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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

Parliament passes 1997 budget after seven months of wrangling

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The Verkhovna Rada approved a 1997 budget on June 27, seven months after it was presented to the legislature for review.

The budget bill passed by a vote of 229 to 71, ending a process that had reached a point where simply to have a budget had become the criteria for success.

President Leonid Kuchma, speaking in New York two days before the budget was authorized, told Interfax-Ukraine, "It's as if the lawmakers are attending to the budget according to the saying 'anything for a quiet life.'" He added that he did not need "a budget for the sake of a budget."

The national deputies endorsed a revenue package that gives the government 22.4 billion hrv and approved budget expenditures of 28.1 billion hrv, which will produce a 5.7 percent deficit of 5.7 billion hrv against the gross domestic product, but 20.3 percent against government expenditures.

The budget identifies several sources for financing the deficit: domestic borrowing will cover 3.34 billion hrv, while foreign credits have been lined up to the tune of 2.4 billion hrv.

Many believe that what gave impetus to the final drive to approve the budget was a threat that hung over the government and the legislature that if the budget was not approved before July 1, when the International Monetary Fund began a review of Ukraine's economic progress in Kyiv, that a promise of nearly \$3 billion in economic reform loans would be

withdrawn. The IMF had stated that one of the central conditions for the granting of the loan was the passage of a budget with a deficit of under 6 percent. They also demanded that Ukraine reform its tax system, improve the efficiency of the tax collection process and keep inflation below 25 percent in 1997. Of the 41 requirements, Ukraine has thus far fulfilled 27, including a lowered inflation rate and, now, a budget.

It is not clear that the IMF will accept the amputated tax package. Originally seven tax reform bills were submitted by the government for Verkhovna Rada approval. After much political haggling only two, a value added tax of 20 percent and a corporate tax law, which removed tax incentives to foreign investors (not what the IMF wanted), was approved.

One Verkhovna Rada deputy who was involved in the failed attempt to push through the full tax package said that in the end, the budget, in whatever form or shape, was passed only for Ukraine to have something to show the IMF. Commenting a day before the budget went through its third and final reading, Yuriy Tykhanurov of the Social-Market Choice faction said, "It will be merely a piece of paper. It is being done for the IMF." After the budget was passed, he was even more blatant in his criticism. "It is an impossible budget. It is a bad budget."

Other national deputies were of a like mind. Oleksander Lavrynovych of the Rukh faction said, "What can I say about a

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Lazarenko resigns as prime minister



Khristina Lew

Pavlo Lazarenko (right) meets with IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus in Washington shortly after being confirmed as Ukraine's prime minister in July 1996.

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine's ailing prime minister, physically suffering from a circulatory ailment and politically from accusations of corruption and moral bankruptcy, resigned on July 1.

President Leonid Kuchma accepted the resignation of Ukraine's head of government the following morning. At a press conference with visiting Czech President Vaclav Havel on July 2, the

president would only remark that, "The resignation is accepted, and the decree will be signed today."

Mr. Lazarenko conferred with his closest aides on July 1, according to Interfax-Ukraine, before drawing up a letter to President Kuchma in which he requested leave from government because of the need to undergo two-and-a-half to three months of medical treatment, which would leave him unable to continue his duties.

Mr. Lazarenko has been diagnosed with thrombophlebitis, at times a life-threatening ailment, and inflamed varicose veins. He is undergoing treatment at Republican Clinical Hospital in Kyiv. Doctors have not yet ruled out the possibility that surgery may be necessary.

For two months a movement to oust the controversial prime minister had been building, led by the National Democratic Party but also including the Reform and Constitutional factions in Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada.

Appointed for his perceived organizational abilities and his influence in monied circles in both Ukraine and Russia, which President Kuchma hoped could be used to complete economic reforms and get the economy moving, Mr. Lazarenko had been at odds with President Kuchma almost since day one. But lately he had been severely criticized by the president for not moving forcefully in the battle with corruption, and for failing to put together a passable and workable budget.

Many have also questioned his personal financial dealings and his involvement in the often shady world of gas and oil trading. He has been the focus of sev-

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Kuchma presents reform plan at Constitution Day celebrations

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma presented an extensive plan for reforming government and restarting economic reforms on June 27 in a major policy address at a celebration that marked the first anniversary of Ukraine's Constitution.

In a speech that was filled with candid language and critical assessments, the president also proposed that the legislature vote to postpone by one year parliamentary elections scheduled for 1998.

Earlier on June 27, the 1997 budget was passed, seven months after it was first introduced in the Verkhovna Rada. Mr. Kuchma has stated several times recently that he is not satisfied with the work of either the Verkhovna Rada or the Cabinet of Ministers. In his policy address at the National Opera House, he continued the criticism before government officials and foreign dignitaries who had gathered to

mark the first anniversary of the adoption of Ukraine's Constitution on June 28, 1996.

He chose to emphasize Ukraine's many shortcomings rather than its achievements.

The president accused the Cabinet of Ministers of "accelerating the shadowing of the economy" and the Parliament for "excessive politicizing." He explained that the Cabinet of Ministers had done little to promote a more favorable investment climate in Ukraine and to spur the emergence of legitimate businesses willing to pay taxes.

The Verkhovna Rada, he said, was more bent on settling political scores than on passing legislation to bring Ukraine out of its economic doldrums. "Excessive politicization of the Parliament has led in the past and continues to lead to serious faults in the legislative process, which results in economic loss [for Ukraine], and has resulted in an atmosphere of constant political pay-

backs between the branches of power."

He also suggested that in cases involving corruption and abuse of office the Verkhovna Rada should cancel the immunity from prosecution that national deputies enjoy. "It would be a display of patriotism and a striving for purity of the political powers," remarked President Kuchma. He said that one out of every six people charged with corruption is a member of Parliament.

Addressing the drawn out budget process of 1997, the president offered a plan to avoid a repeat in 1998. He suggested that the Verkhovna Rada and the Cabinet of Ministers sign a "memorandum of joint actions" to set a timeline for budget adoption. He asked the government to commit to submitting a draft budget within constitutional terms (September 15 of the fiscal year) and for the Verkhovna Rada to approve it within 60 days.

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ANALYSIS

Why Ukraine should be asked to join NATO in Madrid

by Taras Kuzio

At the Madrid summit of NATO countries, the greatest changes in over half a century will be made to the European security landscape. Three, maybe even five countries, will be asked to join NATO. All of these potential candidates for NATO have earned a place within NATO's ranks for their persistence in pursuing domestic reform and resolving outstanding border and ethnic conflicts. However is not NATO ignoring Ukraine as a candidate for membership — the West's greatest strategic and geopolitical asset that arose in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet empire?

Former U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry visited Ukraine, an active member of NATO's Partnership for Peace and the third largest recipient of U.S. aid, on more occasions than he visited the U.K., France and Germany combined. Increasingly since 1994, Ukraine is being seen by Western governments as central to European security and stability for four inter-related reasons.

First, Ukraine, as Volodymyr Horbulin, secretary of its National Security and Defense Council pointed out, is the only country that is simultaneously part of Central, Eastern and Southern Europe. It is a member of both the Central European Initiative and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Agreement. Meanwhile, Ukraine is not legally a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States never having signed its charter, and has always opposed the creation of CIS supra-structures. By refusing to transform the CIS into a new Russian-dominated union and rejecting a military-political alliance with Russia, Ukraine is both preventing the renewal of Cold War between two expanding blocs and the revival of a Russian great power, which would pose a challenge to the new post-Cold War balance of power.

Secondly, unlike some other conditions contenders for NATO membership, Ukraine has resolved all of its border disputes and its frontiers are now all recognized in bilateral inter-state treaties with its neighbors. In addition, Ukraine peacefully resolved domestic difficulties with the Crimean peninsula.

Ukraine has consistently and strongly opposed Russia's demand for the division of CIS borders into "transparent internal" and "jointly guarded" external borders. This persistence on the part of Ukraine eventually led to the first legal codification of CIS borders between Ukraine/Belarus and Ukraine/Russia. As 90 percent of the contraband, narcotics, and illegal weapons are confiscated by Ukraine on the border with Russia, the border demarcation will help stem the flow of this contraband into Central and Western Europe.

Thirdly, as Zbigniew Brzezinski stated in a Foreign Affairs article three years ago, "without Ukraine, Russia ceases to be an empire, but with Ukraine subordinated, Russia automatically becomes an empire." Ukraine is the main external democratizing influence upon Russia. Mr. Horbulin believes the greater the degree of Ukraine's co-operation with

European and Trans-Atlantic structures, the greater the degree of Russia's "Europeanization."

In 1992 and 1995-1996 Ukraine rejected Russian offers to maintain joint CIS armed forces or create a CIS military bloc, which, if supported by Kyiv, would have undoubtedly de-railed NATO enlargement. Ukraine's persistence in demanding internationally recognized borders will play a profound role in encouraging nation-state building within the borders of the Russian Federation. Ukraine's nation-state building will encourage Russia to no longer re-define itself as an empire.

Fourthly, Ukraine is a force for stability in an unstable continent. Its positive record on national minority and human rights have been recognized both by the OSCE and the Council of Europe. Kyiv cleverly used NATO enlargement to encourage Romania and Russia to sign inter-state treaties with Ukraine, thereby resolving two of Europe's potentially dangerous conflicts. Ukrainian peacekeepers have been active in the former Yugoslavia, first under U.N., and since then, under NATO leadership. Kyiv helped broker a resolution to the Transdnister conflict in Moldova when it became one of the guarantors of the non-resumption of hostilities after Russian forces are withdrawn. Ukraine's objectivity and impartiality in its peacekeeping have been recognized by Georgia and Azerbaijan, which would like to invite Ukrainian forces, under U.N. or OSCE auspices to Abkhazia and Nagorno-Karabakh to replace Russian or Russian proxy forces.

Ukraine's membership in NATO, advocated by former U.K. Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, would therefore represent the anchoring of a key strategic ally within the Western camp and the consolidation of an arc of stability and security stretching from Italy to Ukraine. At the same time, it would serve to further reinforce Russia's democratic transformation into a modern nation-state by preventing the emergence of a new Eurasian empire.

There are no legal obstacles to Ukrainian membership in NATO, which Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadii Udovenko used to press for the consideration of Ukraine's membership at a meeting in Brussels in March. Ukraine's Constitution (June 1996) and National Security Doctrine (January 1997) both dropped Ukraine's earlier adherence to neutrality and non-bloc status. In addition, public opinion polls consistently give high support for membership similar to those levels found in the Czech Republic and Hungary; amid Ukrainian elites this is as high as 89 percent.

Western member governments of NATO should therefore commit themselves to three policies at Madrid. First, invite Ukraine to join NATO in the same capacity as Denmark or Norway, as a country that would not station nuclear weapons on its territory, and as France, which opted only for political-economic membership. This would allow for Ukraine's armed forces to be reformed and brought under civilian control prior to joining NATO's military structures.

Secondly, the U.S. and other Western governments should take a greater interest in Ukraine's energy security by encouraging Western private and institutional

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NEWSBRIEFS

World Bank presses Ukraine on IMF deal

KYIV — On his first working day, newly appointed World Bank Director for Belarus and Ukraine Paul Sigelbaum warned President Leonid Kuchma on July 1 that the World Bank would not be able to cooperate with Ukraine in implementing structural reform of several sectors of the economy if the country failed to sign an agreement with the International Monetary Fund. According to presidential advisor Valerii Lytvvitskiy, Mr. Kuchma replied that Ukraine had not yet violated any of its agreements with that institution and had "even followed the conditions on the size of the budget deficit." Noting that an IMF delegation would arrive in Ukraine shortly, Mr. Kuchma expressed optimism about the prospects for continuing collaboration with the IMF. Mr. Lytvvitskiy said the World Bank may disburse some \$1 billion for reform of the energy and finance sectors, agriculture and the government apparatus. Describing administrative reform as "the most urgent problem," Mr. Kuchma said a special commission on this issue would be set up shortly under former President Leonid Kravchuk. (Eastern Economist)

Call for "Tavrida Autonomous Republic"

SYMPEROPOL — The Russian National Congress of Crimea ended on June 29 with 77 representatives of pro-Moscow organizations condemning Russian President Boris Yeltsin for "betraying the interests of Russians in Crimea and Russian interests in the Black Sea region."

The Ukrainian-Russian Friendship and Cooperation Treaty, which Mr. Yeltsin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma signed in May, was declared a major concession to "Western, pro-NATO forces." Participants in the congress also approved a resolution declaring that ethnic Russians have become a minority in Ukraine and that steps should be taken to prevent assimilation. It was proposed that legislation be advanced to protect ethnic Russians in Crimea and that the peninsula be transformed into the Russian Autonomous Republic of Tavrida. Tavrida was a 19th century imperial Russian name for Crimea. Pro-Moscow deputies in the Crimean Parliament were called on to propose the Tavrida question for a Crimea-wide referendum. The congress also resolved to set up an All-Ukrainian Slavic Party of Rus Reunification, with the aim of bolstering links between pro-Moscow groups in all of the Commonwealth of Independent States. (Eastern Economist)

German minister urges Ukraine to reform

FRANKFURT — German Economy Minister Guenter Rexrodt on July 1 urged Ukraine to push ahead with its economic reforms if it hopes to attract badly needed foreign investment. "Every week, every month is becoming more urgent, and a system of reforms is important," Mr. Rexrodt told a conference on investment in Ukraine taking place here. "There are legal inconsistencies, red tape and a disproportionate demand for administrative

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Donetsk TV host threatened over Russian language programming

NEW YORK — In a June 24 letter to Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists raised its concern about the alleged abduction of Taras Moskaliuk, host of the "Ranok Vechera" program, and threats of violence against the show's producer, the Ukrainian National Television and Radio Broadcasting Co.

The CPJ cites reports by Vikna, a Kyiv-based television news program, and Russia's National News Service, that Mr. Moskaliuk was abducted in front of his apartment building at 1:30 a.m. on June 6 by two unidentified youths. After being forced into a car with the two men, one of whom was allegedly armed, he was taken at gunpoint to an empty lot.

At that point the assailants allegedly threatened Mr. Moskaliuk with the weapon, demanding that his program immediately

stop broadcasting in the Russian language and begin using Ukrainian. The kidnappers released Mr. Moskaliuk at 7 a.m., warning that if Ukrainian-language broadcasts did not commence, they would blow up the Donetsk broadcasting center on Vulytsia Artema at 2 p.m.

As a result, Ukrainian TV evacuated the building and suspended the news program. The militia did not find any explosives after a search of the premises. Mr. Moskaliuk had received threatening phone calls in March, which the kidnappers allegedly mentioned during his hours in captivity.

While noting that an official investigation into the incident had been launched by law enforcement agencies and the Security Service of Ukraine, the CPJ letter called on Mr. Kuchma to ensure a thorough review of the case and secure working conditions for all journalists in Ukraine.

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G-7 earmarks \$300 M for Chornobyl at Summit of the Eight in Denver

by Odarka Figlus

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

DENVER — The heads of state of the Group of Seven, Russia and observers from the European Union met here for the Summit of the Eight on June 20-22.

On June 22 the leaders of the G-7, the world's leading industrial countries, and representatives of the European Union met without Russia's participation to discuss global economic and financial challenges.

Ukraine figured prominently in these talks. In a strongly worded statement, the G-7 encouraged Ukraine to tackle the challenges of re-energizing economic reform and creating a more welcoming environment for foreign investors.

The statement emphasized that Ukraine's progress in implementing reforms is crucial to gaining access to promised financial assistance, and warned that without improvement in the legal standing and treatment of investors, the private business sector will not develop, and reform will fail.

On the topic of Chornobyl, the G-7 reaffirmed their commitment to assist Ukraine in raising funds for energy projects to help meet its needs after the closing of the nuclear energy station.

Recognizing that securing the environmental safety of the sarcophagus covering the destroyed reactor is beyond the means of Ukraine alone, the G-7 has agreed to contribute an additional \$300 million over the lifetime of the project, which is expected to take eight to 10 years. These funds are in addition to the commitments made in the 1995 Memorandum of Understanding with Ukraine on Chornobyl Closure. Ukraine will be expected to contribute \$100 million-150 million. A special conference is planned for the fall to raise additional funds.

The summit was augmented by a series of bilateral talks. In their meeting, President Bill Clinton and Russian

President Boris Yeltsin discussed issues including Mr. Yeltsin's health, agreements with Ukraine regarding the Black Sea Fleet, arms control, economic reforms, religious freedom and Russia's accession to the Paris Club.

The Paris Club restructures the debt of developing countries to major creditor states and includes almost all of the world's major industrialized countries. Russia will adjust its debt claims of \$120 billion on developing countries by 30 percent to 80 percent prior to joining the Paris Club. This reflects the fact that much of the debt was Cold War military debt. This arrangement also takes the difficulties of valuing Soviet-era claims into account.

Once Russia joins the Paris Club and becomes part of the international effort to reduce debt further, as much as 90 percent to 95 percent of debt will be written off for some of the poorest countries.

Accession to the Paris Club provided a big boost for President Yeltsin's prestige, as it increases Russia's acceptance in the international financial community. A U.S. spokesman heralded the agreement as the end of the financial Cold War.

At the summit much of the attention was focused on Russia and making President Yeltsin look and feel good, perhaps to pacify Russia over the expansion of NATO.

Russia had attended previous summits as an observer, but the Denver summit marks the first time that Russia participated in most of the discussions.

Mr. Yeltsin was accorded the honor of giving the opening speech of the conference. However as yet, Russia does not have the financial standing to be included in the G-7 discussions of economic and financial issues.

The annual summit gives world leaders the opportunity to become acquainted and to discuss a broad range of topics in a private setting. The G-7 comprises Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

Udoenko criticizes G-7 for pace of aid delivery

by Irene Jarosewich

UNITED NATIONS — The minister of foreign affairs of Ukraine, Hennadii Udoenko, recently criticized the Group of Seven (G-7) countries for the slow pace with which the promised financial assistance to aid Ukraine in the decommissioning of the Chornobyl nuclear power station is being delivered.

"I would like to take this opportunity to say," Mr. Udoenko told a press briefing at the United Nations on June 26, "that the G-7 does not fulfill its obligation in connection with the Chornobyl nuclear power station ... I mean both financial and technical assistance."

Mr. Udoenko echoed the words of Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma, who earlier in the week, in his address at the special session of the United Nations dedicated to issues of the environment, stated that Ukraine expects that the G-7 countries will live up to their commitments to help with the consequences of the Chornobyl disaster.

Over the last several years, the G-7 countries have promised more than \$3 billion in loans and credits to decommission the power plant, site of the world's worst nuclear disaster in 1986, clean up the contamination around the destroyed reactor, and complete additional power stations. The G-7 countries, as well as the European Union, insisted that Ukraine close Chornobyl to reduce the potential environmental threat, and recognized that the resolution of Chornobyl-related problems is an international responsibility. The most recent promise of \$300 million came at the G-7 summit in Denver on June 20-22.

However, despite repeated promises, Ukraine has seen very little of the aid. Several weeks ago, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), which finances many G-7 projects, refused to release funds to Ukraine for the completion of two nuclear power stations that would compensate for the loss of energy resulting from the shut down of Chornobyl. According to the EBRD, the cost estimate to bring the plants on line were too high,

even though these estimates were developed with technical assistance from Western experts.

"As far as the Chornobyl nuclear power station, we are going to fulfill our political commitments [to close the station] by the year 2000 ... [however] we cannot cope with the close up of Chornobyl without financial help, given our financial situation. We deal, and continue to deal, with these problems alone ... we pay 10 percent to 12 percent of our annual budget to Chornobyl ... with each year, the situation is not improving, it is deteriorating," said the foreign affairs minister.

According to Mr. Udoenko, minimizing the hazardous environmental situation is the main problem at Chornobyl. This includes the rebuilding and repair of the sarcophagus, and the removal of almost 200 tons of nuclear fuel still inside the damaged reactor.

"Chornobyl has become an attractive area of study," he continued. "Recently [Ukraine's] president established an international research center at which international experts will study the consequences of a situation like Chornobyl and come to their own conclusions."

In addition to commenting on the issues related to Chornobyl, Mr. Udoenko announced that he has been unanimously nominated by the Eastern Europe Group of the United Nations to be the next president of the U.N. General Assembly. The 15 republics of the former Soviet Union, five new countries that once made up the former Yugoslavia, as well as the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland and Albania comprise the Eastern Europe Group that nominated Mr. Udoenko for the one year term.

On an annually rotating basis, one of the several country groups in the United Nations nominates a sole candidate to be assembly president. The candidate is then routinely elected by the full assembly at its first meeting of the new session, the third Tuesday in September. This year, the 52nd session, will begin September 16.

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Canada reacts to initial reports of Lazarenko's illness, removal

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA — Pavlo Lazarenko probably hadn't even unpacked his bags from his recent trip to Canada when reports from Ukraine brought the news that on June 19 Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma had relieved the country's prime minister of his duties because of Mr. Lazarenko's illness.

Though officials in Mr. Lazarenko's office first expressed surprise at hearing about their boss' "sick leave," Mr. Lazarenko is being treated to relieve thrombophlebitis, a circulatory problem usually produced from varicose veins.

In Canada, the federal government responded to the initial reports of Mr. Lazarenko's dismissal as if he had been fired.

Six days before he left his prime minister's job, Mr. Lazarenko was chatting with Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien in Ottawa, and sidestepping media questions about his alleged involvement in a corruption scandal and his own future.

Ukraine's now-former prime minister denied Western reports that he allegedly pocketed about \$260 million (about \$185 million U.S.) from his involvement with an energy company that bought Russian gas at low state-controlled prices and sold it for higher prices in his country.

Though President Kuchma's decree appointing First Vice Prime Minister Vasyl Durdynets as acting prime minister didn't cite corruption as the reason, media speculation about Mr. Lazarenko's doomed future seemed to have been proven right.

In Ottawa, Foreign Affairs officials admitted that

they were caught by surprise by the speed of Mr. Lazarenko's departure, just days after being feted at a state dinner in the nation's capital. But there were no hard feelings about hauling out the finest china and blanketing downtown Ottawa with Ukrainian flags during Mr. Lazarenko's first visit to Canada.

"The decision to remove Mr. Lazarenko is the constitutional prerogative of President Kuchma as Ukraine's head of state," said Foreign Affairs spokesperson Rodney Moore. "Canada is not in a position to comment on political matters in another country."

Mr. Moore said Mr. Lazarenko's five-day Canadian tour, which included stops in Winnipeg and Calgary, was planned last August, "long before there was media speculation about his future."

In Ottawa's view, Mr. Lazarenko's visit was intended to increase bilateral commercial links between Canada and Ukraine. The prime minister led a delegation of over 100 Ukrainian businesspeople who participated in the private-sector Canadian-Ukrainian Business Initiative conference and the second meeting of the Ukraine-Canada business and trade alliance, the Intergovernmental Economic Commission.

"As prime minister, Mr. Lazarenko demonstrated a strong commitment to building a strong relationship with Canada and reflecting the over-all economic policy of President Kuchma," said Mr. Moore.

Notwithstanding the rumors of Mr. Lazarenko's alleged improprieties, Mr. Moore said Canada accorded him the same treatment befitting any prime minister.

"He was representing his country and came to

Canada not as an individual," said Mr. Moore. "There are still strong business, social, cultural and blood links between our two countries."

Nevertheless, Canadian officials, including Prime Minister Chrétien, did raise the sensitive issue of Ukrainian corruption with Mr. Lazarenko.

"Canada has consistently raised concerns not only about corruption, but about the red tape that leads to an unstable, unpredictable business environment," said Mr. Moore. "An unstable, unpredictable business environment might be rendered [even] less predictable if the prime minister always changes and there is uncertainty about the government."

Mr. Lazarenko was the fifth Ukrainian prime minister since Ukraine declared independence in 1991. Although Mr. Durdynets has been appointed acting prime minister, he is expected to be replaced by someone else. Anatolii Kinakh, president of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, an organization that strongly supported Mr. Kuchma during his 1994 presidential bid, is considered the leading contender for Mr. Lazarenko's old job.

And, if Canadian Foreign Affairs officials might not have even had a chance to complete their formal report of Mr. Lazarenko's visit to Canada, Ottawa's approach to Ukraine has not changed with him gone, said Mr. Moore.

"It's business as usual," he said. "We're confident that the people and the government in Ukraine would agree that our relationship shouldn't be affected in any way by this development. We look forward to working equally as closely with Mr. Lazarenko's acting replacement and with all leaders in Ukraine."

Rep. Fox offers Ukraine amendment to State Dept. bill

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON — Rep. Jon Fox (R-Pa.), a member of the International Relations Committee of the House of Representatives, offered an amendment to the committee's State Department Authorization Bill. The bill authorizes programs such as diplomatic missions, salaries, etc., for the State Department and provides a recommendation for the House Appropriations Committee for consideration in their levels of funding.

In his amendment, Rep. Fox commends Ukraine for: dismantling its nuclear weapons stockpile following the break-up of the former Soviet Union; not participating in the construction of nuclear reactors in Iran; engaging in a constructive dialogue with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; and dating Russian efforts in the Commonwealth of Independent States to re-integrate the non-Russian states into a new political entity.

The amendment does, however, indicate the mood of Congress regarding problems with American investors who have been subjected to extortion or other criminal activity. A request to provide support from U.S. government agencies in the implementation of anti-corruption measures and initiatives was included in the amendment.

In the amendment, Rep. Fox calls upon the president to "ensure that Ukraine receives assistance for Fiscal Years 1998 and 1999 for political and economic reforms at a level equal to that allocated to Ukraine for Fiscal Year 1997." When brought to the House floor for a vote, it initially passed by a voice vote, yet was reintroduced later for an actual recorded vote, as requested by Rep. Jose Serrano (D-N.Y.).

The vote was overwhelmingly positive for Ukraine as 415 members of the House of Representatives voted in favor of the amendment, while 12 were opposed and eight abstained from voting. Ironically, Rep. Sonny Callahan (R-Ala.), chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, who has raised the contentious issue of banning assistance to Ukraine, voted favorably for the amendment.

Other members of Congress also rose in support of the Fox Amendment by expressing their remarks on the floor of the House. Reps. Sander Levin (D-Mich.) and Chris Smith (R-N.J.) both acknowl-

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Senate and House subcommittees deliberate aid to Ukraine

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON — The Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee marked up its bill on June 18 for foreign affairs spending in Fiscal Year 1998. Prior to the markup, Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, held a press conference during which he highlighted many of the issues in the foreign assistance legislation. The total bill for FY 1998 amounts to \$13.2 billion, a slight decrease from President Bill Clinton's request of \$13.3 billion.

The total new independent states (NIS) account funding is \$800 million, a reduction from the president's request of \$900 million. Under Sen. McConnell's bill, three countries are to receive earmarks for FY 1998: Armenia — \$95 million; Georgia — \$100 million; and Ukraine — \$225 million. According to Sen. McConnell, the reason for the large increase in the Georgian account is the country's success in economic and political reform.

The Ukrainian earmark contains language that underscores Congress' watchful eye on economic reform and the elimination of corruption in Ukraine. During the press conference, Sen. McConnell stated that 50 percent of the earmark is not to be released until the secretary of state certifies that economic reform has progressed in Ukraine, privatization has moved forward (particularly agricultural privatization), and the problem of corruption has been dealt with appropriately. Portions of the Ukrainian earmark, however, are "exempt" from the funds under hold and include programs for nuclear safety, law enforcement and democracy-building initiatives.

During the markup, members of the subcommittee fully endorsed Sen. McConnell's strategic position vis-a-vis the NIS, in particular Ukraine. Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) commented on the chairman's bill by stating: "It is important to acknowledge their [Ukraine's] reform progress."

The entire Appropriations Committee convened on June 24 to review the markup held one week earlier. Members of the Appropriations Committee fully supported the bill as proposed by Sen. McConnell, which will be voted on by the senators in the early weeks of July.

Following the Senate subcommittee's markup of the foreign aid bill, the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee began their deliberations on June 25. In a meeting that lasted nearly three hours, the members of the House subcommittee adopted similar language as proposed in the Senate foreign assistance bill.

However, one overwhelming difference remains — the total spending for NIS countries. While the Senate version suggests an \$800 million balance for the NIS account, the House of Representatives adopted a dramatically lower figure — \$625 million (the same level as FY 1997).

Unlike the Senate, the House of Representatives does not include earmarks for any countries in the foreign aid bill,

except for Israel and Egypt, which is in accordance with the Camp David Accords. In the House version of the markup, funding for Ukraine is left to the discretion of the president and the administration, whose certification is necessary to release portions of the funds designated for that country. As in the Senate, the House of Representatives will vote on the proposed bill during the first weeks of July.

Coincidentally, on June 24, an op-ed appeared in the Mobile Press Register, the hometown newspaper of Rep. Sonny Callahan (R-Ala.), chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee. The op-ed, titled "U.S. aid needed to assist Ukraine business," was written by Askold S. Lozynskyj, president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America Inc. (UCCA).

Focusing on the importance of continuing U.S. foreign assistance to Ukraine, the

op-ed provided readers with an insight regarding the crucial nature of U.S.-Ukraine bilateral relations. Issues such as corruption in Ukraine and the undermining of pro-reform forces in Ukraine by stripping U.S. foreign assistance were raised.

During public witness testimony on hearings for foreign assistance to the NIS, Rep. Callahan had challenged Mr. Lozynskyj to provide his constituents with information regarding the need to fund programs in Ukraine. In the op-ed, Mr. Lozynskyj assessed the current situation in Congress by stating: "While Ukraine must tackle its own corruption problem, the effectiveness of U.S. aid is within our [American] control. The decision is up to Congress." Unlike other articles that have appeared in major U.S. newspapers prior to relevant congressional action on Ukrainian affairs, this article highlighted the positive aspects of the pro-reform, democratic movement in Ukraine.

OBITUARY

Lev Kopelev, writer, dissident, witness to famine of 1932-1933

by Andriy Kudla Wynnyckyj

Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO — Lev Zalmanovych Kopelev, writer, Soviet loyalist turned dissident and a celebrated émigré scholar, died of heart disease in St. Elizabeth Hospital in Köln, Germany, on June 18. He was 85.

A Communist Party agitator during the forced collectivization drive in Ukraine, he later bore witness to the regime's depredations in the countryside in his memoirs, "The Education of a True Believer" (published 1978), and the 1984 documentary "Harvest of Despair."

Born in Kyiv on April 9, 1912, to middle-class Jewish parents, Mr. Kopelev's childhood was marked by all of the currents passing through the city, from the initial chaos of the civil war, to the imposition of Bolshevik authority, followed by burgeoning Ukrainization.

After his family moved to Kharkiv in 1926, Mr. Kopelev frequented the "Blakytyn House," as the Writers' Union building was known, and met members of the Fusilladed Renaissance (Rozstrilane Vidrodzhennia) such as Volodymyr Sosiura, Mykhailo Semenko, Geo Shkurupiy and Mykola Khvyliovyi. Writing both in Ukrainian and Russian, Mr. Kopelev helped organize a short-lived young writers' group named Yun, and began working at the Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper.

Active in the Communist Party (Bolshevik) of Ukraine, he was first arrested in March 1929 for "consorting with Bukharinist and Trotskyist oppositionists," and spent 10 days in prison. After a brief stint teaching remedial education in a village on the outskirts of Kharkiv, he moved back into the city in the summer of 1930 as editor of radio

news broadcasts (principal agitator) at the Komintern Locomotive Factory.

He attended the notorious Spilka Vyzvolennia Ukrainy (SVU) trials of 1930 and witnessed the humiliation of the great philologist Serhii Yefremov.

In December 1932, as a correspondent of the Locomotive Worker newspaper, Mr. Kopelev was sent to the Myrhorod district near Poltava, and in the ensuing months witnessed the NKVD's grain requisitioning actions and the murder and deportation of "kulaks."

Of this period Mr. Kopelev wrote in his memoirs:

"Several years were required ... before I could finally begin to understand what an ugly little pygmy I had imagined to be a handsome giant [Joseph Stalin], how irremediably disastrous our — my — dialectical illusions and blind faith had been.

"Today I am convinced that no victories or attainments, neither the rout of Hitler's forces nor the flights of cosmologists, can exonerate us, can even be considered 'mitigating circumstances.'

"And even less forgivable are all the intellectual and emotional factors which led to my guilt, my participation in those fateful grain collections, be they explained or predetermined by socio-historical objectivity or purely personal subjectivity."

In the fall of 1933, Mr. Kopelev enrolled at Kharkiv University. In 1936 he went to the Moscow Institute of Foreign Languages, specializing in German, graduating in 1938 as a candidate in philology.

In 1941 he volunteered for the Red Army as a propaganda officer, rose to the rank of major, and often acted as a translator after the capture of high-ranking Nazi generals from 1943 onward. In

(Continued on page 15)



Awaiting their checkups at the Nezabudka Clinic for families of Chernobyl evacuees in the Luhansk region.

Children At Risk...

To improve the health of women and children in Ukraine, CCRF has launched the Women's and Children's Health Initiative in Dnipropetrovsk, Vinnytsia, Luhansk and Chernihiv. The project's goal is to increase infant survival and to enhance prenatal care for women. For more information or to make a donation that can help save a life in Ukraine, contact us.

Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund

272 Old Short Hills Road, Short Hills, New Jersey 07078 • 201-376-5140



Ukraine's Embassy to U.S. marks first anniversary of Constitution

by Yaro Bihun

WASHINGTON – Ukraine's Embassy to the United States marked the first anniversary of Ukraine's Constitution with a special ceremony here on June 26. The program included the dedication of the George Washington Memorial Room at the Embassy, greetings and presentations, and a recital by Ukrainian soprano Oksana Krovytska.

"The adoption on June 28, 1996, of the Ukrainian Constitution was one of the most significant events for our country since Ukraine regained its independence," Ukrainian Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak said in his opening remarks. He pointed out that it made a "substantial departure from the Soviet political system and Communist ideology toward the creation of a free-market economy and a multi-party state, [and] became the most important act of reconciliation and consolidation of the Ukrainian people."

Important pieces of implementing legislation are now on the agenda, Ambassador Shcherbak said, including new civil and criminal codes. And these, he added, should be based on the principle introduced in the United States by George Washington – "a government of laws and not of men."

As a "special gift to Washington and the American people" on the occasion of the Constitution's first anniversary, the Ukrainian Ambassador announced the opening of the George Washington Memorial Room at the Embassy. George Washington had worked in the Marbury House, a historic building that is part of the Ukrainian Embassy complex in the Georgetown section of the nation's capital.

The George Washington Memorial Room exhibit includes copies of historical documents written by Washington, his portrait and that of Taras Shevchenko the "Bard of Ukraine" who, the ambassador noted, more than 100 years ago called out, "When will we get our own Washington, with a new and just law?"

Richard W. Soudriette, president of the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), which co-sponsored the Embassy event, called on those present to read the Ukrainian Constitution in order to appreciate its importance, "because it recognizes the ballot box and the will of the people as the ultimate source of power."

During the ceremony, Ambassador Shcherbak presented the Ukrainian Embassy's Certificate of Honor to Mr. Soudriette and former U.S. Rep. Charles Dougherty of Pennsylvania for their "personal contributions to the strengthening of ties between Ukraine and the United States."

Dr. Shcherbak praised the work of IFES in helping to prepare the Ukrainian Constitution



Yaro Bihun

U.S. Reps. Dan Schaefer (R-Colo.) (left) and Jon D. Fox (R-Pa.) (center), present Ukrainian Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak with an American flag that had been flown on the Capitol Building.

and for assisting Ukraine in carrying out legal and judicial reforms. In mid-May IFES presented President Kuchma with its annual Democracy Award during the Ukrainian president's visit to Washington.

Also speaking at the ceremony was Judge Bohdan Futey, of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, who has helped IFES in its efforts in Ukraine over the past few years and was a recipient of the Ukrainian President's Award for Merit for his efforts in 1995.

Judge Futey pointed out that the Embassy building is historically important not only for its connection with the first American president, but in the evolution of the principle of judicial review. It was the home of William Marbury, who was party to one of the keystone cases in American constitutional law, *Marbury v. Madison*.

U.S. Rep. Jon D. Fox (R-Pa.) and Dan Schaefer (R-Colo.), who a few days earlier had formed the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, which they co-chair, spoke about their efforts for improving U.S.-Ukrainian relations. They

(Continued on page 14)

House of Representatives forms Congressional Ukrainian Caucus

by Michael Sawkiw

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON – After several months of planning and organizing, a new congressional caucus has been formed by members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Initiated by Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.), the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus was announced to the public at a reception commemorating the first anniversary of the adoption of the Ukrainian Constitution held at the Embassy of Ukraine to the United States. Besides Rep. Levin, the other co-sponsors of the caucus include Jon Fox (R-Pa.), Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.), and Bob Schaffer (R-Colo.).

The individual sponsors of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus bring a wide array of expertise to the caucus. Each Representative is well known to their local Ukrainian American community and has demonstrated their concern for Ukrainian issues. For example, Rep. Slaughter initiated a "Dear Colleague" letter to Rep. Sonny Callahan (R-Ala.), chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, to continue funding for Ukraine for Fiscal Year 1998 in the amount of \$225 million.

Similarly, Rep. Fox issued an amendment to the State Department Authorization Bill that calls for sustained assistance to Ukraine for FY 1998 and 1999 at the levels appropriated for FY 1997 (\$225 million).

In past years, Rep. Levin has been influential in sponsoring legislation regarding the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, as well as initiating several "Dear Colleague" letters in support of earmarks for Armenia and Ukraine.

Having been elected to Congress in November 1996, Rep. Schaffer has already issued remarks for the Congressional Record regarding the first anniversary of the ratification of the Ukrainian Constitution.

The primary purpose of the caucus is to organize an association of Members of Congress who share a common concern for building stronger bilateral relations between Ukraine and the United States. In its continued cooperation with the Ukrainian American community, the caucus will serve as a conduit to lend support for Ukraine in its process of democratization and market-oriented reforms.

The Congressional Ukrainian Caucus will expand cooperation and relations between Ukraine and the U.S. on the governmental level. The dissemination of information to other members of Congress about current political, economic, social, and cultural events occurring in Ukraine will be its main focus. Informal meetings of the caucus will be held regularly to discuss issues of concern among its members and to provide recommendations for action by Congress.

A "Dear Colleague" letter has been issued by the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus to the remaining members of the House of Representatives to seek membership in the caucus. UNIS urges members of the Ukrainian American community to contact their representative and request them to become a formal member of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus.



Soprano Oksana Krovytska performing arias from her New York City Opera repertoire.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Battle for Ukraine's future continues

The battle over the 1997 budget was another confrontation in the political war over whether or not Ukraine should forcefully move towards Europe or remain stuck in a post-Communist, neo-Marxist pool of mud.

In most democracies throughout the world, legislative budget approval is an annual procedure that clarifies policy objectives and gives the political agenda a financial basis. It is not uncommon for disagreements to occur between competing interests as each side vies for its portion of the limited pie of resources. They are resolved or compromised, the budget is passed, the country moves on.

But in Ukraine's leftist-dominated Verkhovna Rada there was no mood for political compromise, no intention to work through to a legitimate budget with a nod to economic reform, keeping in mind the very limited financial resources. It became an either/or situation where either the anti-Kuchma, leftist forces got their way or no budget would be quickly forthcoming. The leftist bloc under the direction of Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz won.

It was a major victory for them in the ongoing war between the executive and legislative branches over who wields the ultimate decision-making authority in Kyiv. The president has won other battles, most notably the ratification of the Constitution a year ago. This time he lost.

Leonid Kuchma tried various strategies to overcome the Verkhovna Rada's refusal to work with him. He emphasized more than once, however, that he would not go outside the Constitution and decree a budget. Now he says he will look for a way to approve the budget himself through constitutional means if the Parliament again attempts to destroy the process. He may have no choice because too often in a war, the rules become secondary to the outcome a reality of, which Communists are well aware.

At a glance, the political battle that has been waged between Verkhovna Rada Chairman Moroz and President Kuchma may have appeared to be a simple battle between competing political points of view, much like in any other democracy. Mr. Moroz stood firm on maintaining a strong social safety net for the population. Mr. Kuchma persistently maintained that the tax system had to be overhauled before a budget was presented.

But upon closer observation, it was obvious that it was part of the yet unfinished war for the future direction of the country: the victor will either steer the country through still-unfinished and painful, but necessary, economic reforms, or lead it back toward a miasma of neo-Marxism.

But as the war continues, Ukraine's citizens wait and suffer. Government wages continue to not be paid, and economic reform is at a standstill.

There is a consensus among political observers in Kyiv that the 1998 election campaign for Parliament has begun, and the budget battle was the first manifestation of the process.

It must be made clear that despite the Cabinet's and the presidential administration's seeming inability to prepare an adequate and passable budget bill, in the end, it was the stalling and the haggling in the legislature over proposed economic reforms that delayed the 1997 budget.

Mr. Moroz, who has tried to portray himself as a social democrat of European vintage, recently showed his true color. On Constitution Day (June 28) Mr. Moroz addressed demonstrators who marched through the streets of Kyiv carrying placards with Communist slogans under the hammer and sickle banner of a defunct and discredited system. In what democratic country does the leader of Parliament take part in anti-state demonstrations? Only in a country that is still teetering near the abyss. Only in Ukraine.

July
10
1996

Turning the pages back...

One year ago, on July 10, Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada voted 344-22 to approve President Leonid Kuchma's candidate for prime minister, Pavlo Lazarenko. It was first step by both

branches of power to abide by the state's newly adopted Constitution.

On July 1, 1997, Prime Minister Lazarenko offered his resignation, which was accepted by President Kuchma on July 2.

One year ago, the following was the scenario.

Mr. Lazarenko had been named prime minister on May 28, 1996. However, with the adoption of Ukraine's new Constitution one month later, the prime minister and the government ministers resigned on July 5. President Kuchma asked the ministers to stay on until a new Cabinet was named. According to the Constitution the president has three months to name a prime minister, who then has to be approved by a constitutional majority in Parliament. Only after this procedure can the prime minister begin forming a government.

Given the critical economic situation, and the fact that the legislative branch was to break for a summer recess on July 12 and reconvene on September 3, President Kuchma wasted no time in submitting his candidate for the post of prime minister to the Ukrainian Parliament.

In presenting Mr. Lazarenko, who had already served as prime minister, to the deputies in Parliament on July 10, Mr. Kuchma said he found it "inadmissible and dangerous" to drag out the process.

"The economic situation is critical," said the Ukrainian leader two years to the day since he was elected president of Ukraine. He urged the lawmakers to make a decision quickly so that he could instruct Mr. Lazarenko to have a government program ready by early September.

The Verkhovna Rada obliged, with 344 deputies endorsing President Kuchma's

(Continued on page 13)



Letter from Ukraine

by Marta Kolomayets

"Big Mac Index" comes to Ukraine

KYIV — There's a certain comfort factor for me in the fact that McDonald's has finally arrived in Ukraine. I don't know whether it's because it reminds me of home: there's a McDonald's just a few blocks from my parents' house in Chicago where I would meet with friends for heart to heart conversations. Or because it reminds me of my childhood: we always had McDonald's hamburgers at our birthday parties, so a trip to McD's was always considered a special occasion. Or because when I have to use a bathroom midday, while running around town, now I know that I will be able to pop into the brand new, sparkling facilities at one of the two new McDonald's, and enjoy a McPyrih (as the apple pies are called) as well. No matter where I travel in Europe, be it Prague, Rome or Warsaw, I always identify where the nearest McDonald's, is for precisely these relief reasons.

The Golden Arches are a reassuring symbol that things are all right in this world; Thomas Friedman, of the New York Times recently wrote in a column that McDonald's also plays the role of peacekeeper, pointing out that no countries that are hosts to McDonald's have ever been at war with each other. Open a McDonald's in your country and you are less likely to go to war with other countries and if we follow this logic, we can rest assured that Ukraine and Russia will not go to war with each other.

All kidding aside, McDonald's is definitely a measure of a country's well-being and growth. Based upon the theory of purchasing power parity (PPP) — the notion that a dollar should buy the same amount in all countries, even the Economist recently reported that for more than a decade, its "Big Mac Index" has been used to show whether currencies are at their "correct level." Recent research also suggests that a currency's deviation from the "Big Mac Index" over the past year predicts the direction of exchange rate movements for eight of 12 currencies of large industrial economies.

The first customers at the first McDonald's, which opened at the Lukianivska metro station on May 24, were an elderly Ukrainian couple. They had camped out in front of the McDonald's almost all night in order to be the first cus-

tomers to order "two all-beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles, onions on a sesame seed bun" in Ukraine. They then proceeded to order two of each on the currently limited McDonald's menu.

According to Karl Fritz, the general director of McDonald's Ukraine, they came to see what freedom tasted like because they were convinced that once McDonald's came to Ukraine, there was no going back.

This story reminds me of my husband's reaction to McDonald's. I remember the first time I introduced my then fiance to this fast-food haven. It was in Moscow in 1993 and he was pleasantly surprised with the conveniences of this typically American phenomenon now found in 102 countries in the world. (Ukraine was No. 102). He liked the food; he liked the fact that it was fast and affordable. To this day I remember his reaction: "For your typical Soviet person, this is an opportunity to experience a bit of American culture. When McDonald's comes to Ukraine, I know we will never go back to Soviet times."

Over the past several weeks, I have observed the long, long lines of young children with parents, teenagers and college students line up to order their hamburgers, Bih Maks (Big Macs) and fries (kartoplia fri as it is called here). They are looking to a future that will provide them with the same kind of comforts we have in the West, a future that will allow them to experience the same kind of things their Western colleagues have known for many years and will make them feel that they are not some kind of backward cousins.

And perhaps the most telling episode of what kind of symbol McDonald's is to the people of this region of the world happened in Belarus a few weeks ago. McDonald's opened its doors to the people of Belarus a few months ago in Miensk. The lines have been long and the burgers have been in great demand. Apparently, "Dictator" Alyaksandr Lukashenka did not like the fact that Ronald McDonald was more popular among the young people than their fearless leader. He began criticizing the McD menu, saying that the prices were too high; he was also displeased that the menu did not feature "Belarusian cuisine." And there were rumors that he wanted to change the name to "Lukashenka's."

Ukraine greets U.S. on Independence Day

Below is the text of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's greeting to President Bill Clinton on the occasion of American Independence Day.

July 4, 1997
City of Kyiv

His Excellency William J. Clinton
President of the United States of America
Washington, D.C.

Dear Bill:

With heartfelt sincerity, I greet you and all of the American people on the occasion of your national holiday — the Independence Day of the United States of America.

From the moment that the Ukrainian people succeeded in realizing the age-old right to its own state, the triumphal festivities of independence day celebrations became equally dear and moving to us.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to affirm the steadiness of our course toward a deeper strategic partnership with your great country, which experienced a period of struggle for self-assertion and independence similar to that which Ukraine is undergoing today.

On behalf of all Ukrainians, I wish your nation enduring prosperity, as well as happiness, peace and well-being to every American family.

Respectfully yours,
Leonid Kuchma

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lazarenko ouster shows inexperience

Dear Editor:

The ousting of the prime minister of Ukraine by President Leonid Kuchma was the third in three years and was the most cynical of them all. Pavlo Lazarenko was in Canada just a few days prior to his removal. He was shown on TV news broadcasts, and he certainly did not appear to be ill or in bad health. Obviously, therefore, the removal of Mr. Lazarenko was politically motivated, but President Kuchma didn't even have the guts to say so, and had to go through the subterfuge of "illness."

Unfortunately, this removal demonstrates the instability of the Ukrainian government and political system, and also the inexperience and ineffectiveness of President Kuchma himself. This is not conducive to foreign investment in Ukraine. Also, major countries can hardly take Ukraine seriously when it changes prime ministers every year.

President Kuchma took office in July 1994. At that time he kept Vitalii Masol as prime minister, who lasted until March 1995. He then appointed Yevhen Marchuk, who took office in June 1995 and was dismissed on May 27, 1996, in spite of the fact (or perhaps because of the fact) that Mr. Marchuk was voted the most popular politician in Ukraine in 1995. Then, Mr. Kuchma appointed his own "zemliak" Pavlo Lazarenko, who lasted almost exactly one year.

It seems that the whole Ukrainian

political system relative to the appointment and dismissal of the prime minister is fundamentally flawed. In most countries that have considerable experience with democratic government, the prime minister is not appointed, but is elected both by the people and by his party, and sits in Parliament. In this manner, the prime minister has much more influence within the Parliament, and can pass budgets and other important legislation when this is needed.

In Ukraine, the Constitution does not allow members of the government to also serve in the Verkhovna Rada, which puts the prime minister in a very difficult position. He must please both the president and the Parliament, who most often are at odds with each other. Thus, nothing gets done. They can't even pass a budget, which was due by December 31, 1996.

The Ukrainian system is somewhat similar to the Russian, although in Russia the president has more power than in Ukraine, and generally Russians have much more experience in governing.

President Yeltsin has appointed Viktor Chernomyrdin as prime minister and is sticking with him, even though there were also rumors that he is one of the richest men in Russia, and profits handsomely from the oil and gas business. The fact that Mr. Chernomyrdin stays on as prime minister gives an aura of stability to the Russian government and political system.

It seems that Ukraine will go from crisis to crisis until it solves this basic problem.

George Primak
Pierrefonds, Quebec

Cherkasy school seeks pen pals

Dear Editor:

The future of Ukraine depends on her children – how they grow up and what they will grow up to be. Citizens of Ukraine must strive to create schools that are capable of providing their children with a multifaceted and fundamental education, in addition to a civic consciousness and love for Ukraine. The First City Gymnasium (high school) in the city of Cherkasy is one such school.

Last year, the director-general of UNESCO, Federico Mayor announced that this high school would be included in the Association of UNESCO Schools, which allows students to participate in many international programs, such as the UNESCO student program, "Man and Environment," as well as exchange programs, e-mail with students from other countries and visits from English-speaking instructors from abroad.

Among the highlights of students' activities in this high school is a group called "Ecology" that cooperates with an international organization called "Global Ratification and Elections Network," which refers to the ratification of the Constitution of the Earth Federation. The Cherkasy Gymnasium also became a co-founder of an international public association called "Piznai Svit" – Learn about the World.

Two languages, Ukrainian and

English, are used concurrently as teaching languages in this school. In addition, students can study other languages such as Polish and Turkish. There are 30 teachers of English alone, including some from English-speaking countries.

Students who excel have an opportunity to study in England and the United States. A special Institute of English Language of this high school was created for students where special projects on philology (linguistics) and teaching guides for students were developed by students.

Some of the students learn ballroom dancing, others are gifted poets. Many of the high school students are recipients of city awards on the subjects of history, Ukrainian language and literature, biology, geography and laws and justice.

One of the methods of teaching the students is to give them an opportunity to converse or correspond directly with English speaking teenagers in other countries. You can participate and help by writing to some of the following Cherkasy Gymnasium students: Natalia Rybalko, Lesia Stokach, Taras Kovalenko, Olha Kesarchuk, Kateryna Rudakova, Daryna Butych, Oleksander Luhovsky plus many other students. Their address is: Ukraine 257000, Cherkasy, First City Gymnasium, vul. Kirova 68. The recipients of your letters will be very happy to hear from you and they promise to write back to you.

Lew Khmelkovsky
Newark, N.J.

Note from the editor:

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor and commentaries on a variety of topics of concern to the Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities. Opinions expressed by columnists, commentators and letter-writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either The Weekly editorial staff or its publisher, the Ukrainian National Association.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



A legacy of leadership

Chicago's Ukrainian community has always had its share of outstanding leaders. Some, like Volodymyr Simenovych, Stephen Hrynevetsky and Mykola Strutynsky, were pioneers who laid a solid communal foundation.

Between the two wars, leaders like Philip Wasylyowsky, Taras Shpikula and John Duzansky continued the building process with dynamic and indefatigable leadership.

Among those who left an enduring legacy more recently are Adam Antonovych, Marian Butrynsky and Roman Mycyk.

All of these individuals, almost all of whom lived to a ripe old age, devoted a lifetime to Chicago's Ukrainian community.

Recently, Chicago lost one of its current leaders, a man in his 50s who also left a legacy of leadership that could well be emulated by others of his generation. His name was Ivan Shandor and he was one of a kind.

Born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, in March 1946, Ivan emigrated with his parents to the United States in August 1947, settling eventually in New Jersey. He was the son of Dr. Vincent Shandor, a community activist who was a former representative of the Republic of Carpatho-Ukraine in Prague, and Oksana Shandor, daughter of the renowned Ukrainian scholar and architect, Prof. Volodymyr Sichynsky.

A member of the National Honor Society at Eastside High School in Patterson, N.J., Ivan was awarded a scholarship by the University of Pennsylvania for study at the prestigious Wharton School of Business. Earning a bachelor's degree in economics and an MBA in accounting, both from the Wharton School, Ivan became a licensed CPA in New York state.

While in college, Ivan served in the ROTC and was commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation. Later he served in Vietnam, where he was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service at Da Nang.

Upon his return to civilian life, he continued his education at Georgetown University, receiving a juris doctor degree in 1973. He was admitted to practice in New York, Virginia, the District of Columbia and, eventually, Illinois.

Ivan began his illustrious career as a tax attorney with Arthur Andersen and Co. in New York City, moving to Baker and McKenzie in Washington two years later. He eventually went to work for Baxter Healthcare in the Chicago area, spending the last 10 year as vice-president for taxes.

Ivan was introduced to his lovely wife, Lidia Boyduy, by Bohdan Futey during a cocktail party that preceded a 1986 joint banquet of the Ukrainian American Medical Association and the Ukrainian Bar Association in Philadelphia. It was Lidia's cousin, Metropolitan Stephen Sulyk, invited to deliver the invocation, who had urged her to attend the banquet. At the time, Lidia was recovering from a skiing accident she suffered in France.

A Ukrainian American born in Detroit, she earned an undergraduate degree from Yale and a J.D. from Boston College. Fluent in French, Lidia was working for a French law firm. Ivan and Lidia were married on February 14, 1987. They had three children: Nicholas, 9; Maria, 7; and Gregory, 5.

For most of his adult life, Ivan Shandor was active in the Ukrainian

American community. While in Washington, he was associated with The Washington Group. He was also one of the founding members of the Ukrainian American Bar Association (where he served as chairman of the scholarship fund) and the Chicago Group.

He served on the boards of the University of Illinois Foundation for Ukrainian Studies, and was active with Rukh in Chicago, the Andrey Sheptytsky Institute in Ottawa and Club 500. For many years he was chairman of the Supervisory Committee of Selfreliance in Chicago.

Ivan Shandor was the quintessential Ukrainian American success story. An accomplished professional in the larger American community, Ivan was also a loving husband and father. He never turned his back on his Ukrainian roots. He provided meaningful leadership to many Ukrainian organizations, and there was hardly a significant Ukrainian function at which one didn't see Ivan and Lidia. The two provided a definite sparkle to all events they attended.

For me, Ivan Shandor's life is testimony to the fact that professional success in the American arena does not mean a negation of one's Ukrainian heritage. Few Americans, I'm sure, have both a CPA and J.D., and yet that is exactly what Ivan had. He was a corporate executive willing to share his talents with his fellow Ukrainians.

Unfortunately, there are few Ivan Shandors in our community. There are many successful professionals among us – doctors, lawyers, university professors, engineers and corporate executives. How many of them are contributing their talents to our community?

Our community was built by people who were willing to offer themselves to their fellow Ukrainians. Messrs. Simenovych and Hrynevetsky were medical doctors with thriving practices. The Rev. Mykola Strutynsky was a priest who spent his spare time helping Ukrainians get into business. Messrs. Wasylyowsky and Duzansky were businessmen. Adam Antonovych was a journalist. Roman Mycyk was a banker. Markian Butrynsky was a priest with a vision that went far beyond the spiritual needs of his parishioners. All of them could have spent their lives doing other things. They didn't. Nor did Ivan Shandor. When it came to his family and his community, he had time for everyone.

Ivan Shandor's death was an accident. He had a minor problem with his car, parked it well off the road, and was struck by a truck that careened onto the shoulder. He died instantly. Why did God allow this to happen?

In his book "When Bad Things Happen to Good People," Rabbi Harold S. Kushner argues persuasively that God does not cause our misfortunes nor can He prevent them. He is limited by human nature and our free will. "Life is not fair. The wrong people get sick and the wrong people get robbed, and the wrong people get killed in wars and accidents," the rabbi writes. At the same time, however, "God has created a world in which many more good things than bad things happen."

Ivan Shandor was one of God's good things. "Vichna Yomu Pamyat!"

Myron Kuropas' e-mail address is: 73753.3315@compuserve.com

Ukrainian American Bar Association holds meeting, elects first woman president

TORONTO — As the Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) prepares to commemorate the 20th anniversary of its establishment, it commenced its third decade by electing Bohdanna (Donna) T. Pochoday a president. She is the first woman to serve in this capacity.

The election of the new slate of UABA officers and board of governors took place at the UABA spring meeting held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Toronto on May 30 - June 1.

The UABA had invited the Association of Canadian Ukrainian Jurists to attend and participate; the meeting commenced with a social reception on Friday evening. Attendees included a group of attorneys from Ukraine traveling with Danylo Kourdelchouk, president of Ukrinurkolegia (an association of Ukrainian attorneys for foreign affairs), as well as representatives of the Ukraine's Consulates General in Toronto and New York.

The presentations on Saturday covered current issues affecting Ukraine, as well modern law office trends. Col. Martinson of the Atlantic Council of Canada gave a timely overview of NATO's expansion into Eastern Europe and Ukraine's relationship with NATO.

Mr. Kourdelchouk spoke about the strong need for a code of ethics for attorneys in Ukraine, as well as the formation of an independent bar. He also participated in a panel discussion on wills and estate planning issues between Ukraine and the U.S./Canada, along with Petro Piddoubny of Drobenko and Piddoubny (New York) and Eugene Zalucky of Mitchell, Bardyn and Zalucky (Toronto).

Unfortunately, the main speaker invited to the meeting, Ukrainian National Deputy Volodymyr Stretovych, president of the World Congress of Ukrainian Jurists (WCUJ), president of the Christian Democratic Party, and chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Law Policy and Judicial Reform, was unable to attend due to a medical emergency. The Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian attorneys present at the meeting had planned to discuss the status and role of the WCUJ with Mr. Stretovych.

The UABA also reviewed organizational business matters, which included the financial report of Treasurer Bohdan Ozaruk, plans for commemoration of the UABA's 20th anniversary in the fall of 1997, as well as the UABA Scholarship Fund.

Scholarship Fund

The UABA Scholarship Fund had been administered by the late Ivan Shandor, one of the original members of the UABA, a former UABA governor and officer, who died in a tragic accident on April 30 in Chicago. Mr. Shandor left behind his wife, Lidia Boyduy Shandor, and their three young children, Mykola, Maria and Hryhorij (ages 5-9), his parents, Oksana and Vikentij Shandor, his brother Bohdan Shandor, also a UABA member, as well as other family members and many friends. He was remembered by his colleagues and friends with a moment of silence at the meeting.

Given Ivan Shandor's prior involvement in the UABA scholarship program, the Shandor family proposed the formation of an Ivan Shandor Legal Scholarship Endowment Fund under the auspices of the UABA Scholarship Fund Inc. A committee was formed, consisting of Orest Jejna, Walter Lupan, Andre Michniak and Bohdan Shandor, for the purpose of electing a new administrator for the fund, formulating future goals and programs and evaluating scholarship candidates for the IRC 501(c) (3) corporation.

It was also at this morning session that the nominating committee, consisting of Andrij Fylypovych, Taras Gawryk and Myroslaw Smorodsky, proposed the following slate of officers and governors for the next two-year period: Ms. Pochoday (New Jersey), president; Mr. Piddoubny (New York), vice president; Mr. Ozaruk (New York), treasurer; Jurij Pazuniak (Delaware), secretary; Orest Jejna (Arizona), chairman of the board of governors; Hilary Kinal (Pennsylvania), Vera Kachnykewych (New York), Tanya Karpiak (Massachusetts), Mr. Michniak (Pennsylvania) and Markian Silecky (New Jersey and Kyiv), member of the board of governors. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the attending members.

Mr. Jejna, the outgoing president, thanked the officers and governors, as well as his wife, for their support over the years.

The afternoon session consisted of three diverse presentations. The first was a computer/Internet presentation provided online at the meeting by Mr. Smorodsky of Rutherford, N.J. Mr. Smorodsky is a former president of the UABA and is one of the principals of Brama, Inc., an Internet server that administers the UABA home page, as well as the home pages of other Ukrainian community organizations (the Brama server may be found at <http://www.brama.com>).

The members browsed the various sites on the Internet and viewed practical applications of some legal software programs that can substantially increase the productivity level of attorneys and ultimately decrease the bills of their clients.

Operation "Wisla"

The second topic at the afternoon session was notably different and of a very serious nature. Evhen Ladna and Myroslaw Ivanek jointly delivered a presentation on "Operation Wisla," the tragic Polish military operation of ethnic cleansing of Ukrainian ethnic territories, i.e., the Lemko, Boyko, San River, Kholm and Pidliashia regions, which commenced on April 28, 1947, as ordered by the Polish communist government.

The commentators, who graduated from the University of Warsaw and currently reside in Canada, were part of approximately 150,000 Ukrainian individuals forcibly deported from their ancestral homes. Under this Polish military operation, over 1,000 Ukrainian villages and towns, and hundreds of churches were destroyed; thousands of men, women and children (including prominent members of the Ukrainian intelligentsia and religious leaders) were imprisoned and tortured in the Jaworzno concentration camp (a branch of the infamous Auschwitz KZ-Lager concentration camp for Ukrainians kept operational in 1947-1949).

Mr. Ivanek presented slides of supporting documentation, including copies of top secret Polish government documents authorizing and ordering the military operation, and personal statements made by survivors of the operation.

Mr. Ivanek said it was clear from the orders given to the Polish Armed Forces' General Staff in the fall of 1946 that Operation Wisla was meant to be a "final solution to the Ukrainian problem in Poland."

Mr. Ladna focused on the horrific details of the Jaworzno camp.

Mr. Ivanek's and Mr. Ladna's presentations left the audience emotionally moved and pondering the many legal and moral issues and questions raised by the Polish operation.

The Saturday afternoon meeting ended

with a brief panel presentation by five undergraduate students from different regions of Ukraine studying in the disciplines of law, medicine, economics, arts and management. They are participants in the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program, which was formed a few years ago by the Chair of Ukrainian Studies Foundation of Toronto to give students from Ukraine an opportunity to work and study in the Canadian Parliament and on election campaigns.

On Saturday evening, the keynote dinner address was delivered by Charles B. Loewen, president and CEO of Ukraine Enterprise Corp. in Toronto and the former head of the Toronto Securities Exchange. The attendees were refreshed by Mr. Loewen's positive and interesting perspective on doing business in Eastern Europe, particularly in light of the more recent negative commentaries about Ukraine made by the U.S. Congress as well as the domestic and international press.

The conference ended on Sunday with meetings of the newly elected officers and governors, and the UABA 20th Anniversary Commemoration Committee. The UABA has decided to celebrate its 20th anniversary in Washington (anticipated date November 15).

The UABA has established a toll-free telephone line and has constructed a home page on the Internet. Anyone wishing to contact the Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) should do so by either writing, calling or e-mailing:



Bohdanna T. Pochoday

Donna (or Bohdanna) T. Pochoday, Esq., President, Ukrainian American Bar Association, Briarwood at Chatham Glen, 4-G Avon Court, Chatham, NJ 07928-1765; telephones. (888) UABA-LAW (toll-free in U.S.), (973) 635-3167, (973) 701-0544; fax, (973) 701-1309; e-mail, bohdannap@aol.com; home page: <http://www.brama.com/>

Hladyshevsky elected president of Canadian Shevchenko Foundation

SASKATOON — Andrew J. Hladyshevsky of Edmonton has been elected president of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko, it was announced in June. Since its inception in 1963, the Shevchenko Foundation has awarded over \$2.5 million to support a broad spectrum of projects and cultural activities across Canada.

Mr. Hladyshevsky represents the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation on the foundation's seven-member board of directors. He has been an executive member of the Edmonton Ukrainian Professional and Business Club since 1987 and has served as club president for two years.

A dedicated community volunteer, Mr. Hladyshevsky has also served as president of the Ukrainian Dnipro Ensemble several times and is currently vice-president of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. In 1996, Mr. Hladyshevsky was one of 15 Canadians appointed by the federal government as a founding director of the \$25 million Canadian Race Relations Foundation; he currently serves as an active board member and participant in that foundation's investment committee and research committee.

Mr. Hladyshevsky enjoys singing and has been a member of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of Detroit since 1989. He toured with the Chorus in Canada and Ukraine, where the ensemble was awarded the Taras Shevchenko National Prize in Arts by Ukraine's former president, Leonid Kravchuk. Mr. Hladyshevsky continues to sing with the Dnipro Ensemble of Edmonton and the Ukrainian Male Chorus of Edmonton.

Mr. Hladyshevsky has contributed to the legal profession as an author of books and as a lecturer for over 12 years, both at the University of Alberta and in the bar admission course for the Law Society of Alberta. He is a lifetime member of

the Canadian Author's Association.

Mr. Hladyshevsky is keen to enhance the development of the Shevchenko Foundation: "The Shevchenko Foundation is an integral part of the Ukrainian Canadian community and provides financial and logistical support for projects that promote the development of Ukrainian Canadian arts, education, language and literature," the new president said.

He added: "The current list of proposed projects and forecasted activities in our Canadian community demands that the Shevchenko Foundation build its capital fund on an urgent basis to provide more adequate funding for these community projects. The board of directors is currently engaged in several initiatives designed to promote and publicize the important and beneficial works of the foundation and enhance its development through the use of modern communication technology."



Andrew J. Hladyshevsky

BOOK REVIEW: New biography of Canadian artist William Kurelek

Michael Ewanchuk, "William Kurelek: The Suffering Genius." Steinbach, Manitoba: Perksen Printers and Michael Ewanchuk Publishing, 1996. VIII + 124 pp., softcover, \$15.95 (plus \$3 for postage and handling: \$6 out-side Canada; \$4 to the U.S.).

by Wolodymyr T. Zyla

"When William Kurelek died he was Canada's best-known painter of the time and one of the best-loved ever." — John McTavish

In the informative foreword to this valuable book, John Lehr notes that "this book is not a critique of Kurelek's art, but an account of the artist as a man. Michael Ewanchuk draws upon his personal acquaintance with Kurelek, a personal interview with him, interviews with those who knew him in his youth, and some of Kurelek's hitherto unpublished correspondence. All of this, I believe makes for an insightful account of a complex individual. Gifted but tortured, Kurelek left a lasting legacy to all Canadians. His art has enriched us all."

Thanks to Michael Ewanchuk, the author of this book, it is now possible to judge "the suffering genius" for himself. Naturally, the book is of interest not only to those directly involved with Kurelek, but also to those interested in anyone with whom he may have had contact, or with whom he may have been compared.

William Kurelek, a sensitive human being, was born and grew up in the home of a Ukrainian immigrant farmer, detached from the established Ukrainian culture and traditions — though some of their characteristics were maintained. In other words, he grew up in a cultural setting modified by the frontier, the culture of resettled people in the New Land: the prairies of Western Canada.

Kurelek attended a public school, and, though he did well academically, the difficult experiences he encountered scared him deeply and made him withdraw into a shell. In this withdrawal, it seems, he found solace in art.

He studied art at the Ontario College of Art and at the Instituto Allende in Mexico.

During his stay in England (1952-1959), he was hospitalized for chronic depression and found solace in the Roman Catholic faith. Although it is somewhat difficult to understand why the clergy did not help him join the Ukrainian Catholic Church, he still believed that the Ukrainian religious customs should be preserved and reinvigorated.

His artistic rise without the benefit of a proper education was meteoric and is worth careful consideration. His career began in England, where he sold his first painting and where an exhibition of his paintings and oils was favorably received. Upon returning to Canada, Kurelek's first one-man exhibition was prepared in Toronto and proved very successful. Kurelek began receiving more visibility and started to gain distinction as an artist.

In 1962, he married Jean Andrew, with whom he would share 15 years of married life.

In the meantime his list of exhibitions was constantly increasing. Distinguished Canadian writers appraised his creative work. In 1974 he appeared in a film about Ukrainian pioneers. In Toronto he was embraced by the Ukrainian community and entertained at a special banquet given in his honor by the Ukrainian Professional and Business Club. He delivered a lecture at the Ukrainian Literary Club and was invited by Ukrainian students to a

special evening in appreciation of his art and a viewing of a film by the National Film Board titled "Wasyk Kurelek." The Globe and Mail published observations by Wendy Hitchner that "through his art the 40-year-old artist brought acclaim to himself and the Ukrainian people."

Having twice visited the Holy Land, he depicted the Passion of Christ according to St. Matthew in a series of 160 paintings, which he considered his magnum opus. His most popular works, however, were paintings of life on the prairies. He created a series of intricate works on prairie life and a series of interesting works depicting various ethnic groups of Canada. Therefore, he began to be considered "a totally Canadian artist who creates pictures of Canadian prairie life as seen through the prism of his own life."

During his visit to Winnipeg and trips to the country, he wanted to learn more about farm life, showing special interest, for instance, in a steam threshing system. As a result he painted murals of the Dauphin area, even the Dauphin train station.

Because of great similarities in their life styles and artistic works, writes Mr. Ewanchuk, one may easily call William Kurelek the Canadian Ukrainian William Blake. The English poet and artist (who died in 1827) also was a sensitive person, but he grew up in the restricted environment of a big city. He produced fine poetry and art, while Kurelek created good art and aspired to become a good writer.

Although Blake did attend an art school briefly, he developed his artistic skills as an engraver on his own. In Kurelek's home, however, art was considered unimportant. His father was pragmatic to the extreme and he often said: "You can't earn a living through art, but achievement in school is very important." Both Blake and Kurelek were fortunate to marry women who cared, who respected talent, and who provided the requisite encouragement and assistance.

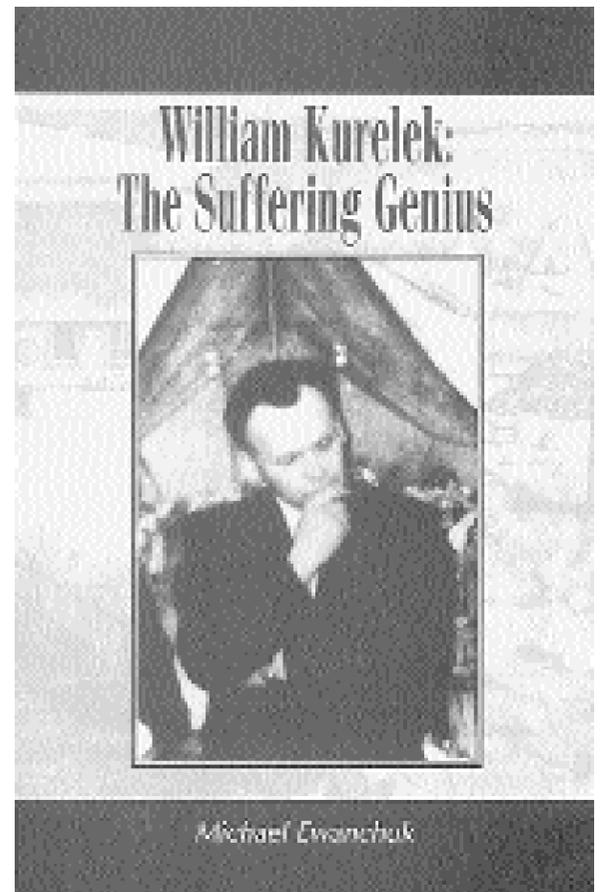
As writers, the two were different: "William Blake sought enjoyment through imagination, forgiveness and love, while Kurelek, on the other hand, wrote in a mood of judgment rather than love. In summing up, one can easily say that Blake's poetry and art have a definite religious orientation and so does William Kurelek's art."

Kurelek did not forsake the culture of his forebears. In Toronto, for instance, his contacts appear to have been closer with Ukrainians who came to Canada after World War II than with Ukrainians born in Canada. The reason, in this writer's opinion, may be in the understanding of art and its importance in life. After all, art is a weapon that proves to be stronger than force, and sophisticated bombs and rockets.

Mr. Ewanchuk, notes that the artist is well remembered by Ukrainians, who take pride in his work and in his development as an artist. They treasure his realistic and symbolic works. These works, through vivid colors and simple lines, convey an intense love of the Ukrainian pioneers' prairie life and an immense personal vision of a great future.

By the time of his death on November 3, 1977 at the age of 50, Kurelek was one of the most successful Canadian artists of his generation.

In early 1977, Kurelek once again went to the home-



land of his father, to the village of Borovtsi in Bukovyna, Ukraine. But on returning home he was physically spent, although spiritually strong enough to say farewell to the native prairies and to the world he loved by painting yet another work titled "When We Must Say Goodbye, 1977." And then he laid his burden down.

Mr. Ewanchuk's book William Kurelek: The Suffering Genius" is an important work. The author of many successful books about the lives of Ukrainian pioneers' lives in Canada, Mr. Ewanchuk once again has successfully captured the development and achievements of the Ukrainian ethnic group by focusing on the genius of Kurelek — an artist and writer who suffered and worked, and who will be remembered forever for his unforgettable work that offers insightful accounts of this complex individual.

Let us hope that this is not the last book by this distinguished author who has contributed so much to the study of Ukrainian immigrants and their work in Canada.

"William Kurelek: The Suffering Genius" is a perfect model for future works of this type, and one can only hope that it will engender such works. It is, without a doubt, an example of fine, concise scholarship that will direct readers and scholars to the next level in their ongoing appreciation of Kurelek's artistry.

The book is illustrated with many outstanding works by Kurelek. It is indexed and contains a bibliography and various appendices.

The book may be purchased directly from the author: Michael Ewanchuk, 828 Borebank St., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3N 1G4; telephone, (204) 489-4604.

Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

fees and royalties," Mr. Rexrodt added, insisting that Ukraine meet reform measures demanded by the International Monetary Fund, and move quickly on closing down the Chernobyl nuclear power station, site of the world's worst nuclear accident in 1986. (Reuters)

De Beers eyeing Azov Sea for diamonds

KYIV — The South African company De Beers is interested in developing diamond deposits on the Azov Sea coast, Holos Ukrayiny reported on June 24. Possibilities for participation in development of Azov Sea kimberlite deposits have been discussed by representatives of De Beers and the State Geology Committee. According to official data, the length of the deposit is 250 km. (Eastern Economist)

Havel visits Chernobyl

KYIV — Czech President Vaclav Havel on July 1 became the first presi-

dent from a country other than Ukraine to visit the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, Ukrainian and Czech TV reported. He met with directors of the station and walked the streets of the abandoned city of Prypiat. Mr. Havel told reporters afterward that the site is a testimony to the lack of mankind's humility in the face of nature. At a ceremony where he received an honorary doctorate from Kyiv State University, Mr. Havel said he considers Ukraine an integral part of Europe on account of both its history and its values. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Cabinet introduces new commodity duty

KYIV — New import duties have been introduced on commodities, affecting exotic fruits and spices in the main, with rates varying between 5 percent and 30 percent of customs value. Knitwear and woven carpets will be hardest hit, with both incurring a 30 percent duty. (InfoBank, Eastern Economist)

Mine closings fall behind schedule

KYIV — Mykola Ivanov, an official

at the state company overseeing the closure of money-losing mines in Ukraine, told Interfax on July 1 that Ukraine cannot afford to close 40 unprofitable coal mines this year, as was planned. He said Ukraine has received only a fraction of the money promised for the project. According to Mr. Ivanov, shutting the first 28 pits would cost 960 million hrv (\$525 million). He said even if the company receives the 238 million hrv due from the 1997 state budget, it will be able to shut only five or six mines. The World Bank has given Ukraine the first half of a \$300 million loan to underwrite the restructuring of the coal industry. World Bank officials said, after visiting Donetsk and other coal mining areas, that the closure program would go ahead but that its pace may be slowed by lack of funding. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Privatbank to get international rating

KYIV — Privatbank has become the first Ukrainian bank to receive an international rating from the Thomson

BankWatch agency, Vseukrainskiye Viedomosti reported on June 28. "In five years of operation, Privatbank has become the most significant private bank of the new generation," said an agency report. Privatbank, a closed joint-stock company, is one of Ukraine's five biggest banks. According to the Thomson report, as of January 1, Privatbank's statutory fund was 30 million hrv, its currency balance 1.2 billion hrv and its own funds 107.9 million hrv. (Eastern Economist)

Gazprom chief says Ukraine still steals

MOSCOW — The director of the Russian energy conglomerate Gazprom, Rem Vyakhirev, has stood behind his earlier accusation that Ukraine is illegally diverting Russian gas from pipelines that run across the former Soviet Union to Central Europe. But he said appealing to international courts of justice would be problematic because there are no specific legal mechanisms for such a case. He added: "Ukraine is still stealing gas." (Eastern Economist)

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Kuchma presents...
 (Continued from page 1)

"If the issue cannot be resolved in a legal way, I would not exclude the transfer to the president in a constitutional manner the right to endorse the budget should the Parliament and government be unable to reach accord within the term envisaged, or to dissolve the Verkhovna Rada if the budget is not adopted," he said.

Turning to the stalled economic reform program that Mr. Kuchma has been trying to push through a resistant left wing-led Verkhovna Rada, impeded by a resistant Cabinet of Ministers, Mr. Kuchma made it clear that he was re-igniting the process with renewed vigor. "It is high time to realize that the endless questioning of the advisability of the course of reforms does not improve the prospects for the country," he said. He called upon the Verkhovna Rada to approve the full tax reform package, which has been idling in Parliament since the beginning of the year, before the 1998 budget is reviewed.

To ferret out corruption in government, Mr. Kuchma said he will order that all government contracts be awarded on a competitive basis. He also announced the beginning of a cost-cutting campaign and administrative reform with the goal of reducing manpower and administrative costs by 25 percent by the end of the year. He said the move would also "eliminate unsubstantiated benefits to civil service workers and shut off all channels of illegal enrichment at the expense of the state budget."

The president reiterated the need to grant tax exemptions to foreign firms to draw non-Ukrainian investors, an idea that had been rejected by Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko and the Verkhovna Rada. He admitted that he needed the Verkhovna Rada's support in this effort. At the same time he said that exporters of Ukrainian goods will be awarded tax exemptions, beginning in 1998.

He also declared that in 1998 the government would no longer purchase grain, and that government expenditures for that purpose would be redirected towards the development of a leasing fund for the purchase of equipment and supplies to stimulate the agro-industrial sector of the economy.

Other proposals that the president hopes will help stimulate the economy are a law of amnesty for those who return money that had been taken out of the country illegally, and a three-year state program aimed at reducing domestic gas consumption by 20 billion cubic meters to minimize Ukraine's indebtedness to other countries.

President Kuchma also proposed a radical plan to gather finances to pay back wages owed to government workers. He said a bill would be sent to the Verkhovna Rada which would allow the government to auction the liquid assets of those companies that fail to pay their workforce, which he said included government enterprises. The auction proceeds would be used to pay salary in arrears. Corporations would have six months to fall in line.

President suggests postponing elections

Besides his blunt criticism of the Verkhovna Rada and Cabinet of Ministers, and his threat to make constitutional changes to the budget process, the most sur-

prising element of Mr. Kuchma's speech was his call to postpone legislative elections for a year.

"I am prepared to examine a proposal for prolonging the mandate of the Verkhovna Rada by one year on the condition that the time be spent not on political bickering, but for the adoption of the most urgent legislative acts, above all in the economic field," said the president. He criticized the legislature's political maneuvering on almost every bill that is presented to it, and explained that the only other option is to recess the Parliament and give the deputies all the time they need for their election campaigns. "It would not be all that costly to the state or to the people," he said.

The president emphasized that he was not considering extending his own mandate. He is up for election in October 1999.

On June 28 Mr. Kuchma told Interfax-Ukraine that the idea made sense from a financial standpoint as well. "It will be an expensive election. The money would be better spent on people who cannot live on their pensions and wages today."

Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz was quick to reject the proposal when he addressed a Communist-sponsored demonstration against the Constitution also held on June 28. He said national deputies would not support the proposal. "People should have the ability, by voting, to express their opinions on today's policies," he said.

In his wide ranging policy address, President Kuchma did not forget the point of the commemoration. The greatest benefit of the Constitution, he said, is that "the Constitution was adopted and everybody was forced to reckon with it. A split in society was prevented, and the democratic essence of power was preserved."

Taking a thinly veiled jab at Verkhovna Rada Chairman Moroz, he said, "It is a sad fact that nobody disrespects the Constitution more than those who consider themselves to be one of its parents."

The president said the Constitution marked the end of the formative years of statehood, and represented the framework upon which the country is built. Unfortunately people still do not understand what that means. "It would be too early in the day to say that we have learned to live by the Constitution," said President Kuchma.

Why Ukraine should...

(Continued from page 2)

investment in the Azeri-Georgian-Ukrainian energy corridor.

Finally, Western governments should define their security interests in the Baltic-Black Sea region lying between Germany and Russia. Not only should more west European countries take an interest in Ukraine, but Ukraine's associate membership in the CIS should be no longer regarded as an obstacle to associate membership of the Western European Union.

By adopting these three policies, and inviting Ukraine to become a non-nuclear and political-economic member of NATO at the Madrid summit, Western governments will have successfully consolidated their major post-Cold War security and strategic gain in Europe.

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Choral Conductors Seminar set for August 10-23 in Edmonton

EDMONTON – The 22nd Choral Conductors Seminar organized by the Ukrainian Music Society of Alberta will be held in Edmonton on August 10-23 at St. John's Institute.

These seminars have been one of the projects of the society for the past 19 years, and it is a pleasure to note that there has been a constant interest in them among choir directors from the United States and all of Canada.

Of particular interest for last year's participants was the theme "Working with Children's and Youth Choruses," as well as the analysis of a newly composed liturgy by Valery Kikta. This year the subject of children's and youth choruses

will be dealt with in greater depth, and there will be an analysis of a composition of the liturgy by Denys Sichynsky.

Other subjects will include: conducting a church choir; lectures on several aspects of choral conducting; the specifics of choral groups; and listening to different genres of Ukrainian music.

As in other years, there will be individual and group lessons in conducting and 10 choral compositions to learn. For further information please contact: Orysia Olijnyk, Ukrainian Choral Conductors Seminar, 11728 97th St., Edmonton, Alberta T5G 1Y2; telephone, (403) 474-9774, (403) 457-5136.

Lazarenko resigns..

(Continued from page 1)

eral articles on corruption in the international press.

Six days before President Kuchma removed Mr. Lazarenko he refused to rebuff charges made by the National Democratic Party that hinted at the prime minister's moral turpitude. "Mr. Lazarenko must himself answer charges against his honor and morality," said the president.

On July 19, after spending several days on an official visit to Canada, Mr. Lazarenko flew home and became ill. At first, the diagnosis was exhaustion. President Kuchma immediately announced that Vasyl Durdynets, the first vice prime minister who is credited with finalizing the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation with Russia, would become acting prime minister "for as long as Mr. Lazarenko is sick."

How long Mr. Durdynets will remain acting prime minister is not known. Some political observers believe that the president may keep Mr. Durdynets, who is known as a good administrator but not

one that wields sufficient political influence, in his post until after the Parliament recesses on July 18. An appointment after that date would shield the new person in the job from the criticism of the heavily anti-Kuchma Verkhovna Rada and allow time for the individual to establish himself before the legislature acted on approval.

Names that have popped up as possible candidates include Volodymyr Horbulin, currently President Kuchma's secretary of the National Security and Defense Council; Vice Prime Minister for Economic Reform Serhii Tyhypko, who was appointed to that post in April and also chairs the board of directors of Privatbank; Acting Prime Minister Durdynets, former deputy chairman of the Verkhovna Rada and co-author of the treaty with Russia; and former Vice Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh.

According to Ukrainian law, the Cabinet of Ministers must step down when the prime minister resigns. President Kuchma has the option of asking all or some of the ministers to remain in their positions for up to 60 days, by which time he must appoint a new prime minister.

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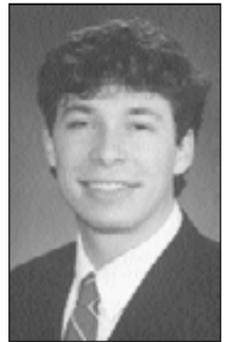
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Marco Andrew Harmaty



Son of Dr. Myron and Margaritha Harmaty of Charlotte, NC, graduated Phi Beta Kappa on May 12, 1997, from University of North Carolina Chapel Hill with honors in biology. He will continue his studies at UNC Chapel Hill School of Medicine beginning August 18, 1997. Birthday 12/29/74.



Lt. Taras Konrad



Congratulations to Lt. Taras Konrad who graduated from University of Pennsylvania Dental School on May 18, 1996, and from Navy Officer Indoctrination School on December 13, 1996. Presently he is stationed at Great Lakes Navy Base as a dentist. May your future be blessed and successful.

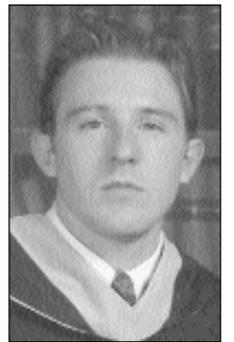


Love – Parents and brothers.

Lubomyr Konrad



Congratulations to Lubomyr Konrad who graduated from La Salle University on May 11, 1997. In September he'll begin teaching at Pennsauken High School, N.J. May your future be blessed and successful.



Love – Parents and brothers.

To all Branch Officers and Members of the UNA

Each year in May the UNA sends its members dividend checks. Payment of dividends for this year is suspended. We hereby inform you that this year there are changes that in the future will bring great benefits for our members and our organization.

Since the beginning of 1996, negotiations have been ongoing about a merger of the UNA with two other Ukrainian fraternal insurance companies, that is, the Ukrainian National Aid Association of America and the Ukrainian Fraternal Association. The Ukrainian National Aid Association must merge this year. This merger entails high expenses; in this case the UNA must cover the shortfall in the UNAAA's surplus, a total of \$350,000. Many members of the UNAAA are members also of the UNA, and we have a moral duty to assist UNAAA members in the merger of our two organizations. In view of the proposed merger, all three fraternal institutions, the UNAAA, the UFA and the UNA will not pay their members an annual dividend. Though this year the UNA will not pay a dividend to members, we assure the membership that the UNA will continue to provide certain assistance and fraternal benefits to its members.

1. More than 2,000 members who are age 79 or older but con-

tinue to pay premiums for life insurance cover age will receive a fraternal donation equal to the amount of their annual premium. The due date of their payments will be posted to a year after their current due date. This means that these members will not pay the next annual premium. The grand total of all these premiums is more than \$103,000.

2. All members of the UNA will continue to receive the guaranteed interest on the accumulated cash values of their certificates. Each certificate guarantees the member a specific interest rate that the UNA must add to the accumulated reserve as long as the certificate exists. These interests rates are guaranteed by the certificates and each member can review this for himself/herself.

In general, we wish to remind you that most members of the UNA benefit from many fraternal financial discounts and donations. The UNA collects only \$41,000 from its members per year for the Fraternal Fund, yet the UNA spends more than 20 times as much on its fraternal activities. We list several of our fraternal benefits:

a) Nearly 8,000 subscribers of the Ukrainian daily newspaper Svoboda receive a discount of \$25 per year on their sub-

scriptions; this adds up to \$200,000, which is covered for these members by the UNA.

b) Nearly 7,500 subscribers of The Ukrainian Weekly receive a discount of \$20 per year; this totals \$150,000, which the UNA covers for members.

c) More than 250 students receive scholarships for an average amount of \$268, or a grand total of \$67,000.

d) Members who vacation at Soyuzivka get a discount of 10 percent during the summer season; this amounts to \$25,000 annually. The UNA pays out \$400,000 per year to financially support Soyuzivka.

e) Approximately 170 persons per year receive payments of at least \$50 from the Ingident Fund; annually this adds up to \$10,000.

To sum up, the UNA annual spends nearly \$955,000 for fraternal activities. This significant sum does not include donations that we give to national causes and educational projects. We see that nearly half of all UNA members benefit from one or more types of fraternal benefits, financial assistance and savings.

— Executive Committee

Parliament passes...

(Continued from page 1)

document that regulates and budgets yesterday. I look at it as not a serious document. It does not reflect today's needs."

Former Vice Prime Minister for Economic Reform Viktor Pynzenyk, who resigned on April 2 over what he called his inability to further move reforms, said he did not want to comment - but then could not resist. "I do not know what to make of this document. I do not know what it means, how to understand it?" said Mr. Pynzenyk.

The government and the country have lived by budget guidelines based on 1996 expenditures since January, when President Kuchma signed a decree to that effect after it was apparent that no budget was going to be approved. On April 8 the president asked the Verkhovna Rada to extend the emergency budget to July 1.

Back in January an optimistic government had submitted to the Parliament a tax reform packaged dubbed "Economic Growth '97," which it hoped at the time would cut income taxes, generate needed revenues and spur economic recovery.

The package quickly got bogged down in legislative committees, and was harshly criticized by the leftist forces for being too lenient on foreign investors

and too harsh on pensioners and the needy.

President Kuchma made a critical mistake when he decided to play hardball with the Verkhovna Rada and instructed the prime minister to withhold the budget document, which had been returned for modification after it had been approved in its first reading by the Parliament, until the tax package was approved. The legislature was non-plussed and continued to bide its time reviewing the tax bills.

Not until April, after the IMF had expressed its displeasure with the pace of the budget process and had threatened to withhold a \$3 billion package of loans, did the government move to reach a compromise with the legislature.

In the end the budget process consumed the prime minister and the author of the tax reform package, Vice Prime Minister Pynzenyk.

Mr. Pynzenyk resigned on April 2. Mr. Lazarenko resigned on July 1, a little more than a week after he had taken ill and was temporarily replaced by First Vice Prime Minister Vasyl Durdynets. Although he stated that he was resigning for health reasons, political observers said he had been pushed out over disagreements with the president and his inability to get the budget approved. Ironically the budget passed nine days after Mr. Lazarenko had defacto stopped being prime minister.

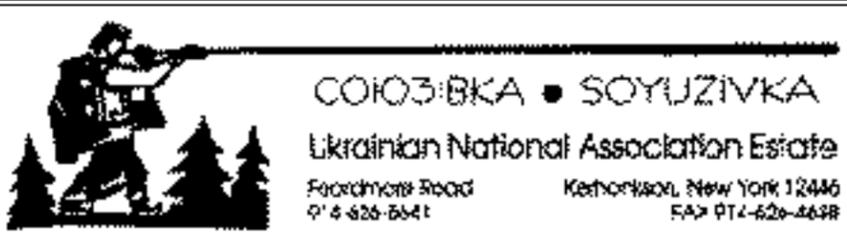
With its economy still in decline, Ukraine will be hard pressed to gather anticipated revenues. On June 28 the Ministry of the Economy released figures that present a dismal picture of Ukraine's economic landscape in the first five months of 1997. The gross domestic product (GDP) reached only 33.2 billion hrv, down 7.2 percent over the same period last year. Industrial production declined 4.9 percent, and Ukraine's budget deficit stood at 1.73 billion hrv, while its foreign trade deficit was 2.7 billion hrv. Unemployment increased from 350,000 to 500,000 people by official estimates, although the number of people who have simply stopped looking for work is considered to be much higher.

Re: Mail delivery of The Weekly

It has come to our attention that The Ukrainian Weekly is often delivered late, or irregularly, or that our subscribers sometimes receive several issues at once.

We feel it is necessary to notify our subscribers that The Weekly is mailed out Friday mornings (before the Sunday date of issue) via second-class mail.

If you are not receiving regular delivery of The Weekly, we urge you to file a complaint at your local post office. This may be done by obtaining the U.S. Postal Service Consumer Card and filling out the appropriate sections.



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Rep. Fox offers...

(Continued from page 4)

edged Ukraine's positive contributions to peace and stability in Europe through peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia and positive attitude towards NATO expansion. Furthermore, Rep. Smith mentioned that the "G-7 has pledged a tremendous amount of aid to shut down the reactor [Chernobyl nuclear power station] ... and very little of that money has been produced over the last couple of years."

Both representatives also mentioned their concerns with regard to corruption in Ukraine. Rep. Levin stated: "The answer to these concerns [corruption and investment problems] is not to sever relations and threaten to cut off aid as some have proposed. Such proposals run counter to our national and strategic interests in this region."

In response to many of the negative attacks on Ukraine within Congress, Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY) has circulated a "Dear Colleague" letter that calls

for support of President Bill Clinton's request for U.S. foreign assistance to Ukraine in the FY 1998 Appropriations Bill. The letter, addressed to Chairman Callahan of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, states the significant challenges that Ukraine must endure on its road to democracy and a free-market economy, and notes that abandoning Ukraine at this critical juncture would pose more serious obstacles for U.S. national interests.

Clearly focusing on the implications of U.S.-Ukraine bilateral relations, the "Dear Colleague" letter noted that "any reduction in U.S. aid to Ukraine at this time would jeopardize all the improvements that have been made recently and potentially destabilize the fragile democratic and economic norms that Ukraine has been establishing."

Nearly two dozen representatives signed the letter in support of continued assistance to Ukraine. The letter was delivered to Chairman Callahan prior to the Foreign Operations Subcommittee's markup for the appropriations bill on June 25.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

choice for prime minister. Twenty-two voted against, nine abstained, and 17 did not register a vote. The decision was greeted with a round of applause and a standing ovation, as President Kuchma, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz and newly approved Prime Minister Lazarenko smiled and posed for photos in the legislative chambers.

Mr. Moroz noted that the Supreme Council's vote was "an exceptionally responsible decision at a crucial juncture for Ukraine," explaining that two years have been spent on "overcoming intrigues in the corridors of power. It is necessary for the government to be engaged not in politics, but in the economy," he said.

Expressing gratitude to the lawmakers, Mr. Lazarenko said he clearly understands the responsibility that comes with his appointment, and thanked them for their vote of confidence.

Having met with all the factions, groups and political parties in the Parliament prior to the vote on his candidacy, Mr. Lazarenko once again assured lawmakers that his guidelines for choosing ministers for a new government would be based on "professionalism, competence and knowledge of the matter at hand." He also stressed that when forming the government, he would take into account the "interests of all of Ukraine's regions," a statement lawmakers regarded as a way to calm their worries that the government would be a "Dnipropetrovsk clan."

Sources: "Parliament approves Lazarenko as PM; president names six 'power' ministers," by Marta Kolomayets, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, July 14, 1996 (Vol. LXIV, No. 28); "Observers doubt Lazarenko will resume PM's duties," by Roman Woronowycz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, June 29, 1997 (Vol. LXV, No 26).



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Udoenko criticizes...

(Continued from page 3)

Mr. Udoenko explained that after his nomination was official, he informed President Kuchma that he will continue to serve as Ukraine's foreign affairs minister as he served in the U.N. post. In previous years, presidents of the General Assembly have often simultaneously served as the foreign ministers of their country.

Commenting on the recent foreign policy successes of Ukraine, which Western foreign policy analysts have praised as "brilliant" and the "miracle month of May" for Ukraine, Mr. Udoenko stated that the upcoming North Atlantic Treaty Organization summit in Madrid gave negotiators impetus to complete a range of bilateral and multilateral meetings and agreements with Belarus, Moldova, Transnistria, Poland, Romania and Russia and the U.S.

Ukraine is very satisfied with the Charter on a Distinctive NATO-Ukraine Partnership, and according to Mr.

Udoenko, "the Ukraine-NATO, the Russia-NATO and the NATO enlargement agreements will be the three very important, modern pillars upon which over-all European security into the next century can be established."

Mr. Udoenko noted that having attained many of the major foreign policy goals towards which Ukraine has been working for the past five years, the government will now concentrate on the "economization" of its foreign policy to encourage foreign investment.

"We have achieved great things on the macro level, reduced inflation from 1000 percent in 1994 to between 10 percent to 12 percent this year ... introduced a stable national currency ... and we have made great progress in the area of privatization. Ownership has been transferred from the state to the workers, yet the change in ownership did not bring in capital ... we must re-structure our industries, with particular reference to the energy sector ... to bring in foreign investment to help end our deep economic crisis," stated Mr. Udoenko.

Ukraine's Embassy...

(Continued from page 5)

presented Ambassador Shcherbak with an American flag that flew over the Capitol earlier that day in honor of the Ukrainian Constitution's anniversary.

Rep. Fox announced that the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus would soon travel to Ukraine "so that we can increase understanding and support for Ukraine ... [We] want to do all that we can to forge that partnership and lead us to even

greater heights for freedom and democracy."

A representative of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association presented the Embassy an original engraving of Mount Vernon, George Washington's original home in Virginia.

The evening was capped with a recital by Oksana Kroyvtska, the Ukrainian soprano who returned for her fifth season with the New York City Opera. Accompanied by pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky, she sang a number of Ukrainian folk songs as well as arias from her operatic repertoire.

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Lev Kopelev...

(Continued from page 4)

April 1945 Mr. Kopelev was arrested and charged with "bourgeois humanitarianism" and "pity for the enemy" because of his attempts to stop looting and raping by Soviet soldiers in East Prussia.

Initially acquitted by a Moscow District Military Tribunal in November 1946, he was re-arrested in March 1947 and sentenced to three years of hard labor. However, Mr. Kopelev ended up serving 10 years in the gulag's camps and "sharashky" (special workshops for incarcerated technicians), where he met Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.

Released in 1955, Mr. Kopelev was rehabilitated the following year and worked at the Moscow Institute of Art History. In 1962 he was instrumental in securing the publication of Mr. Solzhenitsyn's "One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich." Mr. Kopelev also served as the inspiration for the character of Lev Rubin, a man who persistently defends Stalin and the Soviet system despite their responsibility for his unjustified imprisonment, in Mr. Solzhenitsyn's "The First Circle."

Also in 1962, Mr. Kopelev embarked on his career as a dissident, by defending Soviet "non-conformist" artists. Throughout the persecution of the writers Andrei Siniavsky and Yulii Danel he was their persistent and public advocate. He was finally expelled from the Communist Party in 1968, when he wrote an open letter to Czech writer Milan Kundera and took part in demonstrations denouncing the Soviet invasion of the latter's country.

In November 1969 he protested Mr. Solzhenitsyn's expulsion from the Soviet

Writers' Union. In January 1972 Mr. Kopelev wrote letters in defense of Gen. Petro Grigorenko and requested permission to send him books at the psychiatric hospital where he was imprisoned.

In early 1975 his first memoir, titled "To Be Preserved Forever," began circulating as samizdat. It was smuggled out and appeared in the West later that year. Mr. Kopelev was expelled from the Soviet Writers' Union in 1977.

In 1980, spurred on by the confinement in internal exile of Andrei Sakharov, he decided to emigrate from the USSR with his wife, Raissa Orlova. Soviet authorities granted their wish, stripped them of citizenship, and the pair left for West Germany that November, where he was lionized for his interest in German literature, his courageous actions in 1945, and his commitment to human rights.

Settling in Köln, Mr. Kopelev renewed his friendship with the German writer Heinrich Böll, and continued his activism in defense of political prisoners within the USSR. In 1983 he wrote an introduction to a selection of Vasyl Stus's works and diaries in German translation.

Mr. Kopelev's work on Russian and German literary history was supported by the Gesamthochschule in Wuppertal. He received honorary doctorates from the University of Köln in 1981 and from New York's New School for Social Research in 1984, and was awarded the Erich Maria Remarque Freedom Prize in 1991.

He is survived by his third wife, Maria Leonene; two daughters from his first marriage currently living in Los Angeles, Maya Litvinova and Svetlana Ivanova; two daughters by Ms. Orlova (who died of cancer in 1989); six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



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SUMMER PROGRAMS 1997

- Saturday, July 5**
 8:30 p.m. CONCERT – "VOLOSHKY TRIO"
 Banduryst **OSTAP STACHIV**
 10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by **TEMPO, BURLAKY**
- Saturday, July 12**
 8:30 p.m. CONCERT – **DUMKA CHOIR**, New York
VASYL HRECHYNSKY, conductor
 10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by **VIDLUNYA**
- Sunday, July 19**
 8:30 p.m. CONCERT – Vocalists **LUBA and MYKOLA**
 10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by **LUBA and MYKOLA**
- Saturday, July 26**
 8:30 p.m. CONCERT – Dance Ensemble **DUNAI**, vocalist **VOLODYMYR TSMURA**
 10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by **KRYSH TAL**
- Saturday, August 2**
 8:30 p.m. CONCERT – Folk Ensemble **LVIVSKI MUZYKY**
 10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by **BURLAKY**
- Saturday, August 9**
 8:30 p.m. CONCERT – **CABARET – OLYA CHODOBA-FRYZ**
 10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by **LUNA**
- Saturday, August 16**
 8:30 p.m. CONCERT – Vocalist **OSTAP STACHIV**
 10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by **FATA MORGANA**
 11:45 p.m. Crowning of "MISS SOYUZIVKA 1998"
- Saturday, August 23 UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION**
 8:30 p.m. CONCERT – **SOYUZIVKA DANCE WORKSHOP RECITAL**
 Director: **ROMA PRYMA BOHACHEVSKY**
LVIVYANY
 10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by **BURYA**

LABOR DAY WEEKEND CELEBRATIONS
 CONCERTS, DANCES, EXHIBITS, TENNIS TOURNAMENT, SWIMMING COMPETITION
 (Details TBA)

SVOBODA СВОБОДА
 Established 1893
 Oldest and foremost Ukrainian-language daily newspaper in the United States

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY
 Established 1933
 English-language newspaper offering a Ukrainian perspective on the news

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- Fraternal and Community Advertising 1 inch, single column \$7.50
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- Width of one column 1 3/4 inches
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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY (Published in English on Sundays)

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 - All advertising correspondence should be directed to Mrs. Maria Szeparowycz, Advertising Manager.
 - Kindly make checks payable to Svoboda or The Ukrainian Weekly, as appropriate.



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Sponsored by

Ukrainian Fraternal Association

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- β 4 GRAND STAND SHOWS β SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT
- β 3 BANDS SATURDAY NIGHT β 1 BAND FRIDAY NIGHT
- β CAMPING BY THE LAKE β FISHING β HIKING β SWIMMING POOL

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Monday-Sunday, July 7-13

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Yara Arts Group from La MaMa Experimental Theater in New York will conduct its 10th annual theater workshop with the students of the Harvard summer school that will culminate in a performance. Virlana Tkacz will direct the workshops. Workshop times are Monday-Friday 7-10 p.m. and Saturday 1-5 p.m. Saturday performance 8 p.m. Harvard's Lowell Hall. Call the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, (617) 495-4053, for more information.

Sunday, July 13

DEERFIELD, Mass.: The fourth annual Eastern European Festival and Market will be held from 1-5 p.m. Sponsored by the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association of Old Deerfield, the gathering features music, food, crafts and conversation from the countries of Eastern Europe. The Polish Genealogical Society will be present to assist in genealogical research. Ethnic food will be the fare for lunch, provided by the local Ukrainian church. Music will be ongoing all afternoon, featuring a renowned bandurist, Julian Kytasty, at 3 p.m. The ensemble Fourscore will play folksongs both before and after the bandura concert. The festival will be free and is held in the former Old Deerfield Elementary School, behind Memorial Hall Museum on Memorial Street. There is ample free parking. For more information call Susan McGowan, (413) 774-7476 Ext. 3.

Sunday, July 27

MINERSVILLE, Pa.: The Ukrainian Catholic churches of the Shamokin Deanery of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will sponsor their annual Ukrainian Seminary Day, which will be held at St. Nicholas Picnic Grove (Primrose Route 901 North). Activities throughout the day include: divine liturgy, 11 a.m.; St. Michael's Ukrainian Dancers and Kazka Ukrainian Folk Ensemble, 1:30-3:30 p.m.; Ron Cahute and "Burya," 4-8 p.m. There will be Ukrainian and American food along with childrens games and rides, dancing and vendors selling Ukrainian items. Free parking and free admission. For more information and directions call (717) 874-3777 or e-mail: pdspotts@prolog.net.

ADVANCE NOTICE

ELLENVILLE, N.Y.: The XXII Youth Games will take place on August 9 at the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM-A) estate. Games open at 9:30 a.m. followed by: 9:45 a.m., track and field, tennis; 10 a.m. volleyball; 1 p.m., soccer; 3 p.m., swimming. The closing ceremonies and distribution of prizes and medals will take place at 7 p.m. Participants must be 18 years of age or younger. Games are open to all participants and teams from all branches of Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK). Send applications to: Irenaeus Isajiw, R.D. 6, P.O. Box 192, Newton, NJ 07860; (201) 383-8636.

PLEASE NOTE: Individuals or organizations who have not taken into account the changes in Preview requirements announced on April 13 and have not submitted information in Preview format will find that their entries have not been published in this issue.

At Soyuzivka: July 12-13

KERHONKSON, N.Y. — The Ukrainian National Association's estate Soyuzivka invites all to experience a restful and enjoyable weekend in the picturesque Catskills Mountains.

Those arriving on Friday, July 11, may sample fine seafood fare at Odesa Night, a sumptuous dinner and music event commencing at 6 p.m. on the Veselka Patio. Following dinner, guests and visitors alike may repair to the renowned Trembita Lounge, where Lvivyany, Soyuzivka's house band, will set the tone for an evening of cool and refreshing relaxation.

On Saturday, July 12, hikers, pool bums, tanning enthusiasts and athletic types may avail themselves of all Soyuzivka has to offer in the way of wooded trails, pool, volleyball and tennis facilities, as well as the reliable Trembita Lounge and its cheerful staff. Following

an intermission for dinner, taken either at Chef Andriy Sonevsky's dining room or off-campus, guests and visitors are invited for an evening of culture and dance.

At 8:30 p.m. the Ukrainian Dumka Chorus of New York, conducted by Vasyl Hrechynsky, takes to the stage at the Veselka Pavilion. Dumka's annual concerts here have always proven a popular attraction, and the chorus' program includes a variety of Ukrainian song styles, from classical to folk.

At concert's end, 10 p.m. or thereabouts, all present may take their places on the Veselka Patio, where Vidlunia, formerly known as Hryts and Stefan, will provide musical entertainment.

For more information or to make reservation, call Soyuzivka at (914) 626-5641; fax, (914) 626-4638.

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Please call (201) 386-1115 to make such appointments in advance)

Nestor L. Olesnycky

Robert S. Field