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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly may bar Ukraine due to use of death penalty

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) said on December 16 that it may bar Ukraine from participating in its sessions, beginning in January, because Ukraine continued to execute convicted criminals in 1997.

The assembly's Committee on Legal Issues and Human Rights passed a resolution warning Ukraine that the mandates of the Ukrainian delegation will not be confirmed unless either Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma or Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz issue an official statement that a moratorium on the death penalty is in effect in Ukraine.

The press release issued by the committee said that this action signals the start of sanctions against Ukraine for not living up to the agreement it signed when it joined the Council of Europe in November 1995.

"We prefer a political dialogue to sanctions, but there is a limit to everything," said Renate Wohlwend, chairman of the committee. "Ukraine committed herself to introduce a moratorium on the death penalty. Yet, since then at least 180 persons have been executed."

Representatives of the Council of Europe were in Ukraine the week of December 8 to determine whether Ukraine had lived up to the promise given on November 9, 1995, that it would impose a moratorium immediately, followed by a plan for the abolition of the death penalty. After a symposium on November 29, 1996, in Kyiv on the death penalty sponsored by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, members said they were "shocked" to find that Ukraine had executed 167 individuals since the country committed itself to the moratorium. In January the Parliamentary Assembly had announced in a stern warning that, if a single additional execution should take place, Ukraine's membership in the parliamentary organization could be canceled.

The latest visit by the monitoring group found evidence during its three-day stay in Ukraine that 13 additional people were executed here through March of this year. One of the monitors, Tunne Kelam, said the group was "reasonably sure" that executions had taken place until March. President Kuchma told the group that since then no one has been executed.

His chief of staff, Yevhen Kushniarov, said on December 17 that the president has in fact approved all clemency pleas since March. "The president has, for his part, issued a moratorium. He has given clemency, and at present no death sentences are being carried out."

But the Parliamentary Assembly commission wants more. Although the president did explain to the delegation in Ukraine that he had stopped executions, he did not issue the formal statement that a

moratorium is in effect in Ukraine and would remain so.

Mr. Kushniarov said the president has done everything in his power and that the final authority over capital punishment lies with the Verkhovna Rada and Chairman Moroz. That does not bode well for those attempting to halt capital punishment in Ukraine.

Mr. Moroz told Interfax-Ukraine on December 8 that he did not see any way that a law on the abolition of capital punishment would pass the legislature in the pre-election season. "Lawmakers are unlikely to abolish the death penalty before parliamentary elections next March because voters favor capital punishment," said Mr. Moroz. "Society is not ready for the abolition of capital punishment in this country, and there is no guarantee the deputies would support the law."

Electorate in Ukraine distrusts leaders, Communist Party most popular, says poll

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Newly released results of a public opinion poll show that, early in this election campaign to the Verkhovna Rada, the Communist Party remains the most popular in Ukraine and has Ukrainian citizens' confidence to deal more effectively than any other party with a crisis. However, the most striking result is that a large portion of the electorate is simply disenchanted with the current leaders and the political situation in the country.

In the survey taken in November by the Kyiv International Sociological Institute and the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy sociology department, 2,129 respondents were given a list of the 18 largest political parties in Ukraine and asked which party they would vote for if

elections to the Verkhovna Rada were held today. The respondents gave the nod to the Communist Party 11.6 percent of the time. Rukh followed with 6.9 percent, and the Democratic Party of Ukraine took 4.3 percent. (The poll's margin of error was 2.6 percent.)

However, 29.7 percent said they would vote for none of the 18 listed parties.

Voters who will take part in the Verkhovna Rada elections, which are scheduled in March 1998, for the first time will make two selections because of the new law on elections passed in October. In accordance with the new mixed electoral system they will vote once for the political party of their choice and then for a candidate running in their district. The 450 seats in the Verkhovna Rada will be split, with political parties that gain at least 4 percent voter support divvying up half the seats proportionally to the amount of the electorate's vote they receive, and the other half of the available seats filled by individuals directly elected from the 225 electoral districts of Ukraine.

The poll indicates that few parties will achieve the necessary 4 percent threshold to claim any seats in the legislature. Only

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CHRIST IS BORN — GLORIFY HIM!



"Angel" by George Kozak as reproduced on a Christmas card published by the UNA.

Ukrainian airplane crashes near Greece

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — An Air Ukraine aircraft borrowed by a competitor to complete the flight of 71 passengers who had been stranded in Odesa crashed near Salonika, Greece, in the evening of December 17 as it was preparing to land after a flight from Kyiv.

Nineteen hours after the plane disappeared from radar screens as it was approaching Salonika Airport rescuers, still had not found the site of the crash.

Greek officials said the chance of survivors is slim because the plane is believed to have gone down in rugged, snow-covered terrain near the slopes of Mount Olympus. The search for the plane and survivors, which has included naval vessels and fishing boats as well as helicopters, has been hampered by fog and freezing temperatures. "The weather is a big problem," said Greek Air Force Gen. Athanasios Tzoganis, the chief of the joint military staff, according to the Associated Press.

The plane, a YAK-42, was carrying 63 passengers, among them four children and two babies, and a crew of eight. Twenty-five of those aboard were Ukrainian citi-

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ANALYSIS: Georgia and Ukraine unite in stance against Russia

by Volodymyr Zviglianich

At a recent CIS summit in Moldova a quarrel developed between Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze and his Russian counterpart, Boris Yeltsin. This summit was almost totally closed to the media. Upon return to Tbilisi after the summit, Mr. Shevardnadze spoke on national radio to express his bitter disappointment over the position of the Russian president vis-à-vis Tbilisi.

It appears that Mr. Shevardnadze had presented a comprehensive indictment of Russian policies toward Georgia at the closed meeting of presidents of CIS countries held on October 22. Mr. Shevardnadze said that he had asked Russian President Yeltsin to explain why Russia has "joined the few countries that shelter terrorists, hiding the group that committed terrorist acts in Georgia [in reference to Igor Giorgadze's group of state security officers involved in the 1995 coup and assassination attempt against Mr. Shevardnadze - V.Z.]." He added, "Why are you doing this? If you expect the incumbent [Georgian] president to be toppled and you have a ready agent in Moscow, you are deluding yourself."

Mr. Shevardnadze implied that Mr. Yeltsin had cheated the Georgians with regard to Abkhazia. Since 1992 Tbilisi has signed four agreements involving Russian guarantees. However, tens of thousands of men trained in Russia, and armed to the teeth by Russia, fought in Abkhazia.

Russia also removed almost all modern military equipment from Georgia in 1991-1994, including aircraft and air defense equipment worth up to \$2.5 billion, in violation of CIS agreements on sharing former USSR military property.

Russia has refused for the last three years to allot Georgia a small share of the ex-Soviet Black Sea Fleet. In contrast, Ukraine has supported Georgia's position.

Before the summit of CIS heads of state in Moldova, senior Russian military officials virtually promised to hand over four coast guard cutters to Georgia, subject to President Yeltsin's ultimate approval. But on the eve of the CIS summit, Mr. Shevardnadze stated that "this does not mean that the problem is being resolved ... I have heard promises from a higher level, but words never turned into deeds."

Simultaneously, Georgia's Foreign Affairs Ministry handed Russia's Foreign Affairs Ministry a note requesting the initiation of talks on compensation for the military hardware that had been removed unlawfully from Georgia. Tbilisi also announced its intention to raise this issue with Russian Vice Prime Minister Valerii Serov. This was the clearest sign so far of the growing tensions inside the CIS, heralding the possible end of the organization and the strengthening of bilateral ties among the member-states united in their opposition to Russia.

It is remarkable that Mr. Shevardnadze decided to openly (although at a closed meeting) confront Mr. Yeltsin, hoping to join ranks with Kyiv. Before that he had avoided direct criticism of Mr. Yeltsin, hoping for his help against separatists in Abkhazia. But it is in Moscow's interest to maintain this conflict, in keeping with the old Russian tactic of dividing and ruling.

Recent moves by Kyiv, especially Ukraine's decision to give Georgia several modern naval cutters, associated naval equipment and assistance for port construction, played a decisive role in Mr. Shevardnadze's decision to challenge Mr. Yeltsin at the CIS summit.

Dr. Volodymyr Zviglianich is adjunct professor of East European area studies at George Washington University.

Along the line of developing bilateral contacts, Kyiv will also offer to contribute Ukrainian troops for U.N.-sponsored peace-keeping operations in Abkhazia, as well as to join the U.N. military observers' group there and the Georgian mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. President Leonid Kuchma endorsed Tbilisi's claims to a share of the ex-Soviet Black Sea Fleet and to compensation for ex-Soviet military equipment unilaterally removed from Georgia to Russia.

Both Kyiv and Tbilisi are taking the lead among CIS member-states that openly oppose Russia. These countries are: Ukraine, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Georgia, possibly Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

During Mr. Kuchma's recent visit to Tbilisi on October 27-28, Defense Ministers Oleksander Kuzmuk of Ukraine and Vardiko Nadibaidze of Georgia agreed to create a joint Ukrainian-Georgian battalion, establish regular contacts between military service staffs, and initiate Georgian participation in Ukrainian military exercises, beginning with an air defense exercise to be held in Ukraine. The ministers also considered a program to repair and upgrade Ukraine's aging SU-25 fighter-bombers at an aircraft plant near Tbilisi, as well as the possible acquisition by Ukraine of the plane's upgraded version, which was successfully tested at that plant.

Especially remarkable in this regard is President Kuchma's declaration that the restoration of Georgia's territorial integrity is a prerequisite for stability in the Caucasus. Moscow, which obviously does not want such stability, cannot welcome such rapprochement between Kyiv and Tbilisi, in particular the words that appeared in the so-called "Declaration of Two," that "the sides will never deviate from the policy of national independence."

Georgian Parliament Chairman Zurab Zhvania stated that "the emergence of an independent Ukraine has changed the atmosphere in the entire [ex-Soviet] region" and constitutes "one of the pillars of Georgia's own independence."

Ukrainian-Georgian cooperation has a clear anti-Moscow bias. It is reflected in a decision to establish a modern large-capacity ferry line from Poti, Georgia, across the Black Sea to Ilichivsk, near Odesa, as part of the international TRACECA project. The planned corridor, which is the shortest Asia-Europe route and bypasses Russia, frees Ukraine and Georgia from their dependence on Russian transport routes, enables Kyiv to import Caspian oil as an alternative to Russian oil, and turns Georgia into a major transit route for Europe-Central Asia trade. Kyiv and the European Union signed an agreement on technical assistance for developing the ferry line and other components of TRACECA.

The next logical step in further liberation of the territories of both states from the presence of foreign troops would be Tbilisi's demand for the dismantling of four Russian military bases in Georgia and Kyiv's insistence on the withdrawal of the Russian Black Sea Fleet from Crimea. The degree of probability of these actions is different, however. While Tbilisi could demand the dismantling of the Russian bases referring to Moscow's failure to help Mr. Shevardnadze resolve the Abkhazian issue, Kyiv is bound by the provisions of the Russian-Ukrainian Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation signed earlier this year (but not yet ratified by the two countries' parliaments), which includes the basing of the Russian fleet in Sevastopol.

This is the proper time for the Ukrainian legislature to show its patriotism and demand changes in the text of the treaty to call for the unconditional withdrawal of Russian troops from independent Ukraine.

NEWSBRIEFS

Kuchma warns of socialist system's return

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma told an economic forum on December 11 that left-wing forces in the Verkhovna Rada, led by Chairman Oleksander Moroz, "are longing for power, for the purpose of bringing back the socialist system to Ukraine," ITAR-TASS reported. Mr. Kuchma said he hoped the Ukrainian people would take this into consideration when they vote for a new Parliament in March 1998. But despite his clashes with the Verkhovna Rada — the Rada again voted to fire Mr. Kuchma's privatization chief on December 11 — the Ukrainian president said he would not dissolve the Parliament. He said he does not operate on the assumption that "no Parliament equals no problems." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Parliament fails to approve Lytvak

KYIV — The Verkhovna Rada on December 16 failed to approve the candidacy of Oleh Lytvak for the post of procurator general. In turn, Parliament Chairman Oleksander Moroz asked President Leonid Kuchma to propose a new candidate by the end of 1997. Mr. Moroz criticized President Kuchma for "improperly appointing Lytvak acting procurator general without approval from the Verkhovna Rada, in contravention of the Constitution." (Eastern Economist)

Ukraine and China discuss trade

KYIV — Meeting China's ambassador to Ukraine, Pan Xiang Ling, Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko said the potential

exists for both sides to increase the level of mutual trade by as much as 300 percent. Mr. Pustovoitenko noted that Ukraine can considerably increase exports of diesel and electric locomotives, railroad cars, fishing vessels, vehicles and small hydro-electric stations. Cooperation in the aviation, space and ship-building spheres also may prove mutually beneficial. Ukrainian light industry companies are interested in buying cotton materials from China. All these issues will be discussed during President Leonid Kuchma's visit to China at the end of this month. Trade between the two countries is now worth about \$1 billion (U.S.). (Eastern Economist)

Black Sea assembly meets

CHISINAU — Addressing the 10th session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Council in Chisinau on December 10, Moldovan President Petru Lucinschi called on member-countries to coordinate economic and commercial legislation and to transform the organization into one with a "well-defined judicial status," RFE/RL's Chisinau bureau reported. He said such steps would facilitate relations with other regional, European and international organizations, as well as with international financial institutions. Mr. Lucinschi also called on member-states to set up a free trade zone, noting that they could play a major role in the exploitation and transportation of Caspian Sea oil. Petre Roman, chairman of the Romanian Senate, was to be elected assembly chairman for

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Odesa wine available in Britain

by Tony Leliw

LONDON — Christmas revelers this year will be whetting their palates with Ukrainian table wine.

Odessos Steppe, a dry white wine that also comes in a red, is currently available in the British supermarket giant Tesco.

David Broadbent, chief executive of Premium Brand Corp., said: "To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time that table wine from Ukraine has been sold in England, and certainly it is the first sale of wine from the Odesa region."

"I think that in the past there may have been some small sales of fizzy wine from Crimea, but not on a national basis."

Mr. Broadbent said his company had been exploring the possibility of introducing wines from Ukraine into the United Kingdom market for several years and they finally found a winery earlier

this year from which they were able to "select a small range of wines that were of suitable quality for the U.K."

He added, "With the support of Tesco, which had expressed an interest in new wine-producing areas, we were able to make the first shipments in May."

Odessos Steppe (Suhii Lamanski & Aligote) is sold for less than 3 pounds (\$5 U.S.) and appears to be geared toward the less expensive end of the wine market. Its distinct Ukrainian appearance includes a label dotted with small yellow tryzub on a dark-green-blue label.

The label on the back of the bottle describes the ancient Greek settlement of Odessos, which gave its name to the Odesa region of Ukraine. "Stretching north from the Black Sea, this is part of the immense, fertile steppe — an area rich in vineyards, orchards and prairie-like pasture," it reads.

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Hennadii Udovenko honored by Ukrainian American community

by Irene Jarosewich

NEW YORK — Representatives of the Ukrainian American community gathered to express admiration and respect for Hennadii Udovenko, president of the U.N. General Assembly and Ukraine's minister of foreign affairs, at a reception held on December 6 at the Sheraton Hotel and attended by more than 250 people.

At the reception, organized jointly by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) and the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council (UACC), were representatives from leading Ukrainian American organizations, as well as members of Ukraine's diplomatic corps in the U.S., among them Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak, New York Consul General Viktor Kryzhanisky, and Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko, Ukraine's newly appointed permanent representative to the United Nations. Mr. Yelchenko, who arrived in New York recently with his wife, Iryna, was introduced as Ukraine's youngest diplomat.

Mr. Udovenko has had a distinguished diplomatic career, one that spans almost 40 years. Born in Kryvyi Rih in 1931, Mr. Udovenko entered the diplomatic service at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in 1959, serving at U.N. posts in Geneva and New York, as ambassador in Poland and as Ukraine's minister of foreign affairs since 1994. He was elected president of the U.N. General Assembly in September.

In his remarks, Askold Lozynskyj, president of the UCCA, praised Mr. Udovenko on his strong policy stance against strengthening the CIS. Evhen Stakhiv, a member of the reception organizing committee, in introducing Mr. Udovenko, noted that much of the credit for improved relations between Poland and Ukraine must be given to Mr. Udovenko, who understood that a stable relationship between these two countries, long wary of each other, was essential to stability in Europe.

John Oleksyn, vice-president of the

UACC, noted that within a few short years Ukraine has established embassies or consulates in more than 60 countries, and under the direction of Mr. Udovenko, has achieved internationally applauded foreign policy successes.

Mr. Udovenko is the 52nd president of the U.N. General Assembly, and he explained that, based on the current protocol for electing the assembly president, Ukraine can next expect to see its representative in this position no sooner than in 110 years.

Mr. Udovenko explained that besides being an honor for Ukraine the position of assembly president has allowed him to bring Ukraine to the attention of world leaders as well as to a wide range of international experts. He thanked the Ukrainian American community for its continued support, and especially acknowledged the many individuals present who have known him from his early days at the U.N. in New York more than 30 years ago.

In his remarks, Mr. Udovenko summarized key political, economic and social factors, positive and negative, that shape Ukraine's development. In the arena of foreign policy, he credited President Leonid Kuchma for recent successes, noting that many of the memoranda, treaties and agreements signed this past year were years in the making.

He noted that despite much consternation about the treaty between Ukraine and Russia, its signing was historic since Russia finally, and irrevocably, acknowledged before the world Ukraine's independence and the inviolability of its borders.

He underscored the leadership role that President Kuchma has assumed in regional foreign policy, highlighting the Baltic/Black Sea initiative and Mr. Kuchma's invitation to leaders of the region to meet in Ukraine next year.

During the evening, pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky and soprano Lesia Hrabova performed a musical program of selections by several European composers.



Irene Jarosewich

Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of the United Nations General Assembly Hennadii Udovenko and his wife, Dina.



Ukraine's newly appointed permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko, and his wife, Iryna.

George Kuzmycz eulogized as dedicated American public servant

by Yaro Bihun

WASHINGTON — George Kuzmycz, the Department of Energy nuclear engineer killed in an automobile accident in Ukraine, was honored here on December 12 at a memorial service attended by more than 400 family, friends and colleagues, including senior U.S. government officials.

Expressing the government's condolences to the Kuzmycz family on behalf of President Bill Clinton, U.S. Secretary of Energy Federico Peña called Mr. Kuzmycz "a great American" and "peacemaker."

"He served to make our world a safer and a more peaceful place," Mr. Peña said. "His cause — to ensure that nuclear materials in Ukraine were secure and protected against theft — is the cause of peacemakers. And George truly was a peacemaker."

Also attending the panakhyda (requiem service) for Mr. Kuzmycz and addressing the mourners was Ambassador William Courtney, special assistant to President Clinton and senior director for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasian affairs at the National Security Council. He read a letter to Mr. Kuzmycz's wife, Ksenia, from Vice-President Al Gore, who praised Mr. Kuzmycz's "unprecedented" accomplishments at the Kyiv Institute of Nuclear Research, the Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology, the Sevastopol Institute of Nuclear Energy and Industry and the South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plant.

"America has lost a dedicated public servant who was highly regarded in the international arms control and non-proliferation communities," Vice-President Gore wrote. "George's contribution remains a living tribute to future generations."

Ambassador Courtney, who had known Mr. Kuzmycz for a number of years, cited Mr. Kuzmycz's dedication in going to Ukraine as soon as it became an independent country as well as, on a more personal level, his sense of humor and adventurous spirit.

Mrs. Kuzmycz also received a letter from U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Green Miller and his wife, Suzanne.

"Only a brief month earlier," the ambassador wrote, "George and I together took pride in opening a center in Kyiv designed to make Ukraine, and the world, safer from the potential danger of improper use and movement of nuclear materials. His work in this regard was and is valued highly by our government and the government and people of Ukraine."

Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Yuri Shcherbak, sent a letter to the Kuzmycz family in which he also noted the shock and grief with which Mr. Kuzmycz's death was met by his colleagues in Ukraine, and at the request of the directors and staff of the Institute of Nuclear Research, where Mr. Kuzmycz had numerous professional colleagues and was greatly admired and respected, passed along condolences to Mr. Kuzmycz's family.

Mr. Kuzmycz, 53, died on December 6 in a head-on automobile accident while being driven from the South Ukraine Power Plant to Mykolaiv. His driver also died in the accident, as did the driver of the other car, who, according to the local police report, apparently fell asleep at the wheel and crossed into the oncoming lane. The other driver's wife and two children were injured in the crash.

Mr. Kuzmycz came to Ukraine a few weeks earlier on one of many trips in recent years as the program manager of the Ukraine Program on Nuclear Material Security Task Force in the Office of Arms Control and Non-Proliferation at the Department of Energy. The program seeks to help Ukraine upgrade its nuclear energy facilities by improving its nuclear storage safety and accounting procedures.

"George gave his life while in a country he loved dearly," Mr. Peña said. "He was truly a pillar of the Ukrainian community and a proud credit to his heritage. George was dedicated to his primary missions of securing nuclear materials in Ukraine because he was dedicated to his people and he really made a big difference to his community."

Mr. Peña also noted the human side of Mr. Kuzmycz: "One phrase that I keep hearing over and over again from the many wonderful stories about George was that he was larger than life, that he had a passion and a zest for living."

He also was a giving person, as Mr. Peña recalled an instance when Mr. Kuzmycz, on one of his missions in Ukraine, learned about a family that had lost the roof of their home during a storm. "George spent his weekend, along with other Department employees, working to repair the roof," he said.

The Department of Energy honored Mr. Kuzmycz with its Distinguished Career Service Award, which Secretary Peña presented to Mrs. Kuzmycz, along with the departmental flag and numerous letters from his colleagues.

Born in Ukraine in 1944, George Kuzmycz grew up in New York in the traditional post-war Ukrainian American environment of church, school and community organizations. (Last week The Weekly had reported that he was born in Czecho-Slovakia; in fact, he was baptized there.) He received his B.S. degree in nuclear engineering from Queens College and an M.S. degree in nuclear engineering from the University of New York at Buffalo, where he also completed doctoral studies.

He came to the Washington area in 1975 to work for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Before joining the Department of Energy, he also worked on export controls at the Department of Commerce.

Since childhood, Mr. Kuzmycz has been a member of Plast, the Ukrainian scouting organization, and had been a member of the Chornomortsi senior scout fraternity. He was on the board of directors of the Washington-area Ukrainian Saturday School and sang in the Ukrainian National Choir, at one time serving as its president.

George Kuzmycz is survived by his wife, Ksenia; two sons, Yuri, 22, and Danylo, 20; his mother, Valentina Kuzmycz, of New York; and sister, Yara Sydorak.

The memorial service on December 12 was held without the casket due to a flight-connection foul-up in Amsterdam. The funeral service was held on Sunday, December 14, at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Silver Spring, Md. The burial took place that afternoon at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J.

York University conference examines Ukraine between NATO and Russia

by **Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj**

Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO — York University recently hosted a conference titled "Ukraine between NATO and Russia," thanks to the efforts of Prof. Orest Subtelny of the department of history. The one-day symposium examined the geopolitical and military aspects of Ukraine's position in post-Cold War Europe.

A key speaker was Admiral Volodymyr Bezkorovainyi, the former Soviet submarine fleet commander and, more recently, the former commander of Ukraine's Black Sea Fleet. Admiral Bezkorovainyi was invited to speak on his area of immediate experience: strategic concerns in the Black Sea, as well as the impact of the Black Sea Fleet (BSF) issue on Russian-Ukrainian relations.

The day began with two sessions that addressed the general geopolitical issues and specific military issues raised by the symposium's title.

The first speaker was Dr. Hryhorii Perepelytsia, chief analyst at the Institute of Strategic Studies in Kyiv. Dr. Perepelytsia said Ukraine is very fortunate to have emerged as an independent state when it did, greatly benefiting from the initial atmosphere of trust in Europe in 1991. The Conventional Forces in Europe agreement

limiting the forces arrayed by the two superpowers and their allies, resulted in a turning of all armies to an essentially defensive posture, he said.

The former Soviet Pacific Fleet captain said this was made possible by Russia's geopolitical collapse and its reversion to a geopolitical position it had occupied in the 19th century.

Since Russia's domination of Eastern and Central had been predicated on a military presence, the analyst contended, this collapse created a security vacuum that most countries wanted to fill quickly by becoming members of NATO.

Dr. Perepelytsia asserted that without the influence of West, Ukraine would simply not exist as an independent state, adding that historically his country has enjoyed independence only when the influence of West has been significant — first, in the late 17th and early 18th centuries when Sweden pressed eastward; then following the revolution of 1917; and finally, since 1991.

After 1991, Dr. Perepelytsia said, Russia, as the nucleus of the former empire, saw the Commonwealth of Independent States as a way to continue the old patterns of relations. However, Ukraine had always considered the CIS, an institution which it helped establish, to be an instrument of arriving at "a civilized divorce" from the

old sphere of influence.

Dr. Perepelytsia said that at first Ukraine sought to serve as a bridge to Europe, but this proved largely impossible, since Russia simply acted as if it spoke on the CIS's behalf, and was not interested in allowing newly independent states to establish bilateral relations with Western European countries and institutions — NATO in particular.

He further asserted that Ukraine's nuclear disarmament policy was entirely geared to establishing its credibility with the West, since the missiles stationed on its territories were pointed in that direction, a matter over which it had no operational control.

Moving to the present day, the strategic analyst said, "Ukraine considers NATO not to be simply a military alliance, but a key element in the security architecture of Europe" and that the organization has already played a key role in ensuring the security of Ukraine.

"Thanks to NATO's expansion," the Kyiv-based official said, "Ukraine was able to sign and have ratified an agreement with Romania on cooperation, border demarcation and territorial integrity; was able to sign a treaty of friendship and cooperation with Poland; and finally, was able to sign a wide-ranging bilateral pact of good neighborly relations, friendship and cooperation with Russia, something we had been unable to secure for years."

Dr. Perepelytsia claimed Ukraine is in a position to restrain Russia's European geopolitical ambitions and, as such, to foster the growth of a democratic civil society in the former superpower.

He said his country is equally well placed to act as a stabilizing, peacekeeping force in the Transdnier and Caucasus regions, and has been reforming its military to reflect both these possibilities and the realities of its present economic situation.

NATO as anti-vacuum insurance

Prof. Aurel Braun, a historian at the University of Toronto, disagreed that a security vacuum emerged in the traditional sense that needed to be countered with a strong military or other institutional response. Instead, he suggested that for countries such as Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary, seeking NATO membership was rather like "buying insurance."

Prof. Braun warned against being seduced by the model proposed by former U.S. National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, that is, his idea of Ukrainian independence as a guarantor against Russian hegemonic resurgence.

While Prof. Braun conceded that this model is "not entirely inaccurate," he contended that it is not the best instrument to achieve the goal of European security, since "a protective moat" is not the best long-term solution. He contended that fostering democratic reforms in Russia is, and these could only be secured if the former hegemon did not feel threatened.

The Toronto-based historian also pointed out that Ukraine itself must keep a close eye on its economic well-being, something he said could only be maintained by close ties with Russia.

The next commentator was Sherman Garnett, a senior associate of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, who, in turn, disagreed with Prof. Braun. He gave high marks to Ukraine's foreign policy apparatus for achieving considerable success, but cautioned that its very success has "created a progressive and ambitious set of interests."

Mr. Garnett, author of the recently published study "Keystone in the Arch: Ukraine in the Emerging Security Environment of Central and Eastern Europe," said ambitions such as membership in the European Union and NATO "are simply not supported [by Ukraine's] societal, political and economic weaknesses." The author said that if Ukraine is perceived as not qualified to pursue these ambitions and begins to fail as a viable state, there is a danger that "a more dangerous external environment could emerge."

The former Pentagon analyst pointed out that, thanks to the pragmatism of Presidents Boris Yeltsin, Leonid Kravchuk and Leonid Kuchma, Russia and Ukraine have been able to arrive at a far greater level of rational accommodation than has been called for by elements in their respective societies.

The West's more "Ukrainian" view

But Mr. Garnett pointed out that the fundamental difference between the two countries' approach (Russia seeking to have Ukraine revert to a deeper, more comprehensive reintegration, while Ukraine wants to set a clearly defined individual role for itself as a state and a society) has meant that outside influence from the West, specifically from the United States, has been of paramount importance.

He said Russian-Ukrainian relations should be drawn into European cooperative institutions. "It doesn't mean that we always take Ukraine's side," Mr. Garnett concluded, "but I think that we have a more 'Ukrainian' view of the outcome that should emerge — a normal state-to-state relationship."

Prof. Peter Potichnyj of McMaster University, who acted as moderator of this discussion, took issue with the point raised by Prof. Braun concerning the possibility of "supporting democratic elements in Russia from the outside." The Hamilton-based historian asserted that democratization is the internal responsibility of Russia's leaders, and that any effect that either Ukraine, the West or anyone could hope to have is "at best, marginal."

"I don't think that one should talk about congenital anti-democratic tendencies in Russia," Prof. Potichnyj added, "but one should not dismiss centuries of authoritarian experience."

Military aspects of bilateral relations

In the absence of the scheduled speaker, Gen. I. Smishko, chief of Ukraine's military intelligence, Dr. Perepelytsia addressed issues specific to Ukraine's military policy. First off, he tackled the apparent contradiction of a self-declared neutral and non-bloc state entering into partnerships and treaties with institutions such as NATO.

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Ukraine's military and civilian officials participate in Harvard security program

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Ukraine's presidential advisor on special military issues, the deputy chief of the General Staff of Ukraine and a lieutenant general who also serves as a national deputy to the Verkhovna Rada are among 30 top military and civilian officials participating in a program at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government that is aimed at assisting national security efforts in Ukraine.

The first of an annual three-year initiative to assist Ukraine's democratic reform efforts, the Harvard Ukrainian National Security Program will support the country's leaders in formulating global strategy and strategic doctrine. The program, which began on December 1, will explore policies and issues surrounding the country's civil-military relations.

"There is a small window of opportunity in Ukraine in which a new generation of military and civilian officials, free of the old Soviet constraints, is shaping the form of democracy that will take root there," said Joseph S. Nye, dean of the Kennedy School.

Underwritten by grants from the Smith Richardson Foundation and the U.S. Institute for Peace, as well as with additional support from the U.S. Department of Defense and the Ukrainian National Security Council, the program has grown out of a university-wide initiative to examine how to help emerging democracies not only in scholarly work, but in outreach efforts as well. Additional assistance has

been provided by Harvard's Ukrainian Research Institute.

"With independence in 1991, Ukraine had to establish its own national security structure independent from that of Russia. Ukraine is a major strategic player in Europe, and its interactions with Russia, with its neighbors in Central Europe and the former Soviet Union, and with Western Europe will profoundly affect European security as a whole," said Nancy Huntington, director of the program.

"As the first delegation of such high officials attending such a program at an American institution of higher education, the program provides a much-needed opportunity for dialogue between U. S. and Ukrainian policy-makers and experts on national security affairs," she added.

In the program's opening session, Catherine Kelleher, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia, said, "The program reflects the 'strategic partnership' that the U.S. and Ukraine have forged in the last five years and the future cooperation to which the two countries are mutually committed."

The Harvard Ukrainian National Security Program has also arranged four days of special briefings by Pentagon officials in Washington, following the session at the Kennedy School.

The program has arranged a visit to NATO headquarters in Brussels, as well as stops at the British Defense Ministry and Foreign Office, and at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.



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Danylo Husar Struk honored in Pittsburgh as Ukrainian of the Year

by Nickolas C. Kotow

PITTSBURGH – The 1997 Ukrainian of the Year Award was presented to Danylo Husar Struk, editor-in-chief of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine, by the Ukrainian Technological Society at its 28th annual dinner and dance held on November 29 at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association Club.

Also, three debutantes were introduced to the Pittsburgh Ukrainian community. Guests were welcomed by Ihor Havryluk, UTS president. The society, founded in 1970, is a charter member of the Federation of Ukrainian American Business and Professional Associations.

The Ukrainian of the Year Award honors persons who have made significant and substantial contributions over a period of time to a professional or technological specialty, to the perpetuation of Ukrainian heritage, or in humanitarian endeavors. Prior honorees include Andrew S. Gregorovich (1994), editor of *Forum: A Ukrainian Review*; Ulana M. Diachuk (1993), president of the Ukrainian National Association; and Nadia Svitlychna (1979), Ukrainian dissident.

The nomination of Prof. Struk as the 28th Ukrainian of the Year honoree was made by Nickolas C. Kotow, secretary. Prof. Struk was born on April 5, 1940, in Lviv, and now resides in Toronto. He earned a B.A. from Harvard University in 1963, a M.A. in 1964 from the University of Alberta, and a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in 1970. His thesis title was "Vasyl Stefanyk: His Study of the Pain at the Heart of Existence." This work served as the basis for his book, "A Study of Vasyl Stefanyk", published in 1972 by the Ukrainian Academic Press.

Dr. Struk has taught in the department of Slavic languages and literatures at the University of Toronto, beginning in 1967 as a lecturer and as full professor since 1982. He developed and introduced many courses in Ukrainian language, literature and poetry, and authored the textbook, "Ukrainian for Undergraduates," in 1978. He has supervised four master theses and four doctoral theses.

His research interests include 20th century Ukrainian literature, emigré Ukrainian literature, and the authors, Emma Andiyevska and Ihor Kalynets. He has published many articles on Ukrainian literature and poetry, as well



Prof. Danylo Husar Struk (center), receives the Ukrainian of the Year Award from Ihor Havryluk, president, and Marta Pisetska Farley, vice-president, of the Ukrainian Technological Society.

as his own poems. He was elected a foreign member of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in 1992, and was awarded the Prize for Highest Achievement in Ukrainian Studies in 1993 by the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies. He currently serves as the president of the European section of the Shevchenko Scientific Society.

Dr. Struk was an editorial assistant for the monumental Encyclopedia of Ukraine in 1980-1982. He was managing editor in 1983-1989, and has been editor-in-chief since 1989. Volumes I and II were published under the editorship of Dr. Volodymyr Kubijovyc and Volumes III-V under Dr. Struk, who also contributed 19 signed

entries for the encyclopedia on Ukrainian literary figures and topics and a major article on Ukrainian literature in Volume III.

Dr. Struk introduced the use of a Ukrainian-English word-processing program into the editorial process, and coordinated the work of numerous contributors, holding them to strict submission deadlines. Such personal tenacity insured the timely publication of the full work. He is presently working on an index and an update volume.

The award plaque, calligraphed by Kathy Boykowycz, was presented to Dr. Struk by UTS President Havryluk

(Continued on page 15)

Detroit/Windsor Graduates present Ukrainian of the Year Award

by Stephen M. Wichar Sr.

DETROIT – An overflow audience came to see Victoria Hruszkewycz receive metropolitan Detroit's coveted and prestigious Ukrainian of the Year Award. The sponsoring organization, the Ukrainian Graduates of Detroit and Windsor, for the 58th consecutive year presented its scholarships. Nine Ukrainian students received the 1997 stipends.

The ceremonies began with a cocktail hour. As guests munched on hors d'oeuvres, Lexie Nordstrom and Nataline Kujan, who recently established the Bandura School of Detroit, played favorite Ukrainian selections on their banduras. The popular Zoloti Dzvony (Golden Bells) Song Ensemble, under the direction of Olga Dubrivny-Solovey, also entertained the audience with its informal style of singing.

The banquet program was opened by Dr. Jaroslaw Sawka, president of the graduate's organization. "We must maximize our efforts in cultivating young minds so that they can become our leaders of tomorrow," he said.

He also introduced Stephen Wichar as the master of ceremonies who welcomed guests and the banquet steering committee and then called on the audience to rise for toasts to the people of the United States and their president, to the people of Canada and their queen, and to newly free and independent Ukraine. Bishop Alexander Bykovetz of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church offered the invocation.

Serafina and Tito Marzotto, chairpersons of the Scholarship Committee, assembled all the scholarship recipients at the dais. Each student spoke briefly about his or her educational objectives. The following students were recognized: Rachel Calcaterra, Michigan State University (psychology);

Natalia Celuch, Oakland University (exercise science); John Fedynsky, Georgetown University (business); Joanna Horbal, University of Western Ontario (foods and nutrition); Katherine Anna Korol, Wayne State University (public relations); Yuliya Koval, Oakland Community College (business information systems); Melania Kraska, University of Michigan (child psychology); Andrew Jurij Sawka, Central Michigan University (automotive design); and Larissa Snihurowicz, University of Windsor (nursing).

As the chairman of the Ukrainian of the Year Award Committee, Mr. Wichar introduced the 1997 Ukrainian of the Year, Ms. Hruszkewycz, a registered nurse, is an infection control practitioner and works in the Department of Epidemiology at William Beaumont Hospital, in Royal Oak, Mich.

"Her educational and professional experiences are voluminous and extensive," Mr. Wichar noted, listing her work in emergency practice, oncology units, research in microbiology and other research programs. Ms. Hruszkewycz is a member of many professional organizations, from which she has received numerous honors. She has successfully presented abstracts and other papers at scientific meetings, has several professional publications to her credit, and has served as a guest lecturer.

"One of the high points in Ms. Hruszkewycz's career was the epidemiological investigation of the effect of radiation on the eyes of children affected by the Chernobyl accident," noted Mr. Wichar. "In this ongoing research, Ms. Hruszkewycz was a member of the international collaborative study team working with the Ukrainian Ministry of Health. Working in the 'hot zone' of Chernobyl, Ms. Hruszkewycz worked with a volunteer

team sponsored by the Tri-State Committee Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, University of Pittsburgh.

"As the immediate president of the Ukrainian Nurses Association of Michigan, Ms. Hruszkewycz along with her colleagues, spearheads the Veselka Project. This committee has studied and implemented a Ukrainian extended-care facility for elderly Ukrainians who need medical help. This community-wide endeavor promises to have a major impact in metropolitan Detroit."

After calling Ms. Hruszkewycz to the podium, Mr. Wichar also asked her son,

Timko, and mother to join the honoree for the plaque presentation. A thunderous standing ovation greeted Ms. Hruszkewycz, who thanked the Ukrainian Graduates and the audience for the high honor bestowed on her.

"I want everyone to know," that I have a profound and very deep commitment to my God and country, and to my people," she said. "I will continue to use my talents, whatever they may be, to serve both children and elderly alike. Thank you for your trust and confidence."

The 58th anniversary dinner concluded with a benediction by Bishop Bykovetz.



Victoria Hruszkewycz receives Ukrainian of the Year Award from the award committee chairman, Stephen M. Wichar Sr., of the Ukrainian Graduates of Detroit and Windsor.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Christmastime giving

It's Christmastime — a time of exchanging gifts with family and friends, and of making merry with those near and dear to us. It is the time also of our traditional "koliada," when carolers go from house to house to share the glad tidings of the newborn Christ Child via song.

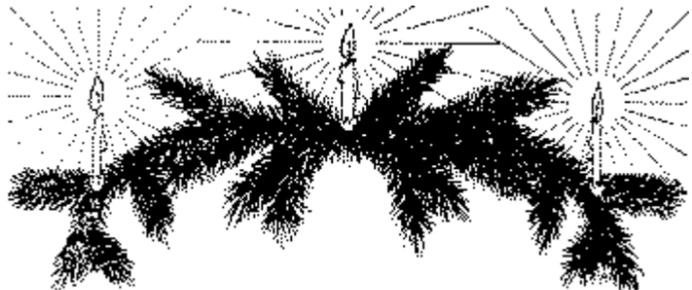
The koliada has come to encompass also the newer tradition of visiting Ukrainian homes for the purpose of not only celebrating the season but also to solicit donations for various organizations and worthy causes. Another version of that tradition is the "koliada by mail" as, along with Christmas cards from our friends, business associates and acquaintances, we receive greetings from diverse organizations and charities that seek our financial support.

Often we would just as soon discard these "greetings," but wait — isn't this the season of giving? And doesn't that spirit of giving extend beyond our immediate circle? Isn't Christmas a most appropriate time to think of those in need, to give of ourselves to others, including our organizations?

Shouldn't we also consider sending gifts to our youth groups and to Ukrainian schools? Shouldn't we give a little extra on the occasion of the koliada to our churches? And, how about organizations whose work we find especially worthy of our support, whether that may be The Ukrainian Museum of New York, which is now constructing a new home; or the Ukrainian Institute of America, now in the midst of major renovations in time for its 50th anniversary in 1998; or the Ukrainian National Association's Fund for the Rebirth of Ukraine, which provides assistance to independent Ukraine in areas as disparate as the news media and education, for example teaching of the English-language in Ukraine and support for the Stefanyk Library in Lviv? Don't these entities merit our consideration?

Nor should we forget charitable organizations, such as the Social Service of Ukrainian War Veterans, based in Jenkintown, Pa., which helps invalid veterans of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army and others; the Orphans' Aid Society, which sponsors needy children in Ukraine; or the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, with whose fine work we all are well-acquainted. Let's not forget the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, which helps new immigrants to this country; the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-affiliated Society of St. Andrew, which cares for the elderly, needy and disadvantaged in Ukraine; or St. Basil's Seminary in Stamford, Conn., which provides for the future of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

There are many, many more organizations and institutions worthy of our support and special attention during the Christmas season. And we needn't look far to find them. They may be as close as down the street, or as far away as Ukraine. The choice of whom to support is yours, dear readers. Our role in this space at this time is merely to nudge you, in the spirit of Christmas, to allocate a little from your Christmas budget for the needy individuals and deserving organizations among us. After all, this is the season of giving.



Dec.
21
1326

Turning the pages back...

The world of iconography, so different from that of individualized artistry that emerged following the Renaissance, has given us masterpieces, but the names of its masters are less

known than those of, for example, Leonardo da Vinci or Michelangelo. Some names have come down to us, including that of St. Petro Ratensky (Petro of Ratne), who also held high clerical office.

His exact date of birth is unknown, but we do know he was born in Ratne of the Halych-Volhynian principality in the late 13th or early 14th century. That is, he lived after Kyiv lost its political pre-eminence in Rus' in the wake of the Mongolian invasion and repeated razings of the ancient capital, but still held an important place in the Eastern Slavic theological world.

As a monk in Dvoretz, a town in the Lviv region, Ratensky painted icons and donated them to various churches in Ukraine and abroad.

In 1308, he was elected metropolitan of Kyiv and all Rus', but resided in Moscow.

A number of icons of the Theotokos (the Virgin Mary), including those at the Dormition Cathedral in Volodymyr Volynskyi, the Krekhiv monastery in Ukraine, and the St. Sophia Cathedral in Novgorod, Russia, have been attributed to him. The Theotokos of the Dormition Cathedral in Moscow's Kremlin also is his work.

Petro Ratensky died in Moscow on December 21, 1326, and was canonized by the Orthodox Church 14 years later.

Source: "Ratensky, Petro," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vol. 4 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993).

CHRISTMAS PASTORAL LETTERS

Let us prepare for the new millennium

To The Reverend Clergy, Religious and all the devout faithful of the Eparchy of Stamford:

Khrystos Razhdaietsia!

On our spiritual pilgrimage towards the great jubilee, the beginning of the Third Christian Millennium which we shall celebrate in the year 2000, we should not forget that the Mother of God is an exemplar of cooperation with the activity of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Gospel teaches us that "Mary was with child of the Holy Spirit" (Matt 1:18). When the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she was to be the Mother of the Messiah, Mary asked how this could be, since she was a virgin and intended to remain so. Gabriel told her, "The Holy Spirit will descend upon you" (Lk 1:35).

This mission of the Mother of God as the bearer of the Holy Spirit was confirmed when Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth. As the Gospel tells us, "when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leapt in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit" (Lk 1:41). The Holy Spirit has not descended upon Mary solely for herself, but for others — indeed for everyone.

Our liturgical tradition emphasizes this mission of the Theotokos as the bearer of the Holy Spirit. Early in Advent, we keep the feast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple, where the parents of Mary, St. Joachim and St. Anne, brought her as a young child. The divine services for this feast dwell on the similarity of the young Virgin Mary to the Temple itself, since both were dwelling-places of the Holy Spirit. Thus the Kontakion for the feast of the Entry of the Theotokos

states: "The all-pure Temple of the Savior, the precious Bridal Chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of the glory of God, is led today into the house of the Lord, and with her she brings the grace of the Divine Spirit. Of her God's angels sing in praise: 'She is indeed the heavenly Tabernacle.'"

At the fourth prosomion for "Lord I have cried" at Great Vespers for the feast, we sing: "Led by the Holy Spirit, the Immaculate Virgin is taken to dwell in the Holy of Holies," and at the doxasticon for "Lord I have cried" at the Great Vespers, "All the powers of heaven stood amazed, seeing the Holy Spirit dwell in you. The divine tokens of your Motherhood past understanding, O pure Virgin, are written today by the Holy Spirit in the house of God" (Orthros, second canon, fourth tropar).

We read in the Protoevangelium of James that when Mary was only 3 years old, the Holy Spirit was preparing her to become the Mother of God.

At the Theotokion at the Aposticha of Great Vespers on the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, we chant to the Mother of God: "Through the Divine Spirit, by the will of the Father, you have conceived the Son of God ... do not cease to intercede that our souls may be delivered."

During the pre-festive period before the Nativity of Christ, we note that the Holy Spirit actively enables the Birth of Our Savior (December 20, Orthros, Canon of the Forefeast, Ode IX, Theotokion): "The Virgin, like an alabaster vial, bears Christ, the inex-

(Continued on page 14)

Let us open our minds to the Holy Spirit

Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, Deacons, Venerable Sisters, Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Christ is Born!

Let us Glorify Him!

Last Christmas we began the three-year preparation for the jubilee year 2000. The year 1997 was dedicated to Jesus Christ, the son of God. We focused our attention on our personal relationship of faith with the person of Jesus Christ. As we are coming to the close of this year, let us continue to keep Christ in the very center of our lives and thus remember it as a year of faith. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Theotokos (God-bearer), who is our model of faith, be our constant help in our endeavors.

The year 1998 is a year of hope, and our focus will be on the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was sent to the Church on Pentecost, and since then He is constantly present with us by His gifts, charisms and fruits. What we must do during the coming year is to open our minds and hearts to the various forms of the gifts and charisms raised up by the Holy Spirit. It is a known fact that the Holy Spirit is guiding many people within the Church toward participation in lively and dynamic prayer groups and communities where they can live more fully their encounter with Him and to live more personally with Jesus Christ. In many churches extraordinary manifestations of the power of the Holy Spirit are made evident through spiritual conversions, reconciliations, healings and the outpouring of gifts.

We, Ukrainian Catholics, who claim that we have the true faith, are doing what to bring our brothers and sisters to our Ukrainian Catholic Church? This

coming year let us open our minds and hearts to the presence of the Holy Spirit among us. Let us get rid of the prevalent negative attitudes, simplistic refusals and misunderstandings due to our lack of interest and knowledge of the Holy Spirit. Let us try to be opened to be filled with the Holy Spirit!

There is a movement in the Roman Catholic Church in the United States and other countries which is called the Charismatic Renewal. Many of our Ukrainian Catholics have participated in these renewals with very beneficial results. The coming year, 1998, will give all of us an opportunity to reflect on the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we all received during our reception of the mystery of chrismation (sacrament of confirmation).

Can you imagine yourself filled with the Holy Spirit and overflowing with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control? Did you know that all this is possible when we exercise or make use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit which were freely given to us at our chrismation? Let us then use the gifts of: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety and the fear of offending God and then see how great God is!

In his letter to the early Christians in Corinth, St. Paul stated the following: "To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit to another faith by the same spirit; to another gifts of healing by the

(Continued on page 14)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Estocin letter is blow to Ukrainian Orthodox

Dear Editor:

Besides marring his own legitimacy as a scholar of philosophy, Andrew Estocin's letter of October 26 dealt a blow to the Ukrainian Orthodox community, which has been aspiring for centuries to win and preserve an independent, democratic Ukraine.

To gain a historical perspective on the role of religion in democracy-building, Mr. Estocin need not look far – the American Revolution was first and foremost a religious event.

Ellis Sandoz, in his "Political sermons of the American founding era," describes how Yale- and Harvard-educated clergymen utilized the Puritan pulpit to inspire colonists to rise up against impending British tyranny. It was their multi-denominational Christian faith that inspired the early Americans to make patriotic sacrifices, which won their freedom – freedom to worship in the manner their new land inspired.

Like the colonists, Ukrainians utilize their faith to fight the imperialistic encroachments of Moscow Patriarch Aleksei and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Like the colonists, Ukrainians cannot ask what is "canonical" in the eyes of their oppressors. Does Mr. Estocin know how many times the canons established during the seven Ecumenical Councils were broken to facilitate subjugation of Ukraine? The prominent minister Jonathan Mayhew said during the American Revolution era, "Rulers have no authority from God to do mischief ... It is blasphemy to call tyrants and oppressors God's ministers ... Far from being sinful, resistance to corrupt ministers and tyrannical rulers is a divine imperative." (Christian History, Issue 50)

Today it is the divine imperative of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church to resist

the corruption and tyranny that threatens its identity, which is an integral part of the identity of Ukrainian democracy. Religions have been, and always will be, culture-specific. The nation influences the faith, and the faith, in turn, influences the nation by providing a social order. In Ukraine that social order has always been provided by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which differentiated itself from its neighbors.

Mr. Estocin denounces "politics of nationalism." How would he describe the "politics" that enabled the Moscow patriarch to get a law passed in the Russian Parliament that outlawed entire religions? What form of "politics" allows the Russian Orthodox Church to hold a monopoly over black market cigarette and alcohol sales? (Has he listened to National Public Radio or read The New York Times lately?) How would he tag the "politics" between Moscow, Constantinople and Rome as they juggle the Ukrainian Orthodox Church among themselves? If he's going to eschew politics, Mr. Estocin will have to be consistent.

At the dawn of the 21st century, the miraculous survival of a nation as tragically abused and partitioned as Ukraine, illustrates the regenerative power of Ukraine's culture-specific faith. History has repeatedly shown that a nation's need to sense its faith is indigenous – not imposed. It is by teaching Orthodox youth to love not only the Orthodox Church, but its ethno-spiritual roots, and to remain true to those roots by not splintering into jurisdictions, that Mr. Estocin will organically nurture not only Orthodoxy, but Christianity itself. The loss of national identity has never strengthen a Church – only weakened it. By eschewing patriotism, Mr. Estocin is jeopardizing the creation of a unified, national, canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Halyna Hrushetsky
Chicago, Ill.

ACTION ITEM

U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg, Rep. Steven Rothman and Rep. Bob Franks, all of New Jersey, have introduced a special resolution (S 1460 in the Senate and HR 2976 in the House of Representatives) to admit the family of Vova Malofienko and his parents, Alexander Malofienko and Olga Matsko, for permanent residence in the United States. Vova is a 12-year-old leukemia survivor from Chernihiv, Ukraine, who came to the U.S. in 1990 under the auspices of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund (CCRF) and actor Paul Newman's "Hole-in-the-Wall-Gang Camp." Seven other children who came with Vova returned to Ukraine and have since died of complications related to their cancer or leukemia.

Vova, who now lives in New Jersey, underwent treatment at Boston's Floating Hospital and Newark's Beth Israel Medical Center. He has been in full remission for several years now. However, his doctors fear that he will suffer a relapse if returned to his hometown of Chernihiv, which is located near the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and received concentrated, radioactive fallout as a result of the explosion in 1986.

Through the intervention of Sen. Lautenberg last March, the Malofienkos were granted a one-year extension on their visitors' visa, which will expire in April 1998. The bill introduced in Congress is an extraordinary remedy designed to provide the Malofienkos with permanent residence and to protect them from deportation proceedings under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101). Supporters of the Malofienko family are urged to write to their elected representatives asking them to support HR 2976 and S1460.

For more information on the Malofienkos' status, readers may contact the CCRF at (973) 376-5140 or consult the homepage created by Vova's classmates at the Millburn Middle School, where Vova is a popular straight-A student, at <http://schools.millburn.org/vova>. To sign a petition to help Vova call Denane Gitner, communications coordinator, Millburn Township Schools, at (973) 376-3600, ext. 163.

Readers are also urged to call the offices of Sen. Lautenberg, (202) 224-4744, Rep. Rothman, (202) 225-5061, or Rep. Franks, (202) 225-5361, to thank them for sponsoring this legislation or write to: Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510; Rep. Steven Rothman, 1607 Longworth Building, Washington, DC 20515; and Rep. Bob Franks, 225 Cannon Building, Washington, DC 20515.

Supporters (especially residents of Michigan) are urged to contact the office of Sen. Spencer Abraham, chairman of the Immigration Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, to express their support for this emergency legislation. He may be reached at 245 Dirksen Building, Washington, DC 20510; telephone, (202) 224-3422.

— Submitted by the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Christmas in Ukraine, 1997

There is bad news and good news for the people of Ukraine this Christmas.

The bad news is that if the elections were held tomorrow, Ukraine's Communists and Socialists would sustain their majority, perhaps even gain a few seats. Disillusionment has turned into cynicism as Ukraine's "democrats" have not delivered on their promises. The younger generation will probably ignore the elections, while the older generation will vote for the left in the foolish belief that the Communists will improve living conditions.

According to the annual Index of Economic Freedom, Ukraine ranks 127 out of 156 countries, behind such African states as Swaziland (47), Botswana (49), Benin (69) and Djibouti (83). Russia is No. 104. Estonia and the Czech Republic are at 19 and 20, respectively, on a par with Chile and Austria.

The index, published by the Heritage Foundation and the Wall Street Journal, looks at economic freedom in such specific areas as trade policy, taxation, government intervention in the economy, monetary policy, capital flows and foreign investment, banking wage and price controls, property rights, regulation and the black market. Ukraine's shameful record in these areas is being exploited by the left and the press, which reports regularly on the suicide of senior citizens unable to survive, managers not paying wages while living high on the hog, and the moral malaise that has gripped the nation.

In terms of government corruption, Ukraine stands poised to lose U.S. assistance if the situation doesn't improve. According to U.S. News and World Report, "Electronics giant Motorola, citing ever-changing conditions, dropped a cellular-phone venture in Ukraine after sinking in several million dollars. Marathon Oil and the sugar firm Tate & Lyle have also left Ukraine in frustration." Nevertheless, Ukraine appears to be less corrupt than Russia, India and Mexico. Small consolation.

There are other problems. I met an American engineer with the Environmental Protection Agency who was helping the city fathers of Lviv solve their water problem. He told me thousands of dollars had already been spent but no meaningful progress could be made until local officials were willing to share the city's original water distribution plans. They refused on the grounds that such information was classified.

So what's the good news? Ukraine's democratic parties have apparently joined forces and have promised to work in tandem to defeat the Socialists and Communists in March. Much will depend on Rukh, currently headed by Vyacheslav Chornovil. Rukh has lost some of its original luster, and Mr. Chornovil does not have a reputation for working well with others. If the parties of the center and right can work out their differences and egos don't get in the way, there is an outside chance that the left can be defeated come March.

Another piece of good news is that a new generation of young local leaders is slowly beginning to emerge. They realize that Ukraine's transformation will take time and that a new, morally courageous generation must come to the fore before meaningful change can come about. They are beginning to understand that change in Ukraine will not occur from the top down. It must begin at the grass roots level.

An example are the professors at Ostroh

Academy. They believe in Ukraine's future. They visualize a golden destiny for Ukraine, and they're working arduously to prepare Ukraine's future leaders. Ostroh Academy deserves our unequivocal support. During the week, the rector of Ostroh Academy lives with the students in the dormitory. Now that's dedication!

Another example I can point to are Ukraine's younger teachers. Many haven't been paid for months, and yet they continue to teach. I was in Kyiv recently meeting with some 50 educators from all regions of Ukraine. What a joy! They were an impressive group that took pride in speaking Ukrainian and were anxious to forge a new Ukrainian identity. They were in Kyiv for a civic education training seminar, held at Puscha Ozerna, a sanatorium once reserved for Communist bigwigs. Unfortunately, not all of the trainers paid by American tax dollars were up for the task. Typically ethnocentric in their thinking, they truly believe in the one-size-fits-all approach to civic education, i.e. if it works in America, it'll work in Ukraine. The representative from the American Federation of Teachers welcomed everyone in Russian. Another trainer carped about the "rising tide of nationalism" in Ukraine. These are people who pride themselves on being multiculturally sensitive, mind you!

Still another reason to rejoice is that the Ukrainian Theological Society has been rejuvenated. Most encouraging is the fact that while the society is essentially a Ukrainian Catholic institution, other confessions are welcome. Academic scholarship is the determining factor. In a religiously pluralistic society like Ukraine, such openness is welcome.

Ukraine may not be doing well in the area of economic freedom, but in terms of religious freedom, its record is excellent. While the Russian Orthodox Church is attempting to reassert its monopoly on religious matters in Russia, there is no such domination by any Church in Ukraine. All faith expressions have thus far found a home in Ukraine.

The future of Ukraine will not be determined by the current Ukrainian government, which I believe to be beyond redemption. Soviet-style bureaucrats will continue to gouge the public because that's what they've been trained to do. They subscribe to the premise that if they don't cheat, steal and lie to get ahead, someone else will.

The tragedy of Ukraine today is that few people trust the government. Whereas most Americans expect their leaders to be honest and are outraged when they are not, in Ukraine most people have no such expectations. Corruption is "normalno." This perception will begin to change only when President Leonid Kuchma establishes an independent, Elliot Ness-type corruption-fighting unit. Otherwise, he's all talk.

Various U.S. government agencies and independent foundations are pouring millions into Ukraine, and one wonders how much of it is making a significant difference. How much of our tax dollars are ending up in the wrong hands? How much of the U.S. effort is a scatter-gun, uncoordinated approach? How much money is devoted to meaningful institution building?

There's only so much we in the United States can do. The rest depends on the people of Ukraine. It's their destiny that will be determined in March, not ours.

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

A beautiful Christmas basket

by Edward Andrusko

One of the earliest Christmases I can remember was in the seaport town of Perth Amboy, N.J., where I was born. Our country was in the midst of a recession, or, as it was called, the "Great Depression." There was little or no work. Many were starving; others were begging in the streets or traveled illegally as hobos (street people) on freight trains in search of employment. The deadly epidemic of influenza (flu) swept our poverty-stricken nation, touching every neighborhood with sickness or death. Most parents could not find real work for years. A few of my older brothers and sisters found meager, part-time manual labor for pennies an hour in the larger city of Newark or in nearby New York.

I was the youngest boy, one of nine children. My parents had immigrated to America from Eastern Europe. Their backgrounds were those of peasant farmers from Ukraine and Poland. We lived in a modest, humble, home across the street from four rows of busy railroad tracks. Smoky trains, the lifeline to New York City, noisily passed our house regularly.

My sisters and their neighborhood girlfriends would ingeniously and dangerously stand by the railroad tracks, waving at the itinerant hobos on the train for gifts. The hobos would throw down coal, a precious commodity, to the girls. Occasionally, itinerants on fruit trains would contribute apples, oranges, grapefruits and bananas in the same dangerous manner. Many times our sisters came home with their aprons full of treasures; other times they had nothing – the trains were empty.

My young ears heard the words "depression, foreclosure, poverty and repossession." Our parents' devout religious faith kept us all appreciative of what we had and motivated us in where we were going in life. It was always "God's will!"

Once my crying siblings and pleading parents begged the grim stranger not to repossess our family radio, but he did. Yet from this sad moment I was inspired to go to the library for a book on how to build radios. With that knowledge and parts from the trash cans of a radio shop, I built a small crystal radio that worked to entertain our family until better times. Who would have dreamed that this low moment for my family would set my feet on the path toward a successful electronics career!

My "tough love" mother always had a way of jumping in at the right time with her words of wisdom and/or threats. "Children, listen – everyone into the house, you little ones, – stop crying about the radio, or I'll find something for you to cry about! There are a lot of chores to do inside and out. Christmas is coming."

Our brave, sarcastic older brother, Charlie, said, "I'm going to tell my neighborhood buddies (who watched the repossession) that my mother made them take back the radio, because we were having too much fun as a family listening to it and not doing chores."

Mom said, "No lying, wise guy! Come inside. I've got a special job for you." In the house, mom told Charlie, "On Christmas Eve you take your brother, Stevie, he's the tallest and you both go down to the Christmas tree lot and get us a beautiful tree." Charlie laughed, "And what will I use for money? They don't grow on trees you know! That's a joke, Ma!"

Mother said, "Don't be funny. You know I scrub floors and clean house once a week for this rich, business family across town. The lady of the house gave me an extra dollar for Christmas and their very old dog for you kids. But, the main thing is, her brother-in-law is a nice Jewish man who owns the Christmas tree lot down our street. Moe always gives away all the unsold trees at 8 o'clock on Christmas Eve. Be there, up front. Bring home a big beautiful tree – and make it a fresh one. It has to last until our Christmas, January 7, the real Christmas day."

We always celebrated two Christmases and got off from school for both. There was the American one on December 25 and the Eastern Orthodox on January 7. We didn't get more presents, but we sure were in church a lot.

Charlie complained, "But Mom, last year we tried that! Mr. Moe threw these large, unsold Christmas trees as hard as he could into the crowd of about 30 men and boys, and if you caught it you would still have to fight to keep it. Moe would only have about 20 bad looking leftover trees."

"If it's God's will, you will try harder this year and bring home a tree; after all you are a year older and much stronger. No more talk. We have two Christmases to celebrate and to prepare for; get busy!" Our mother never allowed any of us to complain, cry, mope or just hang around the house – you would be in trouble if you did! She could always find something for us to do.

Dad got part-time work with the city, working outside all day in the bitter cold, repairing streets. He was paid \$1 and given some old world war surplus food. He happily came home with several cans of meat, cheese, prunes and small bags of potatoes and flour. My mother's genius, and our sisters' help, would have to feed the holiday multitude

of our family and visitors twice – for both Christmases.

On Christmas Eve, after 8 p.m., my older brothers, Charlie and Steve proudly brought home a large, beautiful tree. They looked like they'd been in a tough fight to keep it, but they were victorious. My proud mother clapped her hands with delight, beaming as she looked at the beautiful tree. She thanked God and my brothers. Dad and we boys immediately started to decorate it.

Our large, cherry-red hot stove in the kitchen not only provided the only heat for our home, but baked and cooked the great feast my mother had planned to perfection. We happily sang carols in several languages.

Dad gave out our Christmas presents; we had a choice of either an apple or an orange. I was the last and had to settle for an apple, for that's what was left. We sat down to the banquet my parents had provided, which looked very festive and smelled delicious. My father stood up and said grace, then passed around holy bread, honey and a taste of sacramental wine. Dad continued with the blessings, thanking God for the beautiful Christmas celebration, good health, wealth and happiness.

How my mother heard a soft knock on our front door through the joyful caroling I will never know, but she did. Mom left the table and opened the front door, letting in the cold wind and some blowing snow. Several strangers waved at her from the street as they entered their car. They shouted "Merry Christmas" through the dark snowy night and drove away. Mom returned the salutations and was closing the door, when she noticed a large colorful object on the dark porch. She asked my two older brothers to help bring it indoors.

We all stopped eating and came over to see the mysterious, colorfully wrapped, beautiful basket of food now set on the living room floor. Through glistening transparent paper the basket revealed a large dressed turkey, fruit, vegetables, bread, cans of nuts, candy, soft drinks – all this wrapped with a bright red ribbon and bow.

Our surprised parents were speechless. We children all looked at the basket and each other. We thought about what we wanted from the basket, but no one touched it, because we were not sure if it belonged to us.

My older sister, Ann, sheepishly moved through our ring of spectators and confronted my perplexed parents. "Mom, Dad, I know about this Christmas gift basket; it was given to us by the people of St. Peter's Church from across town. They are not of our faith, but they give out these baskets to the poor and needy." My parents looked at each other, then back at Ann and said, "What did you say?" She repeated every word.

Our youngest sister asked, "Are we poor and needy?"

I said defensively, "We are like everyone else in this neighborhood. Why did they leave it here?"

My sister Sal, said, "I didn't know we were poor, Mama. Everybody knows the Schultzes on the next corner are very poor. They have 10 children, and the father is seriously ill." While we debated our poverty level, or the lack of it, our parents had their own private discussion.

Mom told everyone to go back to the dinner table, for Dad had something to say. "Family and friends, we thank St. Peter's Church for this generous and bountiful gift. Yes, financially today we are poor, but so is everyone else we know. Yes, we are poor – but we are not needy! We have a good Church, and God will provide our needs. We are healthy, but one of our neighbors is not. We are very blessed, and we know how to share, and we will. Amen!" He added, "Please, everyone, enjoy the great feast before you."

When we returned to our Christmas Eve dinner, our parents excused themselves, put on their heavy winter clothes, picked up the large Christmas basket and left into the snowy night. They returned home shortly after leaving the gift basket by the front door of our destitute neighbors.

Following dinner we dressed for a late evening church service. There was a loud knock on the front door. Neighborhood Christmas carolers entered from the cold, singing holiday songs. Our family joined in, then invited them for some hot cider and cake.

The jolly entertainers told us that one of the happiest homes they had visited earlier was just down our street. A very poor and needy family had received a beautiful Christmas gift basket anonymously.

We smiled, and everyone yelled "Merry Christmas."

Free-lance writer Edward Andrusko was born in Perth Amboy, N.J. After high school he joined the U.S. Marines at the age of 17. He served four years, three years as a combat infantry Marine, was wounded three times in World War II and decorated.

Mr. Andrusko studied American history and literature at the University of Colorado. He is a member of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation, the U.S.

Knight, horses, hunting and ... Ukrainian Christmas

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

My father started singing about young Vasylo getting on his beautiful horse, taking off his hat and bowing low to say goodbye, riding off into battle with his spear and sword, and meeting a beautiful kniazivna (princess). It was Sviat Vechir, after supper, and I was around 7 or 8 years old at the time. Tato said that this was one of the koliadky (carols) he sang as a young man back home in Strilbychi, Staryi Sambir. I remember thinking, "What in the world does this have to do with the birth of Isusyk (Baby Jesus)?"

This is probably one of the many moments that combined to whet my appetite for knowing the "why" behind our customs. I grew up with the Ukrainian ways my parents practiced as post-World War II immigrants in America. There was no problem of identity for us – we were Ukrainian at home and American in general. So were my friends and classmates. Over the years that curiosity about why we did the things we did grew, because I rarely got a proper answer when I asked. The usual replay was: "bo tak ye" (because that's the way it is), "bo tak robyly" (because that's the way they did things).

Over the many decades since I remember hearing about Vasylo riding off into battle, I have learned much about the why, but there are always so many more questions behind each answer. Now I know that only a minute percentage of our koliady sing about the Birth of Christ. The rest are much older, pre-Christian in origin, and reflect the earlier beliefs of our ancestors, long before the acceptance of Christianity. The history of any people begins with written records. What occurred before writing is called prehistory, and can only be understood through the oral tradition passed down through the generations. This includes songs, proverbs, rituals, tales and beliefs. The koliady/koliadky are the songs for the winter solstice, when families and clans gathered in ritual celebrations. A very important aspect was the gathering of the whole family, including those who had departed (i.e., died). The empty chair and place setting at the table – even now – indicate how important this belief still is. There are many categories of koliady, and the medieval/hunting theme is one of the later ones.

The earliest are the ritual songs about creation (how our ancestors imagined the earth and heavens to have come about), the celestial bodies, the first tree, first waters, birds, animals, humans, family, plants and grains, and the first fire. Later ones have agricultural themes, and the romantic thread runs throughout. Specific-theme koliadky were sung for each family member, and they were so specialized that there were koliadky for children, for a beekeeper, for the priest, his wife, and for a widow. The schedrivky were the New Year's songs, for Schedryi Vechir, literally, the Generous Eve.

Koliadka parubkovi (parubok – a young man of marriageable age) usually combined romance with hunting, battle and other medieval themes, these stemming

from the princely era of Ukrainian history, around 900-1250. Others reach into later history, when young men fought against Tatar and Turk invasions, freeing captives, even sailing to Tsarhorod (Istanbul) and bringing back booty.

In his "Ukrainska Usna Slovesnist" (Ukrainian Oral Literature, 1938), Filiaret Kolessa wrote that the military motifs are a living echo of the knights and early royal era of Kyivan Rus'. The formal hunting motifs also reflect the ways of the royal court. These were created within the ranks, and later filtered to the general peasant population where they remained as memories of that earlier glorious time, to be brought back as Rizdvo. In their specific references, some koliadky can be traced to particular historical events. In terms of theme and lyrics, this group of koliadky reflects the epic literature of the period, the medieval bylyny and Slovo o Polku Ihorevim (The Lay of Ihor's Campaign) of 1185.

The lyrics tell us what weapons were used in medieval times, what clothing (furs and fabrics) were "in," what animals were hunted and how their hides were used, what equipment was used for fishing, how falcons were used in hunting, what foods were served, what lumber was the best, which musical instruments were played, which were the major cities, what were the modes of transportation, and which enemies were fought and how. In the koliady, wish fulfillment is expressed – if we sing so, may it be so – the clothing is all silken, brocade, velvet and sable, the embroidery all golden, the plates and goblets gold and silver, the wines and foods are the best, the tables sag under the bounty, the people are all beautiful and brave.

We learn that greyhounds (khorty) were used in hunting martens: "Bratiki vstavaite, konykiv sidlaite, khortiv sklykaite, ta pidem brattia, v chysteike pole, oi, tam ia naznav kunu v derevi ... "(Wake up, brothers, saddle your horses, call the greyhounds, we will go, brothers, into the wide field, oh, there I know there is a marten in a tree ...)

Falcons (sokoly) hunt fish and small mammals: "A v nashoho pana try sokoloiky. Yedyn poletiv v chysteike pole, druhy poletiv v bystry potoky, tretii poletiv v temni lysoiky. Tot, shto poletiv v chystoie pole, prynis na obit perezeloiku, tot shto poletiv v bystry potoky, prynis ryboiku ta na snidannia, tot shto poletiv v temni lisoiky, prynis vin pany chornu kunoiky, z chornoj kunoiky panei shubai-ka." (condensed: Our lord has three falcons. One flew into the clean/open field and brought back a quail for lunch; one flew into the swift rivers and brought back a fish for breakfast; one flew into the dark forests and brought back for the lord a black marten, from which will come a fur coat for the lord). The marten is a relative of the sable, which, along with sable and ermine, was a common fur animal.

Other koliadky tell off hunting wild boar, bison and stags.

When the hunting is with bow and arrow, the arrows and bows are made either of kalyna (guelder rose, viburnum), or of

gold and silver (pan Hrynynenko struzhe striloiky vse z kalynoiky; struzhe, struzhe malovani strilky; zolotym lukom potria-suiuchy).

A blend of the very old and fairly new is possibly seen in a koliadka from Voltsneve, Zhydachiv, where the young man loads a golden firearm, rather than a bow and arrow (zolotu strilbu nabyvaiuchy).

Being medieval, some koliadky just have to be about killing a dragon (zmii): "... krasnyi Petrusenko hotuie strilonku ta na zmiionku..." (handsome Petro readies his arrow to aim at the dragon). The dragon – and in other versions, the falcon – asks the young man not to shoot, and in return will grant him three wishes, or three gifts. These usually include a horse and a beautiful maiden, as well as saving him from death or other misfortune.

Weapons are used in both hunting and fighting, and the koliadky about riding off into battle mention swords/sabers (shablia/mech), and bows and arrows. In many versions, as the mother helps her son get ready to leave, she advises him to ride neither at the head nor the back of the cavalry, but in the middle (Odzhe, synoiku, ta na viionku, ne uperedzhai u pered viiska, ne ostavai sia po zadi viiska, dershey sia viiska vse serednoho...) Oleksa Voropay thinks this is a later theme from the Kozak period.

Some koliadky mention invasions – with arrows coming down like rain – into Germany and Wallachia (Hungary), to bring back gold, silver and oxen (Pustymo strily, iak droben doshchyk, v nimetsku zemliu ta zvoiuemo ta zrabuiemo, ta naberemo use zdobychenka, zlota ne miru, sribla ne liku ... Volosku zemliu zavoiuemo... tam zaberemo syvi volyky...)

Some cities mentioned in battles and sieges include Lviv, Kyiv, Khotyn, Kaniv, Bilhorod, Hlukhiv, Nizhyn and Brody. A few Hutsul koliadky talk about going away to serve Polish or Hungarian/Wallachian kings.

The koliadky about the Tatar and Turkish invasions always have a happy ending, with the hero returning with the saved captives and booty. But he is not too quick, because at the beginning, he is

always awakened by a parent or neighbors, because he has slept through the attack, and now has to chase down the enemy. (Pane hospodariu, ty spysh, buiaiesh, a nichoho ne znaiesh, zhe na tvoie podvirie turky zai-ishly... de ikh zdohoniu, tam ikh rozhrom-liu...)

One koliadka covers almost all the enemies: "Oi rano, rano, kury zapily, Sviatyi vecher, kury zapily. Oi shche ranshy maty syna budyt: vstavai synonku, vmyvai lycheiku, vzhe nas obliahly turky, tatory, nimtsi z liakhamy! Oi, mamu, mamu, ne biisia toho, no podai meni mecha ostroho, Turky tatory mechem vysichu, nimtsiv z liakhamy konem vydopchu (O, early in the morning the fowl crowed, and even earlier the mother awakened her son: get up, my son, wash your face, we are besieged by the Turks, Tatars, Germans with the Poles (Liakhs)! Don't worry mother, just hand me my sharp sword, and I will chop out the Turks and Tatars, and will stomp out with my horse the Germans and Poles!) It is interesting that the first morning ritual of washing our face is important even when you have to go out and pursue an enemy.

The village of Verbytsia, Zhovkiv, has its own koliadka, about Vasylenko returning from battle with the Turks, in which he destroyed a big Turkish cannon, and is now the shining light of Verbytsia (... rozbyv harmatu barzo velyku, shche i turetskuiu, i vzhe synonko z viionky ide, konykom hraie, sam si vtishaie, shcho izvoiuivav turchynynonka... shcho osvitylo selo Verbytsiu? ... nash to bratiiko... nash to mylenkyi.. na imie Vasylenko...)

The lyrics are poetic, fantastic and layered over many historical periods. They are not to be taken literally, because they mean to exaggerate in order to praise and wish well. But snippets of history appear within the verses. At the time these koliadky were first sung, the singers intended them for their own time and place. For us, so many centuries later, they are a glimpse into the medieval world of Ukrainian history. "Bratiki vstavaite, konykiv sidlaite!" (Brothers, wake up and saddle the horses!).

And along with all our other traditions, this is part of our distinctly Ukrainian Christmas.

"Creation of the plain folk"

"In preparing this edition for print, I tried to eliminate all songs [which have no relation to koliadky] and not to include in it any church [i.e., religious] koliady because church koliady, while having their own beauty, differ from [true] koliady in language and spirit as do heaven from earth. And what should we say about the time and manner of the origin of one and the other? While koliadky are a creation of the plain folk and all originate from the pre-Tatar era, then church koliady are a creation of the spiritual writers and originate in the 17th to 18th centuries. It is not permissible to compare such dissimilar creations ..." – Volodymyr Hnatiuk 1913.

Source: "Introduction to Koliadky and Shchedrivky," compiled by Volodymyr Hnatiuk. Vols. 1-2. Lviv, 1914. (Etnografichniy Zbirnyk Naukovoho Tovarystva Imeni Shevchenka, T. 35-36).



Marta Tomenko

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our family and friends



Dr. Bohdan and Valentina Nowakivsky
with their children Lisa and Teodor with his wife Klaudia

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Clifton Medical Centre
1003 Main Ave., Clifton, NJ; Tel.: 201-777-9595

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR
GREETINGS TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

MARY & MARK DUSHNYCK



Українська Федиральна
Кредитова Кооператива
“Самопоміч”
у Філядельфії

Веселих свят Різдва
Христового і
щасливого
Нового
року

Нашим членам та
всій українській
громаді



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THE UKRAINIAN CANADIAN
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS
FEDERATION

wishes you and yours all the best during
this holiday season.

May you find comfort and the warmth
of loved ones

З нагоди Різдвяних
Свят та Нового
Року бажаємо
кріпкого здоров'я,
любви, успіхів,
щастя та всього
найкращого.



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Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

the year 1998, replacing Moldova's Dumitru Motpan. (RFE/RL Newline)

Hudyma named representative to EU

KYIV — Borys Hudyma was appointed Ukraine's representative at the European Union by President Leonid Kuchma. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Hudyma was a vice minister for foreign affairs. (Eastern Economist)

Rada to approve candidate for top posts

KYIV — National deputies passed a law on December 10 restricting provisional terms of office for some top-level posts appointed by the president and approved by the Verkhovna Rada, and vice versa. From now on, if an acting chairman of an agency is dismissed, his duties will be taken over by his vice-chairman or first vice-chairman for a term not to exceed two months. Following a dismissal from a post, the president is to submit a candidate within two weeks for approval by the Parliament. If the Verkhovna Rada rejects the president's candidate, the president will then nominate another candidate within two weeks. Officials to be appointed by the president and approved by the Verkhovna Rada, and vice versa, include the head of the Anti-Monopoly Committee, National Council on Television and Radio Broadcasting, State Property Fund, procurator general and chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine. (Eastern Economist)

Dynamo joins party en masse

KYIV — After qualifying for the European Cup quarter-finals, Dynamo Kyiv members decided to join the United Social Democratic Party (USDP). A club spokesman said on December 12 that the whole team and veteran coach Valerii Lobanovskiy had joined the centrist party after clinching top spot in Champions' League group C. Local newspapers noted their move into politics had done little for their form. Dynamo lost its final group match 2-0 to England's Newcastle United on December 10. The daily Vseukrainskiye Viedomosti also compared the move to Soviet days when sports stars were forced to join the Communist Party. Dynamo's president had earlier announced plans to run for the Social Democrats at parliamentary elections due in March — just in time for the quarter-finals. (Reuters)

Luzhkov promises help for fleet

MOSCOW — While visiting Ukraine, Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov promised that the city of Moscow will help the Black Sea Fleet and do "everything possible" to make sure that Russian sailors in the fleet "do not feel cut off from their motherland," ITAR-TASS reported on December 10. Mr. Luzhkov noted that Moscow has funded construction of some 500 apartments in Sevastopol, where the fleet is based. He also called for restoring economic cooperation between Russia and Ukraine at least to 1987 levels. Mr. Luzhkov has repeatedly claimed that Sevastopol is a Russian city. He recently appointed Konstantin Zatulin as his adviser on CIS matters. Mr. Zatulin, former chairman of the Duma's CIS Affairs Committee, has long championed the cause of ethnic Russians living abroad. He campaigned unsuccessfully for the Duma in 1995 on the party list of the Congress of Russian Communities. (RFE/RL Newline)

Fuel suspected as cause of crash

ZAPORIZHIA — None of the 300 D-18T aviation engines designed by the Prohres design bureau and made by the MotorSich engine plant has ever failed due to technical faults. That is the view

of Prohres designer Fedir Muravchenko speaking on December 11. The AN-124 military transport plane that crashed into an apartment building shortly after take-off on December 6 in Irkutsk, Russia, had D-18T engines. The likely cause of the crash, which killed more than 100 people, was low-quality fuel. (Eastern Economist)

MotorSich receives quality certification

ZAPORIZHIA — A Certificate of Quality has been awarded to the industrial enterprise MotorSich. The world-renowned company BWQi — Bureau Veritas awarded the certificate, the first to be received by a Ukrainian company. MotorSich produces engines for all planes constructed at the Antonov design bureau in Kyiv, all helicopters built at plants throughout the Commonwealth of Independent States and for two new Russian planes, the TU-334 and BE-200. The quality of MotorSich production meets international standards; its engines are exported to nearly 100 countries. (Eastern Economist)

Ukraine signs agreements with Hungary

BUDAPEST — Agreements signed on November 12 between Ukraine and Hungary concentrate on free trade, energy, cross-border cooperation and water management. They were signed at the Hungarian Parliament by Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko and his Hungarian counterpart, Dola Horn. A great deal of attention was paid to problems pertaining to cross-border cooperation and the crossing points on the Ukrainian-Hungarian border. Discussions also focused on the role of countries between both countries in the provision of European security, and the rights of ethnic minorities. Meetings also touched on trade and economic relations. According to the Ministry of Statistics, in the first half of 1997 Ukrainian exports to Hungary totaled \$154.4 million (U.S.) and imports \$84.72 million. (Eastern Economist)

Rada ratifies Ukraine-Kazakhstan pact

KYIV — The Verkhovna Rada on November 21 ratified an inter-government agreement between Ukraine and Kazakhstan on the principles of cooperation in the oil and gas industries. However, the Parliament has insisted that it approve the list of goods and materials exempted from import duties under this agreement. The draft law on ratification suggested the list be approved by the Cabinet of Ministers. According to the Ukrainian-Kazak agreement, the products supplied as payment for works and services provided under contracts between the two parties within the framework of this agreement are to be exempt from customs duties. These works concern operating oil and gas fields, construction of oil and gas industry projects, and their infrastructure in both Ukraine and Kazakhstan. The draft list of goods to be exempted from export and import duties under the same agreement contains drilling and oil and gas equipment, road building and lifting equipment, as well as oil, natural gas, gasoline and diesel fuel. (Eastern Economist)

Ukraine may lay claim to gold

KYIV — The Foreign Affairs Ministry confirmed to Infobank that the Ukrainian government is considering claiming a share of gold reserves looted by the German Army from several European countries during the course of World War II. Most of the gold has been kept in Swiss banks. The question was raised by the Ukrainian delegation at the international conference on issues regarding this gold which finished on December 4 in London. Any claim may include compensation for the loss of resources like agricultural produce and industrial equipment, as well as jewelry and works of art. (Eastern Economist)

Philadelphia credit union opens branch in suburb of Abington

by V. N. Bandera

PHILADELPHIA – Philadelphia's Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union – the fourth largest Ukrainian credit union in the United States with assets of over \$87 million – opened its second branch in the suburb of Abington Township.

On November 8, the new facilities were blessed by the Rev. Mikhailo Tsyuman of St. Mary Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the Rev. Oleh Zhovnirovich of St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church. The credit union's president, Ilarij Mazepa, cut the ceremonial ribbon.

After touring the new, brightly painted offices, the guests left for the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center – only a two-minute walk – to continue the program.

The assembled members and guests noted that the luncheon was held at the center's ballroom, the renovation of which was funded by the credit union. During the past 45 years, the credit union supported many Ukrainian activities: the community library; Saturday schools; the Tryzub sports club; the Plast, SUM-A youth organizations; the Ukrainian National Women's League of America; Manor Junior College; and many other local and national Ukrainian organizations and causes.

After urban decay and flight to the suburbs disrupted several Ukrainian neighborhoods in the city of Philadelphia, a new Ukrainian community emerged in the northeast suburb of Abington Township. According to the U.S. census, approximately 8,000 people of Ukrainian descent reside in this area. Located within

two square miles are the following Ukrainian institutions: Manor Junior College, founded 50 years ago by the Sisters of St. Basil; St. Basil's Academy; the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great; St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church; the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, (the hub of Ukrainian community life for the entire Philadelphia region).

The new Ukrainian Center branch of the credit union is ready to provide the community with convenient financial services.

Roman Stelmach has been hired as the manager of the new branch. Mr. Stelmach has more than 16 years of experience with Ukrainian credit unions. For the past six years he was the treasurer/manager of the Selfreliance Baltimore Federal Credit Union.

Mr. Stelmach said that he believes now that the credit union is conveniently located in the center of the Ukrainian community, members of the younger generation will avail themselves of the its many financial services.

During the luncheon, Dr. Wolodymyr Pushkar, the leading charter member and former president of the Philadelphia credit union, and pioneer of the Ukrainian credit union movement in the U.S., extended warm greetings.

Dr. Iwan Skalchuk, also a charter member and long-time president of the credit union's sponsor, the Selfreliance Association of Ukrainian Americans, praised the credit union for its positive role in the community.

Best wishes were also presented by Vsevolod Salenko, president of the

(Continued on page 15)

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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York University...

(Continued from page 4)

Dr. Perepelytsia made a distinction between "functional" neutrality and "instrumental" neutrality. As the analyst recounted, Ukraine's government is not trying to guarantee its security via neutrality, but rather affirm its independence. He explained that, in this light, Ukraine's non-alignment was not a non-NATO position, but rather an effort to avoid integration in Russian-dominated structures and military alliances.

As a result, Ukraine is not a Tashkent Pact member, but an observer. In this fashion, Dr. Perepelytsia said, Kyiv can maintain its military-industrial cooperation with other states of the CIS and keep these relations bilateral. Ukraine is thus free to avoid ties to the CIS as a whole and develop those that advance its security interests with such neighbors as Moldova, Georgia and Azerbaijan.

The analyst conceded that Ukraine's observer status ceded the ground to Russia within the CIS, "enabling Russia to transform the body into an instrument for furthering its national interest, rather than an organization of equals." For practical purposes, the CIS general command coincides with the Russian Federation's general command, Dr. Perepelytsia noted.

Russia is also continuing to apply pressure to Ukraine to join all manner of joint defense systems, such as the anti-aircraft defense network, and has attempted to isolate Ukraine from contacts with NATO by prompting CIS heads of states and ministers of defense to condemn Ukrainian participation in the Partnership for Peace program.

"In my opinion, speaking as an individual, and not even as an officer," the analyst said, "if Ukraine were able to establish close cooperation with NATO structures, we would break our association with the Tashkent Pact."

Military industrial co-dependency

However, he added that this is impossible, given that all of Ukraine's military equipment is manufactured and deployed according to former Soviet standards. In order for Ukraine to renew, modernize and maintain its equipment, it must continue to cooperate closely with Russia and other CIS countries and this will be necessary for some time to come, Dr. Perepelytsia explained.

Agreements along these lines are entered into in three principal areas: the exchange of surplus military equipment, the repair of equipment and cooperation in the sphere of the military-industrial complex.

For the sake of comparison, Dr. Perepelytsia said that in 1996, 10 joint programs were planned with the Russian military, of which four were carried out. As part of the NATO-sponsored Partnership for Peace Program, Ukraine participated in over 200 exercises and programs.

The Ukrainian official said that a military infrastructure with potential for great financial benefit is still in place in Ukraine, but has little direct practical value. These include an extensive anti-ballistic missile defense system, an early-warning network, and elements of the former Soviet space program.

When Ukraine inherited these facilities, it faced the question of what do with them, he said. The Baltic countries simply destroyed them, Kazakstan leased them to Russia, but Ukraine decided to incorporate them into its defense infrastructure and would be used in order to generate revenue. To this day, these installations are used to produce data, train personnel and manufacture materiel for Russian programs, but Russia pays its way.

Ukraine is also assisting individual CIS countries that lack the facilities and resources to establish their own armed forces, thus ensuring that they are not com-

pletely dependent on Russia.

Dr. Roman Solchanyk, a senior analyst with the Rand Corporation, began by agreeing with Mr. Garnett about the fundamental difference in Russia's and Ukraine's approaches to the dissolution of the Soviet Union's integrative structure in 1991.

The former Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty editor then reminded the audience that while Ukraine does not wish to get too entangled in the CIS and Tashkent superstructures being built by Moscow, "it is still politically incumbent on Ukraine to cooperate with Russia."

Nevertheless, he also said it is very doubtful the Tashkent Pact would be renewed when its term expires next year. Few of the signatories are under any illusions that it is anything other than a disguise for the Russian Federation's armed forces, and even fewer have any enthusiasm for supporting it economically.

Dr. Solchanyk also highlighted the different socio-political roles the military plays in Ukraine and Russia, and thus the two states face dissimilar situations as they seek to reform their armed forces.

The California-based researcher pointed out that Ukraine was the first country of the former Soviet states to embark on a program of establishing its own independent armed forces, because it was bracing for the dissolution of the empire. Despite this head start, its military has endured and continues to endure many problems, not least of which is establishing a command structure in a force that was formerly directed from the outside.

On the other hand, Russia is confronted with difficulties of a much larger scale, Dr. Solchanyk said — sheer size and a greatly politicized atmosphere to name but two. In Ukraine there are about 100 generals; in Russia there are practically too many to count.

In Ukraine, there is a very low level of politicization in the officer corps and President Kuchma recently issued a decree separating the functions of the Army's General Staff and the Ministry of Defense. In Russia, names such as Lebed, Rokhlin, Rodionov dominate the political life of the country, and the latter two have both called for a military uprising against civilian authority, not to mention the attempted putsch led by Gen. Aleksandr Rutskoi.

In Ukraine, Dr. Solchanyk contended, the armed forces are adapting themselves quite well to playing a small, secondary role in dealing with matters of regional interest and adapting to the political reality. In Russia, the army still has the same old geopolitical ambitions which it feels it should carry out, but doesn't have the resources.

The Rand analyst pointed out that the Russian army has been forced to fight a series of neo-colonial wars in Chechnya, Tajikistan and the Transdniestar, and its poor morale and disarray are obvious. Dr. Solchanyk asserted that the Russian army doesn't have a clear idea of its sphere of operations. "What are the borders?" Dr. Solchanyk asked rhetorically, "The Russian Federation's? The old USSR's? The CIS in totality? Where are the threats coming from? NATO? New threats?"

Dr. Solchanyk said the principal asset of the Russian Federation's military is its ability to "unfreeze" conflicts such as that in Abkhazia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

Transition to integration

Dr. Perepelytsia said that the possibility of Ukraine's integration with NATO is a strong one, but a long-term proposition. He explained that Ukraine would have to bring its forces in line with the organization's military and industrial specifications, and NATO itself would have to complete its own transformation into a more inclusive Euro-Atlantic security structure.

Dr. Perepelytsia said both issues are provided for in the recent charter on a

(Continued on page 13)

York University...

(Continued from page 12)

Distinctive Partnership signed by NATO and Ukraine in July.

Echoing sentiments expressed by Mr. Garnett, the analyst addressed domestic concerns that need to be addressed if this "ambition" is to be realized.

First, the economic issue. In order to adhere to NATO standards regarding equipment, Ukraine would have to increase its military budget from the current annual \$800 million to \$2.5 billion.

Second, a stronger civic domestic consensus in favor of joining the organization is needed. Citing recent polls, Dr. Perepelytsia said that support currently stands at 36 percent in favor, 25 percent against and the remaining 39 percent undecided or indifferent. He added that, regionally, Crimea and south and southeastern Ukraine tended to oppose NATO, largely because of the lingering cold-war belief that it is a hostile military alliance.

"Sea of peace"

In its final session, the symposium drew on the undisputed authority of a man who has been directly involved in the formation of Ukraine's policy and continues to do so as a representative of the Defense Ministry, Admiral Bezkorovainyi.

In his introduction, Prof. Jurij Darewych, a York physics professor, mentioned that the keynote speaker had risen from the rank of lieutenant to command "the [Soviet] Northern Submarine Fleet with nuclear tipped missiles pointed in this general direction," adding that "however, he has since changed roles, so I don't think you have much to worry about."

The admiral began on an optimistic note, saying that "at present, in assessing the political and military situation in the Black Sea region as a whole, one can state that Ukraine faces no concrete military threat from any country."

This fact is tempered, he said, by the reality of ongoing tensions in Moldova, the Transdnister, Abkhazia and Chechnya, and this situation demands that Ukraine achieve the requisite state of readiness. This readiness does not entail imminent intervention in conflicts, but the securing of an atmosphere of stability in order to best take

advantage of oil exploration opportunities that Ukraine has on the sea's continental shelf; the establishment of a refining center in Odesa; the establishment of a pipeline carrying natural fuels from the east and south; and the development of a profitable ship-building industry.

He said Ukraine has been a part of NATO's Partnership for Peace Program since 1994, and its participation has focused exclusively on peacekeeping, humanitarian operations, search and rescue missions, and other forms of cooperation.

"We feel that the Black Sea should be a sea of peace," Admiral Bezkorovainyi affirmed, and mentioned the ongoing consultations in Vienna concerning a general regional agreement.

Survey of BSF conflict

The veteran naval officer then outlined a history of the formation of the region's various naval forces, "which has been the cause of a series of incidents that attracted international concern," from the time of the meetings of CIS leaders in Minsk in early 1992.

Admiral Bezkorovainyi said that the initial four-month delay (at which point he had not yet arrived to assume command) in settling the issue of the Black Sea Fleet was a great failure in Ukrainian policy, which allowed "reactionary elements in the Russian admiralty to politicize the fleet and to wrest it from under Ukrainian authority."

The admiral divided the past five years' worth of events into two phases. The first began with the August 1992 Massandra Agreement, in which he said it was agreed that the BSF would be handled as a bilateral matter separate from other concerns in the CIS, but instead resulted in actions by Russia's naval command to block the implementation of this agreement.

The Russian Duma's July 1993 resolution to claim Sevastopol as Russian territory made ratification of the agreement impossible for either side, he said, and the impasse continued until after the election of President Kuchma in mid-1994. The second phase continued until May 1997, when a treaty dividing the BSF was finally signed, allowing the Russians to station their ships on Ukrainian territory as a foreign force, and confirming Ukrainian territorial integrity and its undisputed claim to the city of Sevastopol.

Since this agreement, Admiral Bezkorovainyi said, the conduct of joint Ukraine-NATO Sea Breeze exercises have confirmed that Ukraine will not be swayed from the policies it wishes to pursue, and that it has achieved the stability it was seeking, notwithstanding the various flaws in the agreements reached.

Prof. John Jaworsky of Waterloo University, who had previously served as the translator for the sessions, was this session's discussant and he decided to focus on Crimea. He dismissed notions of the BSF as a "bunch of rusting hulks in a tiny lake in an obscure part of Europe," that should not be a matter of concern for Ukraine.

The military historian suggested that, strategic and military questions aside, the Russian BSF could continue to be a source of instability, since the region has a very weak and distorted economy, and, as Dr. Solchanyk indicated, because of the many Russian officers who appear unable to restrain themselves from playing a regional political role and contribute to local social turbulence.

Prof. Jaworsky added that "several regions [in Ukraine] could compete for the title of most corrupt, but most would agree that the pervasiveness of corruption in the peninsula's Parliament and in the society at large."

Prompted by a question from Prof. Jaworsky, Admiral Bezkorovainyi agreed that the control of the movement of Russian officers, for which the latest treaty provides, will be of particular importance.

He said the BSF has more of a political than military significance, but said he is optimistic that "the tensions within the fleet that were so well financed [by Moscow] are not likely to be so well funded in the future."

In response to another question, Admiral Bezkorovainyi said similarities to the U.S. presence in the Philippines are essentially superficial. "In the Philippines you had an imported situation," he said, "In the Crimea we had an inherited situation."

The naval commander recommended that Ukraine "legally localize the problem, and limit all concerns and activities to the Russian presence on leased territory."

He concluded by expressing his belief that cooperation between Ukraine and Russia is a reasonable prospect, and that the two countries should concentrate on

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Let us prepare...

(Continued from page 6)

haustible Myrrh. Through the Spirit He comes to be poured forth in the cave, to fill our souls with His fragrance."

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With these liturgical texts in mind, we should strive to cultivate our devotion to the Blessed Mother of God, that through her prayers she may bring us to an ever-increasing measure the abiding grace of the Holy Spirit.

The traditional icons of the Nativity of Christ show His Mother as the central figure on Christmas; the Kondak of the feast begins, "Today the Virgin gives birth ...," and concludes "because for our sakes the Theotokos has given birth to the pre-eternal God."

On the second day of Christmas, December 26, we keep a feast of the Holy Theotokos in honor of her role as Mother of the Messiah. The poetic liturgical texts love to reflect on how God the Son was eternally begotten of the Father without a mother, but now is born in this world of a mother without a father, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

As we approach the year 1998, I pray that not only our Eparchy of Stamford, but the entire Church – indeed the entire world – may be blessed with an outpouring of the abundant grace of the Holy Spirit by the intercessions of the Holy Mother of God. May the Holy Spirit move the hearts of men and women everywhere to turn to Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin for our salvation. May the Holy Spirit by the prayers of the Theotokos remove the barriers that divide the Christian people and lead all the baptized into the full unity of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. May Ukraine, which has always maintained a strong devotion to the Holy Mother of God, be granted a strengthening in the Christian faith, with all progress and prosperity, and a full recovery from the ravages of atheism and communism.

As we celebrate the Birth of the Christ

child from the Holy Theotokos, may the United States repent of the sin of abortion and understand anew the sanctity of the right to life of children.

May each of our parishes pray fervently that through the intercession of the Holy Mother of God they may receive the grace of the Holy Spirit to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ with great power in all of our communities, to fulfill the potential of this decade of evangelization as we prepare for the new millennium.

And may everyone in our diocesan family know the joy and blessing of this Christmas feast.

With every blessing, I remain,
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Basil

Bishop of Stamford
(New York and New England)

Let us open...

(Continued from page 6)

one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes." (I Cor.12:7-11).

When was the last time that you read the Word of God and prayed over It? As a Christmas gift to yourself, your family, to our newborn Child Jesus, open up the Holy Bible and read the Gospel of St. Luke. This is just for starters. May the Holy Spirit activate the gifts you already have, and may He give you others.

May this Christmas be Spirit-filled for all of us, and may our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be born in each and everyone of our hearts. May the joy of Christmas be upon all of us, and may it be forever!

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We urge you to make every effort to fulfill your quota and mail in your applications early enough to reach the Home Office by December 26, 1997.

UNA HOME OFFICE

NOTICE TO UNA MEMBERS AND BRANCHES

Members and Branches of the Ukrainian National Association are hereby notified that with the ending of its fiscal year, the Home Office of the UNA must close its accounts and deposit in banks all money received from Branches.

no later than noon
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Money received later cannot be credited to 1997. Therefore, we appeal to all members of the UNA to pay their dues this month as soon as possible and all Branches to remit their accounts and money in time to be received by the Home Office no later than noon of FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1997.

Notice is hereby given that Branches which send their dues in late will be shown as delinquent and in arrears on the annual report.

UNA HOME OFFICE

Electorate in Ukraine...

(Continued from page 1)

the Communists, the Democrats and Rukh overcame that margin in the poll.

In another question, the respondents were asked which political grouping they would support "if the situation in Ukraine became critical." Seventeen percent put more faith in the Communists than in the Socialists, Social-Democrats, Liberals, National Democrats or Radical Nationalists, which were the other options. The National Democrats came in second with 12.1 percent.

But, again, the extent of apathy in Ukraine and disregard for the political forces active in Ukraine was apparent. Almost one-third (31.3 percent) of the respondents said they had faith in none of the political groupings.

Respondents were asked also to rate 12 national political figures on the basis of how much trust they had in them (ranging from complete trust to complete distrust).

Most expressed little trust for the leaders listed, especially for the most well-known politicians. Leading the poll in terms of distrust was Pavlo Lazarenko, the former prime minister and current leader of the Hromada Party, who was "not trusted at all" by 31.1 percent of the respondents. He was followed by President Leonid Kuchma and Rukh Party leader Vyacheslav Chornovil at 27.3 percent; Verkhovna Rada Chairman

Oleksander Moroz at 26.7 percent, and the leader of the Communist Party, Petro Symonenko, at 20.4 percent.

When asked which institutions were held in highest esteem, about one-third of the respondents turned thumbs down to each of the major government institutions: the presidential administration, the Verkhovna Rada, the Cabinet of Ministers, the Constitutional Court, and local and regional administrative bodies.

The respondents expressed some respect only for religious institutions and the military.

The poll also suggested that the number of people who desire a return to an authoritarian political-economic system is on the rise. In a similar survey taken in 1995, in which respondents were asked whether they supported a monocentric totalitarian system, 45 percent of respondents said yes. In 1997 that number has risen to 57 percent. Meanwhile, those supporting a liberal-democratic political and economic system has fallen from 34 percent in 1995 to 30 percent today.

However, the nostalgia for a return to an old system did not transform into a desire for the return of the Soviet Union. When asked where they saw Ukraine's future, 44.1 percent of respondents stated that they saw it in a system comparable to ones in the West, while only 28.4 percent said they would like a return to a renewed Soviet Union.

Danylo Husar Struk...

(Continued from page 5)

and Vice-President Marta Pisetska Farley. In his acceptance remarks, Dr. Struk thanked the many contributors, his editorial and publishing co-workers, the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies, the University of Toronto Press, and especially Dr. Manoly Lupul, who asked him to assume the editorship after the death of Prof. Kubijovyc.

Prof. Struk noted that the widely available Encyclopedia of Ukraine served to both preserve and educate about the heritage of Ukraine by providing, in English, the most accurate, fair and comprehensive source of information on Ukraine and Ukrainians and to ensure the future of Ukraine by presenting an official source for correct Ukrainian language usage and terminology. He cited examples of the use of the encyclopedia by the U.S. ambas-

sador in Moscow and by the Slavic cataloguer at the Library of Congress.

A complete set of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine was presented by Mrs. Farley and her husband, Brig. Gen. Andrew Newell Farley (U.S. Army Reserves) to Rev. Steve Repa, pastor of St. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Carnegie, Pa. The church has a museum where the encyclopedia will be available for use by the Pittsburgh Ukrainian community.

Luba Hlutkowsky, president of the Pittsburgh Branch of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, introduced the three debutantes. They were Danya Maria Morozowich, daughter of Michael and Nadia Morozowich of Moon Township, Pa., and her escort, James Ortiz; Rene Morozowich, daughter of James and Marsha Morozowich of Irwin, Pa., and her escort, Jeremy Flock; and Natalia Yatskiv, daughter of Josep and Tatiana Yatskiv of Uzhhorod, Ukraine, and her escort, Roman Burtyk.

Philadelphia credit union...

(Continued from page 11)

Ukrainian Orthodox Federal Credit Union, and chairman of the board of the Ukrainian National Credit Union Association in the U.S. Other well-wishers included Bob Hinchey, senior vice-president of the of Pennsylvania Credit Union League; Adrian Hawryliw, manager of the Philadelphia branch of First Security Bank; Ihor Makarenko of the SUM-A Credit Union in Yonkers; Dr. Stepan Woroch of the Ukrainian American Heritage Museum in Philadelphia; and Dr. Jerome Zalipsky of the Shevchenko Scientific Society.

The vice-president of CoreStates Bank, Patrick Wiley, expressed his admiration for Selfreliance as one of the soundest credit unions in Philadelphia. CoreStates Bank, one of the largest banks in the U.S., serves as the correspondent bank of Selfreliance.

Dr. Volodymyr Bandera, master of ceremonies and board member introduced and thanked Treasurer Maria Kondrat, Manager Halyna Horajacka-Keller and Director Dr. Zenon Babiak for their role in the new branch's establishment. He also introduced and greeted

Mykola Lutyj, the newly elected president of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center.

There are 24 Ukrainian credit unions in the U.S. serving over 68,000 members with over \$1 billion in assets. The National Credit Union Association insures member deposits of up to \$100,000. Enjoying a non-taxable status, credit unions can offer higher dividends on savings and lower interest rates on loans than most banks.

Philadelphia's Selfreliance offers: free interest-earning checking accounts; free MAC cards; no-fee, low-interest VISA cards; high-interest certificate accounts; Individual Retirement Accounts; student loans; mortgages and other loans. Free life and loan insurance is automatic for all members.

Individuals of Ukrainian background are eligible for membership in the Selfreliance Association of Ukrainian Americans, which in turn qualifies them to become members of the credit union and avail themselves of substantial financial benefits. Most significantly, members are the true owners of the credit union and enjoy personal financial services. In the words of the board chairman and president, Mr. Mazepa, "Here you know us, and we know you."

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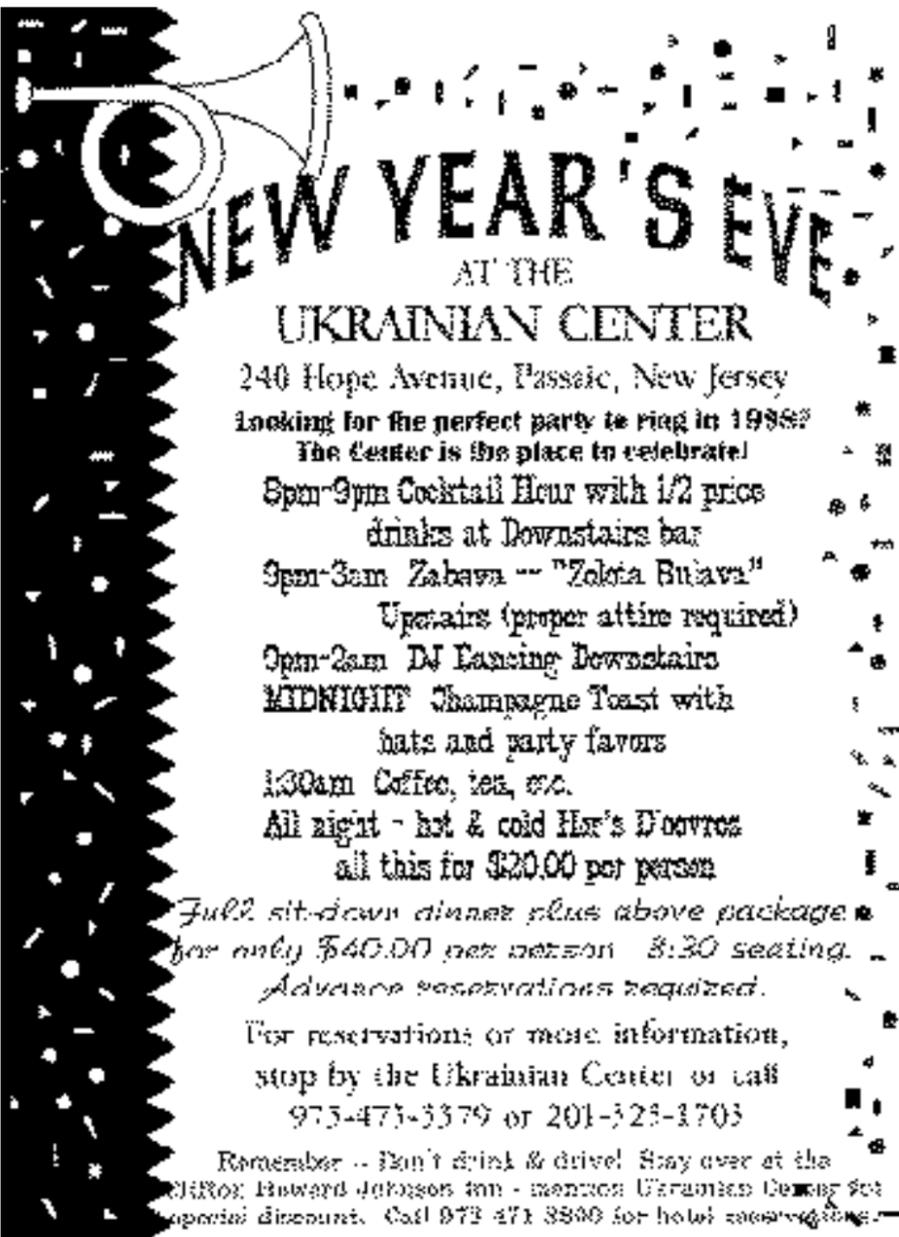
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Standard rate: \$125 per person including tax and gratuities
Deluxe rate: \$140 per person including tax and gratuities
Jacuzzi suite: \$175 per person including tax and gratuities

COME A DAY OR TWO EARLIER OR STAY A DAY OR TWO LONGER
AT A BED AND BREAKFAST RATE OF \$60 / \$70 / \$80 PER COUPLE
DINNER ONLY: \$60 PER PERSON MUST BE PREPAID IN FULL!
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CHOICE OF ENTREE FOR DINNER: SALMON OR PRIME RIB
MUST BE INDICATED BY 12/23/97



NEW YEAR'S EVE
AT THE
UKRAINIAN CENTER
240 Hope Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey

Looking for the perfect party to ring in 1998?
The Center is the place to celebrate!

5pm-9pm Cocktail Hour with 1/2 price drinks at Downstairs bar
8pm-3am Zabava -- "Zolota Bulava"
Upstairs (proper attire required)
9pm-2am DJ Dancing Downstairs
MIDNIGHT Champagne Toast with hats and party favors
1:30am Coffee, tea, etc.
All night - hot & cold Ukr's Dainties all this for \$20.00 per person

Full sit-down dinner plus above package for only \$40.00 per person 8:30 seating. Advance reservations required.

For reservations or more information, stop by the Ukrainian Center or call 973-473-3379 or 201-323-1703

Remember -- Don't drink & drive! Stay over at the Sheraton Howard Johnson Inn - mention Ukrainian Center for special discount. Call 973-473-3300 for hotel reservations.

To The Weekly Contributors:

We greatly appreciate the materials – feature articles, news stories, press clippings, letters to the editor, and the like – we receive from our readers. In order to facilitate preparation of The Ukrainian Weekly, we ask that the guidelines listed below be followed.

- ✦ News stories should be sent in **not later than 10 days** after the occurrence of a given event.
- ✦ All materials must be typed (or legibly hand-printed) and double-spaced.
- ✦ Photographs submitted for publication must be black and white (or color with good contrast). Captions must be provided. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.
- ✦ Full names (i.e. no initials) and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- ✦ Newspaper and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.
- ✦ Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date of The Weekly edition in which the information is to be published.
- ✦ Persons who submit any materials must provide a phone number where they may be reached during the work day if any additional information is required.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Monday, December 29

WASHINGTON: The Washington Group (TWG) will host a reception for Steven Pifer, U.S. ambassador-designate to Ukraine. Ambassador Pifer will be departing for Kyiv in early January. The reception will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Gannett Building (dinning room, 30th floor), 1100 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Va. (near Rosslyn metro stop). Donation: \$20. For more information call Orest Deychakiwsky, (301) 937-4445 (evenings); (202) 225-3964 (daytime).

Wednesday, December 31

CHICAGO: A New Year's Charity Ball is being sponsored by St. Joseph Church, 5000 N. Cumberland Ave., with proceeds to benefit three different charities: the Ukrainian Orphan Aid Society, the Vasechko Family Medical Fund (for a 10-year-old boy who is crippled by arthritis and is in need of additional surgery) and St. Joseph Charities (to benefit the needy of the Chicago area with a food pantry, gas vouchers, etc.) The event will be catered by Como Inn and the music will be by Good Times. Divine Liturgy is at 6:30 p.m. Cocktails are at 7:30 p.m. (open

bar), followed by dinner at 8:30 p.m. and dancing at 10 p.m. Tickets: \$55; \$40, seniors and students; dance only, \$20. For tickets and reservations contact Motria Durbak, (773) 625-4805, or Christine Hayda at Selfreliance UFCU, (773) 489-0520, ext. 231.

PASSAIC, N.J.: The Ukrainian Center, 240 Hope Ave., invites the public to its annual New Year's Eve gala. Dinner is at 8:30 p.m., followed by dancing to the music of the Zolota Bulava of Montreal; at midnight there will be hors d'oeuvres and a champagne toast, as well as hats and party favors. Tickets: \$40 per person; advance reservations are required for the dinner. Celebration, without the dinner: \$20 per person. Call (973) 473-3379 or (201) 323-1703, or stop by the center for tickets or information.

Thursday, January 1, 1998

PASSAIC, N.J.: The Ukrainian Center, 240 Hope Ave., invites everyone to the New Year's Day Hangover Helper Pajama Party, including prizes for the best jammies, drink specials and food. Doors open at noon. Free admission. For more information call (973) 473-3379.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGES IN PREVIEW REQUIREMENTS:

- Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided free of charge by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community.

- To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information written in Preview format (date, place, type of event, admission, sponsor, etc., in the English language, providing full names of persons and/or organizations mentioned, and listing a contact person for additional information). Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published. Please include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours.

- Text should be double-spaced.

- Preview items must be received one week before desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Listings are published only once (please indicate desired date of publication) and appear at the discretion of the editorial staff and in accordance with available space. Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Ukrainian airplane...

(Continued from page 1)

zens, 34 were Greek, two were Polish and one was German, said Leonid Pohrebniak, president of Aeroswift at a news conference in Kyiv.

The airplane's crew reported no problems as it approached Salonika Airport, which is flanked by the towering 9,626-foot peak of Olympus on one side and the Aegean Sea on the other.

At approximately 9:15 p.m. the crew was asked to circle and make a second approach because of heavy air traffic. As it did so its image disappeared from flight controllers' radar screens.

The Associated Press said unconfirmed reports suggested that the pilots, who did not speak English well, may have become confused while communicating with air traffic controllers.

Mr. Pohrebniak, Aeroswift's president, said that as far as he knew the crew was not familiar with the Salonika area. "Neither the commander of the flight, Aleksii Vcherashnyi, nor the other members of the crew had ever flown to Salonika," he said.

The passengers of the ill-fated flight had changed planes during a stopover in Odesa after the Boeing 737 they were on, owned by Aeroswift, a Ukrainian airline company,

developed engine trouble after it left Kyiv. The passengers waited for four hours in Odesa while Aeroswift procured a craft from Air Ukraine in Lviv, a company partially owned by the Ukrainian government, said Mr. Pohrebniak.

The YAK-42 is a three-engine turbofan jet designed by the Soviet Union, which can carry up to 120 people. Russia, Lithuania, Cuba and China use the aircraft, as well as Ukraine. It entered service in 1980. Two earlier crashes of YAK-42s have occurred. In November 1993 a flight crashed into a mountain in southwestern Macedonia, killing 115 people, and in July 1992 another YAK-42 crashed near the city of Nanjing in China, killing 106 people.

Though Ukrainian airlines have been criticized in the past for the age of their fleets and for certain maintenance deficiencies, which led to a threat last year by John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York to ban Air Ukraine flights, this is the first crash of a Ukrainian-owned aircraft.

Serhii Lukianov, assistant director of the State Aviation Department of Ukraine, said all Ukrainian aircraft must meet stringent maintenance requirements and certifications. "If we say that an aircraft has departed, then it is 100 percent certain that it is airworthy. This is axiomatic," said Mr. Lukianov.

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