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## Humanitarian aid policies in Ukraine under scrutiny, await revision

by Irene Jarosewich

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — Humanitarian aid is hardly the stuff of controversy. People helping people, strangers helping strangers — humanitarian aid is decent, rooted in the moral principle that one human should, and must, help another human in need. Not managed properly, however, humanitarian aid can become the tale of corruption and confusion.

On February 19, two months after Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada issued radical revisions to procedures that regulate the receipt of humanitarian aid by levying heavy value-added, excise and customs taxes on all shipments of relief, it conceded that the changes had been too abrupt and suspended the revisions. In order to curb corruption in the process of humanitarian relief, revisions to the original 1993 procedures had been approved on December 17, 1996. The revisions were harsh; many legitimate aid providers felt that they were being unfairly penalized in the process.

### The background

The mechanics of receiving humanitarian aid are relatively new to Ukraine. The "early days" (defined by senders of aid as the years between 1989 and 1992), were times of innocence. Officials in Ukraine seemed surprised that anyone would actually want to give away something for free; getting through customs was relatively easy. However, the times of the proverbial "free lunch" were short-lived as the costs of uncontrolled entry became apparent.

Along with countless examples of genuine and generous aid, the early days were also accompanied by scandals: the dumping in Ukraine of worthless goods (broken equipment, outdated medicine, raggedy old clothing and bed linens, junk food, including diet aids and non-nutritious snack drinks); the disappearance of portions of, or entire, shipments; the diversion of aid from the intended recipient to other destinations. The age of innocence came to an end.

Ukraine passed legislation and several government resolutions beginning in early 1993 that included the establishment of a separate Humanitarian Aid Committee under the Cabinet of Ministers to oversee shipments of aid. Shipments had to be accompanied by certain documentation and required a signature of approval by the committee's chair, Bronyslav Ometsynskyi. Customs and import regulations were tightened; recipients of aid, also known as consignees, had to be listed with the Cabinet of Ministers.

Early in his administration in 1994, the newly elected president, Leonid

Kuchma, whose campaign platform emphasized anti-corruption measures, again began to point to the still relatively loose customs and bureaucratic controls surrounding the shipment and receipt of humanitarian aid as an area vulnerable to corruption. Along with the good, apparently, there was a substantial amount of bad.

### Phoney foundations

According to Ukrainian government sources, a number of foundations were in fact front groups for profitable businesses.

Organizations outside Ukraine would send commodities to their phoney foundation partners in Ukraine, which instead of then donating the commodity to needy people, would sell it.

Or, a genuine, legitimate local charity, in a rural oblast far from Kyiv, would be approached by a donor/businessman with a proposal: agree to be a recipient of "humanitarian aid," sign some documents, and get a certain percentage of the shipment. Unfamiliar with the world of value-added taxes, excise taxes and custom duties, to a small rural civic group, this didn't sound like such a bad deal.

Furthermore, because of existing customs reporting and inspection processes, and the lack of trained inspection personnel, the "humanitarian aid" route was an advantageous way in which to smuggle distinctly non-humanitarian aid such as cases of alcohol, cartons of cigarettes and chocolates, and boxes of expensive leather shoes.

Legitimate aid organizations appealed to Ukraine's president, to the first vice prime minister, Vasyl Durdynets, and to the vice prime minister for humanitarian affairs, Ivan Kuras, to enact reforms. International organizations, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, began to insist on the reform and tighter enforcement of customs and border procedures as part of their funding packages. Members of U.S. congressional committees expressed their concern about corruption in Ukraine, including in the area of humanitarian aid, to Ukrainian officials traveling in the U.S. And among elected and administrative officials in Ukraine, the drumbeat to crack down on corruption and to control the flow of taxable goods masquerading as humanitarian aid increased.

### The Verkhovna Rada acts

On December 17, 1996, the Verkhovna Rada approved revisions to the 1993 procedures to take effect on January 8, 1997. In essence, from the

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## Cabinet shake-up in Kyiv aimed at speeding up economic

by Marta Kolomayets

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV — Yurii Yekhanurov and Ihor Mitiukov, both market-oriented government officials, were named ministers of the economy and finance, respectively, in a major Cabinet shake-up initiated by Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko over the past week.

President Leonid Kuchma, who is currently vacationing in Truskavets, a health spa near the city of Lviv, signed a decree appointing the two new ministers on February 26. This move is viewed as an attempt by the country's top leaders to jump-start the pace of economic reform in Ukraine as well as to nudge the stagnant Verkhovna Rada into passing the 1997 budget and a necessary tax reform package — a parcel of draft laws labeled "Economic Growth 97" — before the spring.

Messrs. Yekhanurov and Mitiukov, the original members of Ukraine's 1995-1996 economic reform "dream team," which included Vice Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk and National Bank Chairman Viktor Yushchenko, may be President Kuchma's last hope in lobbying the Parliament to pass a balanced

1997 state budget.

The Ukrainian leader — whose working vacation includes preparation for his annual address scheduled for March 14 in Parliament — has said in recent days that he would not deliver his state of the state speech if Parliament does not pass a balanced national budget based on a new tax policy by that time.

Although President Kuchma stressed that he would not exceed his powers as outlined in the Constitution, he noted that he has the power to dissolve the Verkhovna Rada if it fails to resume debate on the budget for 30 continuous days.

Ukraine's number-one priority at this time is a balanced budget for 1997, something that only the Parliament can achieve. It is also something that must be done to strengthen the country's economic stability, according to Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Harvard Institute for International Development, who has recently taken an interest in Ukraine, serving as a consultant to the government.

"The appointments of Messrs. Yekhanurov and Mitiukov are a positive development in the continued attempt by the Cabinet and the Verkhovna Rada to

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## Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S. updates community leadership

by Roma Hadzewycz

NEW YORK — Ukraine's ambassador to the United States met with some 60 leaders of Ukrainian American community organizations and institutions, including the press, on Sunday, February 9. It was the fourth in a series of meetings organized during the past two and a half years, as Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak put it, to promote "discussions of our mutual problems and joint efforts."

The meeting, the first such gathering held in New York City, as all prior sessions had taken place in Washington, was hosted by the Ukrainian Institute of America.

The ambassador began the meeting with a presentation that focused on three main topics: new developments in Ukraine, the status of Ukrainian-American relations, and cooperation with the Ukrainian American community.

Without a doubt, the most significant development in Ukraine during 1996 was adoption of the new Constitution, said Dr. Shcherbak. Another very significant development, he observed, was the sea change in thinking in Ukraine as there was a complete turn away from Moscow-centrism; in its place came Kyiv-centered thinking.

As an example of this turnaround, the

ambassador cited the fact that during 1996 "more than 100 delegations from Ukraine passed through our Embassy, and each delegation included young people who do not think of themselves outside of the Ukrainian government context."

He pointed out also that discussions of the "Eurasian space" no longer figure in Ukraine's foreign policy and that the country's orientation is toward Europe: "We see ourselves as an integral part of Europe."

With regard to NATO's expansion eastward, Dr. Shcherbak explained that "Ukraine welcomes expansion." He added, "We will have 7,500 kilometers of mutual borders with member-states if the next tier become members." He pointed out that Ukraine had asked for a non-nuclear zone in the new NATO member-states; its proposal was adopted by NATO in December 1996.

While Ukraine is seeking a "special agreement" with NATO, "we support Russia's relations with NATO, but we do not want to be left in the gray zone of security," he underlined.

Ambassador Shcherbak noted how Ukraine's international relations had moved forward: to date, 140 countries recognize

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## ANALYSIS: Ukraine adopts program for military reform

by Bohdan Sambirsky

After five years of experimentation and false starts, Ukraine finally adopted a plan for military reform called somewhat awkwardly the "State Program for the Building and Development of Ukraine's Armed Forces to the year 2005." The package was approved on December 28, 1996, at a closed session of the National Security and Defense Council chaired by President Leonid Kuchma. According to Volodymyr Horbulin, the council's secretary, Ukraine is the first among the Commonwealth of Independent States to have approved an all-encompassing military reform plan at the highest levels of government.

Efforts at reforming the armed forces began soon after Ukraine gained independence. At the time, active duty military personnel, without the Black Sea Fleet, numbered 726,000, making it one of the largest armies in Europe. Mr. Horbulin noted that during the past several years five different draft programs on military reform were developed, but none of them proved to be adequate. Ukraine's economic problems have been a major stumbling block in implementing reform of the military — a very costly process.

Another serious problem was the infighting and conflicts at the top levels of the Ministry of Defense, particularly during the tenure of Ukraine's first civilian defense chief, Valerii Shmarov. Mr. Shmarov was appointed acting minister of defense in August 1994 and confirmed by the Verkhovna Rada in October of that year. His appointment to the post met with a cool reception from the officer corps, and it was not uncommon for high-ranking generals to criticize their superior at public forums.

The Union of Officers of Ukraine was particularly displeased with Mr. Shmarov, who initially also retained his position as deputy prime minister for the military industrial complex, and actively sought his ouster. The conflict came to a head early last year and resulted in the dismissal of Gen. Anatolii Lopata, chief of the General Staff, who came to personify the opposition to Mr. Shmarov among Ukraine's military professionals.

Over and above the civilian-military aspect of the conflict, there were concrete differences between Mr. Shmarov and Gen. Lopata over the direction that military reform should take, specifically with regard to the administrative structure of the armed forces. Mr. Shmarov and First Vice Defense Minister Gen. Ivan Bizhan favored a plan that called for the replacement of Ukraine's remaining two military districts, the Carpathian and Odesa, with so-called operational-territorial commands (OTKs). The Kyiv Military District had already been abolished at the end of 1992 and served as the basis for the organization of the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff. Gen. Lopata was categorically opposed to the idea of territorial commands and, indeed, favored the formation of a third military district with headquarters in Dnipropetrovsk.

One of the major criticisms of the proposed OTKs has been that it raises the specter of "regional armies" emerging in Ukraine. Although the problem of regional cleavages is often exaggerated, it is an enduring characteristic of Ukraine's political landscape that cannot be taken lightly.

In a nationwide poll conducted at the end of 1995 and in early 1996, the idea of

confederation with Russia, Kazakstan, Belarus and other former Soviet republics drew widespread support in the heavily Russian and Russian-speaking eastern region of Ukraine (87 percent), Crimea (88 percent) and among ethnic Russians over all (80 percent). In the western region, a solid majority of two-thirds supported a sovereign and independent Ukraine.

With Gen. Lopata out of the way, Mr. Shmarov and his supporters proceeded with their plans and established an experimental Northern OTK with headquarters in Chernihiv. But the over-all reform of the military did not make any significant headway. In fact, the removal of Gen. Lopata exacerbated the already tense atmosphere in the Ministry of Defense.

President Kuchma, as commander-in-chief, must be credited with having taken the initiative and, ultimately, prodding his subordinates to finally take action. After the early experiments failed to produce any concrete results other than the mechanical downsizing of the army, he set the reform process in motion once again in early 1995 and provided the leadership of the Ministry of Defense with ample opportunity to work out a viable program of military reform.

In May 1996 President Kuchma brought together a specially formed working group of experts, including civilian specialists, to review the reform plans being devised within the narrow circle of Mr. Shmarov's supporters. Finally, in July 1996, the president took the logical step of firing his minister of defense, admitting that the experiment with a civilian defense chief had been premature. Mr. Shmarov's replacement is the 42-year-old Gen. Oleksander Kuzmuk, the former commander of the National Guard.

In mid-December 1996, some two weeks before the new reform program was adopted, President Kuchma addressed an enlarged session of the Military Collegium and delivered what may well be the most devastating critique of the state of Ukraine's armed forces since their formation. Emphasizing that the time of pleading and pointless discussions that served as a poor imitation of real work had been exhausted, the president announced that henceforth the generals would be held personally responsible.

How is it, he asked, that of the 191 mechanized and tank battalions of the ground forces not a single one is in a state of military readiness? Who can explain the reasons why, during the past few years, 2,500 pilots have left the air force? Why is that only one-third of Ukraine's bomber aircraft can get off the ground? When will Ukraine have a single system of air defense?

During the first nine months of 1996, "losses and deficits" within the Logistics Service amounted to nearly 4 million hryvni. In plain language, more than \$2 million worth of military hardware and supplies were stolen. These figures represent only reported losses. President Kuchma asserted that there is every reason to believe that the actual figures are much higher. According to the Russian military newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda*, Ukraine's Security Service is investigating 15 generals and 85 senior officers for complicity in the activities of dozens of organized criminal groups.

The president stated: "I can accept, although with a great deal of strain, some sort of explanation for all of this slovenliness, about which I talked, with regard to specific issues. However, when it comes to discipline, I will not accept and I do not want to hear any excuses. Discipline is the

## NEWSBRIEFS

### *Kuchma blames Russia for poor relations*

KYIV — In an interview published in *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* on February 20, President Leonid Kuchma blamed Russia for the poor state of Russian-Ukrainian relations. Mr. Kuchma said he was optimistic when Yevgenii Primakov was appointed Russia's foreign affairs minister, but that since then there has been no improvement in relations and "the biased, prejudiced attitude toward Ukraine has intensified." He said Russia still views Ukraine as a constituent part, or at least within the Russian sphere of influence. As a result, there has been a cooling in economic ties and the free-trade agreement has not been fully implemented. President Kuchma said the Russian presidential campaign and the "political games" in Russia had prevented the signing of a treaty on friendship and cooperation with Ukraine. The criticism is President Kuchma's strongest public statement yet, Reuters reported. (OMRI Daily Digest, Reuters, Embassy of Ukraine in the U.S.)

### *ROC excommunicates Filaret, Yakunin*

MOSCOW — The Russian Orthodox Church's High Clerical Council resolved on February 20 to excommunicate former Metropolitan Filaret (Mikhail Denysenko) and former priest and Duma deputy Gleb Yakunin, NTV reported. Filaret, defrocked in 1992, is now patriarch of the independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church — Kyiv Patriarchate, the second largest Church in Ukraine. Mr. Yakunin was defrocked in 1993 for ignoring a ban on priests running for election to the Russian Parliament. Mr. Yakunin said he believes the move was revenge for his charge that senior Orthodox priests had cooperated with the KGB during the Soviet era. The council opened its sessions in Moscow on February 18. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### *Romania drops territorial claims*

KYIV — On February 26 — a day after a Romanian delegation arrived in Kyiv for talks on the Romanian-Ukrainian basic treaty — the Romania's president, Emil Constantinescu, stated that Romania has no territorial claims on Ukraine. He noted that Romania is prepared to recognize Ukraine's current borders and its ownership of Serpent Island, an outcrop with potentially valuable energy reserves around it. Furthermore, he said Romania is interested in signing a bilateral treaty with Ukraine as soon as possible. The Romanian president made these statements in an interview with the TV news program "Pisliamova." He added that the Romania-Ukraine-Poland

triangle has good potential for increased trade and cultural relations. Ukrainian First Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Antin Buteiko had said he was optimistic that talks in Kyiv with the Romanian delegation would yield results, pointing out that Bucharest needs to conclude a comprehensive bilateral treaty with Ukraine to improve its chances of early admission into NATO. A week earlier, French President Jacques Chirac had said during a visit to Romania that he backs the country's early entry into NATO along with Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic, but he called for quick action on Romania's border with Ukraine. (Interfax-Ukraine, Embassy of Ukraine in the U.S., OMRI Daily Digest, Reuters)

### *President creates Political Council*

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma has signed a decree setting up a presidential Political Council, it was reported on February 21. The council is an advisory body whose task is to ensure that the views of the country's political forces are taken into account when state policy is being decided. The members of the council are leaders of nine centrist political parties. Former Vice Prime Minister Oleksander Yemets has been appointed secretary of the council as well as presidential adviser for political and legal issues. Mr. Yemets is one of the leaders of the pro-presidential centrist bloc New Ukraine. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### *Zviahivskiy's immunity reinstated*

KYIV — By a vote of 253-19, the Verkhovna Rada on February 12 reinstated parliamentary immunity for former Prime Minister Yuhym Zviahivskiy. Mr. Zviahivskiy had taken refuge in Israel in 1994 after he was accused of embezzling \$25 million in public funds. Two years ago Israel had turned down Ukraine's request for extradition of the former prime minister during the Kravchuk administration. Mr. Zviahivskiy was elected in 1994 to the Verkhovna Rada as a deputy from Donetsk. According to Petro Sheiko, who headed a special committee that investigated the case and who met with Mr. Zviahivskiy in Israel, the Ukrainian Parliament's decision now gives Mr. Zviahivskiy two months to return to Ukraine and to cooperate with the Procurator General's Office. Charges against the former prime minister include siphoning off state funds through illegal sales of 200,000 tons of aviation fuel and foreign exchange operations involving a bank set up by his wife. Mr. Zviahivskiy has denied the charges and said he is ready to return to Ukraine as long as his safety is

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# 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.

In this installment we conclude our 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.

**Please give us a scenario of a typical day or week of work in the Constitutional Court.**

As of right now I cannot tell you how a work day or a work week of the Constitutional Court may look.

**For example, the Supreme Court of the U.S. makes rulings on one day of the week ...**

Yes, yes, I can say that we will have appointed days for meetings of the collegiums, days of plenary sessions of the whole Constitutional Court, at which time we will address the submissions and petitions to the court.

At general sessions we will handle court matters.

But no, we haven't yet established our daily routines. We are now reviewing our cases and then will set the agenda.

I can tell you that the judges have three months to review submissions to the court (by citizens) and six months to review petitions (from government bodies) after they are presented to the plenary body.

It may take us two months, maybe a month or two weeks, depending on how complicated the case is, to review the matter in the collegiums. The collegium decides whether the case has merit and ought to be brought before the plenary body. If it is deemed worthy, the secretary of the collegium then requests that the chairman put it on the agenda of the court. The court then has three months or six months, depending on the case, to decide the matter from the day it is submitted. Until that moment our time is not limited. We can take a month or two, or a week to decide whether the matter should go further.

**What are some of the cases that the Court will be looking at in its first session?**

There is a petition from 100 deputies of the Verkhovna Rada to review the constitutionality of the ban on the Communist Party as decreed by the Presidium of the Verkhovna Rada in September 1991.

There is a petition by more than 45 deputies to decide on the constitutionality of a ban on holding a second government position while a member of the Verkhovna Rada.

We also have a petition from the president to review some of the laws passed by the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous



Ivan Tymchenko

Republic of Crimea on their constitutionality.

There also are many submissions by citizens on the interpretations of laws and the Constitution by government bodies, which have already been assigned to the judges.

**Is there any interaction between the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court?**

If during a criminal or a civil case, a question is raised about the constitutional merits of the proceeding or on constitutional rights, it should be elevated to the plenum of the Supreme Court, whether at the time the matter is before a district court, a city court, an oblast court or the Supreme Court.

The plenum has the responsibility to decide whether a constitutional question does exist in the case. If the plenum determines that some doubt exists as to the constitutionality of the case or the ruling law and its effect on the citizen, whether in a criminal or civil procedure, then the plenum of the Supreme Court suspends the process and refers the matter to the Constitutional Court.

The Constitutional Court must then take the case and address it without delay.

**Could you please give us a description of the organizational structure of the Constitutional Court, its departments and today's budget, as well as the planned budget for 1997?**

The law on the Constitution foresees a structure that involves a secretariat of the Constitutional Court, a library, archives and a publication, which will be the newspaper of the Constitutional Court.

The secretariat, which is the administrative body of the Constitutional Court, is the service of the head of the Constitutional Court and includes the advisors to the head, among them a senior advisor and three assistant advisors.

The other members of the Constitutional Court have an academic consultant and an assistant (clerk). This is how the law on the court has structured it. Right now we will follow that outline. As we gain experience, we could make changes; maybe we will need a larger administrative structure, maybe the individual judges will need more consultants. This will be decided during the course of our work. If changes are needed, then we will prepare an appropriate draft law.

The secretariat is led by the director who is appointed by the court judges. He has two assistants, one in legal matters, who will head the department of legal experts, and the other one in administrative affairs.

The initial work of the court was to organize the various submissions and

petitions to the Constitutional Court and also the many mailed items we receive. We have established a department of document control [within the secretariat], which includes two sub-departments, the bureau of documents and the bureau of control.

The service will have the responsibility of tracking the various documents from the time we receive them until final decisions on court cases are made.

Another major area of our work will fall under the department of legal experts. This is a unit of the secretariat that will recommend whether the questions posed before the court merit Constitutional review or whether the applications should be declined. Only lawyers will work here.

There is also the press service of the constitutional Court.

Also important is the department of registration and systematization of laws. It will maintain documentation control over all the laws and resolutions passed by the Verkhovna Rada; acts of the Cabinet of Ministers; presidential decrees. They will be stored in bound texts and on computers.

The library of the Constitutional Court is also very important to us. We have great hope that it will be useful to all the judges, the academic consultants, the judges' aides and the legal experts.

We had hoped that we would have our own place and library. But, for now, we are starting at point zero.

We recently obtained a 60-volume set of the rulings of the German Supreme Court since 1951 with attached commentaries and translations into Ukrainian. For today, that is all our resources allow us to obtain.

There is a department of external affairs that consists of four individuals.

We have a publishing department. This will include the newspaper of the Constitutional Court and the editorial arm. What is generally called the printing department we are calling the computer graphics department because we hope computers will do most of the work.

There is also a department that is responsible for the maintenance of property and the building of the Constitutional Court.

**Are there plans to move the Constitutional Court to its own building? Today the building in which the Constitutional Court resides is within the domain of the Cabinet of Ministers. The chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, speaking at a January 24, press conference, said the court was more than welcome to use one of its buildings.**

We were given this building (next door to the presidential administration building) as temporary housing by the president on November 2, 1996.

A permanent home was authorized at 14 Zhuliansky St. It will be a very becoming residence, but right now it is merely a carcass. It needs complete restoration inside and out. All that really exists is the structure and exterior facade.

It will not be owned by us. The owners of all public property are the people. But it will be the permanent residence of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine.

It will be our building in the same manner that the Verkhovna Rada's is theirs, the president's is his and the Cabinet of Minister's is theirs. But it is all government property.

But specifically, what is the situation of our temporary housing here? Now I speak, not as a member of the Constitutional Court, but as its administrative head who must decide administrative matters.

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# Ukraine Fund aims to attract large investors

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — With Ukraine still battling to right its economic ship, a few hearty and optimistic investors seem to think the economic upswing is about to begin and have come on board.

The Caspian Group announced on February 17 that it is ready to establish an investment fund for Ukraine in conjunction with the Kyivska Rus' Financial Investment Group.

The Ukraine Fund, which will be aimed at large institutional investors, hopes to invest \$25 million to \$50 million in Ukraine's economy, said James Churm, managing director of The Caspian Group. "Our goal is to help our investors efficiently and effectively invest in emerging markets. We also want to help build local business and help them develop by Western standards."

The Caspian Group was established in late 1995 and incorporated in the Cayman Islands. It has established investment funds for Latin American and Asian countries, and has major offices in New York, London and Hong Kong.

Willard Thalwitz, chairman of the board of directors of Caspian, said now is the right time to invest in Ukraine. "It would have been very difficult to establish the fund in 1993. We had to develop some trust in the management of the economy as a whole," he explained. "Financial markets do not work well with 2,000 percent inflation. A stable hryvnia was a major condition for the entry of financial institutions into Ukraine."

The Kyivska Rus' Financial Investment Group will work alongside the Caspian Group in building the investment portfolio. Volodymyr Herasymchuk, chairman of the board of directors of Kyivska Rus', said Caspian's investment shows the degree of trust that is building in the Western world towards Ukraine's economic situation. He explained that the fund is different from investments by international organizations backed by governments, such as the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund. "These are investments in stocks and bonds. They are risky in any country, but more so in Ukraine," he said.

Mr. Churm of Caspian said the Ukraine Fund hopes to develop a portfolio that emphasizes oil and gas, metallurgy, chemical and agricultural industry investments for its investors, which include insurance companies, banks and investment managers.

"We are working according to the principle of spreading investment to avoid high risk," he explained. To that end the Ukraine Fund does not expect to invest more than 3 to 10 percent in any one company.

However, with the volatility of the Ukrainian economy, and the shaky status of businesses in Ukraine, the fund's overriding concern is to find quality companies.

Part of the problem of fund management in an economy such as Ukraine's is that it is difficult to determine the value of corporations, basically because the stock market in Ukraine is virtually non-existent. "Until more stocks start trading on the stock exchange it is difficult to know how much corporate stocks are worth," explained Mr. Churm. "It is our job to determine the value of stocks by the quality of the information the companies give us."

Caspian, which will have the final say over Kyivska Rus' regarding the companies chosen for the Ukraine Fund

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## UCCA prepares to commemorate 50th anniversary of Akcja Wisla

by Michael Sawkiw Jr.

*Ukrainian National Information Service*

WASHINGTON — One of the most important activities of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Inc. (UCCA) scheduled for 1997 is commemorating of the 50th anniversary of Operation Wisla. More than 650,000 Ukrainians living in Poland's eastern territories were forcibly uprooted in 1944-1947 and deported to the former USSR and northwestern regions of Poland. The reason for this displacement was not a natural disaster or uninhabited lands, but Polish government's animosity toward the Ukrainian minority.

Pursuant to a treaty between the USSR and the Polish People's Republic, Ukrainians were forcibly deported from Poland to the former Soviet Union. In less than two years, almost 500,000 Ukrainians were evicted from their homes and resettled. Many members of the community were killed, while Ukrainian churches were desecrated or destroyed.

In 1947 Polish authorities developed a plan (later re-named Operation Wisla) to resettle the remaining Ukrainian community to lands in northwest Poland. Particularly targeted segments of the population included the clergy, intellectuals and members of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA).

During this 50th anniversary year of Operation Wisla, the UCCA has put forth a program to focus world attention on the

infamous operation and to seek some compensation relief. Plans call for highlighting this historic injustice via scholarly articles in *The Ukrainian Quarterly*.

The UCCA delivered a letter dated January 13 and written in Polish and English to Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski and the Polish Parliament (Sejm), appealing for a condemnation of the acts and the creation of a program of rehabilitation and compensation for the victims. Copies of the letter (the text of which appears below) were forwarded also to the Polish Ambassador to the United States, Jerzy Kozminski; the president of the Polish American Congress, Edward Moskal; and, the president of the United Ukrainians in Poland, Myron Kertyczak.

On January 26, UCCA President Askold S. Lozynskyj and External Affairs Chairman, Orest Baranyk met with Polish American Congress President Edward Moskal in Chicago. Mr. Moskal agreed to assist the UCCA in its appeal to the Polish government. Mr. Lozynskyj, commented on the meeting: "We focused on several issues of mutual concern aimed at ameliorating relations between our people both in Poland and in Ukraine. Both communities in the United States look forward to be of much assistance in this regard."

The UCCA is also requesting all local Ukrainian American communities to appropriately commemorate the 50th anniversary of Operation Wisla with religious services, conferences, and public gatherings.

## Congressional delegation visiting Kyiv says Ukraine's NATO status is separate from Russia's

by Roman Woronowycz

*Kyiv Press Bureau*

KYIV — U.S. Rep. Gerald Solomon assured Ukrainians on February 21 that Ukraine's status with regard to NATO will be decided in an agreement separate from any that will be signed with Moscow.

"Some are suggesting to us that Russia has a veto over Ukraine. We want to emphasize that this is not true," he explained.

Rep. Solomon was here as part of a five-member U.S. delegation of representatives and senators on a fact-finding mission to determine Ukraine's attitude toward the expansion of NATO.

Mr. Solomon said a Ukraine-NATO agreement would not be influenced by third parties and that it will be announced before the Madrid conference on NATO expansion that is to take place in July. "Ukraine is not being held hostage to a Russian charter," he

underscored to reporters.

The delegation also represented the North Atlantic Assembly, the representative body of the 16 member-countries of NATO. It was led by Sen. William Roth, current president of the assembly.

Mr. Roth, who said he had decided that his first official trip on behalf of the assembly should be to Ukraine, stated that the country need not be concerned about NATO expansion eastward. "NATO is a defense alliance, and it threatens no one," he said.

He called Ukraine "critical to the stability of Europe" and stated that NATO "recognizes not only the sovereign state but also the sovereignty of all its territories."

The group held meetings with President Leonid Kuchma, Prime Minister Petro Lazarenko, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz and leaders of Ukraine's military forces.

Sen. Roth said economic reforms were a central theme of all the discussions. "Ukraine needs to follow through with major reform, including the elimination of corruption, to ensure job opportunities for the people," he explained.

The leader of the delegation was also quick to point out that Ukraine has not been eliminated from consideration for full membership in the defense alliance. "Ukraine has not sought membership at this stage. It can apply at the appropriate time, when it is ready." He added that first Ukraine must meet the conditions for membership, which include an established market-oriented economy.

The congressmen also dismissed allegations by a group in Russia's Duma, the lower house of Parliament, that Ukraine and the U.S. had struck a deal to base the U.S. 7th Fleet at Sevastopol in return for Ukraine's membership in NATO. "It is an off-the-wall statement," explained Rep. Herb Bateman. "It has no substance whatsoever."

## FOR THE RECORD: UCCA's letter to Polish President Kwasniewski

*Following is the text of the January 13 letter sent by the UCCA to Aleksander Kwasniewski, president of Poland, and deputies of the Sejm of Poland.*

Mr. President and Honorable Deputies:

On December 11, 1946, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, which defined genocide as follows:

"In the present convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such:

"(a) Killing members of the group.

"(b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group.

"(c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part.

"(d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group.

"(e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

Several years prior to the defining of post-World War II borders, in the spring of 1943, certain political parties in Poland raised the issue of arranging a population exchange with the USSR. In particular, they stressed the need to resettle the Ukrainian population. This issue gradually gained support within elements of Polish society which had subjected the Ukrainian minority to harsh attacks and discrimination. At the conclusion of World War II, Polish communists took control of the government. To endear itself to the populace, the post-war government sought to establish a policy towards national minorities. Interestingly enough, some of the first juridical acts of the People's Republic of Poland (the Declaration of the National Council of the People's Republic of Poland from January 1, 1944 and the Manifesto of the Polish Committee on National Liberation of July 22, 1944) stressed a nation's right to self-determination, but were silent on the rights of national minorities in Poland. This prefaced the treaty on population exchange signed between the People's Republic of Poland and the USSR on September 9, 1944.

While the treaty provided for a voluntary exchange, in fact, very quickly this safeguard was breached. Almost immediately upon the conclusion of the war, Polish troops entered the regions inhabited by Ukrainians. They surrounded villages and forced the Ukrainians to leave Poland for the Ukrainian SSR. As a result, entire villages in the Buh and Sian river regions were evacuated, many inhabitants killed, often during mass extermination, their personal possessions pillaged, some tortured and homes razed.

Greek Catholic and Orthodox clergy and property, in particular, bore the brunt of this operation. Some of the more prominent Ukrainian Catholic Churches seized and closed were: Church of the Epiphany in Krynytsia, built in 1872; Church of St. Demetrius in Leliuchiv, built in 1861; Church of St. Mary the Protectress in Labova, built in 1787; Church of Ss. Kosma and Damian in Mylyk, built in 1792; and Church of Archangel Michael in Zhegestiv, built in 1920. Of the six Ukrainian Catholic Churches in the ancient town of Sianik, only the Church of the Holy Trinity still stands.

Among the most prominent clergy was His Excellency Kyr Josaphat Kocylowsky, bishop of Peremyshl, Sambir and Sianik, who was arrested by the Polish forces, beaten, dragged to prison and delivered to the Russians in 1945. The Russians imprisoned, tortured, and finally murdered him on November 17, 1947. A striking example of this pogrom against Ukrainian churches is the incident involving the Rev. Mykhajlo Plakhta. Forcibly dragged from the altar as he celebrated holy liturgy in the village of Surochiv, the priest, his wife, and their infant son Yurko, were shot to death by Polish Communist forces.

By September 1, 1946, some 500,000 Ukrainians had been involuntarily relocated to the USSR. Approximately 200,000 Ukrainians remained in Poland, largely in mountainous, non-accessible regions controlled by the Ukrainian underground. The treaty of September 9, 1944, after two extensions, finally expired and the Ukrainian SSR was reluctant to extend it further. Nonetheless, in Poland, the problem of the remaining Ukrainian minority population had to be dealt with.

The initial suggestion to resettle the remaining Ukrainians to western Polish territory was presented to the first secretary of the Polish Workers' Party, Wladyslaw Gomulka, in November 1946. In February 1947, the deputy chief of staff of the Polish military, Gen. Stefan Mossor, articulated a laconic and clear policy: "In the spring commence an energized program to resettle these people by family, dispersing them within the 'reunified' lands where they should swiftly assimilate." On March 29, 1947, the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Polish Workers' Party passed a resolution: "Expediently resettle Ukrainians and those of mixed marriage on the 'reunified' lands (primarily northern Prussia) without creating concentrated groups and not nearer than 100 kilometers from the border." A secret document dated April 16, 1947, set forth the specifics of Special Operation "Wschod" (later renamed Operation Wisla), as follows:

"I. Purpose

"To finally solve the Ukrainian problem in Poland towards the following end:

"(a) In conjunction with the State Repatriation Administration, to evacuate from the southern and eastern border region all individuals of Ukrainian nationality and resettle them on the northwestern lands with minimal density.

"(b) The evacuation must include all elements of the Ukrainian nationality, including Lemkos and those of mixed Ukrainian-Polish marriages.

"(c) On the territory where the underground bands are headquartered, in the southeastern region (Sianik and environs), it is necessary to conduct a complete evacuation, which will include the Polish civilian community without regard to professional, social or party affiliation. In the future, this territory is to be settled by demobilized military colonizers.

"(d) The evacuation should be conducted expeditiously (within four weeks if possible) in order to enable the settlers of new lands to complete spring sowing.

(Continued on page 8)

## Ukraine denies allegations of NATO-Sevastopol link

*OMRI Daily Digest*

KYIV — A group of Russian deputies sent a letter to Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma alleging that Kyiv officials are holding secret talks on leasing Sevastopol to the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet in exchange for early admission to NATO, Ukrainian radio reported on February 20. A copy of the letter was sent to Interfax.

Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council Secretary Volodymyr Horbulin denied the allegations and said such publications work only to hurt Russian-Ukrainian relations. The publication of the letter coincided with a visit from a U.S. congressional delegation to Sevastopol.

## Manitoba Cabinet includes four Ukrainian Canadians

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA – Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon chose Christmas Eve according to the Julian calendar (January 6, to reshuffle his ministerial Cabinet.

In so doing, Mr. Filmon, who claims Ukrainian and Polish descent, added a Ukrainian Canadian – bringing the number of Ukrainian Canadian membership in Manitoba's provincial Cabinet to four. New is Franklin Pitura, who was elected to the Manitoba legislature only two years ago. Now, the former farmer and member of the rural provincial riding (district) of Morris will serve as minister of government services.

The other three include Premier Filmon, now in his third term as head of the Manitoba government; Darren Praznik, who moved from the energy and mines portfolio to health in the recent shuffle; and Leonard Derkach, who remains minister of rural development. As the historical hub for Ukrainian migration to western Canada, having Ukrainian Canadians in key provincial government positions is not a big deal for Manitoba any more, noted Mr. Derkach. "Ukrainians are, by and large, in the mainstream," he recently said in a telephone interview. If anything, developing strong ties with Ukraine is the major focus for Manitoba, said the 52-year-old former teacher.

Two bilateral initiatives are now under way. One involves business and trade between Ukraine and Canada's three western provinces based on key provincial sectors. Manitoba is responsible for construction, Saskatchewan handles agriculture, and oil-rich Alberta oversees the energy industry.

The Manitoba government is involved also in a legislative exchange in which Ukrainian politicians come to the province to study its laws and system of government.

Last November, Mr. Derkach led a business delegation, which included members of Manitoba's and Alberta's construction industry, to Kyiv, Odesa and Dnipropetrovsk.

Though the former Manitoba education minister did not get a chance to visit his ancestral homeland in the Ivano-Frankivsk region, he said his first visit to Ukraine surprised him.

"With the wave of people who came from Ukraine to our [southwestern Manitoban] community – of course who came from rural villages – always gave me the impression that Ukraine was a very drab and suppressed country," said Mr. Derkach. "But when I stepped off the plane in Kyiv, I realized very quickly

that it's a metropolitan city which is high-tech in many ways."

The member of the Manitoba legislature for Roblin-Russell may also be surprised that his province's Ukrainian Canadian population is a lot bigger than he thinks. When asked how large it is, Mr. Derkach said about 60,000.

However, according to 1991 census figures, about 165,955, or one out of nine Manitobans, claimed a Ukrainian heritage. Only Alberta and Ontario had larger Ukrainian Canadian populations.

Furthermore, Manitoba's capital city, Winnipeg, alone reported 105,890 Ukrainian Canadian residents – putting it just behind the Ukrainian Canadian capital of Edmonton, with 121,300.



Franklin Pitura



Darren Praznik



Leonard Derkach



Premier Gary Filmon

## Canadian Government moves against two Ukrainians

by Andriy Kudla Wynnyckyj

Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO — On February 25, the Canadian government named Ukrainian Canadian Serhiy Kisluk, 74, of St. Catharines, Ontario, as one of the suspected Nazi collaborators it will attempt to strip of citizenship and deport.

According to a report carried by the Southam News agency, the Justice Department's war crimes unit filed documents in Federal Court, accusing Mr. Kisluk of participating "in the commission of atrocities against members of the civilian population" in Ukraine while a member of the German-organized Ukrainian Auxiliary police, known as Schutzmannschaften, in the Turiysk region (about 100 miles north of Lviv) in 1941-1943; and of failing to divulge his true activities during the war while applying for Canadian citizenship.

Informed of the government's plans to move against him in December, Mr. Kisluk retained Toronto lawyer and community activist Orest Rudzik and has officially given notice he intends to chal-

lenge the denaturalization proceedings.

The Southam piece quoted Mr. Rudzik as saying, "I'd like to see what's been issued and what exact allegations they're presenting."

In January 1996, Justice Minister Allan Rock pledged to have 12 war crimes deportation cases before the courts within a year, including the four that had been initiated at the time, and Mr. Kisluk's is the ninth to date.

On November 1, 1996, another Ukrainian Canadian, Volodymyr Katriuk, 75, of Rosemont, Quebec, became the target of government proceedings, the seventh case. Subsequent articles in the Montreal Gazette daily mentioned a 1987 Soviet TASS news agency report condemning Mr. Katriuk for having participated in the killings of over 4,000 people in Belarus.

In a Canadian Press item of November 1, 1996, Mr. Katriuk was quoted as saying, "I'm an innocent man. ... [The government] think they have proof against me ... I doubt it."

## Cabinet shake-up...

(Continued from page 1)

come to terms on tax reform legislation and the 1997 budget," said Valerii Cherep, chairman of the Parliament's Committee on Industry.

Mr. Yekhanurov was the chairman of the State Property Fund from September 1994 until his new appointment on February 26. He also served on the Council on Economic Reform to the President of Ukraine and has been a member of the Monetary Crediting Council of the Cabinet. He has also served as the deputy chairman of the Kyiv City Administration and as Ukraine's vice minister of the economy in 1993-1994.

Until February 26, Mr. Mitiukov had served as Ukraine's special representative to the European Union, with the powers of vice prime minister. In 1993-1994, he was the deputy chairman of the board of the National Bank of Ukraine. Like Mr. Yekhanurov, he has served on the Economic Reform Council and as a member of the Monetary Crediting Council. He also served in the government as the vice prime minister in charge of banking and finance in 1994-1995.

However, despite such wonderful credentials, government observers such as Oleksander Razumkov, head of the Center for Independent Political and Economic Studies, told Intelnews that such government shake-ups are senseless.

"The big problems lie in the economy and a reshuffle won't change a thing," he said.

"It is a last-ditch attempt to get the ship on course, but it's a waste of time. It's the middle people who are slowing things down," a Western economist who asked not to be named told Intelnews.

Curiously, the February 25 sacking of four ministers — Finance Minister Valentyn Koronevsky, Statistics Minister Oleksander Osaulenko, Economy Minister Vasyl Hureiev and Machine Building, Military-Industrial Complex and Conversion Minister Valerii Malev by President Kuchma — was preceded by a closed-door session of the Cabinet on February 21, during which Prime Minister Lazarenko, perhaps worried about his own fate, blamed his own Cabinet for the country's economic woes. He attacked the four ministers by name, as well as the work of the Ministry of Coal and state committees for the food industry and oil and gas.

While Ministers Koronevsky and Osaulenko were fired for "poor perfor-

mance," Ministers Hureiev and Malev were dismissed in conjunction with their transfers to other jobs. Mr. Hureiev was named to his new post as minister of machine building, military-industrial complex and conversion on February 26; Mr. Malev's new position has not yet been announced.

Prime Minister Lazarenko blamed Mr. Koronevsky for the banking system's inability to satisfy even the short-term credit needs of the economy, reported the Kiev Post. According to the English-language weekly published in Ukraine's capital city, commercial banks have complained that the government's directives to lend to failing enterprises have saddled them with large portfolios of dud loans.

He also complained that the Statistics Ministry did not supply the government with a clear picture of economic conditions, because it tracked only about one-third of the enterprises working in Ukraine. The ministry acknowledged that it had gathered data from only about 5 percent of the approximately 200,000 registered enterprises.

Western experts blame the lagging reform process on middle-management government officials who can still be classified as Soviet bureaucrats who have not — or cannot — function in a free market economy.

And although Mr. Yekhanurov, 49, an ethnic Buryat who hails from Zhytomyr and Mr. Mitiukov, 44, a native of Kyiv, have proven that they are reform-oriented and committed to introducing a market economy in Ukraine, the million-dollar question is whether they will be able to do this in the short period of time allowed to get Ukraine back on the economic reform path.

Less than 10 days ago, President Kuchma had sacked Agriculture Minister Anatolii Khorishko, Deputy Transportation Minister Leonid Zhelezniak and the chairman of the Coordinating Committee on Corruption and Organized Crime, Oleh Lytvak, blasting them for lack of progress in their work.

Asked on February 26 whether the shake-up in the government was over, presidential economics adviser Vitalii Kriukov told the Kiev Post, "it will all depend on the government's performance."

Volodymyr Horbulin, secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, who is also President Kuchma's closest aide, told reporters during a briefing at the presidential administration on February 26 that more dismissals could be expected. "These are essential changes, and these changes will continue," he said.

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### The NATO nexus

"We are opposed to NATO enlargement. Our task now is to stall it as long as possible," President Boris Yeltsin said last week. Other Russian officials have accused NATO of harboring a secret "anti-Moscow" agenda. Both comments reveal just how nervous Russia is about NATO's eastward expansion.

So, it is not surprising that Russia is doing everything it can to halt NATO before it reaches its borders. Some of the most recent examples include the warning issued in mid-February by the president's office to all three Baltic states — who are not even in the first tier of states eligible for membership — that their membership in NATO would create a "serious barrier" and would have a "most negative impact" on long-term cooperation. Russia, you see, would prefer that the Baltic states serve as a buffer zone against NATO expansion. As well, Poland's Internal Affairs Ministry reported in mid-February that Russian secret agents are preparing provocations to sabotage Poland's efforts to join both NATO and the European Union. As regards Ukraine, Russia has lately started to accuse NATO of trying to drive a wedge between the two states.

But, the West is firmly committed to expansion. And — Russian opposition notwithstanding — NATO will expand. The decision will be made in July in Madrid on how many countries will be invited to join NATO by 1999, when the alliance observes its 50th anniversary.

At the same time as NATO considers enlargement, it is looking to sign a separate charter with Russia to allay the latter's fears. During her recent European tour Secretary of State Madeleine Albright stressed that today's NATO is not the NATO of the Cold War. She gave two proposals: a NATO-Russia Joint Council that would serve as a forum for discussion and consultation on European security, peacekeeping and cooperation in the realms of terrorism and the environment; and a NATO-Russian military unit that could be used for peacekeeping but with a permanent command structure. But for Russia that is not enough. Russia seeks a charter on security relations that would have a "binding mandatory charter," according to Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Yevgenii Primakov. That position, however, is quite rightly rejected by Washington as, in essence, it gives Russia a veto over the alliance's military activities.

Ukraine, meanwhile, will have its own special deal with NATO — one that, as was underlined by a U.S. congressional delegation headed by Sen. William Roth (who also happens to be the president of the North Atlantic Assembly) is not dependent on any agreement with Russia. "Ukraine is not being held hostage to a Russian charter," he stated in Kyiv. That must have been good news to Ukrainians as Antin Buteiko, first vice minister for foreign affairs, was recently quoted in *The Wall Street Journal* as expressing trepidation that U.S.-Russian bargaining might produce a Yalta II — a repeat of the 1945 Yalta Conference that gave Stalin a free hand in Eastern and Central Europe.

Security is the main reason Ukraine welcomes NATO's eastward expansion. As Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak noted recently, "We will have 7,500 kilometers of mutual borders with member-states if the next tier become members." And these are borders with good neighbors and allies. "We support Russia's relations with NATO, but we do not want to be left in the gray zone of security," he underlined.

The new Russia, should be willing to accept a new NATO. Or to put it another way, let us quote Zbigniew Brzezinski: "NATO expansion will help a democratic Russia and hurt an imperialistic Russia."

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### The UNWLA's Social Welfare Program: helping thousands through the years

by Marta Baczynsky

Since its founding in 1925, the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) has maintained a very effective Social Welfare Program through which thousands of Ukrainian families, children, the elderly, the sick and the homeless have been provided with comfort, care, and moral and financial support. Through turbulent times of political upheaval, social anguish and economic disaster in Ukraine, and throughout Europe and South America, the organization has continued unflinchingly, year after year, to seek out those in need and attempt to ease their distress.

The UNWLA's Social Welfare Program record is extensive and impressive. These highlights give an overview of its work:

- 1926 – Medical aid was sent to Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Hospital in Lviv.

- 1927-1928 – Money and clothing was sent to flood victims in western Ukraine.

- 1930 – Humanitarian and financial aid was sent to victims of political repression in Halychyna.

- 1933 – The Committee to Aid Famine Victims in Ukraine was organized and every possible attempt was made to help the victims, as well as to make the world aware of this terrible atrocity (for example, by disseminating information to the press and lobbying the U.S. government for intervention and aid).

- 1945 – The Mother and Child Fund was established to help widows and children – the victims of World War II. Before, as well as during the war, UNWLA branches throughout the United States reached out to families of political prisoners, women's groups, war invalids, and educational and cultural institutions and organizations, providing information, assistance and aid. Immediately following the war, the UNWLA concerned itself with the plight of displaced persons, helping them with food, money and clothing. In the United States attention was focused on the needs of new immigrants.

- 1964 – The Grandmother Fund was created to provide moral and financial support to elderly women living alone in such countries as Poland, Germany,

Belgium and Brazil.

- 1984 – The Medical Aid Fund for Children was established with the aim of helping parents of ill children offset the medical costs. Hundreds of ill and handicapped youngsters in South America, Europe and, more recently, in Ukraine have received medical attention thanks to this fund.

From 1990 to the present Ukraine has become the focal point of the UNWLA Social Welfare Program; the Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe precipitated the program's expansion and acceleration. As Chernobyl's horrendous consequences were seen prominently in the most fragile and defenseless segments of the population – in Ukraine's children – relief efforts have been concentrated through the Medical Fund for Children and Youth – Victims of Chernobyl. In 1996 this fund was renamed the UNWLA Chernobyl Fund.

Since 1990 four blood analyzers were purchased by the UNWLA and delivered to the Regional Pediatric Hospital in Lviv at a cost of \$126,000; thousands of dollars of medical supplies also were shipped. A fibrogastroscope with a price tag of \$15,685 was sent to the clinic at the Dzerelo children's sanatorium in Truskavets. In 1994, the UNWLA, in a joint effort with the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund and General Electric Medical Systems, provided a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) unit for the Kyiv Clinical Center for Trauma and Emergency Medicine. The UNWLA contributed \$200,000 toward this project. Several other projects are currently being developed, that involve the procurement of medical equipment for children's hospitals in Ukraine.

The Social Welfare Committee is headed by Lidia Czernyk, who has held the post for more than 12 years. Other members of the committee are Anna Krawczuk, UNWLA president; Iryna Russnak, who coordinates the aid to Ukraine; Nadia Oransky, whose concern is social welfare on the territory of the United States; Olha Hnatyk, who oversees the Aid to Grandmothers program; and Anna Rak, treasurer of the UNWLA Social Welfare Committee.

(Continued on page 11)



Lidia Czernyk, the UNWLA's Social Welfare Committee chairperson, described the scene above: "In Ternopil we stopped in a regional orphanage called 'Maliatko,' or Little One. Ninety-seven children, from newborns to 5-year-olds, live there. Grouped according to age, they spend their days playing and learning, with and from each other and their teachers, their care-givers. On that day many of the children were in the chapel, their little hands holding miniature baskets of fruit to be blessed. The children were very quiet, their demeanor painfully serious. There are no words to fully describe this incredible scene."

March  
7  
1850

### Turning the pages back...

Tomas Masaryk, the great Czech scholar and statesman, was born in Hodonin, Moravia, on March 7, 1850. With a doctorate from Vienna University (obtained in 1876), he taught philosophy at Charles University in Prague from 1882 to 1914, and was the first president of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918-1935.

In contact with Ukrainians at various points in his career, he assisted those students who seceded from Lviv University in 1901-1902, corresponded with poet and scholar Ivan Franko, and defended the rights of Galician Ukrainians to develop freely and independently in the 1908 debates on the Ukrainian-Polish conflict as a deputy to Austria's Parliament.

In the final years of the first world war, he traveled frequently to Ukraine and Russia, organizing Czech and Slovak prisoners of war into a legion, whose extra-territorial status he got the Ukrainian National Republic's government to recognize.

Although Masaryk, a Russophile who hoped Ukraine would federate with a democratic Russia, annulled this agreement after the UNR declared its independence, the Czech-Slovak legion remained neutral in the ensuing Soviet-Ukrainian conflict.

During his visit to the U.S. in May-November 1918, Masaryk organized the Mid-European Democratic Union, an organization of émigré organizations of the Austro-Hungarian empire's various nationalities. The MEDU included New York-based activists Myroslav Sichynsky and Mykola Tsehlynsky, as well as Hryhoriy Zhatkovych of the American National Council of Uhro-Rusyns.

Contacts with the ANCUR resulted in an agreement under which Transcarpathia was incorporated into the new Czechoslovak Republic in 1919.

As president of the republic, Masaryk supported the use of local dialects instead of Russian in Transcarpathian schools and administrative institutions, and was sympathetic to the cultural needs of the large émigré community from Russian-ruled Ukraine.

He helped establish such institutions as the Ukrainian Free University in Prague (1921) and the Ukrainian Husbandry Academy in Podebrady (1922). Masaryk died on September 14, 1937, in Lany, Czechoslovakia.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Let's help Ukraine, not hinder progress

Dear Editor:

If it was not for my Ukrainian birth and heritage, I would probably dismiss the voluminous comments on Dr. Myron Kuropas' article "Christmas in Ukraine" drivel that can come only from well-fed and well-heeled individuals that are ready for a fight at the proverbial "drop of a hat." History teaches us that religious wars, at whatever level, are the problem rather than the solution.

We sing "Ne Pora" and I ask why can't we apply these words to our religious relations? Is it not time to leave religion to the privacy of each believer and practitioner? Is it not time to focus on the fragile democratic state of Ukraine with freedom to practice or not to practice whatever religion one desires? Is it not time to take to heart the words we sing in both Catholic and Orthodox churches? We beg God to give us unity, and outside the church doors we resume what is no more than a back-alley brawl as demonstrated in so many letters to the editor.

Permit me to relate an experience from September 1995. In answer to President Leonid Kuchma's request for help in the agricultural sector, Prime Minister Jean Chretien asked the former minister of agriculture, Eugene Whelan, [now Sen. Whelan] to go to Ukraine on a fact-finding mission. Sen. Whelan asked me, a colleague of 60 years, to accompany him as his advisor and translator.

On our first Sunday in Kyiv, with a slight misunderstanding, our driver took us to the Roman Catholic Church of St. Nicholas. We attended the service; in the part where the priest asks prayers for the Pope, etc., his final request was "and let us pray for our country - Ukraine." I cannot put into words the elation that overcame me - here a Polish priest in a

Polish church asking God for prayers for "our" country Ukraine.

Can we in good conscience do less? I ask you, whether you are Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, Jew, Moslem, or non-believer, please let the diversity of religion be Ukraine's strength and not the destructive evil force it has been for so long. Let us, in common prayer and in unison, put our shoulder to the wheel and help - not hinder - struggling Ukraine.

Earlier I referred to Ukraine as a fragile democracy. I firmly believe that is the case. The latest statistics show that since independence, the standard of living has decreased by more than a third, life expectancy has significantly decreased, unemployment is unparalleled, etc. In Sen. Whelan's and my visits to numerous enterprises from Saryi Sambir to Zaporizhia, the experience was the same and best reflected by a lady (young in years, old in appearance) at a farm outside of Kyiv: "Please don't be like the others who came, looked at us and went away laughing. Please help us." The sincerity of those words was unmistakable as they flowed from her mouth on a river of tears.

As for a possible papal visit to Ukraine, I heartily endorse Prof. Yaroslav Bilinsky's remarks (January 26). The pope, should he visit Ukraine, will not be visiting Ukrainian Catholics as such. As a head of state, he will be visiting Ukraine and all Ukrainians. He is entitled to the courtesies due a head of state. It is only through visits of heads of state that Ukraine is recognized as an independent country, a fact that even today many have difficulty in recognizing, either because of ignorance, or more dangerously, deliberateness.

**Michael Zin**  
Windsor, Ontario

*The writer is professor emeritus and former dean, Faculty of Business Administration, University of Windsor in Ontario.*

### Kudos for columnist Oles Kuzyszyn

Dear Editor:

At a recent festival in Chicago, several choirs (with a total of more than 300 members) reportedly gave a good account of themselves. Though it had anticipated applause in the press, the festival committee was told that a qualified reviewer could not be found in the entire Windy City.

The New York metropolitan area is not unlike Chicago, since it employs a mere handful of critics (already overworked). Why is it that everyone composes, sings, plays or conducts (from fairly well to exceedingly well), but few write convincingly - if they want to write at all?

This had puzzled me for some time. My mother had taught me how to write back in 1944 and I'm still learning Ukrainian in the belief that progress is always possible. When queried, some (very intelligent individuals) complain of lack of time, incentive or professional background to work as critics or music researchers. "Who will pay me?" is the usual unanswered question.

If our composers in the diaspora responded only to big bucks rather than inspiration, they would be long extinct. If the pianists or violinists we boast of ventured onstage sans incentive or professional training, they would not be worth reviewing. We seem to be living in an age of superstar performers with practi-

cally no one to write about their brilliance. Is day-to-day living so hopelessly steeped in instant audio-visuals that writing (and words themselves) become boring or redundant?

Choir conductors' seminars are annual successes in Edmonton. Perhaps we should start workshops in Chicago and New York to teach constructive criticism to potential reviewers? But how to teach the need for expression in the writing field? How does one explain that writing can be pleasurable and satisfying?

On January 12 The Weekly featured an anniversary appreciation of composer Ihor Sonevtsky eloquently penned by Oleksander Kuzyszyn. Both musicians "wear many hats," i.e. both respond to stimuli needing expression. Mr. Kuzyszyn's article was eminently successful because he was enthusiastic about his subject and seemed to identify with Mr. Sonevtsky's many facets.

Mr. Kuzyszyn's tribute deserves tribute. His is a rare product by a writing virtuoso who maintains high standards with hard work. At the same time one feels he has fun at what he does, plus satisfaction. Here's the commitment of a pro. Mr. Kuzyszyn's articles and reviews for The Weekly speak for themselves. I challenge anyone to translate into idiomatic Ukrainian any of his reviews of pop recordings, complete with up-to-the-minute technical terminology.

It's a pleasure to write in support of a fellow contributor to our newspaper. Bravo Oles!

**Roman Sawycky**  
Cranford, N.J.

## Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



### Has Russia really changed?

While Ukrainians generally remain somewhat wary of the "new Russia," others are not.

Two who believe the old Russia is gone forever are Dmitry Mikheyev, author of "Russia Transformed," and David Aikman, former Moscow correspondent for Time magazine, and author of a laudatory review of Mr. Mikheyev's book that appeared in the February 10 issue of The Weekly Standard.

Dismissing those who believe Russia will always be Russia as out-of-touch, Mr. Aikman maintains, along with Mr. Mikheyev, that "Russia and Russians really have changed character ... Russians may not be Rotarians or Shriners," Mr. Aikman argues, "but they have unequivocally decided that political democracy is infinitely preferable to authoritarianism, that the free market is a better system for creating and distributing wealth than state socialism, and that integrating the Russian national culture into the global culture is a wiser course than Slavophilic isolation."

Mr. Mikheyev argues, according to Mr. Aikman, that despite Russia's shaky economic foundation, the country now exports grain, its food supply is better than ever, and, most important of all, "economic life for the average Russian is better today than at any time in Russian history."

"In 1996," Mr. Mikheyev writes, "Russia is an urbanized, industrialized, relatively homogeneous, ... secular, presidential republic, run by a technocratic elite, with private ownership and the free market, a free press and parliamentarianism."

After crediting Boris Yeltsin for much of the change that has taken place, Mr. Mikheyev calls for more understanding from the West. Russia has arrived, it would seem, and "deserves a warm welcome, encouragement and assistance from the community of civilized nations."

A somewhat different perspective is offered by Adrian Karatnycky, president of Freedom House, in an article titled "Emerging Russia" that appeared in the February 24 issue of National Review. "Despite reforms," he writes, "Russia's economic output has declined for the fifth consecutive year, while - in violation of normal free-market rules - the official unemployment rate is a little over 3 percent."

"It's Russia's government, not its economy which has been privatized," according to Andrei Illarionov, an economic reformer. In short, government posts are used to create personal wealth for the former Communist nomenklatura. Russia's new rich, writes Mr. Karatnycky, "include media moguls, who were granted privileged access to government-owned airwaves; financial groups, which built their wealth on the ability to borrow money at highly profitable rates from the state bank; and leaders of the raw-materials and energy sectors, who were allowed to take ownership of Russia's immense wealth of natural resources. As a result, Russia's economy is rewarding not the most entrepreneurial, but the best-connected."

Since Boris Yeltsin is a prisoner of these powerful interests, argues Mr. Karatnycky, it really doesn't matter whether he is a reformist democrat or a statist hardliner.

What is far more ominous for Ukraine, however, is a new foreign policy doctrine subscribed to by all segments of Russia's political spectrum, a doctrine that seeks to exert dominion over neighboring states.

Citing an essay titled "Theses on the Union" that appeared in Nezavisimaya Gazeta, Mr. Karatnycky explains that the document "asserted that the break-up of the USSR was not in the economic interests of the former Soviet republics and advocated a concerted effort to promote political, economic and security integration through peaceful means." Among the many prominent authors of "Theses" is Yuri Dubinin, Russia's new ambassador to Ukraine.

The document offers a step-by-step plan for reintegration beginning with close Russian-Belarusian and Russian-Kazakstani economic, military and political integration that would make it, according to the document, "more and more difficult for Ukrainian leaders to explain to their population the advantages of the policy of self-isolation of Kyiv."

Russia's efforts to reassert its hegemony in Ukraine include: substantial financial support for Alyaksandr Lukashenka, the president of Belarus who supports the reintegration of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine; recommending financial support for Russian minorities in neighboring countries; disputes over the Black Sea Fleet; and the Russian Federation Council's overwhelming adoption of a resolution declaring Sevastopol, a Crimean port city, an integral part of Russia.

In his article, Mr. Karatnycky also cites former Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Andrei Kozyrev, who believes that Russian foreign policy under President Yeltsin has been drifting into the hands of the KGB. The new security forces, according to Mr. Kozyrev, are nothing more than the KGB warmed-over; the West still is the enemy.

What is Russia today? Mr. Karatnycky writes: "If Russia is now a democracy with a market economy [as Messrs. Mikheyev and Aikman suggest], a major factor in the new world order has been assured ... But if Russia is not a free-market democracy but a corporatist state run by a nomenklatura representing the interests of industry, finance, agriculture and energy, if it is governed by a new anti-Western and pro-imperial consensus, then we must prepare for a complex, dangerous world."

Should the United States continue to provide aid to Russia? Both Mr. Aikman and Mr. Karatnycky say yes. All is not black, suggests Mr. Karatnycky. Recent polls indicate that the Russian people do not share the neo-imperialist sentiments of the elite; they do not fear an expansion of NATO; they are pleased with their limited democracy. "Above all," concludes Mr. Karatnycky, "the new generation of emerging Russian leaders appears to be growing more pro-Western in its cultural, economic and political preferences ... U.S. policy should be oriented toward influencing these future leaders."

At this juncture, no one can really say which way Russia will go. Will the emerging new leaders ever make it to the top, or will they be eliminated, either politically or physically, along the way? Can the will of the Russian people prevail in Russia, or will the new nomenklatura continue to find a way to usurp the public will? Is Ukraine's new nomenklatura really all that different from Russia's?

The answers to those questions may well determine Ukraine's future.

Readers may e-mail me at: 73753.3315@Compuserve.com.

## UCCA's letter...

(Continued from page 4)

"e) Simultaneously with resettlement, it is necessary to carry out an offensive against bands of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army which must be destroyed indiscriminately upon the evacuation's completion."

The text of the official document set the primary goal of this military operation: the "final solution" to the Ukrainian problem in Poland. It meant the total deportation of all ethnic Ukrainians, as well as members of mixed Ukrainian-Polish families. Vacated farms, villages and towns were to be settled by ethnic Polish settlers, preferably retired military personnel.

Quite apart from the directive's prima facie discriminatory and inhumane nature, the methods employed were egregious. At dawn, a military unit would surround the village, preventing egress. The villagers were told they had two hours to pack their possessions. A military convoy led the victims to a designated railroad station. The deportees were divided into groups. Intellectuals, clergy and those suspected of assisting the underground were arrested and sent to a concentration camp near Auschwitz. The evacuation plan provided that resettled Ukrainians should not constitute more than 10 percent of any village or town. Thus, from April 29 to August 12, 1947, some 140,000 Ukrainians were forcibly relocated. The next few months added an additional 10,000 to that number.

The resettled Ukrainians were not permitted to leave their new residences. Ukrainian churches and schools were forbidden. The evacuation plan clearly set out the purpose of the operation: "The main purpose ... is to assimilate them in a new Polish environment ... Never use the term 'Ukrainian.' Should an intellectual manage to sneak in among the deportees, resettle him separately and far-removed from any Ukrainian community."

On July 27, 1949, the victims were officially deprived of any rights regarding real and personal property left behind, which became the property of the state, including both individual and community-held property, i.e., community clubs, churches, etc. Upon the completion of the actual operation, the government commenced a new effort to expunge any trace of Ukrainian existence in southeast Poland — monuments, cemeteries, landmarks, crosses, archives, museums, libraries, street and village names were changed. Many churches became Polish Roman Catholic or storage places, their interiors desecrated and defaced.

### Conclusion

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America Inc. (UCCA) is a not-for-profit American organization which represents and advocates the interests of Ukrainian Americans and Ukrainians worldwide. In this regard, the UCCA has addressed

numerous issues with individual organizations and governments, especially those of the United States and Ukraine. Upon occasion, the UCCA petitions other foreign governments when extreme circumstances warrant worldwide attention.

The UCCA believes that the events in Poland from 1945 to 1947, with regard to Ukrainians, represent egregious circumstances, rising to the level of genocide as defined under the U.N. Convention. The consequences of the inhumanity inflicted upon the Ukrainian population in Poland are so exigent and the cries of the victims so compelling even today that redress must be sought, particularly at present, when Ukrainian-Polish relations have been normalized. In fact, today's Poland is manifestly tolerant, democratic and governed by the rule of law. Ukrainians will remember always that Poland first among all countries recognized the independence of Ukraine in 1991. Since then, relations between our peoples have evolved into a complementary mosaic of friendship and cooperation. This phenomenon has occurred not only on the level of governments, but also on individual levels, whether it be in Poland, Ukraine, the United States or elsewhere. Still, the legacy of Operation Wisla remains.

In the hope of further benefiting Polish-Ukrainian relations, we request that you take official note of Operation Wisla as a dark and genocidal chapter of Polish post-war history. Once you have had the opportunity for independent study and analysis, we would urgently request that you consider the following reparatory measures:

1. Condemn the operations conducted by the government of Poland from 1945 to 1947, aimed at the destruction of the Ukrainian nationality in Poland.
2. To the extent possible, restore community-held property such as churches, libraries, museums, meeting halls, etc. to the Ukrainian community in Poland.
3. Inasmuch as it would be difficult to restore specific individual property to the victims of Operation Wisla or their descendants, compensatory alternatives should be offered, such as the opportunity to obtain land on their ancestral territory with the rights to offset construction costs (to a specified extent) against real property assessments imposed by the government. Additional forms of relief may be deemed suitable and expedient.

In view of the commitment of your government to humane and civilized values exalting the dignity of man, we believe the legacy of Operation Wisla is an unacceptable blot upon Ukrainian-Polish relations. This organization stands ready to assist you in whatever positive action can be taken in this regard in the name of justice and humanity. We look forward to your considered response at your earliest convenience, and to our mutually beneficial communications.

## Ukraine's ambassador...

(Continued from page 1)

Ukraine; there are 68 diplomatic representations in Ukraine, along with 350 diplomats and 200 foreign journalists; Ukraine has diplomatic representations in 55 countries around the globe (Mexico will soon become the newest addition to that list).

On the subject of Ukraine's economy, the ambassador said the hryvnia, practically speaking, has become a convertible currency and that the people have now started to save money because they have confidence in the new currency. Other achievements he cited were: the completion of small- and medium-scale privatization (some 36,000 enterprises); the existence of 200 commercial banks in Ukraine; and the growth of foreign investment from \$180 million in 1993 to \$366 million in 1994, \$750 million in 1995 and \$1.5 billion in 1996; as well as the increase in foreign trade.

There are problems as well: privatization of large-scale enterprises (approximately 6,000 such entities) has not yet begun, the shadow economy has grown to somewhere between 40 percent and 50 percent of the country's economy; and Ukraine continues to have a massive debt to Russia.

Ambassador Shcherbak informed his audience that at the recent international economic forum in Davos, Switzerland, President Leonid Kuchma had discussed the possibility of Germany restructuring Ukraine's \$3.5 billion debt to Russia. This, the speaker noted, would be very beneficial as Ukraine would then be rid of what is seen as a "political debt" to its larger and more powerful neighbor.

Another problem is the lack of a budget for 1997, Ambassador Shcherbak said, adding that President Kuchma has said he will not sign the budget without reform of the tax system; that reform is to decrease taxes — which currently are so steep that they force many businesses into the shadow economy — to a maximum of 35 percent.

### Importance of strategic partnership

Turning to his second topic, U.S.-Ukraine relations, Dr. Shcherbak emphasized that "today we are on the level of a strategic partnership with the world's only remaining superpower," and this status is delineated in various agreements. Only six other countries, he explained, enjoy strategic partnership relations with the U.S.: Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Israel, Japan and Poland.

The ambassador also pointed to three serious blemishes on Ukraine's record from the point of view of the United States.

First he cited allegations of a "Libyan connection" via which Ukrainian missiles were purportedly sold to Libya. Though there were "some discussions" by government representatives with Libya, Ambassador Shcherbak underscored that no agreement to provide missiles was ever signed, no missiles were sold, and all contacts were severed on the directive of President Kuchma. Nonetheless, Ambassador Shcherbak said, the damage was done as Ukraine's relations with the U.S. Congress were strained.

The second and third "blemishes" noted by the ambassador were the lack of laws in Ukraine to support the development of business, and corruption, which he described as "a leftover from Soviet days when there were no laws" to prevent such abuses. On a positive note, Dr. Shcherbak pointed out that President Kuchma had just announced Operation Clean Hands to weed out corruption from government bodies and that an FBI-type body, the Bureau of National Investigations, would soon be created in Ukraine.

### Relations with Ukrainian Americans

In this section of his exhaustive report, Ambassador Shcherbak stated that he is



Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak

well aware of the divisiveness that exists within the Ukrainian American community. However, he underlined, "We do not and will not interfere in the internal affairs of your community. We do not wish to become involved. Your unity — or disunity — is your affair."

He continued, "Regardless of whether there is one organization or 200 organizations here, there is only one Ukraine. Thus, there is a basis for cooperation on mutual goals."

"We ask that you support Ukraine's independence," he said. "Remember, by supporting Ukraine you are supporting a strategic partner of the United States."

He also cautioned his audience to have "a pragmatic, not a romantic attitude" toward Ukraine. There is a "harsh reality" in Ukraine that should be studied. That is why, he said, "we would like to see more analytical articles in the press about the economy, sociological problems, etc."

The ambassador also had several other requests of the Ukrainian American community:

- He suggested more visits by Ukrainian American groups to regions of Ukraine other than Kyiv and Lviv. One avenue for such contacts is inter-regional exchanges, such as those that have occurred between Florida and Crimea.

- He noted that, though Ukrainian Americans may not have a lobby in Washington, they can work with their congressmen and help Ukraine establish contacts with key officials in their areas.

- He expressed disappointment that there was not more reaction by the Ukrainian American community to recent Russian statements regarding Sevastopol, located in Crimea, and the question of borders with Romania.

- He informed the audience that the Embassy of Ukraine wants to create a George Washington room in its building, for that is where Washington signed historic documents creating the District of Columbia. The ambassador requested donations for this project.

After the ambassador's address, the floor was opened to questions from community activists. These covered topics ranging from the recently imposed tax on humanitarian assistance arriving in Ukraine (see story on page 1) and the state of Ukraine's broadcasting to the anniversary of Akcja Wisla (the forced resettlement of Ukrainians living in Poland) and the status of Ukrainian Orthodox Churches in Ukraine.

During his stay in New York, Ambassador Shcherbak also met separately with representatives of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council and with the council of advisors to the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

## To The Weekly Contributors:

We greatly appreciate the materials — feature articles, news stories, press clippings, letters to the editor, and the like — we receive from our readers.

In order to facilitate preparation of The Ukrainian Weekly, we ask that the guidelines listed below be followed.

- News stories should be sent in not later than 10 days after the occurrence of a given event.
- Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date of The Weekly edition in which the information is to be published.
- All materials must be typed and double-spaced.
- Newspaper and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.
- Photographs submitted for publication must be black and white (or color with good contrast). Captions must be provided. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.
- Full names and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- Persons who submit any materials must provide a phone number where they may be reached during the work day if any additional information is required.

## Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

guaranteed. Ukrainian officials say Mr. Zviahlytskyi, who has spent two and a half years in Israel, has acquired an Israeli passport, but he denies such reports. (Respublika, Reuters, OMRI Daily Digest)

### Ukrainian program to attract investors

KYIV — Ukraine's Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko announced a government program to attract \$3.7 billion to \$4 billion of foreign investment, UNIAN reported on February 19. The tax burden will be reduced, and the state's share in privatized enterprises will not exceed 26 percent (except for strategic facilities, of which the government will retain 51 percent ownership). Ukraine has so far managed to attract \$1.5 billion in direct foreign investment. Meanwhile, pressure from directors of enterprises has led the government to overturn a resolution that banned enterprises from writing off mutual debts, Intelnews reported on February 19. The ban was introduced in January because writing off inter-enterprise debts had led to a decline in budget revenue. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### Lack of funds may alter Chernobyl's fate

KYIV — Environment Minister Yuri Kostenko said Ukraine may reconsider closing the Chernobyl nuclear plant if the West does not finance the building of two new

reactors to replace it, UNIAN and ITAR-TASS reported on February 20. But a panel of advisors to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development concluded that the financing of new reactors at Rivne and Khmelnytskyi could not be approved on economic grounds, Agence France Presse reported on February 19. The environmental group Greenpeace called on the EBRD and the European Council to withdraw from negotiations over completion of the partially built reactors. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### Parties choose electoral priorities, allies

KYIV — Ukrainian Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko, speaking at his party's closed session, said the Communists would form an electoral alliance with other leftist forces, such as the Socialists and the Peasants' Party, Ukrainian television reported on February 15. The same day, the centrist pro-presidential movement New Ukraine held its fifth congress in Kyiv. The leader of the movement, presidential administration head Yevhen Kushnariov, warned against the growing influence of the left, Russian television reported. Mr. Kushnariov said New Ukraine considers Russia and other CIS countries Ukraine's longtime partners. Verkhovna Rada elections are scheduled for 1998; the presidential election follows in 1999. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### Belarusian youth march against president

MIENSK — Over 3,000 people, mostly

students, held an unauthorized demonstration on February 14 in downtown Minsk to protest President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's authoritarian rule and his pro-Russian policies, international agencies reported. The demonstrators delivered a petition to the embassies of some Western countries, criticizing the restoration of the "Soviet empire." The rally ended outside the television tower, where police dispersed the crowd with tear gas and truncheons. At least 30 demonstrators were reported arrested. Meanwhile, the Institute of Sociology of the state-funded Academy of Science reported the results of a recent public opinion poll: 83 percent of respondents support Mr. Lukashenka's pro-Russian policies and 55 percent back his way of handling corruption. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### Black Sea cooperation group meets

ISTANBUL — Foreign ministers and other high-ranking officials from the 11 member-states of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) organization met in Istanbul on February 7 to discuss the creation of a free trade zone, Agence France Presse reported. The group includes Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine. Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller used the meeting to announce that the planned Black Sea Trade and Development Bank, to be

based in Thessaloniki, will have \$300 million in contributions from member-states at its disposal. She also expressed her hope that in the future the BSEC will be "integrated into Europe." (OMRI Daily Digest)

### Report released on economic crime

KYIV — There were 61,000 economic crimes recorded in Ukraine last year, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. As a result, 37,000 criminal cases have been launched. Many of the offenses involved trucking, agricultural complex, or oil and gas refining enterprises. During 1996 there were about 12,000 cases recorded of theft by government officials, which marked an 11 percent increase over 1995. Of these cases, about half reportedly involved large or very large sums of money. Charges were brought in 1,167 cases involving financial machinations, up from 517 in 1995. There were 4,900 crimes recorded in the energy sector; 3,900 crimes recorded in finance and banking; and 859 crimes involving foreign economic activity. There were 1,000 cases filed against alcohol production or trading firms; 1,176 cases of production or sale of non-genuine alcohol. A total of 650 people were charged with currency forgery; nine illegal money printing facilities were uncovered; a total of 23 billion hryv, \$110,000 U.S., 8,500 DM and 45 million RUR in fake banknotes were removed from circulation. (Infobank)

## Humanitarian aid...

(Continued from page 1)

government's point of view, the approach to humanitarian aid was flipped 180 degrees, from "OK, if you say it's humanitarian aid, we pretty much believe you" to "no way it's humanitarian aid unless we say so." All humanitarian aid was suddenly subject to a cocktail of excise, value-added and customs taxes, depending on the commodity, ranging from 20 percent to more than 30 percent to be paid by the recipient. In addition, new documentation would be required. Shipments would be stopped at point of entry, their contents reviewed and assessed. No exceptions.

The abruptness and rapidity of the decision caused strong, immediate reaction from legitimate aid providers who felt they were unfairly being lumped in with those who abused the process. A month of confusion began.

Among the first to react was the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine. Germany and the U.S. are the largest providers of humanitarian aid to Ukraine. The U.S. government provides its aid in the form of commodities, or directly subsidizes the transport of private donations. At the time of the Ukrainian Parliament's decision, several hundred containers of U.S.-supported aid were en route to Ukraine.

According to officials at the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) office in Kyiv, U.S. Ambassador William Green Miller was in continuous contact with government officials in Ukraine. Ukraine's sudden change in policy meant that the U.S. would incur substantial costs in additional storage and shipping time, as well as the cost of additional taxes. Besides the additional expense, the concept of taxing humanitarian aid was unacceptable to the U.S.

According to Catholic News Service, Caritas, the Catholic humanitarian relief organization, vigorously protested the taxation of humanitarian relief and in late January redirected relief bound for Ukraine to Bulgaria, Moldova and Romania to avoid the new taxes and delays.

In Ukraine, more than 20 evangelical religious organizations in mid-February sent a letter of protest to President Kuchma. Ukrainian embassies and con-

sulates in Western Europe and North America received a deluge of calls. And the government of Germany, in early February, suspended all shipments of humanitarian relief to Ukraine pending clarification of the situation.

Ukrainian government officials began to understand that they were being misunderstood.

### Some clarifications

Legitimate aid would still be let through and not taxed, Bronyslav Ometsynskyi assured Dr. Anatol Lysyj, chairman of the Minnesota chapter of the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine, when the two met in Kyiv on January 23. However, more scrutiny will be applied, Mr. Ometsynskyi said.

In remarks to this publication's Kyiv correspondent in mid-February, Mr.

er working relationship be established between committee members and foreign representatives that send aid to better insure that Ukraine actually gets the aid it needs, not useless or dangerous items of which Ukraine would need to dispose.

Later that day, the Verkhovna Rada approved temporary measures with regard to the receipt of humanitarian aid that included the release from taxes of all humanitarian aid that had come in, and to exclude approved future shipments until new legislation is passed. Discussion of new legislation is scheduled to begin in March. The Parliament also decreed that items in relief shipments must be labeled "Humanitarian Assistance. Sale Prohibited."

The U.S. government has always required detailed shipping manifests for

who acknowledges he knew almost nothing about Ukraine until he went there on a medical site visit in 1992, is an example of a private donation that got caught up in the confusion. His foundation had sent a donation of protective clothing from the New Jersey-based GPU Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station to a hospital associated with the Energodar Nuclear Power Station in Zaporizhia. He says he hopes his humanitarian aid will never be used; the safety suits are intended to be worn by medical personnel when treating victims of a nuclear accident.

At press time, his shipment was still detained in a small port outside Odesa and he is being asked to fulfill a new documentation requirement: to obtain a "sanitation" letter from the recipient organization.

This letter must state that the recipient organization agrees to pay for the disposal of the contents of the container if, after review, the contents do not meet sanitation and safety standards. In this way, government officials hope to transfer some of the cost of disposing of useless goods, as well as send out a message to discourage their shipment in the first place.

Over all, this latest glitch won't deter Mr. Wess; he looks forward to more work with Ukraine.

Nadia Matkiwsky, executive director of Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund (CCRF), also applauds the Ukrainian government's efforts to curb corruption and feels that legitimate donors of high quality aid have nothing to fear. Recognized by the government of Ukraine as the largest provider of relief to the victims of Chernobyl, CCRF will send \$1.7 million of aid on March 10. According to Mrs. Matkiwsky, CCRF is more than willing to tolerate this rough spot in Ukraine's process of reform since it will help "smoke out" some of the sham organizations that speculate for profit on the tragedy of Chernobyl.

Both Mrs. Matkiwsky and Mr. Wess concur that foundations such as CCRF and Adopt-a-Hospital, which followup their contributions with personal site visits and photos, interview people after the delivery, require receiving documents, and are genuinely concerned about the effectiveness of their aid, provide the type of attention to details that distinguishes phoney foundations from those that provide aid because they care.

### Ukraine's attempts to stop corruption in the humanitarian aid process have increased the administrative burden on donor organizations.

Ometsynskyi conceded that the policy change had created confusion, and in the near future would be suspended, but explained that the abrupt and unannounced change in policy was necessary to block attempts to sneak in taxable goods.

On January 31 First Vice Prime Minister Durdynets announced that all U.S.-supported aid would be exempt from the new taxes. However, questions about the fate of private (non-government supported) aid from the U.S. remained unanswered.

On February 15 Viktor Suslov, the chairman of the Banking and Finance Committee of the Verkhovna Rada, in remarks to the newspaper Den, promised that the confusion would soon end; he reiterated that abuse of the dispensation from taxes of humanitarian aid was substantial.

On February 19 at a meeting of the Humanitarian Aid Committee at the Cabinet of Ministers, it was agreed to recommend suspension of the new taxes. Nonetheless, shipments still needed to be approved; an ad hoc committee was established to meet twice a month to review requests. Shipments not approved are still subject to tax. The Humanitarian Aid Committee also recommended that a clos-

any shipment it supports, and USAID officials in Kyiv strongly support Ukraine's attempt to resolve problems with their customs procedures. Though questions remain even with the new temporary procedures, U.S. officials hope to work closely with the Humanitarian Aid Committee to prevent future confusion.

Though Ukraine runs the risk that donor organizations will direct relief to countries with more stable and less onerous customs procedures, donor organizations have also expressed support for Ukraine's attempts to stop corruption in the humanitarian aid process — even if it means an increased administrative burden on them.

### Donors react

Walter Wess, an audiologist from New Jersey and president of the Adopt-a-Hospital Foundation (unrelated to the Ukrainian American Veteran's Adopt-a-Hospital Program), said he was "dumbfounded" when he initially learned of the tax on humanitarian aid, and only later, after some information gathering by phone, did he understand the government's motives.

However, the contribution by Mr. Wess,

# Sabre donation helps Ukrainian Legal Foundation's Law Library

by Marta Baziuk

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Any expert will tell you that if Ukraine is to become a democratic European nation, it must establish "the rule of law." The question is how best to support this transition. Sabre Foundation sends the answer in the form of books — to date, 3,980 volumes of law-related materials for the library of the Ukrainian Legal Foundation (ULF).

The library's collection has made it an indispensable resource for Ukrainian law students, lawyers and lawmakers as they struggle to develop a legal system appropriate to Ukraine's needs.

The arrival in Kyiv of the fifth shipment marks the completion of the first phase of a joint project of the Sabre Foundation, a non-profit organization in Cambridge, Mass., and the ULF in Kyiv. As part of the project, Sabre has also conducted training for Ukrainian legal professionals in obtaining legal information via the Internet and in Western library classification systems for librarians at the ULF. The project was funded by a grant from the ARD/Checchi Rule of Law Consortium, which administers the Rule of Law Program for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

According to Serhii Holovaty, minister of justice and honorary president of the ULF, as quoted in News from Ukraine, "This incredible collection will for many years serve to make information on legal issues widely available; to further the development of Ukrainian legal education and research; to promote Ukraine's renewal and its integration in the world community; and to promote the establishment of democratic principles in society."

Sabre Foundation worked with ULF librarians to develop a profile of need that guided solicitation efforts. The materials sent by Sabre include the laws of various countries, monographs, treatises, journals and references works covering virtually every major area of law, including administrative, banking, bankruptcy, civil procedure, criminal procedure, constitution, contract, insurance, international, labor, local government, media, real estate, tax and torts.

Sabre, keeping in mind the library's role as a resource to policy-makers in the capital, has sent materials on NATO, nuclear disarmament and the European Union, for example. Sabre has also provided specialized dictionaries and reference works to assist the ULF's Center for Legal Terminology, Translation and Dictionaries. Included among the multi-volume sets on U.S. law sent by Sabre are the American Law Reports (more than 500 volumes); the 200-volume

United States Code; U.S. Supreme Court Reports (56 volumes); Uniform Commercial Code; and the Encyclopedia of the American Legislative System (three volumes).

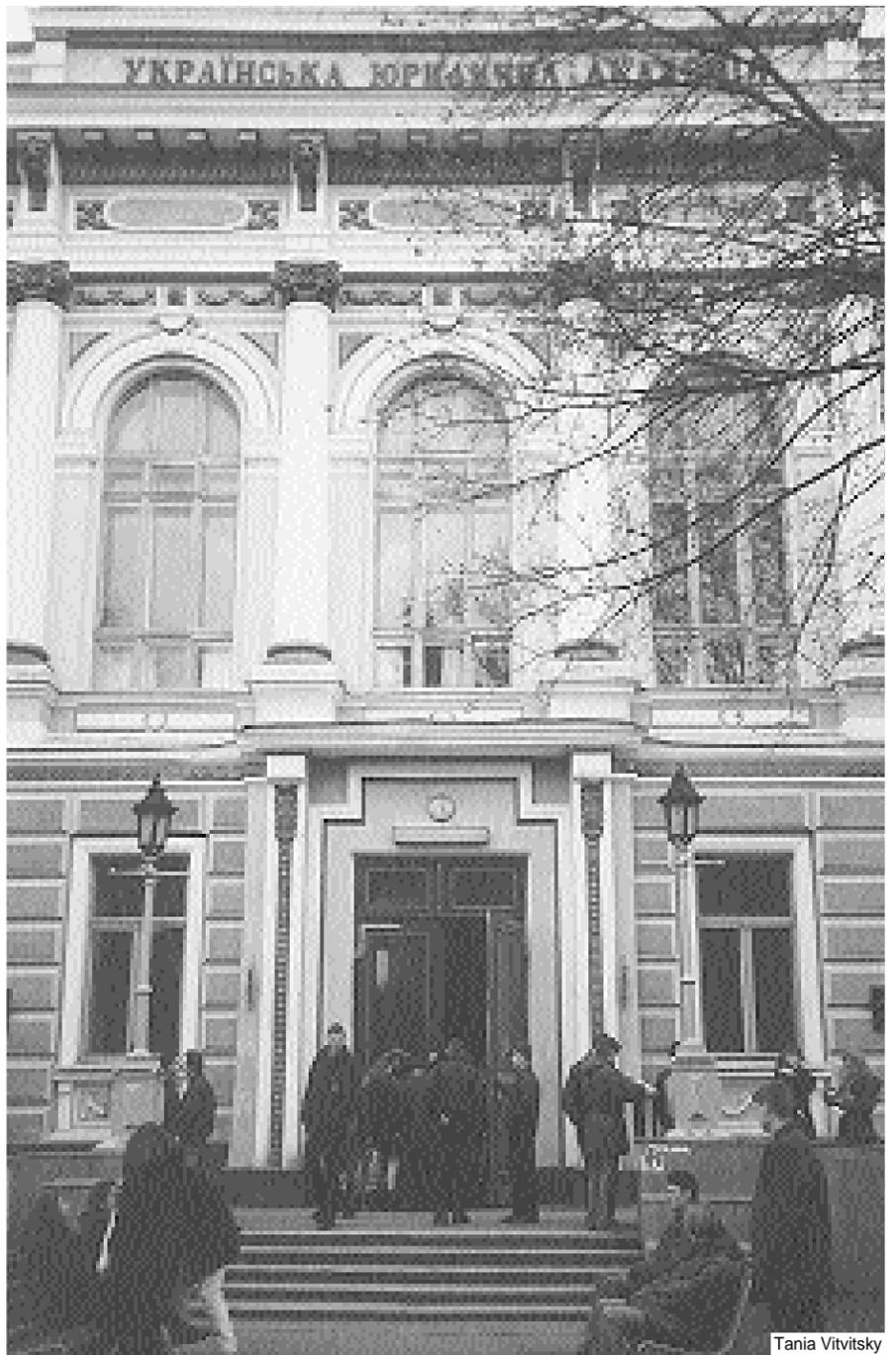
Donated materials were obtained primarily from law libraries, law firms, and publishers such as West Publishing, Kluwer International Law and M.E. Sharpe. Internet discussion lists for law librarians have proved a particularly fruitful method of solicitation. Where possible, Sabre has obtained duplicate copies for the ULF branch library in Kharkiv, located at the Yaroslav Mudryi National Law Academy.

The ULF library, with its extensive resources on U.S., European and international legal issues, fills a critical need for patrons ranging from first-year law students to national deputies in the Verkhovna Rada.

On an average day, 160 people use the library. According to Library Director Halyna Polozova, each month the library receives from 20 to 30 requests for information from government ministries and parliamentary commissions. For example, ULF librarians have fielded requests from the Ministry of Agriculture as it prepared a draft law on land reform; from the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada on taxation law; and from the Ministry of Defense on the rights of soldiers in other countries.

Tania Vitvitsky, Sabre project director, visited the ULF libraries in Kyiv and Kharkiv in November and was gratified to see that the materials sent by Sabre are in great demand. "While I was pleased to see the results of our work in the capital, it was particularly satisfying to see the impact of our work extending to Kharkiv in the east, a region that is often neglected," she said. Ms. Vitvitsky also visited the Kharkiv offices of Sabre's Ukrainian partner organization, Sabre-Svitlo. The Lviv-based Sabre-Svitlo has handled customs and logistics support for the Sabre-ULF project.

Sabre also assisted in the selection and adaptation of a cataloguing system (replacing the Soviet one) that is equal to the demands of an institution serving as a national law library of an independent and democratic country. Sabre consultant Andrew Gregorovich of Toronto worked with ULF librarians on adapting the Library of Congress cataloguing system. There was one major problem: Under the Library of Congress law classification, Ukraine was classed in Asia/Eurasia rather than in Europe. Following Mr. Gregorovich's explanations and recommendations, the Library of Congress is expected to transfer Ukrainian law to its rightful place in Europe.



Tania Vitvitsky

## The Ukrainian Law Academy in Kharkiv.

As lawyers in the West increasingly obtain information via the Internet, Ukrainian legal professionals must also learn the new technologies if they are to stay abreast of legal developments abroad. To address this need, this past June, Rebecca Schneider of the Sabre Foundation conducted a series of training sessions in Kyiv on Internet tools and finding law-related material on the Internet.

In addition to ULF staff from Kyiv and Kharkiv, attendees included representatives from the National Parliamentary Library, the Stefanyk Library in Lviv, the Odesa Scientific Library and well as the Ministry of Education of Ukraine. During

the hands-on sessions, held at the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, the participants practiced in actual on-line time.

The ULF library now serves as a model for law libraries in Ukraine in terms of the breadth of its collection, its cataloguing standards and the professionalism of its personnel. Sabre Foundation and the ULF are hopeful that continued funding will allow for ongoing collaboration in support of the further development of the library. (For more information, visit Sabre's website at <http://www.sabre.org> or contact the Sabre Foundation at [sabre@sabre.org](mailto:sabre@sabre.org) telephone (617) 868-3510.)



Tatiana Gladkova, librarian, and Halyna Polozova, director of the Ukrainian Legal Foundation Library, take part in Internet training conducted by the Sabre Foundation in Kyiv.

## UABA sets up toll-free number

CHATHAM, N.J. — In an effort to make itself more accessible to the community at large, the Ukrainian American Bar Association has instituted a toll-free number available to anyone calling from the United States and Canada.

The toll-free number, 1-888-UABA-LAW or 1-888-822-2529, provides pre-recorded information about the association in the English and Ukrainian languages, and permits the caller to leave messages for UABA officers and governors.

Donna Pochoday, UABA vice-president, said that in the past the association's telephone number and mailing address had changed every two years

with the election of a new president. She explained that the toll-free number will establish continuity and provide a central location for communication with prospective members, the association's 150 dues-paying members, and the community at large.

The toll-free number's pre-recorded message announces information about UABA membership and dues, referrals of UABA attorneys by state, upcoming UABA events and activities, and addresses, telephone and fax numbers of UABA officers and governors.

The association, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, is also working on creating a UABA Web site on the Internet.

## Medieval Ukrainian treasures featured in Byzantium exhibition at The Metropolitan Museum

NEW YORK — “The Glory of Byzantium” exhibition at The Metropolitan Museum of Art is the first major exhibition ever to focus on the art of the Middle Byzantine Empire (843-1261) and its relationship to that of neighboring Christian peoples, Islam and the Latin West.

Masterpieces of the arts of medieval Kyivan Rus', which have never been seen in the U.S., form a major part of the exhibition.

To be seen in New York only, the exhibit will be on view March 11-July 6.

The exhibit is the successor to the Metropolitan Museum's landmark 1977 exhibition “Age of Spirituality,” which brought new attention to the first centuries of the Byzantine Empire, when the traditions of classical and late antiquity were transformed by the rise of Christianity and the Judaic world.

The Second Golden Age of Byzantine civilization, from the mid-ninth to the mid-13th century, witnessed the greatest expansion of its cultural influence. Nowhere was this influence more to the fore than in the Slavic world, particularly among the South and East Slavs, where the whole basis of culture was Byzantine.

It was precisely during this golden age that Kyivan Rus' came into existence and, upon having adopted Christianity in its Eastern form as the state religion, was drawn into the Byzantine sphere. The religion, literature, architecture and art of Kyivan Rus' were all originally inspired by and often directly based on Greco-Byzantine models.

A major gallery of the exhibition is devoted to the arts of the Kyivan Rus' state. Ukraine has lent many of the greatest treasures of its medieval history to the exhibition, most of which have never traveled before.

Approximately 20 objects from six museums in Ukraine, important examples of the religious and secular art of Kyivan Rus', are on display in the exhibition.

Four of the great mosaics from the cathedral of the Mykhailivskiy Zolotoverkhy Monastyr (St. Michael's of the Golden Domes Monastery) (1108), saved from the demolition of the cathedral by the Soviets in 1935/1936, are on loan from the St. Sophia National Architectural Preserve in Kyiv. These works have been installed to evoke the interior of a church.

Also on exhibit are: a mosaic floor from the Desiatynna (Tithe) Church in Kyiv; a capital from the St. Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv as well as relief icons, medallions, cross enkolpions, ceramic tiles and jewelry.

Included in the exhibition is The Metropolitan Museum's own collection of jewelry from Kyivan Rus', discovered near the Desiatynna Church in Kyiv and given to the museum by J. Pierpont Morgan in 1917.

Loans to the exhibition have been made by the following museums in Ukraine: the St. Sophia National Architectural Preserve, National Museum of Art, National

Historical Museum of Ukraine, Kyiv-Pechersk National Historical and Cultural Preserve, all in Kyiv, as well as the Sevastopol National Preserve of Kherson Tavriyskyi and the Lviv Historical Museum. Also among the lending institutions is the Museum of the Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church of the U.S.A., South Bound Brook, N.J.

Official support for the exhibition was provided by the Ministry of Culture and Arts of Ukraine and the State Committee

of Ukraine for Urban Development and Architecture.

“The Glory of Byzantium” exhibition incorporates masterpieces on loan from major museums and church treasuries of more than 20 countries.

The participation of Ukraine, Bulgaria, Georgia, Cyprus and Syria in the exhibition marks the beginning of a historic new collaboration between these countries and The Metropolitan Museum.

Of special significance to the exhibition

is the incorporation of works from Eastern Orthodox monasteries — Iveron on Mt. Athos, St. John the Theologian on Patmos, Greece, and St. Catherine's at Mount Sinai, Egypt — which in their long history have never before been lent abroad.

The exhibition features more than 350 works of art, including mosaics, icons, frescoes, ivories, enamels, silks, stone carvings, gems, ceramics, gold and silver secular and liturgical objects.

The exhibition is broadly structured in three parts.

The first section of the exhibition, devoted to the dual roles of the empire — as a great political state, with its capital city of Constantinople, and as the center of Christian Orthodoxy in the East — presents many of the finest examples of both the religious and secular art of Middle Byzantine culture.

The exhibition then explores the significant relationship of Byzantium to the art and culture of its Christian neighbors: Bulgarians and the Rus' to the north, Armenians and Georgians to the east, and Syrian and Egyptian Christians to the far south.

Finally, the exhibition documents the diffusion of Byzantine cultural influence far beyond its borders, including its emulation by, and interaction with, Islamic states in the Near East and Christian kingdoms in the Latin West.

The exhibition is curated by William D. Wixcom, the Michel David-Weill Chairman of Medieval Art and The Cloisters, and Helen C. Evans, associate curator for Early Christian and Byzantine Art, Department of Medieval Art.

The entry on Kyivan Rus' in the exhibition catalogue is by Olenka Pevny, research assistant at the department of medieval art at The Metropolitan. Dr. Pevny was directly involved in all aspects of preparatory work for the exhibition, both here and abroad.

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated, 600-page catalogue that serves as both a textual and visual record of the exhibition. Published by The Metropolitan Museum of Art and distributed by Harry N. Abrams, it is available in both softcover and hardbound editions (\$45 and \$75, respectively) in the museum's bookshops and at bookstores nationwide.

In conjunction with the exhibition, an extensive program of educational events for visitors to the museum, scholars, teachers and students will be offered by The Metropolitan. In addition, there will be special programs about Byzantine art at The Cloisters, the branch of The Metropolitan Museum located in Manhattan's Fort Tryon Park that is devoted to the art of Medieval Europe.

— compiled by Ika Koznarska Casanova

An interview with Helen C. Evans, co-curator for “The Glory of Byzantium” exhibition will appear in a subsequent issue of *The Weekly*.



Bruce White

**The Deacon Stephen, mosaic from the Cathedral of the Mykhailivskiy Zolotoverkhy Monastyr (St. Michael's of the Golden Domes Monastery), Kyivan Rus', Kyiv, ca. 1108-1113. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. On loan from the St. Sophia National Architectural Preserve, Kyiv.**

## The UNWLA's...

(Continued from page 6)

Mrs. Czernyk explained that funding for the program comes not only from members of the UNWLA, but to a large degree from individuals in the community who support the organization's efforts. “Our members and the many people who support us understand our difficult mission and trust us to do what is right. Through their financial support, through their most generous donations — for which we are very grateful — we are able to help our fellow Ukrainians when and where the need is most acute,” she said.

Mrs. Czernyk recently traveled to Ukraine in the company of Luba

Bilowchtchuk, UNWLA Scholarship Program Chair, on a fact-finding mission, stopping in hospitals, clinics and sanatoriums where the UNWLA had sent medical equipment, supplies and financial aid. On the rounds of these institutions, she found the equipment working well and being put to good use. Mrs. Czernyk added that she communicates quite frequently with the authorities in charge, in order to be aware of any problems they may have with the equipment, as well as to be updated on any arising needs that the UNWLA can fulfill.

The UNWLA cooperates with the Ukrainian Women's League and other organizations in Ukraine on projects that help Chernobyl victims, the needy and

the elderly. UNWLA Regional Councils have adopted sister-cities in nine regions of Ukraine where they support various social welfare and educational endeavors.

Speaking about her recent visit to Ukraine, Mrs. Czernyk said it was a bit different from the previous ones. This time, in addition to hospitals, she and Ms. Bilowchtchuk also visited orphanages in western Ukraine. In these institutions, as in the hospitals, dire problems prevail. Mrs. Czernyk explained that the UNWLA Social Welfare Program will now focus also on the many orphanages that so desperately need help. Aside from clothing and colorful toys for children, there seems to be a pronounced need for food — powdered milk and cereals — and,

of course, vitamins and medicines. “Food is not expensive in the United States, but the shipping is,” said Mrs. Czernyk. “We have to concentrate on finding a quick, inexpensive and sure way to get what is needed to those children.”

Many organizations promote social welfare programs, but not many can present the enviable credentials of longevity, tenacity and success that the UNWLA has.

\* \* \*

To support the UNWLA's Social Welfare Program, please make your tax-deductible contributions to UNWLA Chernobyl Fund or UNWLA Welfare Fund, and mail them to: UNWLA, 108 Second Ave., New York, NY 10003.

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**AUTHORIZED AGENTS**

Chicago marks independence anniversaries



As in previous years, the Ukrainian American community in Chicago marked the January 22 anniversaries of Ukrainian independence (1918) and the unification of eastern and western Ukrainian territories (1919) with a banquet and concert. This year's commemoration was held on January 26 at Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Cultural Center with an audience of 300 attending. The president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Askold Lozynskyy, was the keynote speaker. He is seen above (right) with Orest Baranyk, president of the Chicago UCCA, and soloist Lesia Hrabova, who performed during the program.

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Завваги.....

..... Підпис батька або матері

## Shevchenko Scientific Society holds 15th general meeting

NEW YORK – The 15th general meeting of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (U.S.A.) was held on November 23, 1996, in the society's building in New York City. In his "state-of-the-society" message, President Leonid Rudnytsky reviewed the activity of the society over the last reporting period, including its effective collaboration with the Shevchenko Scientific Society of Ukraine, based in Lviv, which regularly publishes the Zapysky NTSh.

Dr. Rudnytsky emphasized the need to bring young scientists into the society and reported the generous donation of \$100,000 by Yuri Kuziv of Florida, to aid young scholars.

Dr. Oleh Romaniw, president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in Lviv, spoke briefly about the society's work in Ukraine and its publications.

New officers elected to a three-year term of office are: Dr. Rudnytsky, president; Larissa Onyshkevych, executive vice-president; Wolodymyr Stojko, vice-president and executive secretary; Wolodymyr Rak, vice-president and chief financial officer; Vasyl Markus, Sviatoslav Trofimenko, Ivan Fizer and Roman Andrushkiv, vice-presidents at large; and Olha Kuzmowycz, recording secretary.

Also elected were members of the board, auditors and committee heads.

After a lively discussion, the general meeting adopted resolutions that included: to support scholars and institutions that work in Ukraine under extremely adverse conditions, and to encourage collaboration



Dr. Leonid Rudnytsky

with these individuals and entities; to organize a program to celebrate the society's 125th anniversary in 1998; to continue to call attention to the Russification that occurred at the time of the Ukrainian SSR to the norms of Ukrainian orthography; to disseminate information about the Ukrainian orthography system developed in Ukraine in the late 1920s and adopted in Kharkiv in 1929 (until a new Ukrainian orthography is adopted in the future, the Shevchenko Scientific Society will adhere to the 1929 all-Ukrainian orthography system); to give special attention to enlisting young members; and to support newly arrived scholars from Ukraine.

## THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

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## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1997/98

According to the June 1988 eligibility requirements

- a) The scholarships will be awarded to FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS (studying towards their first bachelor's degree) attending accredited colleges or universities, and to HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES who will be attending such institutions of higher learning in the filing calendar year. Graduate students are ineligible to apply.
- b) The candidate must have been an ACTIVE DUES-PAYING UNA MEMBER for at least TWO YEARS by the end of March of the filing year.

Applicants will be judged on the basis of:

1. financial need
2. course of study
3. scholastic record (minimum GPA 2.0)
4. involvement in Ukrainian community and student life

DUE DATES for applications and documents:

Your completed, signed and dated application is due by March 31, 1997.

All required documents listed on the application form and photograph are due by May 1, 1997.

The 1997/98 scholarship APPLICATION FORM can be obtained by writing to:

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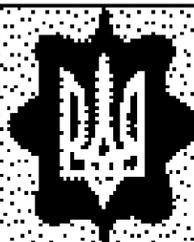
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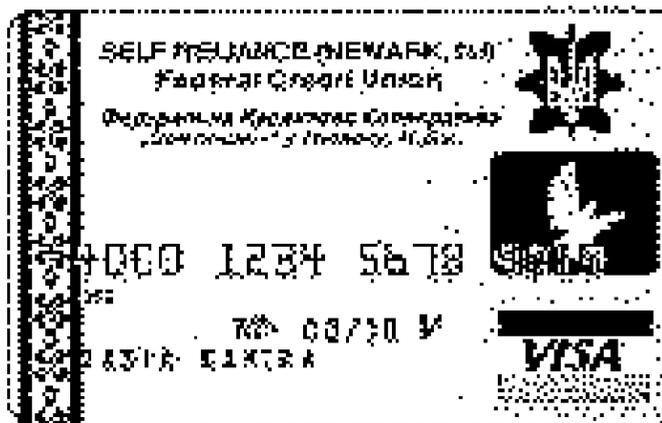


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**Agenda:**

1. Opening of Meeting.
2. Verification of minutes of the previous Annual Meeting.
3. Reports:
  - Financial Management
  - Credit Committee
  - Supervisory Committee
4. Discussion.
5. Election of 3 members to the Board of Directors.
6. New business.
7. Adjournment.

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A membership committee will be appointed at members meetings for the election of the Board of Directors.  
Mr. Leon Krawiec, Mrs. Lydia Krawiec, Dr. Peter Boryshchuk, Elizabeth and Roger Krawiec are candidates for election to the committee. If writing, send material to:  
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**NOTES ON PEOPLE**

**Wedding bells  
for Woronowycz**

KYIV – Viktoria Punchak and Roman Woronowycz were married on January 25, at the Orthodox Monastery of St. Feodosius in Kyiv. Mr. Woronowycz, a staff editor for The Ukrainian Weekly, is currently stationed in Kyiv. Ms. Punchak is a paralegal for Modul, a Kyiv-based law firm.

The couple met at a political seminar in the Carpathian Mountains three years ago when Mr. Woronowycz was on his first tour of duty in Ukraine for The

Ukrainian Weekly. They maintained a long-distance relationship until August 1996, when the groom returned to Kyiv.

The bride's parents are Volodymyr and Liudmilla Punchak of Kyiv. The groom's parents, Myron and Ann Woronowycz, who were present at the wedding along with the groom's brother George, hail from Warren, Mich. Also present were the couple's relatives from Lviv and Dnipropetrovsk, and a host of Ukrainian and foreign journalists stationed in Kyiv.

The couple spent their honeymoon cruising the Nile River in Egypt. Mr. Woronowycz is a member of UNA Branch 76.



Roman Woronowycz and Viktoria Punchak at the Mariyinskyi Palace.

**Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre  
is seeking applications for the position of  
Executive Director**

For over 50 years the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre has promoted the cultural heritage of Ukrainian Canadians. To meet the growing needs of an expanding Ukrainian community, the Centre is embarking on a major building project. In line with the Centre's future endeavours, we are seeking a leader that emphasizes community awareness, access to other resources and marketing. The successful candidate will be required to create new revenue streams and raise the Centre's profile in Manitoba and beyond its borders.

The Board of Directors seeks a knowledgeable, dedicated individual, experienced in business, the arts and the Ukrainian community. Fluency in both English and Ukrainian is necessary.

Please reply in confidence with resume and covering letter specifying salary expectations by March 31 to:

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## Romankiw cited for inventions

YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, N.Y. — Dr. Lubomyr Taras Romankiw was recently named fellow by the largest international association of electronic scientists and engineers, the Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers, which has a membership of over 320,000. The citation specifies his contribution "For invention of the magnetic thin film inductive head, the magnetoresistive inductive merged head and for major contributions to the science and technology of electrochemistry."

This award follows numerous other national and international awards that Dr. Romankiw has received, especially during the last 10 years. The most prestigious among them is the IEEE Morris H.H. Liebman Award given annually to only one scientist for pioneering work in electronics; also, the Perkin Gold Medal, the highest honor given annually to one person whose inventions resulted in innovations in the chemical industry and had a major impact on society.

The inventions for which Dr. Romankiw was recognized created a magnetic thin film head industry with annual revenues around the world approaching \$2.5 billion; the thin film magnetic heads that he pioneered made possible extremely high density recording on magnetic disks and tapes, and today are a part of every computer manufactured in the world.

At present, Dr. Romankiw is head of the Center for Electrochemical Technology and Microfabrication at IBM's Thomas J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, N.Y. For his successful research, he received 10 IBM Outstanding Invention and Outstanding Contribution Awards, and 24 Invention Achievement Awards.

Dr. Romankiw holds 47 international patents and has 120 published inventions. In 1986 he was named an IBM Fellow, and in 1987 he became a member of the IBM Academy of Technology. In 1992 he was elected to the Academy of Engineering Science of Ukraine.

Dr. Romankiw is co-author of four books, editor of six volumes of The Electro-Chemical Society's Proceedings on Electrochemical Technology on Electronics and Magnetics, and author of 130 scientific papers. He is a board member of numerous scientific associations, as well as the Shevchenko Scientific Society, and an advisor to university science and engineering programs at Pace, Tulane and Columbia. Since 1995 he has been a member of the board of directors of the USAID sponsored Environmental Education Technology Transfer Program (which he

initiated and helped organize) at the University of Connecticut and Ukraine.

For several decades, Dr. Romankiw has been a leading Plast activist in Canada and the U.S. He began his work as a youth counselor, then headed the Edmonton Plast branch and later the international Plast bodies the Supreme Plast Bulava and the Supreme Plast Council. He is vice-president of the Supreme Plast Bulava and is in charge of liaison with the international scouting movement. Dr. Romankiw is a member of the Siromantsi Plast fraternity and UNA Branch 174.

## Stamford woman is 100 years old



Anna Ahafia Kohut of Stamford, Conn., celebrated her 100th birthday on January 19, making her one of the oldest members of the Ukrainian National Association. Mrs. Kohut, a member of UNA Branch 350 (St. Michael the Archangel), and a parishioner of St. Vladimir Church, celebrated her centennial with family, friends and well-wishers at an open house function at her home.

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Resumes with letter of interest, salary history and requirements to:  
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## Ukraine adopts...

(Continued from page 2)

holiest of the holy in the army.

"But this is what we have today: a high rate of deaths, which are often passed off as accidental; the mass proliferation of savagery and barbarism in relations among military personnel, which are glossed over by calling them non-statutory relations; a rising wave of criminality in the armed forces. The statistics that I requested are stunning: 3,000 crimes in 10 months.

"We have, as they say, reached the end of the line. And there no one can point to the financial situation or to supply problems and the like. Where is your officer's code of honor?"

The president reminded his high-ranking audience that the people of Ukraine expect their children to return from military service alive and not as physical, spiritual and moral cripples. Clearly, it is a sad state of affairs that increasingly more young men are evading military service. "But you ask yourselves," said the president, "who would want to serve in this kind of an army?"

The situation described by President Kuchma is confirmed by other sources. A survey taken in April 1996 by the Ukrainian Center for Economic and Political Research together with the Social Monitoring Center, which encompassed 14 regions and over 1,000 officers, came to the conclusion that Ukraine's armed forces cannot be considered a full-fledged army and are incapable of performing their main function – to defend the state and its people.

Moreover, given the current situation regarding social guarantees, military ideology and force readiness, Ukraine's military is in fact being transformed into a destabilizing force in society. A full 50 percent of the officers in the survey characterized their attitude toward their commander-in-chief – namely, President Kuchma – as negative; one-third described their attitude as completely negative. Defense Minister Shmarov fared even worse: two-thirds of the officers gave him a negative appraisal.

The proportion of respondents who favored forming a bloc with Russia and Belarus and supported integration with Ukraine's Slavic neighbors totaled 37 percent. Only 12 percent were oriented toward

NATO and another 8 percent supported the Tashkent collective security pact led by Moscow. The largest group, 41 percent, were in favor of retaining Ukraine's non-aligned status. Only 4 percent of the officers felt the army could defend the country; 57 percent were convinced it could not. One out of three officers felt that it had been a mistake to enter the military profession.

According to figures from the Ministry of Defense, in the first half of 1996 crime in the military increased by 14 percent over the same period in the previous year; non-statutory relations (hazing) increased by almost 10 percent; evasion of military service by more than 45 percent; theft by more than 9 percent; and grand larceny by 45 percent. About 71,000 officers and their families remain without their own housing.

Whether or not the new state program will be able to rectify this situation is an open question. At this juncture, only the highlights of its contents have been made available.

The earlier planned downsizing of the armed forces to 350,000 by the end of 1996 has now been postponed to 2005. Recent statistics provided by the Ministry of Defense in compliance with the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, to which Ukraine is a signatory, show that as of January 1 Ukraine's armed forces, excluding sea-based military personnel, numbered almost 371,000. The problem here appears to be that there simply is not enough money to return servicemen to civilian life.

The Ukrainian military will be organized into four branch services: ground forces, air force, air defense force, and the navy. The ground forces, which currently account for about 43 percent of the total, will be organized into three operational commands – Western, Southern and Northern – based on the two existing military districts and the experimental Northern OTK. Two points bear emphasizing. First, Mr. Shmarov's proposal of operational – territorial commands (OTKs) has been dropped in favor of a command and control structure that is not very different from the old Soviet system of military districts. Mr. Horbulin confirmed this by stating that the transition to

(Continued on page 17)

## CHICAGO, ILL., DISTRICT COMMITTEE

of the

## UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

announces that its

## ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on

**SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1997 at 11:00 AM**

**at the Ukrainian Cultural Center,  
2247 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Ill.**

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:

**17, 22, 103, 106, 107, 114, 125, 131, 139, 157, 176, 220, 221, 259  
379, 395, 399, 423, 452, 472**

UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

#### MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:

**Nestor Olesnycky, Esq., UNA Vice-President  
Stefko Kuropas, UNA Advisor**

#### HONORARY MEMBERS OF UNA GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

**Stepan Kuropas  
Myron Kuropas, Ph.D.**

#### DISTRICT COMMITTEE

**Stefko Kuropas, Chairman  
Petro Pytel, Vice Chairman  
Julian Juryec, Secretary  
Stefan Werbowy, Treasurer  
Michael Olshansky, Honorary District Chairman**

## Ukraine adopts...

(Continued from page 16)

OTKs was premature. Second, there will now be a military command that faces the border with Russia in Chernihiv.

Also, each of the three operational commands will include mobile rapid reaction forces that are intended also for peacekeeping operations. The air force will consist of two aviation corps with a brigade and regimental structure. The air defense force will have three brigade-based corps. And the navy will be responsible for two districts, the Southern and Eastern.

The central bureaucracy of the Ministry of Defense and General Staff is to be reduced by 1,000 generals and officers, and the number of vice defense ministers will also be cut. At present, each of the commanders of the four branch services also holds the rank of vice minister of defense. Soon after independence, the Cabinet of Ministers decreed that the central bureaucracy should be limited to no more than 1,500. Instead, today it holds more than 3,500 officers and warrant officers.

The proposed reforms call for a new role for the General Staff, which will now be charged with overall defense planning and whose authority will be broadened to include other military formations outside of the Ministry of Defense. Clearly, the commander of the National Guard and his counterparts in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Emergency Situations and the Border Troops will not be pleased with this decision.

At the same time, Gen. Kuzmuk made it clear that the longstanding discussions about the need to clearly delineate functions between the minister and the chief of the General Staff must stop. According to the minister of defense, what is needed is the strict subordination of the chief of the General Staff to the minister of defense rather than any kind of delineation. As for civilian control of the military, which was nominal in any case under the tenure of Mr. Shmarov, it appears that this notion has been postponed for the indeterminate future.

Finally, the state program calls for the drafting of a concrete plan for the modernization of armaments and military technology, which is to be completed by mid-1997. This is an area that quite rightly

requires immediate attention. It is estimated that between 30 and 80 percent of the weapons arsenal and military technology, depending upon the category, are nearing their shelf life and will have to be phased out within the next five to 10 years.

At a recent press conference, Gen. Kuzmuk noted sarcastically that if steps are not taken soon to modernize Ukraine's military hardware, "after 2005 we may be left with national consciousness and Kalashnikovs." The reference to national consciousness was a swipe at what some critics feel was an overemphasis on the Ukrainization of the military soon after independence at the expense of other urgent needs.

It is difficult to make a balanced judgment about the prospects for the successful implementation of the new reform program. Two problems, however, are fairly obvious. First, it is not at all clear where the financing for the state program will come from. All previous reform initiatives floundered precisely because of the lack of adequate funding. The draft state budget for 1997 calls for a 1.43 billion hrv allocation for the military (about \$850 million U.S.), which is not much more than the 1.25 billion hrv budgeted in 1996. For the last few years, these amounts barely covered the minimal needs of the military – namely, salaries and provisions. Moreover, the Ministry of Defense rarely receives the full amounts that are in the budget.

The other major problem is that the state program requires the approval of the Verkhovna Rada and needs to be supplemented by additional military-related legislation in order for it to be implemented. In this connection, it should be pointed out that the Parliament finally adopted Ukraine's national security concept only in January. The military doctrine dates from the end of 1993 and is clearly outdated.

For those concerned about Ukraine's security, perhaps the only source of satisfaction is the recent report that the situation in neighboring Russia is probably even more dismal. According to the non-governmental Council for Foreign and Defense Policy in Moscow, composed of respected analysts, members of Parliament, business leaders and journalists, "the present state of the Russian army can be described only as a catastrophe. The army has long ceased to be a guarantee against external threats."

## The Ukrainian National Association

sponsors

### 2nd Annual Soyuzivka Photo Contest 1996-1997



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).

Due to the positive response our first contest received, we will hold our second contest during the 1997 season. We encourage all amateur photographers who are visiting Soyuzivka to participate, and send entries for the contest to the UNA's Home Office.

#### Rules and regulations:

1. Only non-professional photo buffs can participate.
2. Photos must be taken at Soyuzivka in 1995, 1996 and 1997.
3. Entries must have a people theme and provide the following information printed on the **reverse of photo**:
  - each photo must be dated;
  - people on the photo must be identified and model release signature must be included;
  - name, address and telephone number of the entrant must be typed on a label.
- There is no limit on the number of entries.
4. Selected photos will be published in Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly.
5. Photos will not be returned and will become the property of the UNA.
6. Prints only (no slides); black/white or color; at least 4 x 6 up to 11x14
7. All photo entries will be exhibited at Soyuzivka in 1997.
8. Entries will be judged solely on their merit; decisions of the judges will be final.
9. Entries must be postmarked no later than April 30, 1997, and mailed to:

UNA – Soyuzivka Photo Contest '96-97  
30 Montgomery St.  
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Att'n.: Oksana Trytjak  
Tel. (201) 451-2200

### DETROIT, MICH., DISTRICT COMMITTEE

of the

### UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

announces that its

### ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on

**SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 1997 at 2:00 PM**

at Ukrainian National Women's League,  
27040 Ryan Road, Warren, Michigan.

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:

**20, 82, 94, 146, 165, 174, 175, 183, 235, 292, 303, 309, 341.**

UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

#### MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:

Martha Lysko, UNA Secretary  
Anatole Doroshenko, UNA Auditor  
Alexander Serafyn, UNA Advisor  
Roman Kuropas, UNA Advisor

#### DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Dr. Alexander Serafyn, Chairman  
Roman Lazarchuk, Secretary  
Jaroslav Baziuk, Treasurer

### WOONSOCKET, R.I., DISTRICT COMMITTEE

of the

### UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

announces that its

### ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on

**SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1997 at 1:00 PM**

at St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church Parish Hall,  
74 Harris Avenue, Woonsocket, R.I.

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:

**177, 206, 241.**

UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

#### MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:

Alexander Chudolij, UNA Advisor

#### DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Leon Hardink, Chairman  
Teodor Klowan, Secretary (English)  
Yuriy Kalita, Secretary (Ukrainian)  
Janet Bardell, Treasurer  
Alexander Chudolij, District Committee Honorary Chairman

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**Ukraine's court...**

(Continued from page 3)

At the time we were deciding to lease this building and making other decisions, I was concerned about the legal aspect of the matter. When any person puts together a contract, they want to make sure it is done legally.

This building at one time was used for apartments. The people were transferred to other buildings when the government (under the Soviet regime) decided to transform it into administrative offices.

As they did so, independence occurred. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine ruled that all the property of the Central Committee of the Communist Party now belonged to it. It had to be placed under some ruling body. The property of the city was placed with the City Council of Kyiv. Raion property was placed with the raion administration. However, all the state property remained with the Verkhovna Rada.

This was done differently here than in other republics. For the most part, the property of the central committees of the republics was turned over to the individual governments, which decided who should get what. The Verkhovna Rada did not do this.

It took the property under its jurisdiction and did not parcel it out. When the administrative structure of the President's Office was formed, the issue of a residence came up, and the Verkhovna Rada gave them the building in which they are currently housed. That is all they were given.

The same thing with the Cabinet of Ministers. They only have the one building.

With the enactment of the Constitution, the Cabinet of Ministers was given authority over state property. They dealt out property to the Verkhovna Rada, to the presidential administration.

They left for themselves only one other building, the one here.

The law on the Constitutional Court gave the Cabinet of Ministers the responsibility to ensure housing for the court, a separate building. They gave up this building in which we are currently housed, the only other building under their jurisdiction – and only after a four-month battle with the Verkhovna Rada over landlord rights. The Verkhovna Rada did not give the building up willingly, but only after a decree was issued by the Cabinet of Ministers.

The Verkhovna Rada could have turned to the president to veto the decree, but it did not. Instead, it turned to the arbitration court for a ruling, but only after the Cabinet of Ministers already had given us the building.

But we signed the lease based on the declarations of the Cabinet of Ministers and the president.

**What is the budget of the Constitutional Court?**

By the law, until January 1, 1997, we were financed under the budget of the Verkhovna Rada. The Cabinet of Ministers reserve fund is obliged to reimburse the Verkhovna Rada for those outlays.

As for the 1997 budget, as you know it is not yet approved, but we have already received money from the Cabinet of Ministers for the purchase of furniture, computers, office technology, copy machines, pens and so on.

We received 400,000 hrv in January and will receive another outlay in February. These are advances on what will be appropriated when the budget is approved.

We are also sufficiently funded for the employees that we will hire. By the end of the first quarter we hope to have hired 80 individuals, to extend that to

(Continued on page 19)



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- **Please register in advance.** Payment should be received by March 4th. Send to Severin Palydowycz, P.O. Box 698, Hunter, N.Y. 12442.
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**TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 10 In Philadelphia, PA**

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## Ukraine Fund...

(Continued from page 3)

portfolio, will select firms for its investors that have shown strong performance in their industry. Just as important is that they are willing to allow Western auditing companies to review their books and are open in sharing information on the company and its investors. A company that already has Western investors will have an advantage, said Mr. Churm.

Caspian will send its professional fund managers to work with Kyivska Rus' in examining investment opportunities by meeting with corporate managers chosen by Kyivska Rus'.

There are several hurdles to jump before the fund is off and running, not the least of which is to find a custodian bank for the investments. "We are very close to an agreement," explained Mr. Churm. "We will not introduce the fund until a custodian

has been identified and signed up," which he hopes will occur by the end of March.

There also is the matter of investors. Prospectuses have been sent to clients, but Caspian does not expect a serious surge of investors for several months, which is why he gave the wide-ranging figure of \$25 million to \$50 million as the size of the fund. Yaroslav Aleksandrov of Kyivska Rus' said it is hoped the fund will reach \$150 million in investments, but that the Ukraine Fund had decided to use the more conservative figures so they could not be accused of failing to reach projections.

The final problem is simply one of doing business in Ukraine. A recent issue of *The Economist* anointed Ukraine as the worst market in Europe for investment. The London-based weekly magazine listed everything from insurmountable bureaucratic hurdles to the need to grease palms at every turn as hindrances that make Ukraine one of the most difficult European countries in which to establish a business.

## Ukraine's court...

(Continued from page 18)

110 by the end of the second quarter, 160 by the third quarter and then to hire another 200 workers at the end of the year.

We also have been given funds for the reconstruction of the premises at 14 Zhuliansky St. In the first quarter we received 1 million hrv. For the second quarter we have 3 million hrv.

We expect to complete construction and be in the new building by the end of the year, even as soon as November 1.

**So then, what about the rumors that the Constitutional Court could end up in Kharkiv?**

The Constitutional Court has had nothing to do with that. It is in no way involved or at fault.

It has made no decision and, therefore, cannot be judged. This is a matter that arose as a result of the haggling that took place over this building.

**So what or who is the source of the rumor?**

It is not a rumor. The issue has been put on the agenda of the Verkhovna Rada for February. I am not going to give a legal point of view on the matter, we will wait to see what happens, but all this began with the deputies of the Verkhovna Rada. The Kharkiv deputies initiated the motion. But it is understood that some people do not want the Constitutional Court to be in Kyiv.

**Who are they?**

Let's just say those who want problems for our country. But I am sure the Constitutional Court will remain in Kyiv.

## VENTURE CAPITAL IN UKRAINE

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The Western NIS Enterprise Fund, an early stage venture capital fund, seeks an investment officer to join the investment staff in the Fund's main office in Kyiv, Ukraine. Candidates should have three to five years experience in corporate finance, an MBA or equivalent, and an interest in working with local managers to develop growth strategies for their companies. Responsibilities would include identifying investment projects, structuring and negotiating transactions, monitoring investments, and recommending exit strategies. Work experience in emerging markets would be an advantage.

The Western NIS Enterprise Fund, capitalized initially with \$125 million, invests in small and medium size private enterprises in Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus. The Fund's strategy is to identify the best companies operating in what are expected to be the fastest growing sectors of these emerging economies. The Fund provides portfolio companies with capital and the necessary management tools to evolve from entrepreneurial ventures to professionally managed companies. The Fund currently has a portfolio of eighteen companies operating in a variety of industries.

### *Western NIS Enterprise Fund*

Interested parties should submit a cover letter and a resume to Harriet E. Schroeder, Chief Investment Officer, in New York at (fax) 212-556-9356 or e-mail: [scroeder@wnisec.org](mailto:scroeder@wnisec.org).



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UBS designs, installs and maintains accounting and management information systems for companies operating in the Western NIS region, which includes Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus. The Company was founded in July 1995 with the goal of converting paper based Soviet accounting systems into unified, web-oriented systems accounting and management information systems.

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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Thursday, March 6

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.:** The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute is holding a lecture by Yaroslav Bilinsky, University of Delaware, who will speak on the topic "Ukrainization in Today's Ukraine: Is It Compatible with a Civil Society?" The lecture will be held at the institute, 1583 Massachusetts Ave., at 4-6 p.m.

Friday, March 7

**NEW YORK:** The Literary and Art Club is presenting a program titled "Taras Shevchenko: His Life and Work." There will be a slide presentation on the poet as artist by Slava Gerulak; a reading by Nadia Savchuk from Halyna Lashchenko's "Shevchenko's First Journey to Ukraine"; and excerpts from "Nazar Stodolia" by Larysa Kukrytska and Volodymyr Lyssniak. Concurrently, an exhibit of graphic work based on Shevchenko's works done by Kyiv artists and V. Lytvyn will be on display in the Mayana Gallery. The club and gallery are located at 136 Second Ave. The program begins at 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 8

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSH), the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S (UVAN) and Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will hold their 17th Annual Shevchenko Conference. The following speakers will present papers: Dr. Tetiana Bednarzowa, Charles University, Prague, "Shevchenko on the Psychology of Creativity"; Prof. Albert Kipa, Muhlenberg College, "On the History of Pavlo Zaitsev's 'Life of Taras Shevchenko'"; and Prof. Ivan Fizer, Rutgers University, "Shevchenko's Aesthetics," with opening remarks by Dr. Marko Antonovych, UVAN president, and closing remarks by Prof. Leonid Rudnytsky, NTSH president. The conference will be held at the Shevchenko Scientific Society, 63 Fourth Ave., at 4 p.m.

**JENKINTOWN, Pa.:** A program titled "Remembrance of Heroic Women," with keynote speaker Prof. Marta Bohachevsky Chomiak, will be held in the gallery of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road, at 3:30 p.m. Taking part in the program are Roman Tsymbal, tenor, Lviv Opera, with Maria Tsymbal, accompaniment, and Vira Klish, poetry recitation. The program is jointly sponsored by the Philadelphia Regional Council of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, the United Ukrainian Orthodox Sisterhoods of the

U.S.A., The Women's Association for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine and the Ukrainian Gold Cross. The program will be opened by Maria Rakowsky, UNWLA Regional Council.

Friday, March 14

**BUNNELL, Fla.:** The Leontovych String quartet — Yuri Mazurkevich, first violin; Yuri Kharenko, second violin; Borys Deviatov, viola; Volodymyr Panteleyev, cello — will appear in concert in Flagler Auditorium in a concert of works by Shostakovich, Borodin and Brahms. For performance time call (904) 437-7547.

Saturday, March 15

**LIVONIA, Mich.:** The Livonia Symphony Orchestra Society invites the public to a spring concert featuring the Livonia Symphony Orchestra, Volodymyr Schesiuk, conducting, and Karl Shymanovitz, guest pianist, in a program of works by Wagner, Khatchaturian, Von Suppe and Dvorak. The concert will be held at Churchill High School, Ann Arbor and Joy roads, at 7:30 p.m. Admission: \$10. Following the concert there will be a reception at Di Palma's Ristorante, Plymouth Road, tickets: \$10.

Saturday, March 22

**NEW BRITAIN, Conn.:** St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 54 Winter St., will hold a Ukrainian Easter festival, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Pysanka workshops will be held at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; fee: \$15, reservation required. There will be pysanky, Easter egg kits, Easter breads and baked goods as well as eat-in and take-out food. Snow date: March 29. For workshop reservations call (860) 828-5087.

Sunday, March 23

**LOS ANGELES:** The Ukrainian Art Center, 4315 Melrose Ave., is holding a pysanka festival and Easter open house, at 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Special guest is Orysia Tracz, a specialist on Ukrainian folklore, who will give presentations at noon and 1:30 p.m. Featured will be an exhibit of traditional Ukrainian Easter eggs as well as Ukrainian Easter baskets prepared by local churches, schools and youth organizations. Concurrently, the exhibit "Tapestry from Ukraine," featuring work by Nina Lapchuk of Kyiv, will be on display. Pysanka workshops will be held at the center on March 2, 8 16 and 22, at 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Fee: \$25 (includes materials). For additional information call (213) 668-0172 or (714) 544-8665.

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

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will hold its annual meeting  
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All members please be present.

Wlademer Wladyka, Secretary

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