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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

Russia's Ukrainians hold second congress

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

MOSCOW — Arriving from as far away as Kamchatka, at the eastern edge of the Russian Federation, almost 100 leaders of the Ukrainian Eastern diaspora gathered in Moscow on October 24-25 for the second Congress of Ukrainians of Russia.

In addition to listening to reports on the life of Ukrainians throughout Russia, the delegates to the convention worked to finalize documents that will grant the Association of Ukrainians in Russia (AUR) a historic first: national cultural autonomy.

The law on national cultural autonomy, signed by Russia's President Boris Yeltsin in June 1996, recognizes the rights of certain ethnic minorities not indigenous to Russia who can show an organized presence throughout the regions of Russia. It does not give them any sort of political autonomy as the term might imply. Obtaining such status would give the AUR legal standing in the federal government and make it easier to obtain government funds for schools, publishing houses and cultural affairs. Thirteen ethnic groups have been granted national cultural autonomy, among them Jews, Germans, Azeris, Poles and Koreans.

AUR President Oleksander Rudenko-Desniak said at the opening session of the conference, held at the for-

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Patriarch Bartholomew visits Ukrainian Orthodox Center

by Irene Jarosewich

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. — Flying in from New York, three helicopters carrying Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople and his delegation descended at dusk on October 27 to land on the grassy mall of the St. Andrew Archdiocesan Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. Against the backdrop of a fading sun, more than 1,200 Orthodox faithful, most from the Ukrainian and Greek Churches, greeted the patriarch, who had arrived in the United States on October 19 to begin a monthlong pastoral visit to Orthodox communities throughout 16 cities in the U.S., as well as to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Patriarch Bartholomew, 57, was enthroned in Istanbul (as Constantinople has been known since 1930) on November 2, 1991, and is considered to be the "first among equals" of the eight Orthodox patriarchs in the world and the spiritual leader of close to 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide who are divided among 15 Churches. It is his first visit to the United States, which is home to more than 5 million Orthodox Christians, and his first pastoral visit with the faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and Diaspora since that Church accepted the omophor (spiritual authority) of the ecumenical patriarch in 1995.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Archdiocesan Center in New Jersey is a large complex, and during his five-hour visit the patriarch toured the seminary, the consistory, the cemetery, the museum and library, as well as the historic Henrick Fisher House, built in 1688, home of New Jersey's delegate to the Continental Congress and located on the property.



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

Under the night sky, a moleben (memorial service) was held outdoors on the steps of St. Andrew Memorial Church, and later in the evening, a banquet, attended by more than 500 guests representing Ukrainian, Greek and several other Orthodox Churches, was held in the patriarch's honor at the Ukrainian Cultural Center.

Patriarch Bartholomew's tenure has coincided with the break-up of the Soviet Union and its sphere of influence in Eastern Europe, a region of the world where Orthodoxy dominated as a religion before the onset of communism. He actively promotes pan-Orthodox unity and the revival of Orthodoxy in its traditional homelands.

A Turkish citizen of Greek descent, Patriarch Bartholomew, speaks half a dozen languages fluently, including English, and has traveled extensively in the past several years with his message that Christian Orthodoxy is not a religion of the past, but a vibrant faith of the future. He predicts that millions will return, or convert, to Orthodoxy in the next century, especially in the former Communist countries that are only now becoming more fully aware of the moral and spiritual void in their lives.

In his blessing at the end of his pastoral visit at the Archdiocesan Center, he said, "We do not see our faith only as ancient, but as a living faith to guide us everyday and everywhere ... we see the next millennium not in terms of aging, but being young again ... we are entering the springtime of a new millennium."

Pursuing better relations

Relying on his moral authority as "first among equals" to encourage better relations among the Orthodox Churches, the patriarch has also approached Catholic, Jewish and Muslim leaders. Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope John Paul II met in 1995 for three days, and relations between the Vatican and Constantinople are said to be good.

In an address several days ago at the Jesuit-run Georgetown University in Washington, Patriarch Bartholomew stated, "Our heart is opposed to the specter of everlasting separation ... our heart requires that we seek again our common foundations." He has

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DOING BUSINESS IN UKRAINE: The perspective from the U.S. Embassy

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

Most experts believe, although none will give a timetable, that Ukraine will eventually climb out of its economic morass and establish itself as one of the leading economic powers of Europe. Even with an ever-changing set of laws, a heavily regulated economy and high taxes, international companies are drawn to Ukraine, with its potential market of 51 million and a large and well-trained work force.

However, many other businesses stay away, intimidated by an economy that is neither free market nor centrally controlled. To give our readers a better idea of what it takes to do business in Ukraine, we will run a series of features on the Ukrainian market place, which will include information on the general business climate in Ukraine and on what it takes to get a business going in Ukraine. This will include interviews with several successful American businesspeople who will explain just what it takes to be successful; the impediments; the advantages. The first installment of this series is an edited two-part interview with Andrew Bihun, the senior commercial officer at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv.

PART I

What does it take to develop a successful business in Ukraine? What are some of the problems?

There is almost nothing here that you could foresee in some other country. The problems exist all over the place. What it takes depends on what kind of business

you're getting into. If it's a small one, where your market is really a regional market within a particular city or a particular oblast, then you have to develop really good contacts with city authorities. Don't forget that you have a situation right now where city authorities and oblast authorities are not exactly of the same mind. Therefore, depending on how wide the scope of your commercial activities is going to be, whether they are going to be city-wide or oblast-wide, you have to develop the appropriate contacts in one or the other, or both.

What does that mean? Does that mean getting the right paperwork, which means paying fees, or as some people allege, paying graft? City officials will tell you that these are licensing fees. How does this compare to business norms in the West?

The official fees are probably very comparable to Western European fees. But the number of fees that you have to pay, due to over-regulation on the central government and the local government level, for passing papers or for getting approvals of certificates for the start-up of a business or the continuation of a business — just the sheer number of them is enormous.

The payment of fees is viewed by a lot of people as a well for graft. It is a very natural process in a geographic area, a country in which you don't have an immediate set of laws that is going to regulate business. There is no process for regulating business. I think that Ukraine is at least starting to talk on paper,

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Pre-election season begins, candidates announce intentions

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — With the pre-election season in Ukraine in full bloom, political maneuverings by political candidates and parties for the presidency and seats in the Verkhovna Rada have begun in earnest.

On October 26, nearly two years before the presidential elections, President Leonid Kuchma said he was throwing his hat into the ring, or perhaps only half of it. He told the "Pislia Mova" news program that he would run for president if the Ukrainian economy began to improve and forecast that "the economic situation will improve by the time of the next elections in October 1999."

However, three days later, the president's chief of staff, Yevhen Kushniarov explained that the president did not officially declare his candidacy during the interview on the news program. "I would say that it is a bit early to talk about the presidential elections. The president merely wanted the people to understand his plans. It is important that the people understand the long-term strategy of the president of the country," said Mr. Kushniarov.

Yevhen Marchuk, Ukraine's former prime ministers under the Kuchma administration, who was also the chief of the KGB of Ukraine before the demise of the Soviet Union, showed no qualms about an early start in his quest to lead Ukraine into the 21st century. The day after the president made his muddled declaration, Mr. Marchuk officially announced his intention to run in 1999. He said that President Kuchma's statement "freed his future rivals of the need to be tight-lipped about their intentions."

He said that no matter what the president hopes, "the present administration is unable to take the country out of the [economic] crisis." He also said the president's administration is itself in crisis. "When a decision is made based on circumstances, rather than the need to influence them, it is evidence that the power crisis has reached the president."

Mr. Kushniarov, in turn, criticized Mr. Marchuk's decision to run. "With his background, he has no moral right to run for president. The aftereffects of the agency he ran are still being felt today," said Mr. Kushniarov in reference to Mr. Marchuk's former position as head of the KGB of the former Ukrainian SSR.

Mr. Marchuk is supported by Ukraine's first president, Leonid Kravchuk. The two joined forces on October 20 at the convention of the United Social Democratic Party. They will run as the top two candidates on the party's slate in the Verkhovna Rada elections scheduled for March 1998.

In a week filled with political positioning in preparation for elections, the other declared presidential hopeful, Serhii Holovaty, along with several prominent members of Parliament announced on October 29 the formation of a coalition of the Christian National Union and the Christian Democratic Parties.

Other prominent members who make up its slate are Deputy Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Viktor Musiaka; National Deputy Viktor Shyshkin, former procurator general during the Kravchuk administration; National Deputy Volodymyr Stretovych, chairman of the Parliament's Committee on Judicial Policy and Court and Judicial Reform; and National Deputy Hryhorii Omelchenko, chairman of the Verkhovna Rada's Committee on Corruption and Organized Crime, as well as 17 members of the Reform faction of the Ukrainian

Parliament.

Mr. Omelchenko said the fight with corruption and organized crime is a major component of their platform. "Our goal is to implement a system of honesty, of integrity and morality within society, but specifically within government structures," he explained.

The coalition members present at the press conference agreed that they would welcome the newly created Reform and Order Party headed by ex-Vice Prime Minister of Economic Reform Viktor Pynzenyk into their bloc if the party made serious overtures to join.

The next day, another major player on the political scene whom most political pundits consider a presidential hopeful, and also a former prime minister in the Kuchma administration, Pavlo Lazarenko, took the top position in the slate of the newly formed Hromada Party.

The party, formed on September 27, is an offshoot of the cultural organization of the same name. It also comprises members of the Yednist faction of the Verkhovna Rada, including Ukraine's most renowned businesswoman, Yulia Tymoshenko. She, along with former Ambassador to the United States Oleh Bilorus and the popular Ukrainian singer Dmytro Hnatiuk, is in the top 10 on the Hromada candidate list for the Verkhovna Rada.

At an October 30 press conference Mr. Lazarenko said is premature to reveal any intention to run for president. "I will only have the moral right, the confidence of the populace, after we have successfully completed our campaign for elections to the Verkhovna Rada," said Mr. Lazarenko. "Today, I believe it is a bit premature and even stupid, if I may say so, to be making plans for the presidential elections."

The leader of Hromada also announced that his party was officially stepping into opposition to the Kuchma administration and forming a shadow cabinet, which would be led by Ms. Tymoshenko.

The National Democratic Party of Ukraine, which has become a major player on Ukraine's political turf since the election of President Kuchma in 1994 and with whom he is most closely associated, announced on October 27 that Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko would head its ticket for the elections to Parliament. Mr. Pustovoitenko is also considered a potential presidential candidate. Other members elected to their candidate list are former Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Ivan Pliushch, Kharkiv Oblast leader Oleh Diomin, Deputies Mykhailo Syrota, Oleksander Yemets and Volodymyr Filenko, as well as prominent businessman and president of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Anatolii Kinakh.

Historically, the two strongest political organizations in Ukraine, the Communist Party and the center-right leaning Rukh, have also held political conventions, with only one small surprise. At its seventh congress, which ended on October 29, Rukh voted in its Verkhovna Rada slate of candidates, which has Viacheslav Chornovil at the top of the list. But a surprise candidate for the Verkhovna Rada was Nina Matvienko, the doyenne of Ukrainian folk music. She, along with former Olympic champion Valerii Borzov, just recently joined the party.

The Communists are laying low as the pre-election season begins. They held an

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NEWSBRIEFS

Economy shows signs of recovery

KYIV — The situation in Ukraine's economy remains complex, but some positive signs have emerged recently, said Minister of the Economy Viktor Suslov. The gross domestic product (GDP) for the first nine months of 1997 fell by 5 percent if compared to the same period of 1996. Nevertheless, Mr. Suslov noted that the fall in industrial production has slowed down. A positive sign is that production volumes in the machine-building, metal-processing and food industry enterprises have grown. At the same time, production in the oil processing industry is still falling, since the sector lacks a stable supply of raw materials. According to Mr. Suslov, 72.8 percent of the annual volumes of excise payments were received by the budget as of October 1. Receipt of income from personal income tax equaled 70.2 percent of annual volume. Revenue from overseas trading activities brought in 75 percent of the expected total for 1997. He stressed that during the January to September period, the share of barter operations in the economy rose from 32 percent to 39.2 percent. Roman Shpek, chairman of Ukraine's National Agency for Reconstruction and Development, said on October 14 that the Cabinet of Ministers understands that the only way to provide stable economic growth and take the country out of economic crisis is by developing the agricultural sector. An agreement was signed between Ukraine and the World Bank to provide Ukraine with a loan that is aimed at restructuring agriculture. According to Mr. Shpek, the Cabinet is now studying the possibility of implementing a USAID project on providing the private sector with American credits totaling \$250 million to buy agricultural equipment. (Eastern Economist)

Ukraine earns BB+ credit rating

KYIV — The Japanese rating agency Nippon Investor Service gave Ukraine a BB+ credit rating on October 28. According to the press service of the vice prime minister for the economy, this indicator is a "significant accomplishment" for Ukraine, as a country with a developing economy. This is Ukraine's first international rating and will help to attract cheaper forms of credit. It paves the way for the first issue of Ukrainian foreign bonds in the Japanese stock market. According to the Cabinet of Ministers, this rating "conforms to the risk category to which Ukraine belongs as a country with a transitional economy. Indeed, it is even one position higher than many other countries with such economies." The main aim of acquiring a rating is to issue Ukrainian external bonds

on the European and Japanese markets. The first issue of Ukrainian external bonds will take place this year. Their value will be between \$250 million and \$500 million (U.S.), depending upon the external financing needs of the state budget. (Eastern Economist)

Kyiv stocks hit as New York exchange falls

KYIV — Prices on the Kyiv stock exchange fell on October 28 in the wake of hefty falls on European and Asian stock markets. The Ukrainian exchange was not hit as badly as others, though the energy and chemical sectors lost 10 percent and 4.5 percent, respectively. The KAS-20 Weighted index lost 5.9 percent and the KAS-20 Simple index lost 2.6 percent. The Moscow market lost 20 percent initially, but later regained half those losses. European markets reacted to October 27's huge losses on Wall Street and the Hong Kong exchange. The Dow Jones lost a record 554 points, its biggest single-day drop ever. Hong Kong recorded a 13.7 percent loss, also its biggest ever singleday fall. A domino effect seems to have been at work, though the Ukrainian and Russian markets are relatively modern and smaller. Last week's falls in Hong Kong were triggered by an apparently over-valued Hong Kong dollar and worries that Asian economies seem weak. The falls may be partly attributed to a global correction in over inflated stock values. (Eastern Economist)

Kuchma signs declaration with Georgia

TBILISI — President Leonid Kuchma and his Georgian counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, signed a joint declaration on cooperation on October 28. Areas of cooperation for the future include pharmaceuticals and communications. An agreement was also signed on the prevention of dual citizenship. Mr. Kuchma said the moves mark a new stage in relations and expressed optimism for the future. Mr. Kuchma was in Tbilisi for a two-day official visit. The two presidents signed a "Declaration of Two," intended as a "counterbalance to unions and alliances within the CIS," according to Izvestiya of October 29. The Ukrainian president dismissed the CIS peacekeeping operation in Abkhazia as "unproductive" and repeated his offer to send Ukrainian peacekeeping troops to the region. He also stressed Ukraine's interest in purchasing Caspian oil from Azerbaijan and in the development of the Traseca transport project linking Central Asia, the Transcaucasus and Europe. (Eastern Economist, RFE/RL Newswire)

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Ukrainian independence: as much of a surprise as an inevitability, says policy analyst

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA — Six years ago on August 24, Bohdan Nahaylo was preparing for the 5 p.m. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty broadcast from Munich when he received a call from his correspondent in Kyiv.

Over the telephone, Mr. Nahaylo, who headed the radio network's Ukrainian section, heard Leonid Kravchuk announce legislation that would declare Ukraine's independence. Mr. Nahaylo interrupted the news to include the item which, even two years earlier, would have been met with skepticism.

Even today, the thought of Ukraine achieving political sovereignty has a near-mythical quality about it. But, under closer inspection, it shouldn't, says Mr. Nahaylo, who will release a book on the subject in March. Titled "The Ukrainian Resurgence: From Dependence to

Independence" and published by the University of Toronto Press, the book will examine signs of sovereignty rumbling through Ukraine in the three years before independence was declared.

Mr. Nahaylo offered a preview of his 600-some page work in Ottawa during the 12th annual Ivan Franko Memorial Lecture held at the University of Ottawa on October 17.

He admitted few could have predicted an independent Ukrainian even a decade before it happened. "Even in October 1987, you couldn't really speak of a resurgence yet," said Mr. Nahaylo, who has written extensively on Ukrainian issues for such international publications as *The Economist*, *The Wall Street Journal* and this newspaper.

But there were signs, even in the late 1980s, that something was afoot. Following the 1986 Chernobyl disaster, the country's literati galvanized in pub-

lishing previously verboten thoughts on, say, environmental issues. Their thoughts on things cultural, particularly those associated with Ukrainian nationalism, crept in.

Around 1988 the Ukrainian Catholic Church, which had been relegated for decades to underground status, also emerged as a force, with some of the first nationalistic rallies held under the auspices of the Church. However, it was an uphill battle for Ukraine's sovereignty movement said Mr. Nahaylo, who now serves as a senior policy research officer with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Geneva.

Beyond the country's flirtation with independence from 1917 to 1920, Ukraine had been subject to tsarist and then Soviet rule for centuries. The vestiges of these empires, through Russian influence, continued. "In 1989 11 million

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Bohdan Nahaylo

The perspective...

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and certainly in various pronouncements starting with [Vice Prime Minister of Economic Reform Serhii] Tyhypko and all the way down to local levels, on normalization of regulations in the granting of certificates.

I'll give you numbers, and there are many numbers floating around. For a medium-sized business, it is said that it takes about 80 pieces of paper to be signed for it to open and operate, to become fully functional.

They are trying to reduce that to about 30. We would like for them to reduce that to about 10-15. They, meaning the central government. Now I don't want to call these average figures, but these are numbers I've heard from people in government.

I think that 10-15 certifications would make it very reasonable, very controllable and a lot more transparent. In other words, those could be watched. You can't watch 80.

For a company to control the flow of paper to get 80 pieces of paper processed and signed is a big undertaking. It takes a big chunk out of the operating funds for the business, in terms of money and time. Therefore, it makes it very difficult to start up a business. If it gets down to a manageable 10-15, and presumably that will mean a reduction in cost, not only of time, then obviously the business becomes more worthwhile to get into.

I would strongly encourage an American investor coming in to get legal assistance from both an American law firm that's based in Ukraine and a good local attorney. In many cases they can be found together. Many times an American firm will have a group of well-trained local lawyers who have training and experience in this country. Very often the American firm will actually provide additional education in the United States.

I absolutely recommend it. There are quite a few people, mostly small business men, who come here, take a lawyer, within three weeks hire another lawyer, or take a lawyer not on a retainer basis but simply as needed. I would not recommend that sort of ad hoc buying of legal time.

And why not?

Simply because it takes a lot of time to get to become familiar with the intricacies and problems of the small businesses that come here and to be fully knowledgeable about Ukrainian governmental, whether central or local, issues

that are going to touch their business.

Let's say you are opening up a detergent distribution center here. The lawyer must learn not only the laws, but at this point he must be fully aware of what are some of the competitive pressures from state enterprises or other entrants into the field. You also must know the politics of a particular city or a particular oblast and those who may try to squeeze you out.

There are people who will try to squeeze you out. Obviously the more competitive the situation becomes in Ukraine, the more of that there is going to be.

I think the commercial activities at this point, even though Ukraine doesn't have a flood of entrants from the West at present, but the pace of commercial activities are outstripping the pace of the adoption of proper laws and certainly the implementation of those laws.

Let's take an example. This is not a small business, it's a large business, but it's symptomatic. We had a situation with an oil and gas business. We had an American company that tried to enter the market and spent quite a bit of time and money in both extracting oil and gas and distributing oil and gas here. They were hampered by the fact, and still are — I'm talking in the last two years — that there is no production-sharing agreement legislation, which is a pivotal thing. You go into any country, any area of the world, and try to extract and process petroleum products, you need something that is called production-sharing agreement legislation; the laws that regulate how you extract, what ownership you have of the land; what rights you have in distributing and selling what you extract, etc. The whole business has to be regulated by production sharing agreements.

Right now there is no legislation for that. There are, however, pressures in the commercial area. There were companies that wanted to enter this particular area of the market because, according to them, there are tremendous deposits both on the Black Sea shelf and in the Azov Sea, in southern Ukraine, in eastern Ukraine in the Poltava-Kharkiv-Sumy-Donetsk region.

Your company budgets are only so big for this exploration; you have to wait and maintain staff, and maintain contacts at the local level. But if there is no legislation that will really give you any guarantees for conducting that business, to become fully operational ...

This is an example of where commercial intent has outstripped the passage of legislation and certainly its implementation. That occurs in a lot of other areas also.

Land ownership, for example. There is no clear pattern or a very clearly

defined policy yet of how fast the privatization process, let's call it the restructuring of agriculture, is going to take place. There is a lot that is being said, that the certificates of land ownership that are now being handed out to individual farmers are going to be used for producing land tracts that make it economically feasible to farm. In other words if you are going to have a break-up into one-hectare plots, Ukrainian agriculture will become quite unproductive.

But the key point is land ownership. Now here is a situation where there is a tremendous amount of pressure. You have probably 30-40 American companies, small- medium- and large-range, that are coming here based on the potential gains that can be made from Ukrainian agriculture, which includes grain production, sunflower production, sugar beet production, fruits and vegetables and animal husbandry.

So the commercial pressure is tremendous; there is the strong intent of American companies to enter this market either as a seller of equipment or as a seller of soy products or animal feed, or an investor in farm manufacturing equipment, an investor in food processing, an investor in food distribution, etc.

The commercial pressure is already there. That intent has already outstripped the legislation, the changes in legislation surrounding agriculture. Now you see that happening in many areas.

So what are the companies doing in the meantime?

Every one has a different pace. They are looking for alternate ways [to get into the market]. They know that eventually things will change. But it's a question of guessing when things are going to change. Based on that guess, which is the company strategy, they have to make decisions. They are not going away because they know that the potential in the food industry is tremendous.

How would you characterize the amount of investment going into Ukraine? Is it increasing, decreasing? Who are these investors?

It is increasing.

What about firms like Motorola, which left Ukraine saying the rules of the game are ever-changing? That has given the impression that foreign investment is leaving Ukraine.

The numbers show that it is increasing, although by very small percentages. [U.S. investment] stood at \$200 million

two years ago, now it is up to \$400 million. It may be decreasing in the case of [the amount of investment] by individual firms, but other firms are coming here.

Over the course of the last three weeks I had talks with three American companies that are selling consumer goods here. They were selling here in drips and drabs through their Polish offices and their Austrian offices. Now they are actively seeking advice on how to enter this market in a more massive way by establishing better distribution systems here. And they are looking down the pipe a year or two from now to establish relations with Ukrainian firms for actually manufacturing here. That's three in the last three weeks just in the consumer field.

As I have been saying for the last month or so, there is a large line-up on the other side of the door. The more imaginative ones want to make sure they have a competitive place when massive improvements do occur, or even partial improvements occur. The more imaginative ones who do have legal assistance, who do know the market, the ones that know the workings of the current government and can anticipate the workings of whatever government is going to come later, are walking through that door, carefully, but they are walking through that door.

Still, that leaves a large line left on the other side. They don't seem to be walking away, with the exception of a couple of American oil and gas firms that have left for the reasons I mentioned earlier.

Others have not left. Motorola has not left the country. They left the project. It was very easy for the press to turn this around and say they left the country, but they did not. They just recently introduced the beeper project, which is a paging system, where Motorola equipment is going to be used by the partner of Motorola called Beeper Inc.



Andrew Bihun



Osyp Rozhka

Patriarch Bartholomew greets Orthodox faithful gathered in front of St. Andrew Memorial Church.

Patriarch...

(Continued from page 1)

traveled to Israel, and during a visit to the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington last week, referred to the victims of the Holocaust as martyrs who should be remembered for all eternity. The patriarch is also actively seeking to improve relations with Muslim leaders, since many Orthodox Christians now live in Muslim-dominated countries.

Though the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S. and Diaspora has united with the Mother Church of Constantinople, Orthodox in Ukraine divide their allegiance between the Moscow Patriarchate, the Kyiv Patriarchate or those that are autocephalous. Throughout the patriarch's pastoral visit, there was no direct mention of, or indirect allusion to, press reports released last month in Ukrainian and Russian media which stated that after a meeting in Odesa with Patriarch Aleksei of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Bartholomew allegedly said that the various Orthodox Churches in Ukraine must unite under the Moscow Patriarchate, the Church that many Ukrainian Orthodox view as the chief oppressor of their faith.

Printed materials provided to the press in South Bound Brook offered excerpts from the ecumenical patriarch's statement with regard to that meeting, which included a call for ecclesiastical unity among the Orthodox Ukrainian people, but no statement that such unity must be under the aegis of the Moscow patriarch. Though the ecumenical patriarch recognizes the canonical jurisdiction of the patriarch of Moscow in Ukraine, he adds in the statement: "but we believe that this is not enough, that this does not solve the concrete problem which exists."

In his homily during the religious service, Patriarch Bartholomew urged

patience and stated: "We recognize the sorrowful situation which has been created in your motherland. We feel deeply the pain of the local Orthodox Church as our own pain, for as your Mother Church we know when one member suffers, all members suffer with him. ... We will work all the more to find means of reconciliation and agreement. This requires great patience ... the heart must mature so that we may be guided to the correct solution for all."

Unity plus autocephaly

Whereas Patriarch Bartholomew stressed unity and reconciliation among the Churches in Ukraine, Ukrainian Orthodox hierarchs and laity, while desiring unity, expressed their fervent desire for autocephaly as well.

In his address during the moleben, Metropolitan Constantine appealed to the patriarch: "Like Estonia, small in number but mighty in faith, Ukraine, no less mighty in faith, also prays and works for the day when it will receive the blessing of the Mother Church of Constantinople to take her rightful place in the Orthodox world. ... We are confident that the see of St. Andrew will be that pastoral agent which will heal the wounds and pave the way for the Church in Ukraine — an independent nation — to be restored to its rightful place."

Helen Greenleaf, president of the Senior Ukrainian Orthodox League, in her banquet greeting to the patriarch stated, "the motto of our organization is 'dedicated to our Church and devoted to its youth,' and it is with devotion and dedication that we are praying for a united Orthodox Church in Ukraine and for its autocephaly to be recognized by world Orthodoxy." Mrs. Greenleaf received a standing ovation from many of the Ukrainian Orthodox guests.

During his homily and blessing, Patriarch Bartholomew several times



Helen Greenleaf (center) of the Senior Ukrainian Orthodox League greets the patriarch during the banquet held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center.



Metropolitan Constantine (center) and Metropolitan Wasyly (left) greet Patriarch Bartholomew (center, right) upon his arrival.

addressed his Ukrainian faithful in Ukrainian, and frequently acknowledged the suffering of the Ukrainian people. He praised the deep faith that has sustained Ukraine for generations and alluded to the ancient bond between Kyiv and Constantinople, between the people of Ukraine and the ecumenical patriarch.

Seated at the head table with the patriarch were hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church from the U.S., Canada and South America, as well as hierarchs of the Greek Orthodox Church worldwide, and of the Carpatho-Rusyn Orthodox Church in the U.S. Metropolitan Stephen Sulyk, as well as Bishop Basil Losten and Bishop Robert Moskal of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Roman Catholic Archbishop Theodore McCarrick of Newark and several other Roman Catholic bishops also were seated with the patriarch.

Viktor Bondarenko, chairman of

Ukraine's State Committee on Religious Matters, delivered a greeting on behalf of the government of Ukraine and appealed for the patriarch's help to unify all the Orthodox Churches in Ukraine into one "pomisna" (particular) Church.

At the end of the banquet, Emil Skocypeck, treasurer of the consistory and property manager for the centers received a special recognition from the patriarch for his exceptional effort in preparing the center for the pastoral visit.

After the visit, Ukrainian Orthodox hierarchs stated that they were grateful for the patriarch's visit, his message and his recognition of the struggle of Ukraine's people.

Patriarch Bartholomew has traveled to Washington, New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts. For a schedule of the patriarch's public activities in other cities in the U.S., contact the press office of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of New York, (212) 570-3500.



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Lazarenko visits Washington, saying his aim is to provide "objective information"

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON—Pavlo Lazarenko, who was Ukraine's prime minister until last June, accused the government of President Leonid Kuchma of stifling democracy in Ukraine.

"There is no democracy in Ukraine," he told a gathering of Ukrainian Americans on October 23, during a two-day private visit here. "It died with the coming of the current administration — or regime," he added.

Mr. Lazarenko, who now heads the Hromada Party as it prepares for next year's parliamentary elections, was in Washington, he said, because he felt there is a need to spread "objective information" about developments in Ukraine among members of the U.S. Congress, government and leading political figures.

With the help of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the director of the Ukrainian National Information Service in Washington, Michael Sawkiw, Mr. Lazarenko met with the State Department's special envoy to the new independent states, Steve Sestanovich; Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.); Congressional Ukrainian Caucus members Rep. Jon D. Fox (R-Pa.) and Rep. Bob Schaffer (R-Colo.); as well as representatives of the Democratic National Committee, the American-Ukrainian Advisory Council, Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, as well as with students of American University.

His appearance before a small gathering of Ukrainian Americans at the Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine came at the conclusion of his two-day stay in Washington, the second and last stop on his five-day U.S. visit that began in New York.

Following his presentation about the state of affairs in Ukraine, the reasons he left the government and the coming parliamentary elections, Mr. Lazarenko lashed out at the Kuchma government and the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington in response to a question about the state of democracy in Ukraine.

The former prime minister said that it was impossible to conduct a private, unmonitored conversation in the prime minister's office or any of the higher offices of the government, Verkhovna Rada and the presidential administration.

"Can it be a democracy, when everybody knows that the telephones of all senior officials are tapped without a court order — not a prosecutor's order, but a court order — when lawlessness reigns supreme?" he asked.

Mr. Lazarenko also cited the government's punitive actions against the Kievskiy Vedomosti newspaper and its

editor Mykhailo Brodskiy for criticizing the government and against the mayor of Vinnytsia "because he does not agree with the regime." Unfortunately, he said, the democratic freedoms enjoyed during the administration of former president Leonid Kravchuk were no longer there.

Mr. Lazarenko accused the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington of trying to derail his visit by telephoning all of his intended interlocutors in both Washington and New York and asking them not to meet with him.

Asked by Embassy Counselor Natalia Zarudna to be more specific about the Embassy's alleged misdeeds, Mr. Lazarenko said he would rather not name names but could cite five instances.

Pressed further, he responded: "I'm not going to get into a conversation. I have no need for it. I have formed an opinion about the Embassy, and I have no use for other opinions. And I have also formed my opinion about the regime," he said.

Ms. Zarudna later categorically denied Mr. Lazarenko's allegations that the Embassy had tried to interfere with his visit. The Embassy of Ukraine has assisted many visiting parliamentarians in the past, including members of the opposition, she said, adding that — Mr. Lazarenko's statement to the contrary — the Embassy was not officially notified about his visit.

Mr. Lazarenko said he resigned as prime minister in June because "they made it impossible for me to work, to form the government," and appointed some members of his Cabinet without his consent.

Asked if there was a possibility of his accepting nationalist leader Slava Stetsko as the "number two" on a Hromada candidates list for the next parliamentary election, as former President Kravchuk and former Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk joined forces, Mr. Lazarenko said the primary goal of his party is to win votes in eastern Ukraine. That is where he is seeking allies in order to erode some of the overriding support for the leftists, he said.

But he has cooperated with Mrs. Stetsko, he said, and has called on her and Rukh leader Vyacheslav Chornovil to get past their differences and unite their forces in order to counter the estimated 40 percent the Communists, Socialists and other leftists are expected to win in next year's election.

"We should not find satisfaction in the illusion that western Ukraine will vote for you anyway," he said.

On the language question, Mr. Lazarenko criticized President Kuchma for the fact that the amended new election law does not require the knowledge of Ukrainian by Verkhovna Rada national deputies. He said the Verkhovna Rada originally passed a very good law on elections, he said, which included the

requirement that elected deputies know Ukrainian, the state language. He added, however, that one of the 18 changes proposed by President Kuchma, which was later accepted by the Verkhovna Rada, suggested that the requirement be broadened to include Russian also.

"This is contrary to the Constitution," he said. "Is it not possible to find amid 52 million people 450 who would know more than one language?" he asked. "And if a person cannot learn even his own native language, then what else can one say?"

Mr. Lazarenko suggested that massive funding from Ukraine's "northern neighbor" was decisive in Mr. Kuchma's defeat of former President Kravchuk in the 1994 election.

Asked whether he considered the Ukrainian Orthodox Church — Moscow Patriarchate to be a "fifth column" in Ukraine, Mr. Lazarenko requested that his answer be kept off the record.

In response to a question about allegations that he was involved in corrupt practices and that this may have been the reason for his departure from government, Mr. Lazarenko said the accusations originated from sources that were dissatisfied with the fact that he cut down Ukraine's

external debt, placed excise taxes on alcohol and clamped down on smuggling. With all these accusations, "Why hasn't there been even one trial?" he asked. "And there won't be," he added.

Asked about the possibility of returning to Ukraine billions of allegedly ill-gotten dollars now in Swiss bank accounts, Mr. Lazarenko said that most of these funds were "earned" during 1992-1993, when there was a large gap between official prices in Ukraine for energy and metals, and world-market prices. Much of this difference ended up in Swiss bank accounts, he added. The amount could be \$20 billion, or \$40 billion, he said. "No one knows for sure."

"And say what we will and try as we might to convince ourselves otherwise, there is no mechanism, other than the proclamation of amnesty, which would allow these funds to be returned to Ukraine in a civilized and legal manner," he said.

"One has to differentiate between the criminal, drug money and the rest, about 95 percent of the money, which resulted from the mismanagement of Ukraine's economy and now could be used to develop its economy, as was done in Hungary and Poland," Mr. Lazarenko said.

Many thanks to:

- Stefan Hawrysz, UNA Auditing Committee Chairman;
- Dozia Pastuszek and William Pastuszek, UNA Auditor;
- Self Reliance (NJ) Federal Credit Union;
- Sean Brady and Ed Dueuas, Cushman and Wakefield;
- Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Morris County Chapter — Jerry Kuzemczak, president, Myron Bytz, organizational director;

*for their best wishes and sincere welcome
to the Ukrainian National Association's
Home Office at its new location
in Parsippany, N.J.*

— UNA Executive Committee

Pre-election season...

(Continued from page 2)

uneventful congress on October 11, re-electing Petro Symonenko as their chairman and announcing their continued official opposition to the government.

Oleksander Moroz, chairman of the Verkhovna Rada and a leader of the Socialist Party, while speaking at the Communist Party congress, said he sees the need for leftist forces to unite. He proposed that an agreement be concluded among the Communists, the Socialists and the Agrarians for a single election bloc for the parliamentary elections. The Socialist Party is one of the few parties yet to hold their political convention.

Political maneuvering also has taken place in the last weeks on the other side of the political spectrum. On October 13 the Ukrainian Republican Party, the

Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, the Ukrainian Conservative Party and the Conservative Republican Party announced the formation of a voting bloc called the National Front. Prominent candidates that head their ticket are Deputies Stepan Khmara, Slava Stetsko and Mykhailo Ratushnyi, along with former Ambassador to Canada Lev Lukianenko.

The radical right organization UNA-UNSO has also made it known that it will field a bloc of candidates. The group was finally re-registered as a political organization in late September after having its status revoked by Ukraine's Ministry of Justice for carrying on paramilitary maneuvers. The organization has said that it will field a slate of 100 candidates. A study it conducted in late September showed that about 12 percent of Ukrainian voters could support an UNA-UNSO slate in the 1998 Verkhovna Rada elections.

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Beware: elections ahead

The election season has begun in Ukraine. Even before any major announcements of candidacies were made, Pavlo Lazarenko — once branded as one of the most corrupt officials in Ukraine — arrived in the United States. He said the goal of his October 19-24 visit was to spread "objective information" about developments in Ukraine, but others saw it differently: here was candidate Lazarenko, suddenly a reformer and democrat, preparing the ground for his run at the presidency.

In New York he plugged the platform of his Hromada (Community) party, and said the Kuchma administration has repeatedly harassed him and his party. In Washington he went on the offensive against the Kuchma administration, telling Ukrainian Americans: "There is no democracy in Ukraine. It died with the coming of the current administration, or regime."

Soon after his return to Kyiv, Pravda Ukrainy and Vseukrainskie Viedomosti, two Russian-language newspapers largely controlled by supporters of Mr. Lazarenko, published glowing articles about the visit. Both were replete with errors (some laughable, like references to "Harry" Kissinger, "Stan" Sestanovich, and "Congressmen" Morningstar and Pascual) and falsehoods (these much more serious, such as reporting that Ukrainian Americans support Mr. Lazarenko, that the U.S. government has soured on the Kuchma administration and that the Embassy of Ukraine in the U.S. is not doing its job). Both disinformed the Ukrainian public by stating that The New York Times and the Washington Post had reported on the visit. The Kyiv articles were neatly timed to appear before Mr. Lazarenko announced the Hromada party's intentions for the upcoming elections. Apparently, having the diaspora's support (or appearing to have it) has some cachet in Ukraine, as does appearing to have the ear of top American movers and shakers.

We feel it is important for us to set the record straight on at least several matters connected to the Lazarenko visit. First it should be noted that no one organization at this time speaks for all Ukrainian Americans, so it is certainly ludicrous to state that our diverse community supports this particular politician. Since Askold Lozynskij was the person cited in the articles as saying the Ukrainian American diaspora supports Mr. Lazarenko, we contacted the UCCA president to confirm that statement. He laughed: "The same thing happened after the Marchuk visit" (when former Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk attended the UCCA convention).

Mr. Lozynskij explained that, when Mr. Lazarenko had turned to the UCCA for help in arranging meetings, we agreed because "in the minds of many, including our community, he was corruption personified — we felt he should be given an opportunity to explain his position." He underlined that the UCCA would help organize a tour of anyone on the political spectrum from Slava Stetsko to Oleksander Moroz, but given the organization's legal standing as a tax-exempt organization it simply cannot support candidates. "We're not Ukrainian citizens, anyway," he added.

Well, to that we respond by saying perhaps it is fine and good that the UCCA is willing to provide a forum for Mr. Lazarenko and others, but the UCCA, and perhaps all Ukrainian Americans, have been used by Mr. Lazarenko. And, frankly, we don't like being used. We had better beware, as there certainly is more to come before the 1998 parliamentary elections and the 1999 presidential balloting.

Nov.
5
1895

Turning the pages back...

One of the more urbane members of Ukraine's "Fusilladed Renaissance" (Rozstriliane Vidrodzhennia) of the 1920s, Maik (Mykhailo) Yohansen was born on November 5, 1895, in

Kharkiv, which was briefly the capital of Soviet Ukraine and the center of much of the literary ferment in the country. His father was Swedish and a teacher of German. This, and his studies in linguistics at Kharkiv University, where he studied under the great comparative scholar Leonid Bulakhovsky, gave him a unique window into the Western world.

His experience of the Denikinist ravages of 1919 made Yohansen a fervent Ukrainophile, setting the stage for his encounters with Mykola Khvylioviy, Vasyl Ellan-Blakytyn, Pavlo Tychyna and others in 1920, joining the current of what they declared to be "Ukrainian proletarian literature." Yohansen's creativity erupted, and he published four collections of poetry, including "D'horii" (To the Pinnacle, 1921) and "Krokoveie Kolo" (The Dancing Circle, 1924), and a text in literary theory (Elementary Rules of Versification, 1922). He joined the massist writers' group Hart in 1923, led by his friend Blakytyn, but then followed the "Urbino" group led by Khvylioviy, who insisted that artistry was the defining goal of literary activity, and was one of the co-founders of the excellent, but doomed, Vaplite (Free Academy of Proletarian Literature, 1925-1928).

Yohansen began writing prose, employing the technique of "uchudnennia," which aimed to make the ordinary appear strange or miraculous, while infusing his narratives with a characteristic humorous edge. His published works include "17 Khvylyn" (17 Minutes, 1925), "Podorozh Doktora Leonardo po Slobozhanskii Shvaitsariyi" (Doctor Leonardo's Travels through the Switzerland of Slobidska Ukraine, 1928) and "Podorozh Liudyny pid Kepom" (The Journey of a Man Under a Cap, 1932).

He also continued his scholarly work, assisting in the compilation of a Russian-Ukrainian dictionary (1926), and a Russian-Ukrainian dictionary of folk sayings. He participated in the All-Ukrainian Orthographic Conference in 1927, which first produced a synthesis of western and eastern Ukrainian forms and resulted in the issuance of a standard orthography in 1928. He also began working on a project to Latinize Ukrainian script.

Yohansen managed to escape the initial fury of Stalin's terror that swept up his friends in the early 1930s, but was arrested during the NKVD's "Yezhov Terror." He was sentenced to death by firing squad and executed in Kyiv on October 27, 1937.

Sources: "Yohansen, Maik," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vol. 5 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993); "Rozstriliane Vidrodzhennia," Yuriy Lavrinenko, ed. (Paris: Instytut Literacki, 1959).

APPEAL: Help CCAU sponsor children's trips to raise consciousness

The Christmas holiday season is approaching — a time when we will send greetings and present gifts. At this time many of us will be thinking about the place of our birth, the place of our ancestors, our Ukraine. Is independent Ukraine progressing the way that we have envisioned, and if not, how can we help?

For the fifth year, the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine — U.S.A. (CCAU) is sponsoring trips for children from the southern and eastern regions of Ukraine to celebrate Christmas and Easter in Halychyna. The objective of these trips is to instill national pride and provide an opportunity for these children to reacquire themselves with Ukrainian traditions not practiced in the southern and eastern regions.

The CCAU's request to you, the Ukrainian family, is to take an active part in this endeavor of raising the consciousness of a new enlightened generation. Therefore, instead of mailing Christmas cards and buying expensive presents, consider donating these funds to support this unique cause. All those contributing by December 1 will be included in one general season's greeting in Svoboda.

Please make your checks payable to Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine and send them to: CCAU's Children Trip Fund, 16 Manger Road, West Orange, NJ 07052. All donations are tax-deductible.

For the CCAU Executive Committee: Walter Wolowodiuk, president, Rostislav Milanytch, vice-president for fund-raising, Bohdan Hajduchok, treasurer.

NEWS AND VIEWS: Jersey officials support earmarked aid to Ukraine

by Walter Bodnar

NEWARK, N.J. — A debate in the U.S. Congress, which has been taking place during the past several months on the \$12.3 billion foreign aid bill for Fiscal Year 1998 — including \$225 million allocated for Ukraine, is nearing its final phase. New Jersey Sens. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) and Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.) both affirmed their support in the U.S. Senate.

State Sen. Jim McGreevey wrote letters to the leadership in both houses of Congress and the Foreign Operations Subcommittee affirming his support for aid to Ukraine in its full amount. A similar message was expressed in a resolution sponsored by Councilman Ronald L. Rice in the Newark City Council.

Having passed both houses of Congress, the differences are to be ironed out by a conference committee comprising members of the House and Senate. The \$225 million for Ukraine first proposed by President Bill Clinton and guided through the Senate by Foreign Operations Subcommittee Chairman Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) passed the Senate with special earmarks for Ukraine. However, a stumbling block appeared in the House Foreign Operations Subcommittee chaired by Rep. Sonny Callahan (R-Ala.), and reduced funding was proposed until Ukraine gets a handle on corruption and privatization.

Sen. Lautenberg stated in his letter: "America has a strong interest in helping Ukraine build a market economy and democratic institutions ... As a member of the Senate Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, I worked hard to ensure that Ukraine receives the foreign assistance that will encourage political and economic reforms."

Sen. Torricelli (D-N.J.) stated: "I am concerned that the transition to a free, open society in Ukraine will not be successful unless the United States takes an active role The State Department's annual report on aid to Ukraine indicates that Ukraine still lags behind the rest of the former republics in per capita aid and actual expenditures. Ukraine has received \$1.3 billion in aid from the U.S. since 1992, second only to Russia in the amount of aid received. In per capita terms, however, Ukraine ranks ninth out of the 13 independent states ... I supported a \$225 million earmark for Ukraine as part of the foreign assistance act of 1998, and I have written Ambassador [Richard] Morningstar to encourage greater budgetary assistance for Ukraine in the

future."

Mr. McGreevey, N.J. state senator, mayor of Woodbridge, and Democratic gubernatorial candidate in the November election, in his September 4 letter to Rep. Callahan, stated:

"I respectfully urge you to support the Senate-approved \$225 million earmarked for Ukraine in the Foreign Aid Bill for 1998. It is in our national interest to do so.

"Ukraine, a newly independent country for the past six years, has shown willingness and capability to adapt to new conditions when given the opportunity. Ukraine has complied with the liquidation and transfer of nuclear armaments on her territory deemed to be dangerous to the security of the United States. In addition Ukraine has adopted a Constitution that features the rule of law and the right to private property. Ukraine introduced its own currency, [the] hryvnia, which has shown convertibility and stability.

"A continuation of financial backing by the United States at this time is essential in order to promote privatization, stabilize Ukraine's economy and facilitate foreign investments, especially from the United States ... This is a relatively small investment to make in order to help achieve stability in the East European region and promote U.S. business investments there."

Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine (AHRU) is one of the organizations in the Ukrainian community that has been lobbying for the \$225 million, including specific earmarks for pertinent projects in Ukraine. Letters, faxes, personal visits and phone calls were made by AHRU to all members of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, plus the International Affairs Committee and the leadership of both the Republican and Democratic parties.

According to Bozhena Olshaniwsky, president of AHRU, "This is a propitious time to get our friends and governmental officials to support the \$225 million aid package to Ukraine. With a little effort via a letter or phone call we can influence members of our government to help Ukraine at this critical juncture. Most legislators are sympathetic to the concerns of their constituents and will respond positively. Let us all emulate Sen. McGreevey and the other concerned officials and help to convince our legislators."

For further information please write or call: AHRU, 43 Midland Place, Newark, NJ 07106; telephone, (201) 373-9729; fax, (201) 373-4755.

COMMENTARY

D.C. shrine seeks support to complete its interior

by Eustachiy Derzko

WASHINGTON — In a neighborhood filled with educational and religious institutions, above the top of the surrounding trees rises the beautiful building of the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family. Situated next to the Ukrainian Catholic Seminary, its golden domes shining in the sun, the shrine attracts tourists, — American and foreign. Unfortunately, most of the time visitors leave disappointed, because the interior of the shrine is not finished due to a lack of funds.

The Parish of the Holy Family is relatively small, and the initial plans for the erection of the church were modest. However, because Washington is the U.S. capital, the planning of the church was altered with the blessings of our religious leaders and influenced by the opinion and resolution of our community leadership. A decision was made to build a representative shrine of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the U.S., with the understanding that the small parish could count on financial support from other communities and parishes in building the national shrine.

The name Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family and the architectural design by Myroslav Nimciw, AIA, were approved by then apostolic administrator Bishop Basil Losten on December 20, 1977, and later by Metropolitan Joseph Shmondiuk on February 3, 1978. Metropolitan Shmondiuk, and Bishops Losten, Innocent Lotocky and Robert Moskal gave their permission to collect funds for this project in their eparchies. The driving force behind the project was Holy Family's assistant pastor, and later pastor, the energetic Rev. Joseph Denischuk CSsR, who visited parishes in all the eparchies to collect funds.

In the first phase of building the lower part of the shrine was completed. It consisted of rooms for various purposes, a

big hall and a kitchen. The first liturgy was celebrated on November 2, 1980, in the hall, which still continues to serve as a church sanctuary on Sundays and holidays. At present, only two rooms that are allocated to the store of the Marian Sodality and a bookstore-library, are the visible features by which the parish currently is able to present Ukrainian culture and art as a part of the Ukrainian Eastern-rite.

During the second phase, in 1988, the upper part of the shrine was built. However, only the exterior was finished, which was paid for by cash on hand and a mortgage.

In 1988, after the second phase, expenses stood at approximately \$4,792,000. Collected funds, which at that time totaled \$3,994,000 were used to pay off the expenses and since then, the mortgage of \$800,000 and \$367,000 of accrued interest has also been paid off. The parish currently has more than \$600,000 in the Building Fund to complete the shrine. In the past 20 years, \$5,761,000 have been collected for the national shrine.

Holy Family Parish has a little under 300 households, which includes families and singles. Out of the total collected sum of \$5,761,000 for the building of the national shrine, the parishioners have donated \$2,595,000. Although all Holy Family parish organizations continued to actively collect funds for the national shrine, in order to finish the shrine completely, an additional \$3 million is needed.

In conjunction with that, in 1995, when the Rev. Thadeus Krawchuk was pastor (and for whom the completion of the shrine was an ever-present concern) he asked Archbishop Stephen Sulyk, metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the U.S., to approve a plan for the collection of funds for the completion of the shrine by sending an appeal to all parishioners of Ukrainian Catholic churches in the United States, and asking them to donate \$10 per year for a period of five years. Unfortunately, only a few parishes answered the metropolitan's call, a fact that calls into question the seriousness with which all clergy and their parishioners accept the idea of finishing the shrine in Washington.

In February 1997, Metropolitan Sulyk again sent a letter to the archeparchial newspaper "The Way" on February 9), and again asked the clergy to remind, encourage and inspire their parishioners to make their minimal contributions for the year 1997 in order "to complete this symbol of our Ukrainian Catholic identity in our nation's capital."

The Parish of the Holy Family also turns to the entire Ukrainian American community, asking their support for completing of the national shrine, to make the words of the patriarchal blessing by Patriarch Josyf Slipyj come true: "May God bless you and help you to erect this shrine in the free land of Washington" (January 28, 1976).

The Parish of the Holy Family is grateful to Metropolitan Sulyk for his special attention and understanding, to all those who contributed to the Building Fund, and to everyone who paid off the memorials, which will be realized upon the completion of the shrine.

Holy Family Parish is most willing to provide any additional information to assist in fund-raising efforts in other parishes. For more information contact: Deacon Theophil Staruch, Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, 4250 Harewood Road NE, Washington, DC



The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

Choirs, dancers: so what else is new?

When it comes to Ukrainian choirs and dancers, I have become jaded. Over the years, after seeing the Ukrainian Canadian dance troupes such as Shumka and Rusalka (among so many more), and hearing good Ukrainian choirs in North America, I am no longer impressed with just any touring ensemble from Ukraine. And while the tour groups are professionals, and our North American ensembles are true amateurs — in it for the pure love of it — there still have been groups from Ukraine who have disappointed. After the exuberance and virtuosity of the Canadian dancers, a run-of-the-mill troupe from Ukraine is no big deal. Very often, the folk costumes have not only been awkward, but downright perversions of a Ukrainian stage folk costume (yes, by necessity, there is a stage vs an authentic village costume).

The Ukrainian National Army Song and Dance Company, which recently toured North America did not disappoint. From the first song they had the audience captivated. We loved them. Almost every item on the program demanded an encore. The hall sparkled with electricity, people clapped along to the songs and dances. There was an instant genuine rapport between people on both sides of the boards. The first of the two sold-out performances in Winnipeg had a mixed audience, with very many non-Ukrainian Canadians present.

There had been some hesitation within the Ukrainian community, based on doubts as to whether this would just be a continuation of the same old Red Army Chorus tradition. But with the first notes of "O Canada" and "Shche Ne Vmerla Ukraina," (the Ukrainian national anthem) the doubts were erased. Throughout the performance there was an ease, a relaxed genuine transmission of love of song and beauty — not a tense or rigid moment in the whole performance. The words "Hospod'" [God] and "strilets'" [World War I Ukrainian freedom fighter, or rifleman] passed their lips — and I could only think "Oy, Tatu." How my late father would have loved to hear this.

Even though this is the army and these are military men, they sure know how to enjoy themselves in song. Humor, wit, elegance, joy — all transmitted through amazingly glorious voices. Each soloist, from the highest tenor to the lowest contrabass, was wonderful, with his own personality coming through. The selection of songs was broad, with various songs of Kozaks, riflemen and the contemporary military songs ("Vzhe Vesna, Polkovnyky, Vzhe Vesna" — It's Spring, Colonel, It's Spring). Love songs and patriotic songs comprised the balance of the singing portion of the concert. The Hetman Quartet, made up of four members of the choir, also thrilled the audience. The whistler was something else.

The dance ensemble was excellent. Whether in military uniforms (which I thought would bother me, but did not) or in folk costume, the dancers were extremely graceful, agile and elegant. The humorous dance — three losers courting a really "special" woman — had people crying with laughter. And why do some dance groups (on both sides of the ocean) insist on pinning down the women's aprons?! It would make as much sense to pin the ribbons down from

flying, and the men's sashes to the shavary.

The orchestra was very good — whether performing solo, or dance music, or as an accompaniment to the singing. The sopilka player and the whistler added the right touch to the concert. The company is led by Vladimir Zibrov (artistic director), Alexandre Stepantsov (chief choir conductor), Nikolai Gouralnik (orchestra conductor) and Vladimir Chmagoun (chief ballet-master).

The program, in English, would have benefitted by having the Ukrainian song titles transliterated as well as just translated. And the program translation into English needed some refining in the general text and in song titles ("Young Female Neighbor" may be the translation of "Susidko," but doesn't work as a song title, neither does "Standing in the Field" or "Cossack Goes to the River Danube"). Someone with a good grasp of the English language would have helped. Soloists were not listed, and they certainly deserve recognition.

The list of performers shows us what happens when Ukrainians are issued documents using French transliteration: it looks like a tsarist emigre social list from Paris. Why is it that two presidents, Leonid Kravchuk and Leonid Kuchma, have their surnames transliterated into the generally used English transliteration, and their countrymen (not travelling just to France) are saddled with alphabet soup like Krawtchouk and Koutchma, and Igour, Serguei, Vassyl, Evgueni, Iouri. Cumbersome surnames such as Tchouenکو [Chuyenکو], Ossadtchouk [Osadtchouk], Grichtchenko (Hryshchenko) and on and on abound.

The schedule of concerts throughout Canada and the United States seems exhausting. Of course, high costs are involved in transporting, feeding and lodging such a large troupe, but to provide just one day between Rochester, N.Y., and Newark, N.J., or Pittsburgh and New Haven, Conn.?

Videos and cassettes of the group were available at the concerts. More information on the sleeves of the cassettes would have been helpful. For example, who is the composer and lyricist of the lovely "It's Spring, Colonel, It's Spring?" Who are the soloists? What are the Ukrainian titles for the songs "A Song about Girls" or "A Soldier's Romance"? One cassette is titled "A Celebration of Ukrainian Independence," the other "Tvoyi Syny, Ukraino" [Your Sons, Ukraine] features Hetman, the men's quartet from the choir.

This troupe is a credit to independent Ukraine, and to the richness and beauty of its musical and dance heritage. So, if the Ukrainian Army ensemble reaches your city, don't deprive yourself of this special treat. Take the whole family, and your non-Ukrainian friends. You won't regret it.

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Russia's Ukrainians...

(Continued from page 1)

mer training grounds of the Communist Youth League (Komsomol) on the outskirts of Moscow, today the Institute of Youth, that the question of nationalities in Russia remains largely unresolved. He explained that by signing the law on national cultural autonomy, President Yeltsin took a giant first step in delineating the rights of ethnic groups not indigenous to Russian lands.

"It is the first time such a program is being developed in Russia," said Mr. Desniak. "It is a social-political experiment on a grand scale that should show whether the government is able to deal with the new realities that exist in national life in the process of the restructuring of society on democratic principles."

Mr. Desniak said it is now up to Ukrainian Russians to develop a detailed program, which will delineate the responsibilities of the Russian government and the regional administrations to satisfy the cultural needs of Ukrainians, which should include financing as well.

But Mr. Rudenko-Desniak underscored that the 5 million Ukrainians living in Russia — its largest non-indigenous minority must realize that sufficient laws guaranteeing national rights exist and that they do not need to wait for further minority guarantees to begin implementing their agendas. "A known humorist once properly noted, 'You don't need to work for a good party, you simply party,'" explained Mr. Rudenko-Desniak.

Although the AUR leader affirmed his belief that without program and financial support from the Russian government, assuring Ukrainian cultural life in Russia would be difficult and warned that Ukrainian Russians should not expect too much.

"The state is not Santa Claus, there will be no gifts. We must learn to guard our societal rights. This is a problem on a much more extensive order because nationality rights are merely a component of general human rights, individual rights, for which a civilized mechanism of guarantees has not yet been built in our country or our society," he observed.

Founded in 1992

The AUR was formed in May 1992 with 11 Ukrainian organizations, which included the Association of Ukrainians of Moscow, Republican National Cultural Center of Ukrainians of Bashkortistan,

Ukrainian Youth Club of Moscow, Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian National Cultural Center of St. Petersburg, the Ukrainian Cultural Center of Omsk, Taras Shevchenko Society of the Ukrainian Language of Novosibirsk, Nizhhorod Society of Ukrainian Culture and four other groups. In the months that followed, 26 more local organizations joined the union, while local affiliates of the AUR were formed in 16 regions.

At the first congress held four years ago, the conferees delineated their goals, among them: to consolidate the Ukrainian diaspora of Russia into a viable national minority grouping and secure its minority rights, to organize it to support democratic political initiatives in Russia, to maintain Ukrainian culture in Russia, and to support an initiative for aid to those Ukrainians in Russia who desire to return to Ukraine.

Thirty-seven Ukrainian organizations took part in that original congress, which today has expanded to include approximately 50. In addition to being on the verge of obtaining national cultural autonomy, today the group holds membership in the umbrella organization, the Congress of National Associations of Russia.

On the first day of the second congress speakers included Mr. Rudenko-Desniak, Russian Minister of Nationalities Viacheslav Mikhailov, Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister Vitalii Smolii; Ivan Drach, president of the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council; and Les Taniuk, national deputy in the Verkhovna Rada who represented Rukh at the conclave.

Minister Mikhailov, who lived in Lviv for many years, extended greetings from President Yeltsin. Speaking in Ukrainian, Mr. Mikhailov said Ukrainians should not feel a threat of discrimination in Russia. "Half of the Cabinet of Ministers is of Ukrainian heritage, as are one-third of the governors of the regions," he explained.

A controversy over AUR's agenda

An hour into the first session a controversy developed when Mr. Taniuk first criticized the Russian government for giving only symbolic assurances of minority rights, but withholding tangible, financial support. He then called on the AUR to move from its strictly cultural agenda to a more political one.

"Ukrainians in Russia must unite on political issues, not merely cultural ones," said Mr. Taniuk. He said that

politicians such as Vladimir Zhirinovskiy in Russia and President Alyaksander Lukashenka of Belarus are a threat to Ukrainians and to the independence of the Ukrainian state.

This caused a forceful reply from Russian Minister Mikhailov, who told the Ukrainian national deputy that, first of all, he is a guest at the congress and that it is not his place to bring such commentary and further that the AUR is registered not as a political organization, but as a cultural one.

After the congress, Mr. Taniuk told *The Weekly* he thought criticism of Russia's policy towards Ukrainians is needed. "I believe that the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Nationalities in Russia only pay lip service to Ukrainian needs. There are no concrete actions," he said.

He explained that Mr. Mikhailov offered an apology after the exchange. "I believe it was a needed exchange that ended up okay," said Mr. Taniuk. Mr. Mikhailov left the hall immediately after the session. Later he was not available for comment.

Mr. Taniuk also criticized the work of the AUR leadership when he spoke to *The Weekly*. "There is much work to be done with that organization. There needs to be a leadership that is willing to be more principled, more creative and more active. This one works too closely with the government and is not willing to take chances," said Mr. Taniuk.

AUR President Rudenko-Desniak responded to Mr. Taniuk's charges by explaining that the Ukrainian legislator was merely instigating and that he does not see the reality of the situation of Ukrainians in Russia. "Mr. Taniuk could probably form a nice theatrical group in Russia," said Mr. Rudenko-Desniak. "I also love a parade, but only to an extent. Mr. Taniuk officially represented the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in a foreign country. That of itself is a problem.

"As for the politicization of the AUR, that is a tough question," continued Mr. Desniak. "A national organization is not a political organization. Today in Russia there probably could not exist a political party of Ukrainians. Moreover, our association consists of people who hold varying political positions. We must concern ourselves with maintaining a national identity."

Mr. Rudenko-Desniak emphasized that the AUR is a democratic organization and that in the Russian presidential elections it officially supported Yegor

Gaidar through the Congress of National Associations of Russia.

After that bit of excitement, it was back to work. The delegates broke up into sections: on the development of Ukrainian culture in Russia; on business and social issues; and a working group on the preparation of documents for national cultural autonomy.

One issue before the section on cultural development was the establishment of day schools in Russia. Although plenty of Ukrainian Sunday school programs exist in the regions and in Moscow, and they are partially or fully sponsored by regional governments, no government-sponsored Ukrainian day schools exist in Russia. Minister Mikhailov admitted the problem in his speech during the opening session.

Valerii Symonenko, president of the Association of Ukrainians of Moscow, said the lack of Ukrainian-language day schools is not necessarily due to a government unwillingness to open them. "I am not so sure that a demand exists for Ukrainian-language schools," said Mr. Symonenko. "Developing a Ukrainian [day] school in Moscow would be difficult because we just don't have enough interested students, we believe. The government has said that we have to show a need for one."

The second and final day of the congress dealt with approving the final resolutions and preparing a declaration on the conclave's stand towards the closing of the Epiphany Cathedral of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church — Kyiv Patriarchate.

Appeal to President Yeltsin

The delegates could not agree on how to proceed on an appeal to President Yeltsin to act on the seizure of the Epiphany Cathedral in Nohginsk, a city located 30 kilometers northeast of Moscow. On September 29 Security Service officers and local militia overran the grounds of the cathedral, which belonged to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church — Kyiv Patriarchate, and seized the school, the monastery and the convent. Most observers believe the seizure to be the implementation of the discriminatory new Russian law on religions, which President Yeltsin had signed days before. The law gives precedence to the Russian Orthodox Church in Russian religious affairs.

The Russian government has said the seizure and closing of the Nohinsk complex was ordered by court until interconfessional problems between the Russian and Ukrainian Churches now being adjudicated are resolved.

The delegates did not heed remarks by the head of the UOC-KP in Russia, Archbishop Adrian, that the seizure should be addressed as religious discrimination. In Russia, laws forbid community and national organizations to take part in religious affairs. Instead, delegates agreed to work up a statement that will address the denial of civil rights to church members and those who were arrested.

The AUR will include the Epiphany Cathedral controversy in an appeal to President Yeltsin, which will also address the need for Ukrainian schools and teachers, and for federal government backing for Ukrainian centers of education and culture in the regions, as well as for government financing of Ukrainian radio and television programs and the AUR's newspaper *Ukrainskyi Vybir* (Ukrainian Choice).

As for national cultural autonomy, the AUR has targeted approval of the final documents by the Russian government for early next year.

Next week: Ukrainian Days in Moscow and more perspectives on the Congress of Ukrainians of Russia.



Roman Woronowycz

Congress delegates listen as Valerii Symonenko, president of the Union of Ukrainians of Moscow, speaks.

DATELINE NEW YORK: Musically speaking

by Helen Smindak

It's a given fact that music is a very important element in the lives of Ukrainians, whether that involves performing it, listening to it, brooding with it, reveling in it or dancing along with it. Here in New York City, this fact was underscored in October, as artists from the U.S. and Ukraine appeared in concerts, and on TV, offering folkrock, folklore, classical, operatic, bandura and traditional Ukrainian music.

During a recent weekend, I had the pleasure of attending concerts on three separate days, that featured Ukrainian performers. On Friday it was New York-born singer and composer Lisa Mathews, backed by the up-and-coming rock band Love Riot at the World Trade Center. Saturday brought lyric soprano Maria Stefiuk of the Kyiv Opera with a recital at the Ukrainian Institute of America. Sunday's grand finale was the 45-man Ukrainian Bandura Chorus, appearing at Town Hall – the chorus's first appearance in New York in several years.

On another weekend, the Duquesne University Tamburitzans topped off a colorful tour of Eastern European folklore with a dynamic suite of Ukrainian songs and dances that brought the SRO audience to its feet. Also, the Promin vocal ensemble and several top-notch singers and instrumentalists from Ukraine offered a subdued but extremely lovely program at The Cooper Union, part of a solemn two-day commemoration of the tragic Akcja Wisla, the Polish government's forcible resettlement in 1947 of more than 140,000 Ukrainians from southeast Poland to other parts of Poland.

It will take more than one Dateline to transmit all this data, so let's start with the Bandura Chorus and Love Riot.

Our beloved bards

The Ukrainian Bandura Chorus, combining two Ukrainian musical traditions – choral singing and the national musical instrument, the bandura – never fails to transport me to seventh heaven.

Over the past 40 years, I have relished performances in London, Ontario; in Toronto, where the bandurists appeared with actor Jack Palance (who strummed a mini bandura as he sang "Vziav By Ya Banduru"); in Detroit, at a concert presented by the Ukrainian Youth League of North America; and on several occasions in New York, including a Carnegie Hall concert in 1966.

In 1991 I happened to be visiting Lviv with my husband when the chorus appeared in that city during a triumphant tour of Ukraine. The Opera House was packed with jubilant, newly independent and tearful Ukrainians (and more than a few foreign tourists) cheering the musicians who had found refuge in America – and a haven for their banduras and their music – after joining the exodus of Ukrainians to the West during World War II.

This fall, anticipating the return of the chorus to the Big Apple and their performance at Town Hall, I wondered whether the group had retained its vitality and special attraction. I knew that many of the original members had retired, that maestro Hryhoriy Kytasty had departed this earth; other conductors had come and gone, and now the chorus was directed by a young Ukrainian American attorney with an extensive background in music, bandura-playing and teaching. With many new singers and instrumentalists, one of them as young as 15, would the chorus still beguile listeners with its unique art form?

If anything, the chorus is more vigorous and disciplined than I remember, and yes, still quite overpowering. Under the expert and polished direction of 27-year-

old Oleh Mahlay of Parma, Ohio, the chorus presented a two-hour program of songs and music that ranged from an 11th century Kyivan chant through epic ballads, bandura solos, and odes to Mazepa and Chornobyl, to happy-go-lucky folk songs and dance tunes.

Opening reverentially with a capella segment, the Kyivan-chant setting of the "Beatitudes" from the divine liturgy blended voices and bandura music impressively as it ranged through pianissimo and forte passages. Liudkevych's solemn "Prayer of Mercy," beseeching guidance and protection from the mother of God was suitably restrained and hushed. The chorus provided back-up (in English) for the deep voice of baritone Jarema Cisaruk as he sang the well-known American hymn "Amazing Grace."

Images of scorched earth were portrayed with sadness in Julian Kytasty's original work, "The Chornobyl Carol." In "A Song about Mazepa," soloist Mykhailo Newmerzyckyj and the chorus conveyed the grief of Hetman Ivan Mazepa as he bid farewell to Ukraine after the Kozaks' defeat at the Battle of Poltava in 1709.

Ukraine's troubled past was illuminated further in a song about the Chumaks, the salt traders who carted their produce to the cities from the Black Sea, and another about the freedom fighters who struggled to liberate Carpatho-Ukraine in (1938). Omelan Helbig's fine tenor reflected the despair of a mother as her Chumak son departed on a grueling trip.

The unforgettable words of Ukraine's poet laureate, Taras Shevchenko, touched hearts as tenor Teodosiy Pryshliak and accompanist Orest Skliarenko, with choral background music, offered the poignant "Dumy Moyi" (My Thoughts).

Reflecting the lighter side of Ukrainian life was a well-chosen array of spirited selections that exhibited the bandurists' superb enunciation and their marvelous technical versatility on the bandura – among them, a humorous love song, "Whose Courtyard is This?," and a toe-tapping "kolomyika" tune plus a medley of folk songs that had bandurists' fingers flying across the strings of their Poltava banduras. The proud warriors of the Zaporozhian Sich were remembered with a traditional Kozak drinking song and a lusty march-tempo battle song, "Play, bandura!"

In a segment that recalled bandura minstrels of old, Marko Farion appeared alone on stage to present a traditional дума, an epic ballad delivered narrative-style to the accompaniment of his bandura.

Instrumental techniques were spotlighted in Julian Kytasty's solo rendition of "Musical Moment" and the bandurist ensemble's unique use of the bandura in "Echo of the Steppes," where continuous ripples of high notes drew images of stiff breezes sweeping through tall grasses. Both selections were composed by Hryhoriy Kytasty, the longtime artistic director of the chorus (and uncle to Julian Kytasty).

Vocal soloists, apart from those already mentioned, included Roman Kassaraba, Boris Kekish, Ihor Kushnir and Andriy Soroka.

Those who were lucky enough to hear the chorus during its October tour in the northeast U.S. and Canada will remember its magnetism and technical artistry. For others less fortunate I recommend the capella's newest CD, "Ukrainian Steppe," which includes many of the songs offered in the concert program. The CD and other audio products are available at Ukrainian music stores or directly from The Ukrainian Bandura Chorus of North America by contacting its business manager: Wolodymyr



A group of bandurists surrounds Petro Kytasty, who has served in the Ukrainian Bandura Chorus for over 50 years and in 1992 was named State Artist of Ukraine by Ukraine's government for his outstanding contributions as a bandurist and pedagogue in the diaspora. Seen in the front row (from left) are: Oleh Mahlay, artistic director of the chorus; Joseph Gulawsky, Petro Kytasty, Yuri Pedenko and Marko Farion; back row: Evhen Tytla, Andriy Birko, Omelan Helbig, Iwan Kytasty, Alexander Srubowych and Orest Skliarenko.

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Love Riot blooms

Lisa Mathews and her Love Riot band have been making waves in the Northeast U.S. for the past four years. Their music has been described as "genuine communication, the sound of musicians who listen as keenly as they play" (J.D. Considine of The Baltimore Sun) and "melodic adult rock ... layers of acoustic guitar and violin woven around the subtly sensual vocals of Lisa Mathews" (Steve Morse of The Boston Globe).

Love Riot's first CD, "Maybe She Will," is creating a stir in today's music circles, too, and on radio stations across the country. The Album Network described it as "romantic music that's part rock, part folk, and always strong in both song and performance." The Philadelphia Weekly said the CD "exudes a cool and complete sound ... that isn't often heard from newcomers in the music world."

Everyone seems to like the band's toned-down but intense style, and the lead singer's clarity and strong vocal presence. Compliments have come from a host of music critics who write for The Washington Post, Musician Magazine, the Baltimore City Paper and other Northeast publications.

Ms. Mathews, whose real name is Lisa Kruk Anderson (the Kruk comes from her Ukrainian parents, the Anderson from her husband of four years, musician Miles Anderson), broke into the music business

some 10 years ago when she answered a "singer wanted" ad in the Village Voice placed by guitarist Mikel Gehl of Baltimore.

Along with Mr. Gehl's friend, bassist Mark Evanko (his name sounds Ukrainian, but he says he's of Czech descent), they joined some other musicians to form an '80s rock band called Beyond Words. When that band dissolved, the trio started Love Riot, using only vocals, guitar and bass. A year later violinist Willem Elzvir, who also plays the mandolin, came on board, and the group recorded a self-released cassette "Muscle."

In 1994, on a whim, the drummerless quartet entered Yamaha's MusicQuest Competition, an international competition for unsigned bands. After participating in the nationals in Los Angeles, the band was flown to Japan for the international finals. Love Riot won by a unanimous vote, beating out 25,000 – that's right, 25,000 – other bands.

The grand prize – a trophy – did not bring immediate fame, but the group persisted, writing new songs, rehearsing daily and taking its show on the road, this time with a drummer, Ron Campbell. Audiences and critics began to sit up and take notice, and Love Riot signed a three-album deal with Squirrel Boy Records of San Jose, Calif., which released the CD "Maybe She Will" in 1996.

Dateline caught up with Ms. Mathews in the cafe of Borders Books and Music store at the World Trade Center, where I

(Continued on page 14)



Lisa Mathews (front) and members of the Love Riot band, (from left) Mark Evanko, Willem Elzevir, Ron Young and Mikel Gehl.

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Ukrainian independence...

(Continued from page 3)

Russians were living in Ukraine [about one in five citizens]," explained Mr. Nahaylo. "They're still the majority." Beyond the close cultural connection Ukrainians still have with Russians, the Ukrainian Communist Party was perhaps the most loyal to Soviet rule, he said.

While Mikhail Gorbachev's policies of perestroika and glasnost were dismantling the Soviet Union, Communist stalwarts in Kyiv were headstrong in trying to preserve their own rule.

"They felt abandoned by Gorbachev, who they thought was preparing to risk everything for his quest for personal aggrandizement," said Mr. Nahaylo. Meanwhile, on the streets of Ukraine - particularly in the western regions of the country - Ukrainians were not about to "passively accept a return to neo-totalitarian rule."

Mr. Nahaylo said that if Mr. Gorbachev's Moscow wasn't concerned about the groundswell of nationalistic movements occurring in other Soviet republics, Ukrainians would not look kindly upon their political masters in Kyiv towing the old party line.

Signs throughout Ukraine suggested glasnost had arrived there by the late 1980s. "You had rock groups, the peace movement, astrology and new sexual politics with an interest in soft porn, which happened in Spain after [Francisco] Franco's death [in 1975]," said Mr. Nahaylo.

Even at the political level, there were

hints the Soviet era in Ukraine was ending. In the fall of 1988, the Supreme Soviet officially declared Ukrainian the Ukrainian SSR's official language. The chairman of Ukraine's Parliament was handed powers akin to a head of state. In early 1989 Ukrainian people's deputies even acknowledged Stalin's role in creating the artificial famine decades earlier.

Still, there were holdouts. Among them Leonid Kravchuk, who became Ukraine's first president following the 1991 declaration of independence. But even in the days leading up to August 24, 1991, Mr. Kravchuk was hardly what one would consider to be an eager ally of sovereignty. "Two days before he was not talking about a national army," said Mr. Nahaylo. "He was willing to only discuss the formation of a national guard." But President Kravchuk, like Mr. Gorbachev in some people's minds, was a political opportunist.

"He was fighting for his political life, and he, like others, began to borrow from some of Rukh's democratic slogans," said Mr. Nahaylo. Although Mr. Kravchuk, when he visited Ottawa shortly after assuming the presidency, vehemently denied that he was ever an unwilling participant in Ukrainian democracy and in the country's struggle for independence.

Mr. Nahaylo said his forthcoming book, which looks at the five years leading up to independence and the five years following its declaration, is meant to be a "map or guide for other scholars" interested in the "dynamic reaffirmation, reappearance and re-ascension" of Ukrainian sovereignty.

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REVIEW: Alexis Kochan's Paris to Kyiv "Variances"

by Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj

Alexis Kochan's timing is either shrewd, fortuitous or effortlessly natural, or all of the above. Since her first album "Czarivna" (1994) and the first eponymously titled "Paris to Kiev" album (also 1994) put out by the ensemble she leads, she has benefitted from growing interest in what the label-mad recording industry considers "diasporic music." This is a category that has allowed New Ager seeking relaxation and/or enlightenment to listen to music formerly shelved in the "ethnic" section.

Less cynically, it has also allowed music to continue performing the holy task of resolving humanity's Babel of language and culture into a sound that everyone harkens to. This is a project the Winnipeg-born Ms. Kochan and third-generation bandurist Julian Kytasty furthered admirably last year in an afternoon concert during Toronto's Ashkenaz festival of Yiddish music.

The ensemble updated the spelling of its name (Kiev to Kyiv) for its latest release, "Variances." It starts off with Ms. Kochan's warm bluegrass-like rendition of "Snizhok Ide," (Snow is Falling, titled on this album as "Wedding Song") accompanied by Martin Colledge's cittern and Mr. Kytasty's bandura sounding virtually indistinguishable from an acoustic guitar — it's not a novelty, it's further testament to Mr. Kytasty's considerable talent and musical ear.

The second track showcases the ensemble's genius for blending the ancient musical traditions of various cultures to produce a sound that is both ear-catching and imbued with sacred spirit. "Matins Fragments" is a liturgical chant accompanied by flute, viola and what the liner notes say are "Northumbrian pipes" played by Mr. Colledge.

The third, the instrumental "Dance Three," blends kolomeyka patterns on bandura and Asian-African rhythms on congas, udu and other drums (played by percussionists Henry Zacharias and Evans Coffie) in an irresistible lilting composition.

On the fourth, "Cross. Cradle. Tree," Mr. Kytasty sings a straight lyrical version of "Velychai Dushe Moia," then is joined by Ms. Kochan singing a Ukrainian lullabye to form a haunting overlaid duet, and then Richard Moody, who has the Hutsul sound down to perfection, ties the triptych up tastefully on viola.

It's not all high seriousness. "Katherine's Kolomeyka" is a good-humored Ukrainian mountain stomp.

There are eight more, and to go through them all here would be a pleasure, but it would tax the vocabulary and keep readers too long from being the excellent album's listeners.

In a recent interview with the daily Winnipeg Free Press, Ms. Kochan revealed that she was raised in a musical family, and that her teenage rebellion against her Ukrainian roots was dispelled by a trip to Ukraine while working on her Ph.D. in childhood language development from the University of Manitoba. "I connected very strongly to what I saw there," Ms. Kochan said, "I was hearing music I had never heard before."

Revealing the source of her ensemble's name, she added: "I was very sad to realize that [Kyiv] could have been the Paris of Eastern Europe. And I realized how powerless we have been for centuries. I like to think I'm helping people to come alive again."

In the same Free Press item, the album's co-producer, Danny Schur of Boomtalk Productions, was quoted as saying, "[Ms. Kochan is] one of those people to whom art is not just entertainment but a passion."

Paris to Kyiv's "Variances" is a compact disc release on the Olesia label, AKBCD 03, and is available at all Ukrainian and most mainstream music stores. It can be ordered direct by writing to: Olesia Productions, P.O. Box 2877, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 4B4.



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Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

"Ducky" walks off pond for final time

The handwriting was on the medical chart ... and on the Philadelphia Flyers' depth chart. Ukrainian Dale "Ducky" Hawerchuk ended a 16-year career when he announced his retirement last August 25. The 34-year-old center, 10th on the NHL all-time scoring list, caught very few by surprise with the news.

First, doctors confirmed an arthritic condition in his left hip would only get worse if he continued to play. And second, with the off-season acquisition of Chris Gratton, the Flyers had six players who can play center.

Hawerchuk was examined by arthritis experts at the University of St. Louis, who advised him to call it a career.

"I was working out this summer and saying to myself, 'I spent 16 years in this league and I'd sure like to walk away from it and not crawl away from it,'" Hawerchuk said.

The 5-foot-11, 190-pound Toronto native finished with 518 goals, 891 assists and 1,409 points. Hawerchuk, whose most productive seasons were as a Winnipeg Jet, is expected to gain entry into the Hall of Fame when he becomes eligible in the year 2000.

He enjoyed six 100-point seasons during a fruitful career that included stops with Winnipeg, the Buffalo Sabres, St. Louis Blues and Philadelphia.

"I was never on a team that won the big one, but I look at it as 16 terrific years," he said.

Hawerchuk was the first pick in the 1981 entry draft and in 1981-1982 became the first rookie to score 40 goals and 100 points. He won the Calder Trophy, given to the league's top rookie, that season.

Flyers-avalanche for '97-98 Stanley Cup

Yep, you heard it here first, folks! Contending for hockey's most coveted prize following the 1997-1998 regular season and first three playoff rounds will be the Philadelphia Flyers and the Colorado Avalanche. These are two very successful squads in recent years, as the Avalanche won the coveted Cup in 1996, while the Flyers lost to the champion Red Wings in last season's finals.

Division winners for 1997-1998 should be the Flyers, Montreal Canadiens, Red Wings and the 'Lanche. Philadelphia is a goalie away from a potential dynasty; the Canadiens should surprise in a woeful Northeast; Detroit will not slack off despite finally winning; and Colorado might already be a dynasty.

Here then are one hockey expert's predictions for the current hockey campaign which faced off a few weeks ago. Teams are listed in order of predicted finish with Ukrainian players (in capital letters) who made opening day rosters and their potential contributions. The 1997-1998 NHL season preview edition:

Atlantic Division

Philadelphia - The Flyers are a big, talented team without a championship goaltender. If they get help in net, they'll be impossible production.

New Jersey - The Devils are the league's best defensive team and a legitimate Stanley Cup contender. Their offense should be much better. DAVE ANDREYCHUK and Doug Gilmour need to have big years. KENNY DANAYKO is a bruiser, battler and leader on defense.

New York Rangers - With Mark Messier in Vancouver, WAYNE GRETZKY looked like he'd have to carry the offensive load along with defenseman

Brian Leetch. But newly acquired Pat LaFontaine should chip in with some points. Great season from Adam Graves would help the cause.

Washington - New coach Ron Wilson will finally open this team up. Centers Adam Oates and Joey Juneau key offense with super scorer PETER BONDRA and gritty overachiever STEVE KONOWALCHUK. Defense is solid; Ranford-Kolzig goalie tandem must complement each other. ANDREI NIKOLISHIN starts season on injured list.

Florida - Added much-needed offense in Dave Gagner and Esa Tikkanen. DAVID NEMIROVSKY earned regular job on third forward line. To contend, need Rob Niedermayer to have breakthrough campaign. Vanbiesbrouck just needs to be his stupendous self.

New York Islanders - Many reasons to like this team's upside. The defense is tough, young and mobile. The offense GM Milbury has put together will surprise many a goaltender. Ziggy Palffy could be a major star.

Tampa Bay - The loss of Chris Gratton is further evidence the Lightning need to resolve their ownership situation. It takes financial commitment to build a winner. This team continues to regress. Pity captain Scott Mellanby and Mikael Renberg - they're on their own.

Northeast Division

Montreal - More than enough talent to be an offensive force. Disciplined enough to be a decent defensive power. Will surprise the entire division. Saku Koivu could be a great one. Veteran netminder Andy Moog will stabilize the defense.

Pittsburgh - With Mario retired, the Penguins have the potential to become a better team. This Penguins team could be less exciting, but more defensive and thus more effective. EDDIE OLCZYK will capably assist Jaromir Jagr.

Ottawa - The Senators, with a collapse by one or two teams, can win the division. With all of those high draft picks they have as much pure talent as any other team. Daniel Alfredsson is back from holding out, and Wade Redden is a bonafide future Norris Trophy winner.

Buffalo - Team needs years of intensive therapy. Got their first division title since 1981 and ended up in tremendous turmoil. MVP goalie Dominik Hasek not well-loved by teammates or fans. ALEXEI ZHITNIK recently returned after contract squabble.

Boston - Bruins get another high draft pick to go with Joe Thornton and Sergei Samsonov. The young "B's" will be better under new coach Pat Burns. Don't expect miracles. Captain Ray Bourque still anchors the blueline. Look for DIMITRI KHRISTICH to score at least 80 points.

Carolina - The transplanted Hartford Whalers will not live up to their new name - the Hurricanes. They're still more of a tropical storm, not yet striking fear in anyone. Gary Roberts makes them better. STEVE HALKO started the season with the big club, until CURTIS LESCHYSHYN recovered from a pulled groin.

Central Division

Detroit - Odds of repeating as champs are very high, particularly after the Vladimir Konstantinov tragedy. However, coach Scotty Bowman repeated with Pittsburgh in the early '90s. Except for

(Continued on page 13)



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Pro hockey...

(Continued from page 12)

trading GT Mike Vernon, squad remains strong and intact. JOEY KOCUR got a contract for one more year.

St. Louis - With tsar Keenan gone, there is peace and happiness on the Blues' front. Watch out for super-scorer Brett Hull. Steve Duchesne aids the power play and Grant Fuhr mans the nets. Traded for capable ALEXANDER GODYNYUK to aid backline. Godynyuk still out with strained groin muscle.

Dallas - Andy Moog had stellar 2.15 GAA, yet Stars thought they needed to upgrade in goal. Signed free agent Ed Belfour to replace Moog. Mike Modano will be a superstar. RICHARD MATVICHUK a stalwart on defense along with Derian Hatcher. BRAD LUKOWICH made the roster, but did not play prior to being sent down to the IHL.

Phoenix - Should have done a bit better last year. Look for greater contributions from Jeremy Roenick. KEITH TKACHUK, game's best power forward, back from brief suspension, but not yet back on track. Goalie Nikolai Khabibulin underrated. Defenseman OLEG TVERDOVSKY remains an unsigned free agent. Rumor is he will be traded. Back-up DARCY WAKALUK still recovering from major knee surgery.

Chicago - In a country of 280 million people, why can't the Blackhawks find any centers? Defense and goaltending solid. Tony Amonte and Alexei Zhamnov only proven scorers. Chris Chelios leads the team.

Toronto - Putting Ken Dryden in charge of the Leafs is akin to putting Bob Dole in charge of Democratic Party. Fans will forgive the past if the new president-GM can make this awful team competitive. Winger Sergei Berezin and goaltender Felix "The Cat" Potvin are name players.

Pacific Division

Colorado - In terms of overall talent, this is the NHL's best. Plenty of offense (Sakic, Forsberg and Deadmarsh), strong defense and a superb goaltender in Patrick Roy. Detroit beating them last playoffs provided more momentum than finding any Avalanche weakness. WADE BELAK made the team coming out of training camp.

Edmonton - Not the 1980s Oilers dynasty, but these young pests can contend. Only question mark is if defense is strong enough to compete with top teams. Jason Arnott, Doug Weight and Ryan Smith are three up-and-coming snipers. DRAKE BEREHOWSKY successfully returns to the NHL rigors after battling injuries and several years in the minors.

Vancouver - Roster suddenly more impressive with Mark Messier added to the mix. The hope is Messier can coax or bully Pavel Bure and Alex Mogilny into being Pavel Bure and Alex Mogilny again. Good luck! Trevor Linden great second-line center and "Old Man River" DAVE BABYCH re-upped for two more seasons.

Anaheim - Beyond Paul Kariya, Teemu Selanne and Guy Hebert, can you name anyone on the Ducks? Not enough depth yet on this squad to compete for anything come next April. Oh, and, bet-

ter get Kariya re-signed and soon!

Los Angeles - Somewhat improved offense will not cover up the fact this franchise has bottomed out. Bringing back Luc Robitaille is fan pleasing, but this team needs a dynamic star to re-energize the Kings' organization.

San Jose - KELLY HRUDEY now backs up Mike Vernon, he of the Cup champion Wings. Vernon won't much matter. This team has been idling in neutral far too long, and there just isn't enough talent. Visiting clubs continue to sing that classic favorite: "Do You Know the Way Through San Jose?"

Calgary - Looking to improve their offense, the Flames traded for play-making center Andrew Cassels. That's like trying to plug a three-foot hole with chewing gum. No 30-goal scorer last season, and captain Theo Fleury looked ordinary. He must rebound. Third-line checker TODD HLUSHKO on injured reserve with a bad inner ear disorder.

Ukrainian transactions

Buffalo - Sergei Klimentiev, D, assigned to Rochester (AHL).

Calgary - Greg Pankiewicz, RW, assigned to St. John (AHL); Daniel Tkaczuk, C, returned to Barrie (OHL); Todd Hlushko, C, inner ear infection, out indefinitely.

Carolina - Trevor Wasyluk, LW, assigned to New Haven (AHL); Curtis Leschyshyn, D, strained groin, out day-to-day.

Chicago - Chris Twerdun, D, returned to Moose Jaw (WHL); Ryan Huska, LW, assigned to Indianapolis (IHL).

Dallas - Tony Hrkac, C, assigned to Michigan (IHL); Brad Lukowich, D, assigned to Michigan.

Detroit - Paul Goleniak, LW, returned to Michigan Nationals (Junior A).

Edmonton - Drake Berehowsky, D, signed one-year contract.

Florida - Joey Tetarenko, D, returned to Portland (WHL).

Montreal - Steve Cheredaryk, D, assigned to Fredericton (AHL).

New Jersey - Peter Sidorkiewicz, GT, assigned to Albany (AHL).

N.Y. Isles - Yevgeny Namestnikov, D, assigned to Utah (IHL).

N.Y. Rangers - Lee Sorochan, D, assigned to Hartford (AHL); Wayne Gretzky, C, signed two-year contract.

Ottawa - Mike Maneluk, LW, assigned to Worcester (AHL); Steve Zoryk, LW, released.

Phoenix - Alex Andreyev, D, designated for assignment to minors; Keith Tkachuk, LW, reinstated by team; Darcy Wakaluk, GT, right knee surgery, out until April.

St. Louis - Jonathan Zukiwsky, LW, and Nick Naumenko, D, assigned to Worcester (AHL); Alexander Godynyuk, D, strained groin, out day-to-day.

Tampa Bay - Kyle Kos, D, returned to Red Deer (WHL).

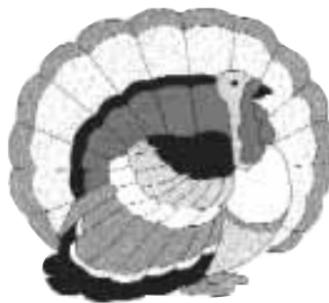
Toronto - Mark Kolesar, RW, returned to St. John's (AHL).

Washington - Peter Bondra, RW, reinstated by team; Andrei Nikolishin, C, sore knee, out indefinitely.

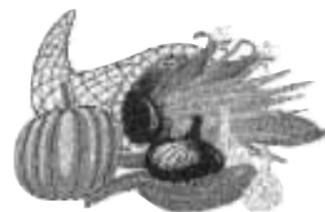
Thanks to Philadelphia Flyers' beat writer Wayne Fish for quotes in Dale Hawerchuk story.



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

(Continued from page 16)

YONKERS, N.Y.: The Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 30 invites the public to a showing and sale of artwork by Jacques Hnizdovsky and Slava Gerulak, as well as work from the Chryzanta Gallery, to be held at St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, Shonnard Place, at 9 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information call Nadia Liteplo, (914) 949-4911.

WHIPPANY, N.J.: The Morris County Branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America is holding a commemorative program marking the following three events in Ukrainian history: the 55th anniversary of the creation of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), the 50th anniversary of raids by UPA divisions in the west; and the 50th anniversary of Akcja Wisla. A divine liturgy and panakhyda will be celebrated at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Route 10 (eastbound) and South Jefferson Road, at 11 a.m., followed by a commemorative program at 12:30 p.m. featuring speakers Dr. Water Baziuk and Anna Mycio, as well as a musical program featuring baritone Stepán Stépan of the Lviv Opera. For more information call Antin Bilanych, (973) 539-1146.

Tuesday, November 18

WASHINGTON: The Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies is holding a seminar titled "Stalinism in Ukraine: The Mechanisms of Repression (1920s-1930s) and Rehabilitation (1980s-1990s)" with Yuri Shapoval, senior research fellow, Institute of Ukrainian Archeography,

National Academy of Ukraine, and Volodymyr Prystaiko, deputy director, Ukrainian Security Service. The seminar will be held in Room 486, Woodrow Wilson Center, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW, at 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Friday, November 21

NEW YORK: The New Juilliard Ensemble, under the direction of Joel Sachs, will include the performance of Ukrainian composer Valentyn Bibik's "Chamber Symphony" (1977) as part of its concert program at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall. Among other composers whose work forms part of the program are: Renaud Gagneux, "Three Movements" (1992), Paul Heinz Dietrich, "Der Glücklose Engel" (1997) and Mark Kopytman, "From Jewish Poetry." The concert begins at 8 p.m. Free tickets are available on November 7 by calling the Juilliard Box Office, (212) 769-7406.

ONGOING

NEW YORK: The works of Christina Saj of Bloomfield, N.J., are currently on view as part of the "Generations" exhibition at the A.I.R. Gallery, the first cooperative gallery for women artists in the U.S., which is celebrating its 25th anniversary. The exhibit, which opened on October 21, runs through November 15. A.I.R. is located at 40 Wooster St. Gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.- 6 p.m. For additional information call (212) 966-0799.

Musically...

(Continued from page 9)

listened for over an hour to Love Riot's compelling and original sound - a blend of acoustic and electric, moody ballads and drum-driven rock, coffee-house guitar and gypsy violin. The lyrics, most of which were written by Ms. Mathews, have a conversational quality found in folk music.

Ms. Mathews' voice is both sweet and sensuous; some say her straightforward phrasing sounds a bit like early Joni Mitchell, but her throaty wail recalls k.d. lang. As she plays her electric guitar, she sings of love and relationships from a variety of perspectives in a personal, but not autobiographical, way, songs like "Home" and "Some Other Time."

Performing before audiences, delivering charming commentary between numbers, the 30-something singer reveals a warm, natural quality that endears her to listeners. She is slender and tall (over 5 feet 8 inches), and her long brown hair falls over her face as she leans over her guitar.

She thinks she got her love for music from her mother, the former Alice Kuciw, who used to sing in the choir of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church in New York and with Steven Marusevich's Ukrainian Chorus, performing as a soloist in Ukrainian operettas, operas and concerts with singers

Mary Lesawyer, Mary Bodnar and George Bohachevsky, and pianist Olga Dmytriv.

Ms. Mathews, who took her stage name from her brother Mathew, grew up in Astoria and Bayside, Queens, as the daughter of Alice Kuciw Kruk and Eugene Kruk, a commercial artist. She is a graduate of Hunter College, where she studied English and music, and played cello in the school orchestra. After her father passed away, the family moved to Maryland (her mother later remarried and is now Alice Tercijonas).

Frequently seen on TV in Baltimore, Ms. Mathew and Love Riot recently appeared on the show "Rodricks for Breakfast" at the newly opened 77th Hard Rock Cafe. Last Memorial Day weekend she was invited to sing the national anthem at the Baltimore Orioles stadium, Camden Yard. She is currently touring with her group in Ohio, West Virginia and upstate New York.

You can catch her on NBC's Friday night show "Homicide: Life on the Streets" on November 7 at 10 p.m.; she and her band are an important part of the show's action. Failing that, try your favorite music store for the "Maybe She Will" CD or Love Riot's CD single being released by Squirrel Boy Records in early November, featuring the song "Killing Time" from the Homicide show.



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Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

NATO committee visits Ukrainian capital

KYIV — A delegation of NATO's Political Committee, headed by the committee's chair, Ambassador Don McConnell, was in Kyiv on October 27-28. The committee discussed cooperation within the framework of the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership between NATO and Ukraine with Verkhovna Rada committees, at the Foreign Affairs Ministry and with the Interdepartmental Commission for Cooperation with NATO, chaired by Volodymyr Horbulin, secretary of the National Security and Defense Council. The meetings were informal, and no documents were signed. The sides discussed a plan on Ukraine-NATO cooperation for 1998, set to be approved in December. Ukraine's membership in NATO was not discussed. Ambassador McConnell said he got the impression that the Ukrainian Parliament "wants to develop good relations with NATO." (Eastern Economist)

New credits used to cover budget deficit

KYIV — Chase Manhattan Luxembourg S.A. Bank, incorporated into Chase Manhattan Corporations, gave Ukraine a fiduciary credit worth \$98.98 million (U.S.) on October 23, according to Ukrainian Television. The money will be used to finance Ukraine's budget deficit. The credit will be returned next October. The credits were included in the 1997 budget as a source of external financing. The 1998 budget will make provisions for re-payment. Receipt of this credit will not change planned targets concerning the budget deficit. Ukraine received a similar credit of \$369 million (U.S.) in August from Nomura of Japan, which was also used to cover the budget deficit. (Eastern Economist)

CIS summit held in Chisinau

CHISINAU — Ten of the 12 CIS presidents arrived in Chisinau, Moldova, on October 22 to attend the 21st CIS heads of state summit. (Turkmenistan's Saparmurat Niyazov was sick, and Georgia's Eduard Shevardnadze arrived one day later.) On arriving in the Moldovan capital, Russian President Boris Yeltsin noted that the CIS heads of state "have not met for a long time" and have drifted apart somewhat. Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma expressed hope that the gathering would give impetus to the CIS's further development. His Azerbaijani counterpart, Heidar Aliyev, said he hopes the CIS will become "more effective" but as a "union of equal nations [that will not] be dominated by one country." Uzbek President Islam Karimov also stressed that CIS member-countries must remain independent. He warned against attempts either to revive the USSR or to conclude alternative unions within the CIS. CIS prime ministers, excluding those from Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan, signed an agreement in Chisinau on October 23 creating a common agrarian market. The CIS foreign ministers failed to reach agreement on the proposed creation of a committee to resolve conflicts within or between member-states. Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Yevgenii Primakov said some states want that body to be purely consultative, while other unnamed countries share Russia's support for vesting it with the authority to take administrative measures and deploy peacekeepers. Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka told Interfax after the summit that the Georgian, Azerbaijani and Moldovan presidents had harshly criticized Russia's approach to resolving conflicts on the territory of their countries. Participants agreed the next summit will take place on January 23, 1998. (RFE/RL Newsline)

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