on the Ukrainian contribution had a full-color photograph of the pysanka that Cleveland-ers will be admiring 100 years from now.

For the Ukrainian Museum-Archives, the ceremony capped a six-month celebration of Ukrainian life in Cleveland. The museum currently features an exhibit of photographs, posters, crafts, badges, fliers and other memorabilia documenting the history of the Ukrainian community in Cleveland over 100 years. The Ukrainian Museum-Archives was one of the sites chosen for the Cleveland Bicentennial Caravan that was held last year in September.

As for whether or not there will be any Ukrainian Americans in Cleveland 100 years from now to participate in the opening of the Bicentennial Time Capsule, one can only hope. The Ukrainian National Women's League of North America and the Ukrainian Museum-Archives kept faith with the generations of Ukrainian Americans who preceded them in creating a vibrant community. Both organizations have ambitious plans that include involvement of young people to ensure that the chain that was forged 100 years ago, when the first Ukrainian immigrants came to Cleveland remains intact into the next generation. Beyond that, all depends on the seeds the community plants today.

Historian publishes...

(Continued from page 1)

against Ukrainians. However, the victims of the deportations have yet to be compensated for their losses, as have other victims of Stalinism in Poland.

According to Dr. Misylo, Ukrainians are also still denied the right to commemorate places where their relatives were massacred. Three months after the *Akcja Wisla* book appeared, Dr. Misylo was fired from his job at the Polish Academy of Sciences Institute of Research on Literature where he had worked for 15 years.

The Warsaw-based scholar's initial work was on the Ukrainian press in Poland. During his research in government archives he came across documents on the operations of the UPA and *Akcja Wisla*. Although some Polish scholars welcomed Dr. Misylo's work, others did not.

Undeterred, Dr. Misylo has been able to follow his line of work thanks to the Warsaw-based publishing house *Archiwum Ukrainskie*, which he co-founded. There he is energetically pursuing his belief that publication of archival documents will serve as the basis for objective historical research of Ukrainians in post-war Poland.

Ten books have already been published and another 10 await publication, pending the availability of funds. Among those waiting to go to print is a collection of documents on the history of Ukrainians held in the concentration camp at Jaworzno, Poland, in connection with Operation Vistula during the years 1947-1949.

Dr. Misylo was invited to North America as part of the local community's preparations to mark the 50th anniversary of the *Akcja Wisla* deportations and to draw attention to the topic. The Toronto-

based *Zakerzonnia* Association, whose membership consists primarily of Ukrainian émigrés from Poland, arranged a monthlong visit to major cities.

Dr. Misylo's itinerary included stops in Toronto, New York, Ottawa, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Detroit, where Dr. Misylo met with scholars, the Ukrainian community and schoolchildren to speak about the little-known tragedy. In Toronto, he also delivered an address sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center. In Edmonton, the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies organized a talk for him.

During his travels Dr. Misylo collected further materials for his ongoing projects; he conducted interviews with survivors of the deportations who now live in North America and viewed documents at the National Archives of Canada in Ottawa.

Dr. Misylo returned to Warsaw to continue his historical research, visiting archival repositories that are slowly making documents available to the public. In addition to seeking out details on depopulated villages and individuals who were thrown into concentration camps during the deportations, he maintains regular contact with the *Zakerzonnia* Association. Together they are seeking to publicize this little known chapter of the history of Ukrainians and are preparing an exhibit on Operation Vistula to commemorate its 50th anniversary. The exhibit is scheduled to open in Toronto in May 1997.

For further information contact Dr. Yevhen Misylo, *Oficina Wydawnicza "UKAR,"* ul. Kosickiego 16 m. 84, 01-581 Warszawa, Poland; tel/fax; (011-48-22) 39-87-73; or *Zakerzonnia* Association, 4572 Tribal Court, Mississauga, Ontario, L4Z 2R9; telephone, 905-501-0167; fax, 905-602-9928.

Agreement on design of robots to spur clean-up at Chernobyl

WASHINGTON – The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation on January 16 hosted an official signing ceremony for an agreement between the University of California's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and Pittsburgh's RedZone Robotics Inc. to advance the design of a prototype Ukrainian robot, subsequent versions of which could be used for clean-up in high-radiation areas such as the Chernobyl nuclear plant's reactor No. 4.

The agreement is one of a series of agreements managed by LLNL for the Department of Energy (DOE), known as Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADA), that are designed to facilitate technology exchanges. In this case, the collaborative effort will include the American commercial firm RedZone and a consortium of several Ukrainian scientific and engineering institutes.

Present at the signing ceremony were Nadia McConnell, president of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation (USUF); Carol Kessler, senior coordinator for nuclear safety at the U.S. Department of State; John Hnatio, program manager of the International Proliferation Program at the U.S. Department of Energy; Dr. Victor Los, counselor in science and technology cooperation at the Embassy of Ukraine; Robert Barker, director of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; J. Todd Simonds, president of RedZone Robotics Inc.; Maynard Holliday, principal investigator, Chernobyl Telerobotic Dismantling System, also from LLNL.

Representatives from the offices of Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and Rep. William J. Coyne (D-Pa.) also attended.

Under the yearlong agreement, the partners will contribute resources to the design of a new type of robotic prototype – small, agile, mobile and modular enough to work effectively in confined spaces, such as Chernobyl's reactor No. 4, and similar sites around the world. Subsequent versions of the prototype could provide vital new information about conditions inside the damaged reactor. Its various tools – including a "water knife" cutting mechanism – could facilitate the ultimate removal and packaging of the radioactive fuel, much of which is embedded in solid lava-like masses formed when the reactor core melted.

USUF was invited to host the signing ceremony due to its longstanding interest in facilitating economic and political reform in Ukraine, and promoting cooperation between U.S. and Ukrainian partners, and especially in light of its new Chernobyl 2000 initiative, whose aim is to help make Ukraine energy independent and Chernobyl-free by the year 2000 through an informational campaign in the G-7 countries.

The April 26, 1986, explosion at reactor

No. 4 immediately claimed more than 30 lives and exposed millions of people to the hazards of nuclear radiation. To curtail further radiation releases, the damaged reactor building was hastily covered with a concrete and steel sarcophagus. Today, that sarcophagus is in such a fragile state that an earthquake or further deterioration could trigger additional releases of radioactive dust.

The international community agrees that conditions at reactor No. 4 need to be remedied and stabilized as soon as possible, and that power production at the Chernobyl facility should be stopped. However, the Ukrainian government, coping with economic difficulties and energy shortages, has neither the technological nor the economic resources needed.

Ukraine has agreed to shut down the Chernobyl site by the year 2000, provided that the Group of 7 industrialized states support and subsidize the decommissioning and clean-up activities.

The agreement signed at the USUF offices is an important U.S. offering toward that end. It advances multiple U.S. objectives as well, among which are providing various forms of relief to the people of Ukraine and addressing increasing worldwide needs for effective nuclear accident response, facility dismantling and clean-up capabilities.

While the new agreement will result in a single new robotic prototype, it is envisioned that multiple robots, each with its own set of tasks, ultimately will participate in the permanent clean-up of Chernobyl, stabilize the ruined structure, and remove and safely package for disposal the radioactive material that remains.

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory conducts research important to national goals. Current programs include national defense, energy, biomedicine and the environment. The laboratory's expertise includes the development of complex technologies in international settings.

RedZone Robotics Inc., the project's commercialization partner, is a highly experienced technology transfer agent, working with government agencies to develop new technologies and then move them into the open market, where their benefits can be widely disseminated. The numerous systems developed to date by RedZone perform remote decontamination, dismantlement, inspection, transport and other work in both military and industrial applications.

For more information about the activities of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, write to: 1511 K Street NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005 (telephone: 202-347-4264; fax: 202-347-4267; e-mail: ukraine@access.digex.net).



Seen at the signing ceremony are: (from left) Nadia McConnell, Dr. Victor Los, John Hnatio, Maynard Holliday, Carol Kessler, J. Todd Simonds and Robert Barker.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The UNA: its commitment endures

Yesterday, February 22, was the birthday of the father of our country, George Washington. But it was also the birthday of another father figure, "Batko Soyuz" — as the Ukrainian National Association has been called for decades.

The UNA, the oldest and largest Ukrainian fraternal society in the world, has turned 103 years of age. Now into the second century of its existence, this institution continues to serve as a foundation of our community life here in the United States and in Canada, and it continues to stay true to its time-honored tradition of caring for the well-being of its members and the community at large. It is able to do so, of course, because community members enroll as UNA members (by taking out life insurance policies). Their concerns become the UNA's concerns; their causes become the UNA's causes.

Indeed, at its 1996 annual meeting, the UNA General Assembly reaffirmed the UNA's commitment "to supporting and working with Ukrainian Americans and Ukrainian Canadians, Ukrainian educational institutions, and religious and civic organizations" on the goal of "preserving, promoting and developing our rich Ukrainian heritage, language, culture and the arts." It also voted to continue subsidizing the UNA's most important fraternal benefits, its newspapers, the Ukrainian-language daily *Svoboda* and *The Ukrainian Weekly*, and its upstate New York resort, *Soyuzivka*. These benefits — which are unique among fraternal benefit societies — are most popular with UNA members and the community.

Though it may be considered old at 103, the UNA is using new means to reach out to its members and our community. In addition to publishing two newspapers, the UNA has begun publishing a newsletter called *The UNA in Focus*, and it has set up a homepage on the Internet. (Readers interested in receiving the newsletter may call the UNA's special projects coordinator at 201-451-2200; the homepage may be found at <http://www.tryzub.com/UNA/>)

It is also looking into offering new benefits and programs for its members. For example, the soon to be released March issue of *The UNA in Focus* reports that *Soyuz* and several Ukrainian credit unions have set up a joint program whereby persons who hold mortgages from these credit unions will be able to purchase UNA life insurance on very attractive terms.

Nor has the UNA forgotten its role as a benefactor of charitable, cultural and educational institutions. The recently established Ukrainian National Foundation, Inc., is proof of that. This tax-exempt [501 (c) (3)] entity intends to solicit government funds and foundation grants to accomplish its goals, and it will accept tax-exempt contributions from donors.

Thus, more than an century after it was founded, the UNA's *raison d'être* remains the same: our community. As long as our community exists, the UNA will be there, standing ready to serve its needs.

Feb.
23
1758

Turning the pages back...

Vasyl Kapnist was a fascinating historical figure with modern notions of Ukrainian autonomy and identity a full 60 years before they became widespread in his homeland.

He was born on February 23, 1758, on his family's Velyka Obukhivka estate near Myrhorod, into a line of Left Bank nobility whose title was granted by Venetian authorities to a Greek ancestor Stomatello Kapnissis.

In 1770-1775, Kapnist served with the Izmailov and Preobrazhensk regiments stationed near St. Petersburg, then resigned his commission in protest against the enserfment of the Ukrainian peasantry under Russian law.

He was appointed marshal of the nobility for Myrhorod County in 1782 and for the Kyiv Gubernia in 1785-1787. In 1788, while the Russian Empire fought a two-front war with Turkey and Sweden, he drafted a plan for reviving volunteer Kozak regiments in Ukraine, but was turned down.

In 1791 he secretly traveled to Berlin to enlist Prussia's support for the restitution of the Hetmanate in the event of a conflict with Russia, but could elicit no firm commitment.

In 1802 he was made general judge of the Poltava Gubernia and continued his vigorous defense of Ukrainian interests, particularly during the Napoleonic invasion of 1812-1813 when 15 Kozak regiments were re-established and Kozaks were exempted from the draft and various taxes.

In 1820 he was appointed marshal for the massive Poltava Gubernia, a post he held until his death on November 9, 1823, near Kybntsi, in the Poltava region.

A literary figure of some note, Kapnist's first work was an ode composed on the occasion of the Russo-Turkish peace treaty of 1775. In 1782 he composed a poem, "Oda na Rabstvo" (Ode on Slavery), protesting Catherine II's abolition of Ukrainian autonomy.

His comedy, "Yabeda," (Calumny, 1798), was a harsh satire on tsarist bureaucracy (which some hailed as a precursor of Nikolai Gogol's — Mykola Hohol's — works), and was banned after four performances.

In his later period, Kapnist wrote lyrical poetry, modeling himself on classical poets such as Horace. He wrote adaptations of Hryhorii Skovoroda's works, and also translated the medieval epic "Slovo o Polku Ihorevim" (The Tale of Ihor's Campaign) into Russian. To the latter Kapnist added an interesting commentary in which he emphasized the poem's Ukrainian origin and distinctive Ukrainian qualities.

In the early 1800s, Kapnist's estate in Velyka Obukhivka was a place of intellectual ferment, attracting such political activists as the Decembrist Pavel Pestel, and literary lights such as Hohol and Gavrili Derzhavin.

Sources: "Kapnist," "Kapnist, Vasyl," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vol. 2 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1988); "Kapnist, Vasyl," *Ukrainska Literaturna Entsyklopedia*, Vol. 2 (Kyiv: Ukrainska Radianska Entsyklopedia, 1990).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kyiv's Montessori center seeks funds

Dear Editor:

In reference to the article on Montessori in Ukraine (January 26), I encourage the Ukrainian community to help support this venture. I was privileged to attend and translate the initial meeting between the late Dr. Nancy McCormick Rambusch and Boris, Vera and Tatiana, who have worked tirelessly on the Kyiv Montessori School. Dr. Rambusch had been approached to facilitate Montessori principles in other countries, but she chose Ukraine because she felt Montessori had the best possibility of success in the framework that is in place in that country.

While visiting Kyiv with Ginny Cusack, the author of the article and the director of the Princeton Center for Teacher Education, we encountered much interest in the Montessori philosophy. Despite the scarcity of printed information available to them, parents and educators are eager to facilitate the ideals of this method, which develops self-direction and concentration in children and promotes respect for the individual.

The Princeton Montessori Society has worked consistently to raise funds to train Ukrainian staff in order to establish the teacher training center that will serve all of Ukraine. To support this venture with a tax-deductible donation, or to attend the fund-raiser in Princeton on February 23, call (609) 924-4594.

Olenka Makarushka-Kolodiy
Maplewood, N.J.

U.S. government cancels aid program

Dear Editor:

My experiences with the U.S. Department of State in the past two years have been ones of frustration, agony, sadness and profound disappointment with two different situations concerning Ukraine. One is regarding Operation Support Freedom, and the other is the matter of Ukrainian citizens being denied visas to visit the United States.

In the first instance, Operation Support Freedom (OSF) was a program to aid the newly independent states (NIS) after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. OSF was a most valuable and cost-effective foreign aid program. It was a shining moment for the United States, an unprecedented opportunity to offer aid and encouragement to the people in Ukraine and other countries of the NIS.

OSF enabled my organization, along with many other small organizations, to send significant amounts of desperately needed aid to Ukraine at a minimum cost to our government and with a minimum of red tape.

In October 1996 we received a notice from the State Department that the OSF program was being transferred to USAID. I later learned the truth. In reality, the program had been canceled. The USAID program is a completely different type of program, for which most small charities will not be able to qualify. The letter from the State Department was an obfuscation of the truth. So besides the frustration of the cancellation of the program, we have had to deal with the fact that our government did not tell us the truth about it. Now I must explain to our friends in Ukraine that our government has canceled this lifeline of help and hope.

The second instance is in regard to the systematic denials to Ukrainian citizens for

visas by the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv. I visited the Embassy in September and pleaded the case for three fine Ukrainians to be granted visas for a short visit to the U.S. All were denied visas more than once, with sometimes contradictory reasons given for the denials. No matter what scenario is presented, it seems the Embassy can find a reason to just say no. Appeals for help to senators, both liberal and conservative alike, have been fruitless despite their promises.

Every Ukrainian citizen who appears at the U.S. Embassy window in Kyiv is presumed to be dishonest or a "classic visa skipper." Every supporting document that is presented is dismissed as being fraudulent. It is impossible to overcome such prejudice and the pre-determined answer of "no." In spite of this, the Embassy continues to extract a \$20 application fee when there is no hope for obtaining a visa. No wonder the Ukrainian people refer to the American Embassy as the "New Iron Curtain."

One of the goals of our organization is to promote ties and intercultural exchange between Americans and Ukrainians. It is difficult to try to forge bonds of friendship between the two countries when I find that the U.S. Embassy is treating Ukrainians with disrespect and discrimination.

The Ukrainian American community needs to protest these actions of the U.S. State Department. America's problems with illegal immigration should not be thrust upon honest Ukrainians who wish to come to the United States for short visits. In addition, the cancellation of the humanitarian aid program Operation Support Freedom should be protested.

Clifford Netz
Maple Grove, Minn.

The writer is president of Hand in Hand Together, a non-profit organization committed to supplying humanitarian aid to Ukraine and fostering intercultural exchanges between Ukrainians and Americans. To date, the organization, based in Maple Grove, Minn., has sent over 100 tons of humanitarian aid to Ukraine. In September 1996 Hand and Hand Together organized an optometric mission to Shchors, Ukraine, in cooperation with the Volunteer Optometric Service to Humanity. The mission conducted an eye clinic, fitting and donating eyeglasses to about 900 people with vision problems. For more information about Operation Support Freedom, contact Mark Sloman, (301) 649-7614.

Personal efforts can help Ukraine

Dear Editor:

I recently read an article about Michajlo Gawa of Toronto who donated books and other materials to a school in his native village in Ukraine. This was a very commendable personal effort and demonstrates how individuals or small groups can improve conditions in Ukraine.

For some time now I have observed officials and promoters, within and outside the Ukrainian community, announce grandiose schemes for assistance to Ukraine. Many such programs are government funded, and it seems much of the money is spent on administration, travel and red tape. While the majority of these programs are beneficial, others are of dubious value. They either never get implemented or do not materialize past the conceptual stage. Such projects give false hope to Ukrainians, and the diaspora's credibility in Ukraine is not enhanced by them.

Most people within Ukrainian commu-

(Continued on page 7)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Personal efforts...

(Continued from page 6)

nities in the West do not have access to large pools of capital, as do governments or corporations, that provide funds for large-scale assistance or investment projects. There is, however, a way by which individuals and organizations can help Ukraine, and Mr. Gawa has set the example. With such smaller scale undertakings, achievable goals of a modest nature that directly benefit the local population get accomplished. They often have a greater impact, are more efficient and cost effective and have a better chance of succeeding than many "top down" programs. Smaller projects, particularly in the social and cultural sphere, also provide the necessary interaction between donors and recipients, thereby developing positive relationships.

Some of this, of course, is already being done. However, these efforts need to be expanded much further. Therefore, individuals, organizations, professional associations, clubs and parishes in the West should adopt specific cities, towns and villages in Ukraine for the purpose of organizing and undertaking more manageable and meaningful projects that directly address local needs. Projects of this type might involve material or financial assistance for the building or renovation of a church, library or school, housing for the elderly or needy; a health clinic; a sewer or water system for a village; or sending tools, equipment or computers to schools, etc. A closer bond between communities in and outside Ukraine would be established in the process.

As we all know, the needs in Ukraine are many. What is necessary for this kind of effort to succeed is that the type and location of such projects be identified and given priority according to the urgency of need. Then the relevant organizations or individuals in the West and the needy communities in Ukraine could be matched. Only a clearinghouse operation would be required, with a computerized data base to coordinate information and track all activities, and ensure that projects are evenly spread. The rest would be up to the organizations themselves.

I hope that my letter stimulates further discussion on this topic in your paper, and encourages other individuals and groups to initiate more projects of the type developed by Mr. Gawa.

Alexander Kay
Edmonton

Land issue remains enigma in Ukraine

Dear Editor:

The recent session of Ukraine's Parliament has recessed without moving any closer to a solution for the ailing agricultural sector. The key issue remains the privatization of land as a commodity. It has stalled in Parliament and remains an enigma among politicians and activists.

The land ownership issue has also drawn acerbic comments in the diaspora, saying basically that agriculture will not emerge from its limbo until the farmers get the feeling that they own farmland. Such an appraisal is consistent with our traditional values. But it may reflect an oversimplification of available choices. The conflict is not simply between the good guys (privatizers) and the bad ones (collectivists).

The reality of the privatization record so far in Ukraine and in Russia suggests how the privatization of land, if given the green light, might evolve. As Adrian Karatnycky aptly stated two years ago in a McNeil

Lehrer interview about the Russian path, "one man's privatization is another man's plunder." Similarly, William Safire recently observed that "Russia's privatizers have double-crossed reformers and delivered the national wealth to Moscow's elite."

Ukraine's government party, coming from the same school as its Russian cousins, is hardly an ideal privatizing agent for delivering land into farmers' hands. More likely, ownership would funnel into the paws of that nouveau riche who have amassed billions in Swiss banks by plundering Ukraine's exports of raw metals and other industrial commodities – using the licenses and credits obtained from among friends in high places in 1992. They have real funds to buy land and anything else, while most of Ukraine's population finds itself in abject poverty. In that case, collective farms would be transformed into corporate agriculture, perhaps similar to the American landscape that has replaced the family farm in the U.S. The economy of scale would be touted as a plus. Whether this is good or bad depends on the point of view, but it hardly would make the farmers feel as if they own the land.

There are other models, of course. For instance, in Poland most of land under cultivation is owned by small farmers. The cost inefficiency is such that importing grain from the West is cheaper. German and French policies include a significant government role. In any event, there seems to be no obvious formula for charting Ukraine's next step beyond ideological advice.

Boris Danik
North Caldwell, N.J.

USCAK also helped 1996 Olympic effort

Dear Editor:

Re: The Year in Review "Summer Olympics: Ukraine Debuts" (December 29, 1996).

Congratulations for a very interesting article about Ukraine's participation in the 1996 Olympics. However, we must point out that you gravely underreported the role played by our sports federation. Please note the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada contribution to the Ukrainian Olympic effort:

- 1) Purchase of modern gymnastic equipment for the training of Ukrainian gymnasts in the amount of \$40,557.
- 2) Funds to cover the cost of transportation, food and lodging of the athletes during pre-Olympic training, particularly for swimmers, weightlifters, freestyle wrestlers, boxers, cyclists and others. Cost: \$41,248.
- 3) A \$10,000 check was presented to the Regional Olympic Committee in New York on the occasion of Valerii Borzov's visit to the U.S.

Thus, total financial assistance provided during 1996 was \$91,805.

In light of the fact that you specifically cited figures and names of two other contributors to the Olympic effort, the omission of USCAK's contribution constitutes a major omission and should be prominently acknowledged in your paper at your earliest convenience.

Myron Stebelsky
Roman Pyndus
Newark, N.J.

The writers are, respectively, president and secretary of the USCAK.

Editor's Note: The figures cited in The Weekly's year-end review were provided by the U.S. representative of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine.

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



Ukraine's historic opportunity

For decades, Ukrainian Americans, Canadians and others wrote letters to the editor and political leaders reminding them that there is a country called Ukraine. Patiently, we would point out that the Soviet Union consisted of 15 republics including Ukraine and, no, we explained, Ukraine is not part of Russia. It's astonishing, therefore, to find independent Ukraine at the center of American foreign policy. Who would have thought: the United States and Ukraine in a strategic partnership?

It wasn't always that way. In December 1917 with the Russian Empire breaking up, the U.S. Ambassador to Russia sent his consul, Douglas Jenkins, to Kyiv to report on the political situation there. Mr. Jenkins was told not to do anything that would imply recognition of the Ukrainian Rada. He followed instructions precisely, not even paying a courtesy call on Ukrainian leaders, even after the January 22, 1918, declaration of independence.

Over the course of the next two years, as control over Kyiv changed hands countless times, and various armies and brigands criss-crossed the territory of Ukraine, the United States continued to watch and do nothing. Ukraine's bid to purchase surplus U.S. military equipment was turned down; the request for medicine to treat soldiers during the typhoid epidemic was similarly denied. As a final indignity, President Woodrow Wilson's staff at the Versailles Peace Conference in 1919 tossed the file with various appeals for an independent Ukraine into the furnace in the cellar at the Hotel Crillon in Paris.

We know, of course, what happened in the wake of American neglect: Ukraine was absorbed into the reconstituted Russian Empire – the Soviet Union – and history unfolded in all its horror: forced famine, mass executions, World War II, the Cold War, terror, Chornobyl, until finally in 1991, a new generation of Ukrainians declared their independence.

Would things have been different if the United States had extended its hand to Ukraine in 1918? Maybe, but that's not what happened. Today's leaders have to understand why events unfolded as they did three generations ago and, above all, appreciate that today Ukraine is a key factor in the post-Cold War strategic line-up, and seize that opportunity.

In 1918, Ukraine was a peasant nation, embroiled in revolution and tumbling toward anarchy. For centuries, Ukraine's territory had been partitioned, its population more than 90 percent illiterate with only a tiny middle class and a mere handful of professionals who could not hope to replace all the Russian and Austrian administrators who had run everything. Above all, there was no army. At the famous battle of Kruty, a week after Ukraine declared its independence in 1918, Capt. Honcharenko of the Sich Riflemen led 500 volunteers against 4,000 Bolsheviks. Consul Jenkins was not about to recommend that the United States recognize a government that could scrape together only 500 untrained students to defend its capital.

When the Soviet Union collapsed in August 1991, Ukraine was much better

(Continued on page 10)

Introducing our new columnist

Our new monthly columnist, Andrew Fedynsky, first came to broader public attention in 1955 with a brilliant recitation of a four-line poem in the first grade of Cleveland's Ridna Shkola. (His parents enjoyed it.) Years later, he came back to teach at the same School of Ukrainian Studies.

Mr. Fedynsky also became active in the Ukrainian human rights movement, translating dissident literature, editing and writing for Smoloskyp in Baltimore in the 1970s and '80s. In the summer of 1977, in an incident that gained widespread media coverage, he was arrested in Belgrade by Yugoslav authorities for holding a press conference about the Ukrainian Helsinki Group during the first Helsinki Follow-up Conference that was being held in that city. He also attended the Helsinki Conference in Madrid in 1980, the Summer Olympics in Montreal in 1976 and numerous human rights conferences on behalf of Ukrainian issues.

After a nine-year stint as a junior high school teacher in the Cleveland public school system in the 1970s, Mr. Fedynsky joined the staff of Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) in 1978, and later joined the staff of Rep. Mary Rose Oakar (D-Ohio) in 1981, where he became chief of staff. During his years on Capitol Hill, he worked with the organized Ukrainian community on every important issue, including the creation of the Famine

Commission, the Myroslav Medvid case, Chornobyl and, after 1987, from Rep. Oakar's district office in Ohio, on the Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine and recognition of Ukraine's independence.

One of his memorable moments on Capitol Hill came at a 1985 reception sponsored by Speaker Tip O'Neill to welcome the First Secretary of the Communist Party of Ukraine, Volodymyr Shcherbytsky. Mr. Fedynsky took the opportunity to upbraid Mr. Shcherbytsky on the treatment of dissidents and Russification.

Later when Mr. Fedynsky described the conversation to his mother, he said, "I told Shcherbytsky the same thing you used to tell me: Speak Ukrainian!"

"You told him that?" she asked.

"I sure did!" he replied.

"I'll pray for you," she replied.

Mr. Fedynsky, who also worked on many development projects in the Cleveland area and policy issues with the House Foreign Affairs and Banking Committees, now has his own consulting firm that represents clients on government-related issues. He is a member of the board of the National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Committee and in 1996 was national co-chair of Ukrainian Americans for Clinton-Gore. In Cleveland he serves on the board of the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame and is director of the Ukrainian Museum-Archives.

ANALYSIS: The status of Ukrainian military terminology

by Stephen D. Olynyk

CONCLUSION

Present-day situation

With the break-up of the Soviet Union, the emergence of the independent Ukrainian state and the adoption of Ukrainian as the official language, a radically new period began in the field of Ukrainian military terminology.

Unlike the countries of the Warsaw Pact, which under Communist rule retained and developed their native military terminology, Ukrainian members of the Soviet armed forces were forced to use the Russian language of command and communication, and were prevented from developing any semblance of Ukrainian military terminology.

The post-Soviet Ukrainian armed forces formed in 1991 were composed of former Soviet army groups that had been stationed in Ukraine as a second strategic echelon of the Soviet Union's line of defense against the West. These groups were composed of various nationalities, primarily Ukrainians and Russians. While warrant officers and enlisted personnel were in the majority Ukrainian by nationality, the officer corps contained a high percentage of ethnic Russians. This proportion was even higher in the general officer ranks.

A large number of ethnic Ukrainian officers did not have a good command of the Ukrainian language due to no fault of their own. Military terminology can be used successfully only when its users fluently speak the language in question. So, one of the first tasks that faced the new Ukrainian military leadership after the formation of the armed forces of Ukraine was to initiate a program of study of the Ukrainian language. The program, however, was neither comprehensive nor mandatory.

Directive No. 10 of the minister of defense of Ukraine, "On Learning the Ukrainian Language in the Armed Forces of Ukraine," issued by then Minister of Defense Col. Gen. Kostiantyn Morozov on May 15, 1992, stated the following: "Ensuing from the Declaration On State Sovereignty of July 16, 1989, and in accordance with the Law of the Ukrainian SSR of October 28, 1989, titled 'On Languages in the Ukrainian SSR,' I direct that ... the study of the Ukrainian language be organized on voluntary basis in accordance with appropriate programs."

In another directive, dated December 13, 1993, Minister of Defense Morozov reported that at the end of 1992, that is one year after independence, there were 2,556 Ukrainian language study groups in the armed forces of Ukraine and the total number of military personnel studying the Ukrainian language on a voluntary basis was over 50,000 (presumably mostly officers). The armed forces of Ukraine at that time numbered over 600,000.

In a directive on August 25, 1993, Gen. Morozov noted that teaching of the Ukrainian language in the military was not being adequately implemented. In 1994 Gen. Morozov's successor, Minister of Defense Gen. Vitalij Radetsky, similarly noted in his report to the Collegium of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine that the Ukrainian language teaching program in the armed forces was still unsatisfactory.

Even today, due to lack of funds, there is only one national military newspaper, *Narodna Armiya* (a publication of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine), three regional military papers of local or specialized nature, and only one professional military journal, *Armiya Ukrainy*. This paints a sad picture of the status of the Ukrainian language in Ukraine's armed forces, which negatively affects the effort to introduce the Ukrainian language in command and communication.

The development of Ukrainian military terminology in recent years has taken at least two forms: official and unofficial. The unofficial effort has been either academic or purely private. If there was anything in common between these two approaches, it was that their participants shared in the spiritual uplift and sense of euphoria that prevailed in practically all sectors of life in Ukraine during the first year of Ukraine's independence.

The official program was undertaken by both the leg-

Stephen D. Olynyk is a retired U.S. Army colonel, now working as an independent consultant on national security. He spent one year (1994) in Kyiv as an adviser to the Parliament and the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, and continues to serve as a consultant. He has lectured at the Academy of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, to which he also serves as a regular consultant, and is the author of many articles on military subjects.



Soldiers take oath of military service during a 1992 ceremony in Kyiv.

islative and executive branches of the Ukrainian government. Almost immediately after the declaration of independence, the Verkhovna Rada began to codify the organization and the status of Ukrainian military institutions by passing basic national security and defense legislation, whose contents reflected Ukrainian military-related expressions and terms.

The law "On the Armed Forces of Ukraine" provided that in Ukraine's armed forces, the Ukrainian language will be used in accordance with existing legislation. However, the implementation of the cited language law has been slow, at best, and it has not been welcomed by many of the armed forces' Soviet-educated officers. With the country's economic situation going from bad to worse over the subsequent two years, this initial enthusiasm all but disappeared.

When speaking of developing Ukrainian military terminology (i.e., not just the introduction of the Ukrainian language into the military), we come across three schools of thought on the subject.

The first school of thought is those who can be called the "purists" or "traditionalists." This approach emphasizes making military terminology reflect native Ukrainian as much as possible by purging terms of foreign origin or derivation and replacing them, wherever feasible, with their Ukrainian equivalent taken from the Ukrainian usage of centuries past (especially the Ukrainian Kozak period and the period of brief Ukrainian independence in the years of 1918-1920).

Thus, for example, if we take the simple term "battalion" (originally of French derivation), in Ukrainian, to members of this school, it should be "kurin" – a term used by the Ukrainian Kozaks as far back as the 15th century (if not earlier), adopted by Ukrainian national military units during 1917-1920, and by subsequent military units. Traditionalists are especially opposed to wide adoption or continuation of usage of terms used by tsarist Russian and, later, Russian-speaking Soviet armed forces, even though many of these terms may have been of foreign origin (especially German or French).

The second school of thought is the "school of reasonable compromise." This school proposes the adoption or adaptation of terms of foreign origin or derivation based on their general usage and international acceptance.

Thus, if we take the word "kurin" again, the advocates of compromise would argue that most European countries use the term "battalion," and it would be advantageous for Ukrainians to do the same. But when they come to a purely Russian term, like "rota" (company), they suggest the traditional Ukrainian term "sotnia." They put forth a reasonable argument that in this modern world no one is an island and that military terminology, just like terminology in other professional fields, is influenced by the languages and usage of other countries, especially of the more advanced states.

The third school of thought is the exact opposite of

the first in that it advocates a wholesale adoption of military terms used in the former Soviet armed forces. Needless to say, members of this school are products of the Soviet military educational system, former Soviet army career officers or scholars who have little if any sympathy for the Ukrainian language.

Of course, there are variations among each of the three schools.

The practical result of the dispute and debate among these groups can be seen in current field manuals. In 1992, the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine had appointed a commission to prepare drafts of field manuals (or military regulations). They prepared these drafts in the Russian language, drawing heavily on the Soviet army's model. The Ministry of Defense requested the Lviv-based lexicographic group (Yakymovych, et al.) to translate these regulations into Ukrainian.

How much of the terminology in that draft was changed (i.e., Ukrainianized) is not known by this author, although its general content can be described as reflecting the second school of thought. It did not fully satisfy either the Ukrainian "purists" or the advocates of Soviet-era terminology. Perhaps for this reason, among others, these manuals are still called "Temporary (or preliminary) Field Regulations." They cover four major areas: Internal Service; Garrison and Guard Duty; Disciplinary Regulations; and Formations and Drill. They were published in the fall of 1993, but the controversy over what will be or should be the final version of these manuals has yet to be resolved.

In the meantime, as mentioned earlier, some effort to develop Ukrainian military terminology has been made in the private sector. Several Russian-Ukrainian military dictionaries, some very modest in content and size, are known to have been published privately. (Among them are: O. O. Lisna, *Rosiisko-Ukrainskyi Viiskovy Slovnyk*, 1st ed., Kyiv, 1992; M. M. Obraztsova, H. D. Temko, I. M. Shorokhov and Iu. O. Chuvaieva, *Rosiisko-Ukrainskyi Viiskovy Slovnyk*, Odesa, 1993; A. Panibudlaska and B. Kantselaruk, *Rosiisko-Ukrainskyi Slovnyk Viiskovykh terminiv*; M.V. Tsybulenko [ed.], *Rosiisko-Ukrainskyi Styslyi Dovidnyk Viiskovykh Terminiv*, Kyiv, 1992; *Kratkii Russko-Ukrainskii Slovar Artileriiskikh Terminov*, Chernivtsi, 1993).

A serious effort at developing terminology is being made by the group of Lviv lexicographers that prepared the original draft field manuals. This group, under the editorial leadership of Bohdan Yakymovych, prepared and in 1995 published an up-to-date Russian-Ukrainian military dictionary of over 32,000 words (A. Buryachok, M. Demskyi, B. Lakymovych, *Rosiisko-Ukrainskyi Slovnyk dlia Viiskovykiv*, Lviv, 1995). They are also working on a Ukrainian Military Encyclopedic Dictionary of 10,000 entries. This group is closer to the first school of thought, the "purists."

Specialized army manuals also are being published,

(Continued on page 13)

CONCERT REVIEW: Zuk duo opens window to rich musical culture

by Wolfgang Bottenberg

MONTREAL – The internationally renowned piano duo team Luba and Ireneus Zuk, assisted by Eugene Husaruk, violin, and Marcel Saint-Cyr, cello, presented a concert of music by Ukrainian composers on February 10 at the Pollack Concert Hall of McGill University.

For the Montreal audience, this was a very special experience. It is known that musical standards in Ukraine, as well as in other Eastern European countries are high, but little is known here about their musical creations. The occasional appearance of a world famous composer from one of the Eastern European countries seems to Western audiences to be an isolated phenomenon.

This concert by Luba and Ireneus Zuk went far to dispel this myth. It was proof that musical creativity in Ukraine builds on a firm tradition, and that in its scope and quality, meets world standards.

Of the compositions that were presented at this concert, a few were by older composers whose stylistic orientation was a rich late romanticism, but with clear evidence of knowledge and appreciation for new idioms. Among these were a violin sonata by Victor Kosenko (1896-1938) with a Brahmsian flavor. A "Dumka" by Vasyl Barvinsky (1888-1963), and "Lyric Piece and Dance" by Mykola Dremliuha (b. 1917), both for cello and piano, incorporated Ukrainian folk music into a rich harmonic texture.

The majority of the compositions presented were by living composers who had written their works specifically for the Zuks. The scope of these works, their technical demands and their solid compositorial craft demonstrated the high esteem in which Luba and Ireneus Zuk are held in Ukraine. It was obvious that the best composers there consider it an honor and a challenge to write for this team.

For the attentive listener, it was also an indication that there is great stylistic diversity among contemporary composers of Ukraine.

The concert opened with "Dramatic Triptych" by

Dr. Wolfgang Bottenberg is professor of music at Concordia University in Montreal.



Featured performers at the Zuk Duo "Music from Ukraine" chamber concert which took place in Montreal on February 10 are (from left): Ireneus Zuk, pianist; Eugene Husaruk, violinist; Luba Zuk, pianist; and Marcel Saint-Cyr, cellist.

Lesia Dychko (b. 1939), a substantial work that evokes archaic chants and ritual dances in a complex and tightly effective pianistic style.

A very different atmosphere was created by Oleksander Krasotov (b. 1936) in his "Antiphons." Here the interest was primarily rhythmical. It is a large-scale composition, with relentless forward driving motion, but also with a sense of humor.

In an even more pointed manner, humor was evident in the final composition of the evening, "Three Dances for Two Pianos" by Myroslav Skoryk (b. 1938). In this composition, popular traditions from non-Ukrainian sources predominate: Spanish-Moorish, American blues

and French Can-Can. The result was a colorful work with some lovely inventions, although some sections seemed to continue these ideas for too long.

Luba and Ireneus Zuk are ambassadors of a very unusual kind: they bring the works of Canadian composers to the attention of European audiences, and they encourage composers from these countries to write new works for them, which are then heard in Canada. Their favorite cultural exchange is with Ukraine, the land of their origin. For the many Ukrainians living in Canada and in the U.S., it is a significant cultural link with the finest traditions of their homeland. For us Canadians, it is the opening of a window into a rich and stimulating contemporary musical culture.

'Artists from Ukraine' catalogue is available

HOUSTON — The catalogue for the exhibit "Artists from Ukraine: Works on Paper", which was organized by the O'Kane Gallery and curated by Ukrainian American artist Lydia Bodnar-Balahutrak and University of Houston-Clear Lake faculty printmaker artist Sandria Hu, is now available for sale. The exhibit was on view at O'Kane Gallery, University of Houston-Downtown, through February 21.

The 44-page catalogue includes an essay by Dr. Susan Baker, art historian and art history professor at UH, a curator's statement, short biographies of the 20 participating artists, and color and black-and-white reproductions of their artwork.

The exhibition of 48 artworks includes drawings, monotypes, etchings, serigraphs, as well as computer ink-jet prints, small ex libris prints and mixed media works on paper. Much of the artwork is available for sale.

The artists represented are: Andriy Chebykin, Danylo Dovboshynsky, Valentin Gordiychuk, Halyna Halynska, Alina Ivanova, Yevgenia Kharkova, Ksenia Khodakovska, Oksana Kirpenko, Yurko Koch, Kateryna Korniychuk, Andrew Levitsky, Lubomyr Medvid, Irina Movchan, Olena Mychaylova-Rodyna, Olha Pohribna-Koch, Oleksandra Prakhova, Serhiy Shulyma, Oksana Stratiychuk, Olena Yakovleva and Ihor Yaremchuk.

The catalogue price is \$7 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling. Checks for the full amount of \$8.50 (U.S.) should be made out to: O'Kane Gallery, University of Houston-Downtown, 1 Main St., Houston, TX 77002.

On March 6 the exhibit "Artists From Ukraine: Works on Paper" travels to the College of the Mainland Art Gallery in Texas City, where it will be on view through April 13.



At the opening of the exhibition "Artists From Ukraine: Works On Paper" at the O'Kane Gallery in Houston (from left) are: Lydia Bodnar-Balahutrak, artist/curator; Dr. Susan Baker, art historian; and Ann Trask, director, O'Kane Gallery.

Consulate General in New York hosts celebration of Ukrainian Christmas

by Lesia Lebed

NEW YORK — Ludmyla Kryzhanivsky, wife of Ukraine's consul general in New York Viktor Kryzhanivsky, invited the International Hospitality Committee and its 56 international guests from the diplomatic community to participate in a celebration of Ukrainian Christmas on January 15. The celebration took place at the Ukrainian Consulate General, located in the historic district of New York City known as Turtle Bay Gardens.

The guests were formally greeted by Consul General and Mrs. Kryzhanivsky. Next they learned about various Ukrainian customs that are observed during Christmas, the New Year and Epiphany from Iryna Kurowycky, member of the International Hospitality Committee and honorary president of the National Council of Women of U.S.A., under which the Hospitality Committee functions.

While Mrs. Kurowycky was describing the 12 meatless and dairy-less dishes served by Ukrainians on Christmas Eve, the guests were getting their first taste of kutia. They were told about the tradition of throwing the first spoon of kutia onto the ceiling by the head of the household. Mrs. Kurowycky joked that this was the reason the consul general left so soon – he was afraid that he would be asked to observe this ritual. The kutia was so popular that some guests even asked for portions to take home. Three different varieties of varenyky, holubtsi, fish and uzvar were also served.

No Ukrainian Christmas celebration would be complete without carolers. Therefore, children came to carol at the Consulate General, thanks to Sister Gabriel, principal of St. George Ukrainian Catholic School, and Natalia Duma of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America. The beautiful voices of the children brought joy to everyone. The international guests were most moved by the "Carol of the Bells."

At the end of the program Mrs. Jimmy Welden, chair of the International Hospitality Committee, thanked Mrs. Kryzhanivsky for hosting the event and Mrs. Kurowycky for sponsoring the program and providing information about how Ukrainians observe the winter holidays. Mrs. Welden also reminded the guests that Mrs. Kryzhanivsky had hosted a similar event on Ukrainian Easter traditions in the spring.

The celebration of Ukrainian Christmas ended the International Hospitality Committee's winter cycle of celebrations, aimed at bringing people from various nations closer together and helping them gain a better understanding of each other.

The celebrations started in early December, when the committee learned about "Sinteeklaas" and tasted the delicious cookies baked by the Dutch during their Christmas celebrations. Next, the wife of the Swedish consul general invited the members of the committee to learn about the legend of "Sankla Lucia," hear carolers and partake of a Swedish Christmas meal.

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Ukraine's historic...

(Continued from page 7)

prepared. For the first time in nearly a thousand years, Ukraine's territory was largely consolidated. The Ukrainian SSR had a functioning government — totally subordinated to Moscow to be sure — but still staffed by native Ukrainian officials. The education level was high and illiteracy no longer existed, although censorship was ubiquitous ... And Ukraine had an army. Leonid Kravchuk, first secretary of the Communist Party of Ukraine, will forever be remembered in history as the man who co-opted a million-man army without a shot being fired.

Above all, there was a legacy to build on: the events of 1918, the Great Famine of 1932-1933, the Great Terror, the defeat of Nazi Germany, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, the dissidents, Chernobyl, the Millennium. When the anti-Gorbachev putsch fizzled in August 1991, the blue-and-yellow banners, the tridents and the national anthem all came out of the closet.

Today the United States, the world's only remaining superpower, has to provide the leadership to construct a new framework for global security and economic prosperity — "creating a new era," as Secretary of State Madeleine Albright put it in a recent New York Times article. The vocabulary that had described the previous era — Cold War, Iron Curtain, Free World, Captive Nations, Mutually Assured Destruction, Communist aggression, Western imperialism — that's all obsolete.

Those concepts defined the deadly competition between "East" and "West" that

existed only because the Soviet empire was able to tap the resources of rich colonies like Ukraine. From its birth in 1917 to its demise in 1991, the Bolshevik vision was a nightmare of suffering and horror.

The United States and the West spent trillions of dollars and lost thousands of lives to first contain and then defeat what truly was an "Evil Empire." Russia, the cradle of the Communist movement, is a country of enormous accomplishment, but it has yet to account for an appalling historical legacy. Within Russia today, serious political groupings continue to harbor a dangerous messianic and imperialist streak that must be confined if Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, indeed, all of Europe is to feel secure. For that to happen, Ukraine must be independent and prosperous. We've been arguing that for generations.

In the coming year the U.S. will be pondering NATO expansion and a new framework for Europe with an independent Ukraine at its geopolitical center. The Ukrainian American community must continue to let Washington know that we commend the policy that supports Ukraine's independence, its military security and economic prosperity, and we expect the U.S. to remain firm.

We should be just as forthright in communicating to Kyiv that we understand the difficulties Ukraine faces in moving from a command economy to a free market, from colonial status to independence; that we know the virtues of patience, but we also know that this narrow window of historic opportunity will close someday.

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SPORTSLINE

FIGURE SKATING

Bizarre doings in men's competition

Last year's European champion, Ukraine's Vyacheslav Zahorodniuk, surrendered his crown to Russia's Alexei Urmanov at this year's tournament, held in Paris January 18-25. Mr. Zahorodniuk stayed on the podium, however, settling for the bronze behind the charismatic Phillipe Candeloro of France.

Many spectators at the skating center in Paris were left scratching their heads over the ranking system after the placings bounced in a bizarre fashion.

After the short program, some (including Reuters in its report over the wires) placed Mr. Zahorodniuk in first, crediting him with "a flawless routine" based on a "Russian Sailor's Dance" music [which enabled him] to grab the lead ahead of defending champion Ilya Kulik of Russia.

When the smoke cleared, however, he stood in second place behind Mr. Kulik, with Germany's Andrei Vlasenko in third, and Mr. Urmanov a seemingly distant sixth.

During the long skate final, the Ukrainian appeared to assume the lead, and seemed to hold it, even after Messrs. Urmanov (who rose to second) and Candeloro (in fourth) had skated.

However, when Mr. Vlasenko turned in a sub-par long program, Mr. Urmanov rose to first and the Frenchman was catapulted up past Mr. Zahorodniuk.

International Skating Union President Ottavio Cinquenta was quoted in a January 25 Reuters report defending the judging system. "The fact that millions of spectators did not understand the system ... does not mean the system is wrong," Mr. Cinquenta said. He added that the ISU "must do something to ensure the spectators are not in that position again."

Prior to the European competition, the ISU announced that qualification rules for the Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan, would be changed.

Beginning with the 1997-1998 season, the number of entries from each country in the world championships and the Olympics will depend on the previous-year performance of the entire team, instead of the top performance from one skater in a world championship.

The new qualification rules will be in place for this year's world championships in Lausanne, Switzerland, on March 17-23. Twenty-four slots in each Olympic singles event will be determined, along with slots for 16 pairs and 19 ice dancing duos. Other competitors will face a series of qualification rounds.

Pliuta makes a splash

In the preliminary stages of the tournament, Kyiv native Yevhen Pliuta, a 22-year-old rookie, grabbed headlines and won his qualifying group with a program of seven triple jumps, including two in combination.

On January 19, Brian Creighton of Reuters gushed, "[Mr. Pliuta] opened with a superb triple axel, followed with a triple lutz-triple toe loop combination, and the only flaw came on a second triple axel when he only managed a single."

The new Ukrainian sensation fared less well the rest of the way, placing seventh in the short program, 13th in the long, and 12th over all, but he certainly served notice of his potential as a star of the future.

Also in the running was Dmytro

Dmytrenko, who eventually outpaced the new kid on the block with a veteran's consistency, finishing eighth in the short, and eighth in the long to place eighth over all.

Women's, ice dance, pairs

Yulia Lavrenchuk rose from fifth after the short program to claim Ukraine's other bronze medal at the Europeans, finishing behind Irina Slutskaya of Russia (gold) and Hungary's Kristina Czako. Olena Liashenko also turned in a strong performance, finishing fifth over all.

In the ice dance, Irina Romanova and Ihor Yaroshenko placed, as they have so many times in their career, sixth. Ukraine's other entries, Elena Grushina and Ruslan Honcharov, were 13th, while Natalia Gudina and Vitaliy Kurkudym were 18th.

In the pairs competition, Olena Belousovska and Stanislav Morozov placed eighth over all, while Evgenia Filomenko and Ihor Marchenko finished 11th.

HOCKEY

Home ice proved to be of little advantage to Ukraine's national junior hockey team, as it remained mired in the international system's Pool B.

This year's Pool B championships were held in Kyiv from December 27 to January 5, but the venue served more as a launch pad for surging Team Kazakstan, which had won Pool C last year, and advanced to Pool A by finishing first this year.

With a mediocre 3-3-1 won-lost-tied record, Ukraine finished fifth in the standings. Individual stats were indicative, as team top scorer Oleksander Yakovenko (9 points on 5 goals and 4 assists) Vladyslav Serov (8, 6, 2) and Oleksander Zinevych (8, 5, 3) finished ninth, 10th and 11th in the standings.

In the first period of Ukraine's first game of the tournament, things looked good. Oleh Krykunenko (who finished with four goals and one assist over all) put his side ahead of Kazakstan at 3:56, and they took the 1-0 lead into the dressing room. This didn't last, as the Kazaks potted three unanswered goals to take the contest.

The next day, Ukraine lost to France 4-3, a strange see-saw contest in which the teams seemed to take turns in going to sleep for a period. France went up 3-0, then Ukraine scored three straight, then Thierry Nicoud put it away for the Tricolor at 13:52 of the last frame.

In subsequent play, Ukraine had trouble with Japan before winning 4-3, and blew out Pool doormats Italy (7-3) and Hungary (8-1).

The blue-and-yellow's last two games in the competition were respectable: a 2-2 tie with Norway, and a hard-fought 2-1 loss to Latvia, but obviously not Pool A stuff.

On a note that doesn't concern Ukraine, but should, the 20-team European Hockey League completed its first season without an entry from the five-year-old state. In the championship game, TPS Turku of Helsinki, Finland, beat Dynamo Moscow 5-2. Perhaps Kyiv Sokil is simply saving itself some embarrassment.

The league plans to hold a "Super Cup" competition in September against a National Hockey League team that has yet to be named, and hopes to draw the (NHL minor system) American Hockey League into a planned expansion.

- Compiled by Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj.

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Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

Bondra coping without Pivonka

A bevy of Washington Capitals' observers and fans wondered how right winger Peter Bondra would react when his longtime center, Michal Pivonka, was sidelined with a knee injury in late October.

Bondra, one of the NHL's top goal scorers the past two seasons, went through a brief adjustment period (no points in three out of four games), then quickly went back to his usual routine. The end result was his being named NHL player of the week for the period ending November 24, 1996. He had three goals and six assists for nine points as the Caps went 3-0-1.

His new linemates, center (and fellow Ukrainian) Andrei Nikolishin and left winger Chris Simon, were playing a critical part in the story. Simon was particularly hot, getting six goals and 10 points in nine games after being acquired from the Colorado Avalanche.

"Michal who?" joked Bondra when asked what would happen when Pivonka returned. "We're playing well so far, so I don't know. It's up to the coaches."

"We'll worry about that when Michal gets back," said Capitals' coach Jim Schoenfeld.

The addition of the bruising Simon has opened up more offensive skating room for Bondra, and Simon's scoring has forced defenses to at least divide their attention.

"I realize I can't wait for somebody to give me the puck, I have to go get it and create some chances," Bondra said. "I just take the puck and try to do something."

Apparently Bondra has thus far experienced great success in picking up the puck and doing something: witness his updated scoring totals of 32 goals and 53 points through his first 49 games played.

Coyotes' Tkachuk comes through

With their season in a spiraling tail-spin and fears about missing the playoffs already readily surfacing, somebody had to step up for the Phoenix Coyotes (nee Winnipeg Jets). Captain Keith Tkachuk answered the call.

The ultra-rugged Ukrainian left winger stretched his goal-scoring streak to four games on November 28, 1996, by recording three goals, including the overtime winner, in a 4-3 triumph over the New Jersey Devils. The onslaught gave him 10 goals and a team-leading 22 points at the time.

"Keith sets the tone," said GM John Paddock. "If he plays like he has been

playing in the last three or four games (late November), the wins are on the horizon."

It was not a moment too soon for the Coyotes, who have spent most of the season mired in the Central Division cellar. If Phoenix is to break out of its slump and re-ignite its pre-season hopes of being a genuine post-season threat, Tkachuk will be the key.

"I'm the leader of this hockey team and it's up to me to lead by example," said Tkachuk, a 50-goal scorer last season with the Jets. "It's up to me to set the pace, so I had to start turning it on."

Coach Don Hay said he had "a little chat" with Tkachuk earlier this season after his captaincy started poorly.

"We talked," Hay said. "I wanted what's best for Keith and what's best for the hockey club, and we wanted to get him going. He has responded very well."

And continues to respond, and respond, and respond. At press time Tkachuk was tied for third in the league with 33 goals, while adding 25 helpers for 58 points in but 54 games.

Bellows an asset in Anaheim

Brian Bellows wasn't in coach Terry Crisp's plans with the Tampa Bay Lightning, but he isn't coming out of the line-up of Ron Wilson's Mighty Ducks of Anaheim. Quite a distinct tale of two cities!

Bellows, 32, was acquired by those Mighty Ducks from the Lightning for a 1997 sixth-round draft pick on November 18, 1996, and proved to be an immediate boost for a team in need of veteran grit and power play prowess. He had three assists in his first seven games.

Wilson knew what he was getting. He and the Ukrainian-blooded Bellows were teammates with the Minnesota North Stars during the mid-1980s. And Anaheim GM Jack Ferreira, who held the same post in Minnesota, knows Bellows well too.

"He's not as fast as he was, but you still see that power game," Wilson said. "When I was playing the point on the power play in Minnesota, I always looked for Brian because he gets his stick on the puck. It's one thing to stand in front of the net. It's another to be able to deflect shots. Only a few people in the league right now have that. Brian is one. Dino Ciccarelli is another."

Bellows missed some time in Tampa Bay because of a sore back, but he wasn't in the line-up once the injury was healed, so he asked for a trade.

"Phil (Lightning GM Esposito) is

(Continued on page 13)

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Pro hockey...

(Continued from page 12)

never one to hold a player back," Crisp said. "Brian is in the last year on his contract, and it was good for him to go somewhere where he'd get ice time and could get a new contract. He did a great job for us his first year. This year we were bringing in young players."

Daneyko sheds tears over trade

After virtually giving away physical left winger Mike Peluso in a trade with the St. Louis Blues, the New Jersey Devils can only hope they don't become NHL tin men. They still have enough toughness, but lost a considerable amount of heart.

The deal, in which the Devils sent Peluso and defenseman Ricard Persson to St. Louis for journeyman Ken Sutton and the Blues' second-round entry draft pick in 1999, hit several players hard.

Defenseman Kenny Daneyko was teary-eyed when Peluso was pulled off the team's charter flight before taking off from New Jersey on November 26, 1996.

"That was probably the most emotional I ever got when a guy was traded," Daneyko said. "I went through a lot with him. It's tough losing a friend like Mike. He's one of my better friends and he probably had the biggest heart of any guy I've played with. He's a tough guy to replace."

GM Lou Lamoriello said the trade was triggered because the Devils wanted to give younger players such as left wingers Jay Pandolfo and Reid Simpson more ice time. Toughness will come from defensemen Lyle Odelein, Daneyko, Scott Stevens, Jason Smith and wingers Randy McKay and Bill Guerin.

"How much toughness do you want on a team? We have about six or seven guys

on the team that can handle that role," said Devils' coach Jacques Lemaire. "I don't think we should worry about that. I think toughness is our strong part."

With the departure of good friend Mike Peluso, Kenny Daneyko begs to differ!

UKRAINIAN UTTERINGS: Capitals' left winger Steve Konowalchuk missed extended playing time earlier this season with a painful separated rib cartilage ... Wayne Gretzky hit a milestone December 1, of which he wasn't even aware, becoming the first player ever to reach 3,000 combined regular season and playoff points (2,639 regular season and 362 in the playoffs). "I didn't even know it," he said. "Honest, I just saw it on TV." ... More Gretzky, this time voicing his opinion about coach Colin Campbell being on the hot seat because of the Rangers' sub-.500 record: "The fingers should be pointed at the players." ... In defeating the Hamilton Bulldogs 3-0 and 6-2 earlier this season, Albany River Rats' goalie Peter Sidorkiewicz moved into third place in career AHL victories with 129. Two retirees are ahead of him ... On October 28, 1996, Peter Bondra played in his 400th NHL game ... the Cleveland Lumberjacks recently celebrated hockey history in Cleveland. The team invited many of the city's former players to its November 23, 1996, game against the Quebec Rafales. The Lumberjacks donned the sweaters worn by the American League's Cleveland Barons. Honored were nearly 40 ex-pro players from the NHL and AHL Barons and the World Hockey Association's Cleveland Crusaders. Among the honorees was Ukrainian Paul Shmyr ...

(Quotes courtesy of Dave Fay, Bob McManaman, Robyn Norwood and Rich Chere, beat reporters for the Capitals, Coyotes, Ducks and Devils.)

sions as "Komu eto nuzhno? (Who needs this?) From time to time, polemic articles on this subject appear, (e.g., A. Smirnov, "Komu Nuzhny Takiie Komandy?" [Who needs such commands?], Narodna Armiia, November 19, 1992 and Colonel I. Postrybaylo's, "Ne Nuzhny Slovesnye Igrы" [We Do Not Need Word Games], Narodna Armiia, December 22, 1992).

Then there is also the problem of informal military communication (military slang, like American "Pentagonese"), which is not published anywhere, but which develops over time through usage and tradition, and is commonly used in the daily life and the work of the military.

Increased psychological resistance to the introduction of Ukrainian military terminology and to Ukrainian as the language of command within the armed forces of Ukraine is due also to the erosion of euphoria about Ukraine's independence and its envisioned benefits. There is growing disenchantment among officers about their economic condition and social status, which has made the choice of military terminology, at best, a secondary issue for them. The only hope for more rapid progress in the language area is improvement in the national economy in general and in the living conditions for officers in particular. There is also an expectation that, in the long run, the new graduating classes of junior lieutenants from Ukrainian-language military schools will add support to the wider use of proper Ukrainian military terminology in the Ukrainian armed forces.

For ardent advocates of Ukrainian military terminology, it is also an issue of major political significance because that is the key to re-making the former "Group of Soviet Forces in Ukraine" into a truly "Ukrainian Army."

The status...

(Continued from page 8)

for example the newly issued manual for the rocket forces titled "Artillery Course for the Armed Forces of Ukraine" (Ministerstvo Oborony, Tsentralne Upravlinnia Viisk i Artylerii, Kurs Pidhotovky Artylerii ZSU, Kyiv, Ministerstov Oborony 1995).

Conclusion

It must be remembered that military terminology, like terminology in any other professional field (medicine, science and engineering) is a precise form of communication. There is not much room for making errors or for miscommunicating. In many situations, especially on modern battlefields where speed and accuracy in communication is one of the contributing factors to victory or defeat, miscommunication can result in the loss of life. An officer and a soldier have to be certain that they speak the same language and use the same terminology. Orders must be clearly transmitted and correctly understood. Clarity comes with long training and practice in common usage, and is habit-forming so that terminology becomes second nature.

Work is being done on Ukrainian military terminology, but progress is very slow for several reasons: the controversy over proper terminology and usage has not been resolved and probably will not be anytime soon. Aside from a lack of consensus on what should be proper Ukrainian military terminology, there is still strong resistance from the Soviet-trained and educated officers to accepting new Ukrainian terminology to which they are not accustomed.

It is not unusual to hear such expres-

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Judges at the UNA-Soyuzivka '96 Photo Contest (from left): Ulana Diachuk, UNA President; Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky, choreographer; Roman Iwasivka, professional photographer and George Kozak, painter (not present).

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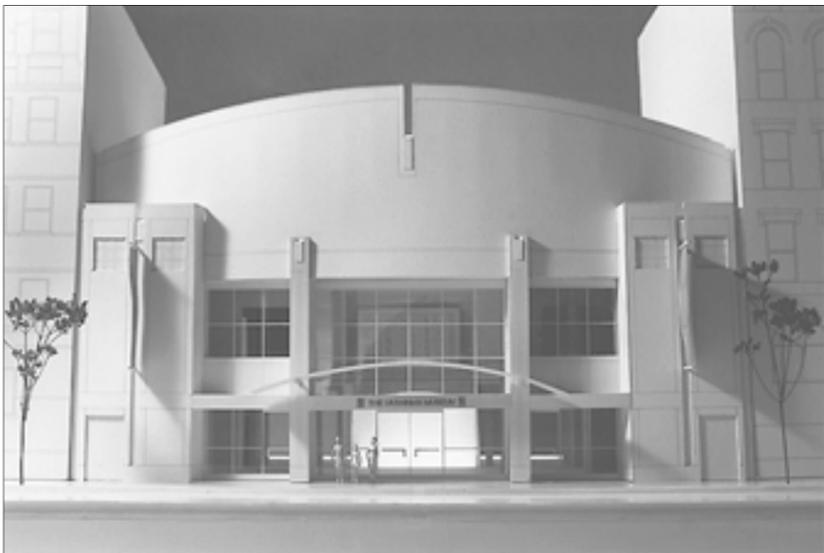
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Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

three years Ukraine start producing grain at the rate it did in Soviet days. "The grain crop losses cost us about \$2.5 billion a year and neither nature nor a lack of cash explains that. The reason is the leadership's mistakes," he said. President Kuchma also fired First Vice Minister of Transportation Leonid Zhelezniak on February 14. President Kuchma announced the two dismissals at a meeting of a presidential committee on organized crime and corruption. (Reuters, OMRI Daily Digest)

Large-scale privatization to proceed

KYIV — Ukraine plans to draw up sales of shares in all large-scale enterprises by the first half of this year, Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko said on February 17. "By the first half of 1997 we will confirm the plan of placement of shares in all enterprises," he told a meeting of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) directors, which arrived in Kyiv for weeklong meetings. "We must end privatization by the end of the year," Mr. Lazarenko said. The prime minister said the government also planned to issue shares in 105 of 228 companies that it has made available for strategic foreign investment, and would discuss this week whether to add another 40 enterprises to the list. He said the president would pass a decree allowing the State Property Fund to privatize through foreign investment. This would effectively overturn a parliamentary ruling late last year to stop privatization through strategic foreign investment until the government developed rules to govern the process. Although Ukraine has completed small-scale privatization, it has been criticized by international funding bodies for the over-all slow pace of its privatization program. It has started privatizing only half of its 17,000 medium- and large-scale enterprises, and about 3,500 remain under a privatization moratorium placed by the Verkhovna Rada because they are considered "strategic" to national security. (Reuters)

Moscow sees Baltic states as buffer

MOSCOW — The Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry's director of foreign policy planning, Vadim Lukov, said on February 13 that Russia wants the Baltic states to stay outside of any alliances and maintain a policy of neutrality, ITAR-TASS reported. Russia wants to base its relationship with Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia on "economic cooperation, the 'indivisibility' of each state's security, and respect for human rights and national minorities," he said. He defined the Baltic states as a buffer zone against the expansion of NATO. He

stressed that it is unacceptable to try to protect the security of other countries while creating a "strategic risk" to the security of Russia. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Russia reserves right to use nukes

MOSCOW — In an interview on Russian Public TV (ORT) on February 15, Andrei Kononov, president of the Institute of Strategic Evaluation, confirmed that the new military doctrine being prepared by the Security Council does allow for Russia to be the first power to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons in certain circumstances — for example, to prevent the expansion of a regional conflict in which Russian conventional forces were engaged. The USSR publicly renounced the first use of nuclear weapons in 1982, but Russia revoked this commitment in the military doctrine it adopted in 1993. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Georgian president visits Ukraine

KYIV — Eduard Shevardnadze ended an official two-day visit to Ukraine on February 14, Ukrainian and international agencies reported. President Shevardnadze and President Leonid Kuchma signed nine documents on cooperation, including agreements on double taxation, trade and economic cooperation, and cooperation on customs and border issues. Trade between Ukraine and Georgia is expected to reach \$500 million this year, up from \$180 million in 1996. Talks also touched on cooperation concerning energy supplies. Ukraine is interested in a project to modernize an oil pipeline from Azerbaijan to Georgia. Ukraine produces pipes and other equipment for the gas and oil industries. Both presidents voiced skepticism over the viability of the CIS. Upon returning to Tbilisi, President Shevardnadze said in a radio interview that the focal point of Georgian-Ukrainian relations is creation of a "Eurasian corridor" to provide for supplies of Caspian oil and other products from Central Asia. (OMRI Daily Digest, Respublika)

Pension arrears grow in Ukraine

KYIV — Pension arrears stood at 1.33 billion hryvni (\$707 million U.S.) on February 15, UNIAN reported. The first deputy head of the State Pension Fund, Volodymyr Onyschuk, said the fund had failed to receive 544 million hryv in 1996 and 103 million in January 1997. Mr. Onyschuk blamed the banks, which do not demand that enterprises pay compulsory contributions to the Pension Fund, and local authorities, which exempt some enterprises from contributions. Mr. Onyschuk said pension arrears also are caused by the payment of wages in goods rather than cash. (OMRI Daily Digest)

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Nuclear power...

(Continued from page 2)

Russia (particularly) and Turkmenistan. The official mindset is that Ukraine is being singled out unfairly for attention in the nuclear safety area, while other countries are being equally lax; that the industrialized Western nations have provided credits with something less than the required alacrity; and that whatever the problems in the nuclear energy industry, there is no immediate alternative to completing reactors already under construction.

Ukraine can be criticized for such stubbornness, particularly when its actions on Chornobyl endanger the public and people outside its borders. It is difficult, however, to change the nuclear industry's current powerful position with the energy structure (one can criticize only the former priorities of the Soviet regime). Further, Ukraine's position as the operator of stations that fall below world safety standards is far from unique. Several countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union have very similar problems, and Lithuania and Bulgaria, for example, are even more dependent on nuclear power than is Ukraine.

On the other hand, Ukrainian policies have been inconsistent. The original G-7 memorandum of April 1996 specified not only financial and technical assistance to shut down Chornobyl and to help secure unit 4, but also to assist Ukraine to develop energy alternatives. This latter request has been all but ignored in Ukraine, while the nuclear lobby continues to make the case for the extension of Chornobyl's life into the 21st century.

Finally, it should be noted that the State Atomic Energy Commission and the directors of Ukrainian nuclear power stations are currently fighting what one U.S. expert has termed "a titanic turf struggle." The plant managers demand the authority to restrict electricity supply to local consumers who do not pay their bills. Currently they are often paid in kind for the electricity (sometimes in metals) and must then find buyers for such goods in order to cover costs. The root of the problem for the nuclear, like other Ukrainian industries, remains the lack of money.

Ninety Plast youths participate in annual ski camp



Yaro Bihun

Ninety Plast youths participated in the annual ski camp organized in the Adirondack region of New York state by the "Burlaky" fraternity. In all, 44 boys and 46 girls, plus a camp staff of 25, (seen in the group photo above) arrived from eight U.S. states and Canada in Glens Falls, N.Y., on December 25, 1996. The camp participants stayed at the Landmark Motor Inn in Glens Falls, N.Y., and skied on Gore Mountain, located a 45-minute bus ride away, in North Creek, N.Y. At the ski area, campers had lessons in skiing and snowboarding, as well as time to enjoy the slopes on their own. The camp closing ceremonies were held on December 31, 1996.

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Nestor L. Olesnycky

Robert S. Field

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, February 28

NEW YORK: The Literary and Art Club will screen a video film titled "Tobi Ukraino Pisia Moya," with introductory remarks by Teodor Teren-Yuskiw. The screening will be held at 136 Second Ave., at 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 1

NEWARK, N.J.: The New Jersey Chapter of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America is holding a presentation by Gregory S. Kuzma, president, who will speak on the topic "The Real Reasons for and the Consequences of the Chernobyl Disaster." The presentation will be held in St. John the Baptist Church Hall, Sanford Avenue, at 3 p.m.

Saturday, March 8

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Institute of America, as part of its Music at the Institute Series, presents Vagram Saradjian, cello, and Volodymyr Vynnytsky, piano, in a program of works by Beethoven (Seven Variations in E Flat Major on a theme by Mozart from "The Magic Flute") and Hindemith (Sonata for Cello and Piano, Op. 11, No. 3), and Rachmaninoff (Sonata for Cello and Piano in G Minor, Op. 19). The concert will be held at the institute, 2 E. 79th St., at 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 9

JENKINTOWN, Pa.: The annual Ukrainian Easter Expo, sponsored by the Ukrainian Heritage Studies Center of Manor Junior College, will be held on campus, 700 Fox Chase Road, at noon - 5 p.m. Featured will be exhibits of Ukrainian pysanky, master craftsmen demonstrations, exhibits of Ukrainian Easter traditions, spring folk dance demonstrations, Easter breads as well as unique gift items. Admission: \$2, adults; children, 50 cents.

Monday, March 10

DALLAS, Texas: The Leontovych String Quartet — Yuri Mazurkevich, first violin; Yuri Kharenko, second violin; Borys Deviatov, viola; and Vlodymyr Panteleyev, cello — will appear in concert at Southern Methodist University, Caruth Concert Hall, in a program of

works by Schubert, Shostakovich and Brahms. For performance time call the concert hall.

Wednesday, March 12

EDMONTON: The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies is holding a lecture as part of its seminar series by Taras Kuzio, research fellow at the Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Birmingham, England, who will speak on the topic "Kravchuk and Kuchma: A Comparative Analysis of Their Policies and Methods." The presentation will be held in 352 Athabasca Hall at 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 13

EDMONTON: The 33rd Annual Shevchenko Lecture, sponsored by the Ukrainian Professional and Business Club and the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta present Taras Kuzio, research fellow at the Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Birmingham, England, who will give a lecture titled "In Search of a National Idea: The Next Stage of Nation-State Building in Ukraine." The lecture will be held in the Tory Breezeway Room, Tory Building, University of Alberta, at 7:30 p.m.

ADVANCE NOTICE

NEW PALTZ, N.Y.: The Language Immersion Institute at the State University of New York at New Paltz is holding summer foreign language instruction on campus in two sessions: July 7-18 and July 21-August 1. Intensive two-week courses in 20 different languages, including Ukrainian, emphasize the development of conversational skills. Three undergraduate college credits are available for each session. The institute also offers customized foreign language instruction to meet the needs of multinational business. Instructional fee per two-week course: \$625. For more information and for additional programs that include weekend programs in New York City, Westchester and New Paltz, as well as resort weekends and overseas learning vacations call the institute at (914) 257-3500 or visit the LII website at: <http://www.eelab.newpaltz.edu/lii>

Conference to examine "new Ukraine"

OTTAWA — The Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa is hosting, as its first major scholarly project, a conference titled "Towards a New Ukraine 1: Ukraine and the New World Order, 1991-1996" to be held March 21-22 at the Arts Building. The conference is organized with the cooperation of the departments of political science and economics at the University of Ottawa, and the Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at St. Paul University.

The objective of the conference is to examine a spectrum of issues pertaining to the ongoing process of the transformation of civil society, politics, economics, culture, education and religion in Ukraine during the last five years.

Conference participants will address the following topics: Ivan Dziuba, editor of Suchasnist, "The Problematics of Culture in a New Ukraine"; Borys Gudziak, vice-rector, Lviv Theological Academy, "Ukrainian Religious Life During the First Five Years of Independence"; Bohdan Hawrylyshyn, chairman, International Management Institute, Kyiv, "Ukraine, 1991-1996: Changes in the Economic System and Structure"; Ihor Kharchenko, head, policy analysis and planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ukraine, "Foreign Policy Strategy of Ukraine"; Bohdan Krawchenko, chair, Graduate Studies Council, University of Kyiv-Mohyla

Academy, "The Building of a New Civil Society and Political System in Ukraine, 1991-1996"; Taras Kuzio, research fellow, Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Birmingham, "The Domestic Sources of Ukrainian Security Policy"; Anatoli Zlenko, ambassador of Ukraine to the U.N., "The Development of the Foreign Policy of Ukraine, 1991-1996."

The multidisciplinary approach of the conference is a reflection of the chair's mission to become a scholarly-analytical center with a special focus on contemporary Ukraine as well as to foster contacts in numerous fields among scholars, professionals, government and corporate officials.

The revised and selected proceedings of the conference will be published.

The Northland Power Corp., the first major company to respond to the chair's fundraising campaign, has donated \$4,000 towards the funding of the conference.

The following topics will be examined in subsequent conferences during the next four years, under the general theme of "Towards a New Ukraine": "Deconstruction and Reconstruction: The Building of a New Economy in Ukraine"; "In Search of a New Polity: A New Constitutional Order for Ukraine"; "Plus ça change?... Women in a New Ukraine"; and "Quo vadis? Culture, Education and Science in Ukraine."

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