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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

Verkhovna Rada asks Kuchma to dismiss prime minister for financial irregularities

by Pavlo Politiuk

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV — Six months after the Verkhovna Rada confirmed Valerii Pustovoitenko as Ukraine's latest prime minister, it has asked President Leonid Kuchma to fire him over allegations of serious financial improprieties that have surfaced involving the renovation of a state-run conference and entertainment facility.

On January 16, 226 national deputies — the exact number of lawmakers who approved the appointment of Mr. Pustovoitenko to the highest executive post in government — approved a resolution to replace the prime minister, after hearing a one-hour report by a special parliamentary committee that looked into the lush renovation of the Ukraina Palace of Culture (Palats Ukraina) located in Kyiv.

National Deputy Yevhen Smirnov, a member of the opposition Yednist faction in the Verkhovna Rada and head of the investigative committee, speaking before the legislature charged Mr. Pustovoitenko, as well as Minister of Culture Dmytro Ostapenko and Kyiv's Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko with stealing more than \$40 million (U.S.), and asked for their dismissal.

Mr. Pustovoitenko was minister of the Cabinet of Ministers at the time of the Palats Ukraina renovation and was in charge of the project, which was rushed in order to be completed in time for celebrations of Ukraine's fifth anniversary of independence.

Mr. Smirnov said the renovation cost Ukraine more than \$80 million, "of which

at least half was stolen in one way or another." He also said contracts were awarded in very questionable ways.

The government quickly responded to the parliamentary declaration. It issued a statement that day sharply denying the accusations and charging the Verkhovna Rada with destabilizing society.

"The speeches of some lawmakers show that it was a planned provocation with the intention of inflaming passions to cause destabilization and discord within society," said the declaration released by the Cabinet of Ministers.

The Cabinet also requested that the president, as the guarantor of the Constitution, stop any broadening of the controversy. The government stated that it hopes the Procurator General's Office will review the results of the special committee's investigation carefully and refute the charges.

Although the Verkhovna Rada sent the documents pertaining to the investigation to the Procurator General's Office on its own initiative, according to Ukraine's Constitution, investigations by the Verkhovna Rada cannot be considered decisive by either the procurator general or Ukraine's courts.

Also, the Verkhovna Rada resolution is non-binding and, therefore, government officials are not obliged to act on it. Indeed, they are unlikely to do so.

Prime Minister Pustovoitenko responded to the charges at a press conference on January 19 by stating that everything had been done legally. "I am very experienced,

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Kuchma nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

TORONTO — A group of prominent international intellectuals renewed their nomination of the president of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma, for the Nobel Peace Prize for his contribution to world peace and global security.

The text of the 1998 nomination letter, sent on the initiative of the Petro Jacyk Educational Foundation, reads:

"We hereby renew our nomination of Leonid Kuchma, president of Ukraine, for the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize for his outstanding contribution to global security. President Kuchma was the first world leader to show in practice how to prevent global nuclear catastrophe or, at least, how to reduce the danger of its occurrence. Ukraine's internal and external policies, as illustrated, for example, by a series of recent agreements with Russia, give evidence of his steadfast commitment to regional and international peace.

"By awarding the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize to President Kuchma, the Norwegian Nobel Committee would most aptly support and champion Alfred Bernhard Nobel's prime intention, docu-

mented in his last will and testament, that the Nobel Peace Prize should be awarded to 'the person who shall do the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies, and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses.'"

The letter was signed by: Peter Jacyk, president, The Petro Jacyk Educational Foundation, Toronto; Prof. Mark von Hagen, director, The Harriman Institute, Columbia University, New York; Prof. Michael A. Branch, director, School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University of London; Prof. Zenon Kohut, director, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta, Edmonton; Dr. Roderick Fraser, president, University of Alberta, Edmonton; Prof. Robert E. Johnson, director, Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Toronto; Prof. Roman Szporluk, director, Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.; Prof. Kazuo Nakai, Department of Social and International Relations, University of Tokyo.

Chief rabbi praises Ukraine's government for positive position on minorities



Yaro Bihun

Rabbi Yaakov Bleich (center) discusses the development of the Jewish community in Ukraine during a roundtable discussion at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington. Sitting next to him are Embassy Press Counselor Natalia Zarudna and Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak.

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON — The Jewish community is faring better in Ukraine than in any of the other new independent countries of that region. And that, according to Ukraine's chief rabbi, Yaakov Bleich, is in large measure due to the positive position on minorities taken at the outset of Ukraine's independence by its government.

Rabbi Bleich spoke about the state of the Jewish community in Ukraine during a roundtable discussion on the subject at the Embassy of Ukraine here on January 15.

During his presentation, the American-born rabbi, who has worked in Ukraine for eight years, said the welfare of Jews in Ukraine is tied to the general welfare of the country, cautioned that anti-Semitism should not be mistaken for nationalism, and criticized the U.S. government for mostly focusing on the negative in its relations with Ukraine and engaging in frequent "Ukraine-bashing."

Opening the roundtable, Ukraine's Ambassador, Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, said Ukraine is proud to have "once and for all done away with state anti-Semitism, which was actively supported by the Russian and Soviet empires."

He acknowledged that the Jewish community faces "some problems" resulting from the economic downturn, as well as "manifestations of aggressive nationalism and anti-Semitism" by some radical groups in Ukraine. He said that in fighting these ills the government is impeded by the "uncertainty of the leg-

islative base" and the "low level of legal culture in Ukrainian society."

As positive developments, Ambassador Shcherbak cited recent progress in returning former Jewish property, the return of the Brodsky Synagogue in Kyiv and the resolution of the Jewish cemetery issue in Lviv. Fifteen active and 44 closed Jewish cemeteries have been surveyed, he said, the sites of Nazi massacres of Jews are being identified, and many Jewish cemeteries and memorials — including a new memorial at Babyn Yar — are being built or restored by local governments.

The Embassy of Ukraine, he said, stands ready to help improve mutual understanding between the Jewish American and Ukrainian American communities and help "root out negative stereotypes, which still exist in our society."

"I believe that history should be left for historians, and politicians and statesmen should build the present and future, based on tolerance, democracy, mutual understanding and respect," he said.

In his presentation, Rabbi Bleich talked about Jewish community life in Ukraine, government relations, anti-Semitism, the political situation in Ukraine, Ukraine's international relations and the Jewish community's work with other minorities in Ukraine.

Community development

Organizationally, Jews in Ukraine, who number about 600,000, are "definitely far ahead" of Jews in any other post-Soviet successor states, he said.

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ANALYSIS

Ukraine: prospects for 1998

by Taras Kuzio

Political

The political landscape in Ukraine during the first half of 1998 will be dominated by the March parliamentary elections, while during the second half of the year two events will dominate the political scene. First, the Verkhovna Rada will undergo a process of re-structuring into factions and interest groups. Second, the presidential election campaign will be launched for October 1999.

The March 1998 elections will be the first to be held using a mixed election law, where 50 percent of candidates will be elected by majority vote and 50 percent of the seats will be allocated in proportion to the percentage of votes a political party receives above the 4 percent minimum barrier.

The 1994 elections had been held with an election law that was 100 percent majoritarian, which had produced a Verkhovna Rada with little political structure and one that possessed a large centrist lobby of varied interests and clans. It was difficult to pursue coherent policies or establish political majorities in favor of specific programs with such a Parliament.

The new Verkhovna Rada is unlikely to have a left-wing lobby larger than the current one-third of seats it holds, despite the grave socio-economic crisis. The elections also are likely to lead to a Parliament that will be quickly elected (unlike the previous term, when seats were still being filled into 1995). This is important because those who are the first to sit in the Verkhovna Rada will elect the chairman, a crucial position that is able to influence the agenda and voting of Parliament (the 1994-1998 Verkhovna Rada was led by the head of the Socialist Party, Oleksander Moroz).

In addition, a crisis could quickly erupt if Communist national deputies refuse to take the oath of loyalty to the Ukrainian state, as demanded by the 1996 Constitution. Upon refusing to take this oath, they will not be allowed to take their seats.

The 1998 Verkhovna Rada should be supportive of reform in view of the likelihood that the centrist "swamp," as it has been described, will be replaced by a far more structured Parliament with reformist election blocs providing factions in larger numbers. This is important also because the outcome of the parliamentary elections, together with the socio-economic situation, will influence the presidential elections the following year. The four declared candidates — Mr. Moroz, Yevhen Marchuk and Pavlo Lazarenko (both former prime ministers running on Social-Democratic platforms in the parliamentary elections), and President Leonid Kuchma — will be influenced in their choice of strategies and allies by the outcome of the 1998 elections. President Kuchma, currently completely trusted by only 10 percent of the population, is likely to be the front runner with Mr. Marchuk going into the second round.

Economic

Initial optimism expressed in the early part of 1997 about Ukrainian economic prospects has become decidedly more cautious. The International Monetary Fund had projected that the Ukrainian economy would continue to decline in 1997 with a fall of 3 percent in GDP, but then grow by 2 percent in 1998. This recovery now looks in doubt, although a 1 percent growth rate in 1998 may still be attainable.

Taras Kuzio is a research fellow at the Center for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Birmingham and editor of *Ukraine Business Review*.

By the middle of 1997 GDP was already some 7.5 percent lower than a year earlier. Ukraine has been unable to translate its macroeconomic stabilization into economic growth because of the slow pace of privatization and restructuring of industry, a growing trade deficit and problems of locating refinancing to cover current budget deficits and meet service payments on international debts. The slow pace of economic reform has led to greater pessimism within international financial institutions about Ukraine's ability, particularly during elections, to continue to push ahead with painful reform.

Social problems are another difficulty that will plague Ukraine during election year — wage arrears is at \$2.6 billion and official unemployment continues to rise, now at 600,000. Only Russia and Kazakstan within the CIS have trade surpluses of exports over imports; Ukraine remains the country with the highest deficit (\$3.7 billion). Russia provides approximately half of Ukraine's imports, a figure that has remained stable since the 1980s and reflects the dominance of energy transfers. If Ukraine is successful in establishing Azerbaijan as its main energy supplier, the projected income derived from transit charges to European customers of Azeri oil are likely to cover Ukraine's annual cost of imported energy and thereby have a major influence upon reducing Ukraine's trade deficit.

The Russian share of Ukraine's export market shows a different declining trend, having dropped by half in 1987-1997, now standing at only 30 percent. Ukraine's energetic search for new markets in Latin America, the Arab world and Southeast Asia is an attempt to find new markets for Ukrainian exports in the face of a decline in trade with the CIS, which is likely to continue.

Foreign and defense

The formal public presentation of the GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova) group as a sub-group of the Commonwealth of Independent States is an example of the direction in which the CIS is headed. The CIS already had three other sub-groups — the Russian/Belarusian union, the quadripartite Customs Union (Russia, Belarus, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan) and the Central Asian union (all the Central Asian states, excluding Turkmenistan). The GUAM group represents those states that have always sought to maintain Russia at a distance and opposed CIS supra-national structures. It is not ruled out that Uzbekistan, which increasingly has drawn closer to Ukraine within the CIS in its criticism of Russia, could also join GUAM.

The arrival of GUAM is significant because it signals that the CIS is, for all intents and purposes, a dying body badly in need of a life-support mechanism. The sixth anniversary of the CIS passed virtually unnoticed in the capitals of the CIS member-states. The man behind the creation of the CIS as an alternative to the USSR, former Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, described it as a "shell. Its decisions mean nothing. This organization has no prospects." President Kuchma applauded its role in peacefully dissolving the former USSR, but he believes that currently it merely serves as a "consultative forum."

The decline of the CIS and the rise of GUAM is a reflection of the incompatibility of domestic state- and nation-building, which is being undertaken within most of the non-Russian states of the CIS, and attempts at close integration on the part of Russia and Belarus. Ukraine is de jure not even a member of the CIS,

(Continued on page 12)

NEWSBRIEFS

Kadenyuk receives award for space flight

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma greeted the first Ukrainian cosmonaut in space, Leonid Kadenyuk, with the successful completion of his flight on the American shuttle. Mr. Kuchma presented Col. Kadenyuk with a first-degree order for his significant contribution in improving the prestige of Ukraine's space sector and personal courage. (Eastern Economist)

Ukrainian court to rule on death penalty

KYIV — Chief Justice Ivan Tymchenko has said the Constitutional Court will rule whether capital punishment is constitutional, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty reported on January 14. Justice Tymchenko did not say when the ruling would be made. The Council of Europe has threatened to suspend Ukraine if it continues to carry out the death penalty. Kyiv pledged to stop executions when it joined the council in 1995. The following year, however, well over 100 executions took place in Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Leftist bloc to focus on social issues

KYIV — Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz said in Kyiv on January 19 that his leftist bloc will base its election campaign on alleviating wage arrears and other social problems, Reuters reported. Parliamentary elections are to be held on March 29. Mr. Moroz's Socialist Party is grouped with the Communist and Agrarian parties in Parliament, which have routinely resisted reform legislation. "The fate of collective farming is at stake," he said, pledging to fight government plans to allow the lease and sale of land. Mr. Moroz's bloc controls 170 of the 450 seats in Parliament. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Charges filed against Lazarenko

KYIV — Criminal charges have been filed against former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko for illegally opening currency accounts with Swiss banks. A statement issued on January 15 by the Procurator General's Office noted that official documents received from the Swiss federal police form the basis of the case against Mr. Lazarenko, leader of the Hromada Party. Mr. Lazarenko called the filing of criminal charges "an attempt by the current government to discredit Hromada and their leader on the eve of elections." Mr. Lazarenko stated on January 19 that he has no foreign currency accounts in any foreign bank. He called the fact that he had learned about the filing of charges against him not from the Procurator General's Office but from the mass media "judicial nihilism." His statement added that "anti-people forces" would not stop before they

started a "civil war with numerous victims." Mr. Lazarenko noted the absence of any reaction from President Leonid Kuchma, saying actions against him were centered on destroying effective political opposition. Mr. Lazarenko ended his statement by asserting that "everything will become clearer after parliamentary elections in March." (Eastern Economist)

President approves 1998 budget

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma has signed the 1998 budget. Passed by the Verkhovna Rada three weeks ago, the budget calls for revenues of 21.1 billion hrv (\$11.1 billion U.S.) and expenditures of 24.5 billion hrv, resulting in a projected deficit of 3.3 percent of the gross domestic product. Viktor Yuschenko, chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine, said last week that the deficit should be kept at 2 percent of the GDP to maintain economic stability and help attract foreign investment. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma and Yeltsin slate meeting

KYIV — A working meeting between the presidents of Russia and Ukraine will take place on January 30-31 in President Boris Yeltsin's country residence near Moscow. Agreement was reached in a telephone conversation between the two presidents on January 19. A number of bilateral issues are likely to be discussed at the meeting prior to President Leonid Kuchma's official visit to Moscow at the end of February. (Eastern Economist)

Ukraine and U.K. sign cooperation treaty

KYIV — The law enforcement agencies of Ukraine and Great Britain signed an inter-departmental agreement on mutual understanding on January 16. First Vice Minister for Internal Affairs Gen. Leonid Borodych said after the ceremony that this document will "enable cooperation to be put into practice and become a catalyst for development of bilateral cooperation." First Vice Chairman of the Security Service of Ukraine Gen. Anatolii Beliaev said "the signed document is the result of collaboration between the two countries." (Eastern Economist)

Programs outlined to stabilize economy

KYIV — Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko said in Kyiv on January 19 that the government has outlined programs to stabilize the economy in 1998, DPA reported. Mr. Pustovoitenko said that although the GDP sank 1.8 percent in 1997, it will increase by about 0.5 percent this year. He also said that unpaid salary

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DOING BUSINESS IN UKRAINE: How a whim turned into a company

by Zenon Zawada

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV — Ty Jagerson came to Ukraine when he was 23, on a whim really. He knew little of Ukraine, and did not speak a word of either Ukrainian or Russian. The only thing he was sure of was his probable job. With a bachelor's degree in English from Wesleyan University in Connecticut, he was headed for an editing position at a mediocre English-language monthly newspaper in Kyiv, he said.

Four years later, Mr. Jagerson sits in his office overlooking the historic St. Sophia Cathedral as president of Project Consulting Group (PCG), his own year-and-a-half-old consulting business in Kyiv. The English major now conducts business in highly accented, but fluent Russian. Along with business partner Vladimir Ulyanov, a Fulbright scholar with a doctorate in economics from Lviv University, Jagerson has been assisting anyone from U.S. investors to the Ukrainian government in establishing businesses and investments in the jungle-like Ukrainian economy. His years of work in eight former Soviet republics has built a contact base filling several binders of business cards, which Mr. Jagerson strongly believes is what any foreigner investing in Ukraine needs.

"You can't walk into this country and just start a business because there are too many complexities," Mr. Jagerson said. "There needs to be local wisdom in your company."

Business consulting in Ukraine is handled mostly by large firms or companies, specifically the world-renowned Big Six consulting firms, said Mark Kalenak, executive director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Kyiv. Mr. Jagerson's venture into a business consulting firm is unique and unusual, Mr. Kalenak said. Mr. Jagerson himself acknowledged that his decision to start such a business within the Ukrainian economy's web of red tape was "fairly risky." In spite of this upstart status, Mr. Jagerson said he is confident his years of trailblazing have earned him enough experience to help investors safely navigate Ukraine's economic snafus.

"I have four years of business experience in Ukraine, five years in Eastern Europe and eight years in the former Soviet republics," he said. "[PCG] can

get investors through the barriers to investment entry."

It was Mr. Jagerson's sister who advised him to come to Ukraine in the first place, after hearing about a newspaper job. She had already been here, working for the government-funded International Finance Corp., and Mr. Jagerson was across the border in a matter of days after hearing her advice. After editing for the Ukrainian Times, he saw different avenues of opportunity in the infant Ukrainian economy. So he made the leap to the U.S. government-funded Eurasia Foundation, where he evaluated grant programs assisting the development of private business throughout the former republics. It was during this government-funded job, witnessing and assisting the former Soviet Union's sluggish privatization process, that he said he got "kick-started" into planning his own business.

"It became very clear to me ... there is a great need for business support services, increased business consulting and market research," Mr. Jagerson said. "Ukrainians have very little knowledge of how to organize their business plans and partnership proposals for Westerners."

Mr. Jagerson first started a company in the United States called Spectrum UA, which focused on product utilization. The company set out to make use of the vast amount of optics technology in Ukraine, and with the help of a reliable Ukrainian technician, Mr. Jagerson capitalized on the "cheap, highly trained labor force." Optics products were developed in the former Soviet Union, and the firm marketed them in the U.S.

"There are a lot of technologies in this part of the world that have great commercial potential," Mr. Jagerson said. "Here, you have zillions of military technologies, but no one has the knowledge of capital."

In the early months of 1996, Mr. Jagerson and Mr. Ulyanov, whom he met on various business-development projects, then formed PCG. Mr. Jagerson said starting his particular business wasn't too difficult, because as many foreign investors do, he hired a local company to take care of registration and related legwork, which was completed in about 15 days. But this is unusual for a typical foreigner's small business, he warned. "We didn't need special licenses, so it wasn't a problem.

"Customs, licenses and importing is what gets you," said Mr. Jagerson

It's been a year and a half now, and Mr. Jagerson said his largest difficulty has been the plagued Ukrainian economy. "The volume of investment hasn't taken off as much as we hoped it would," he explained.

He said that among the top hurdles for a small business investor in Ukraine is the bureaucracy. While at Spectrum UA, for example, he had to import glass from the United States to be molded into lenses in a Kyiv factory. The glass had to go through three different customs branches, with each inspector having to seek approval from the other, recounted Mr. Jagerson. His staff eventually had to rewrite the contracts 10 times.

"One time, our total was off by 2 cents, and we had to redo the contract. It was a nightmare," he said.

Other hurdles investors should expect include the cash-poor Ukrainian public, as well as the corruption. "The laws here are still crazy," Mr. Jagerson said. "Most corporations are forced into some form of tax evasion."

But he said he's quite optimistic about the future in spite of the current situation. "I expect investment to pick up because there's been a lot more investment coming in the last year. There are more lawyers here, too, which is better."

The top condition investors can count on is "open markets, open markets, open markets," Mr. Jagerson said. "It's a European country of 52 million people that's underserved and undersupplied." He said the other positives are low labor costs and lack of competition.

Mr. Jagerson's most recent clients include Kyiv Hospital, the city's first private medical service provider; the Ukrainian government, for which he and Mr. Ulyanov are planning a lecture series on agribusiness throughout Ukraine; as well as small investors. For any of their clients, Mr. Jagerson's staff provides industry research, finds potential partners, sets up meetings and provides all types of advice.

Mr. Jagerson's venture into what for him once was a meaningless foreign country has resulted in his life's investment in its economic future — one in which he is confident.

"The situation in Ukraine is 20 steps forward, and 15 steps back," Mr. Jagerson said. "But you still get the five steps."

UCCA wins grant to get the vote out

NEW YORK — The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America Inc. was awarded a \$175,461 grant on January 9 from the United States Agency for International Development through the Eurasia Foundation for its Elections '98 "Focus: Ukraine" civic education program. The program's goal is to increase the participation of Ukraine's youth in the March 1998 parliamentary elections.

Proceeds from the Eurasia grant will support town hall-style meetings with candidates in Kyiv and six cities in eastern and southern Ukraine: Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson, Luhansk, Mykolaiv, Poltava and Sumy. The grant also will support the production and airing of radio and television public service announcements on national networks and regional broadcast stations, and the publication and dissemination of a civic education brochure.

Geared toward Ukraine's politically alienated 18- to 30-year-olds, which constitute one-third of the voting population, the "Focus: Ukraine" program also includes rock concerts, a weekly voter education television program, polling and a website.

UCCA representatives are scheduled to open a Kyiv office in mid-January. While the "Focus: Ukraine" program does not support any political group or individual, recent polls indicate that Ukraine's youth will vote in the elections on the side of reform and democratization.

Verkhovna Rada...

(Continued from page 1)

and at the very first meeting I warned everyone that there would be reviews of the contracts, and that is why everything had to be done legally and carefully," Mr. Pustovoitenko said.

The prime minister told journalists that the renovation actually cost 108 million hryvnia (\$57 million), and not \$80 million as the parliamentary committee reported. "Everything was under our control," he said.

But Mr. Pustovoitenko refused to comment on charges in the report that an absurd amount of money was spent on one wing of the concert hall used by President Kuchma, which includes a desk that cost \$15,080 and curtains worth \$8,000.

At first the President's Office attempted to stay out of the fray and refused comment on the charges and the investigation. But, according to Interfax-Ukraine, on January 19, Anatolii Halchynskyi, a top economic advisor to President Kuchma, suggested in an Interfax-Ukraine news report that the president should dissolve the Verkhovna Rada and institute presidential rule in Ukraine for the next two to three years.

Mr. Halchynskyi said the committee report was an effort at "red revenge" in Ukraine. Oleksander Moroz, chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, rebutted by accusing the economic advisor of "stepping on the Constitution" and urging the president to make unconstitutional moves.

The scandal involving the Palats Ukraina is the latest battle in a three-year-long confrontation between the executive and the legislative branches of power in Ukraine.

Political pundits say the parliamentary investigation, led by the Yednist faction, was conducted in answer to criminal charges brought against former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, a member of the Yednist faction and leader of the Hromada Party, which has declared its official opposition to the government. Earlier this month the Procurator General's Office charged Mr. Lazarenko with financial improprieties and illegally holding a foreign bank account.

Holocaust survivor thanks Ukrainian brothers

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — Nechama Singer Ariel, a Holocaust survivor, shared Thanksgiving dinner in her Borough Park, Brooklyn, apartment with the family that sheltered her for 15 months during the second world war, brothers Mikhail and Nikolai Vavrisevich of Volodymyr-Volynskyi, Ukraine.

Thirteen-year-old Nechama Singer and her widowed mother, Rachela Singer, hid under the floorboards of the home of Konstantin and Maria Vavrisevich — the brothers' parents — in November 1942-February 1944 as Nazi pogroms raged in Volodymyr-Volynskyi. The Vavrisevich family also hid five other Jews in the shelter located below a bare room reserved for a cow and a goat in winter.

Mrs. Ariel, who is now 68, told *The New York Times* in a November 28, 1997, article titled "Tearful Reunion for Friends Who Defied the Nazis" that Mikhail and Nikolai helped her and her mother observe Passover by providing

them with enough potatoes and beets so they could refrain from eating leavened bread. The brothers helped them observe the Sabbath on Fridays by lighting a makeshift candle — an oil-dipped piece of thread in a potato with its insides scooped out.

"They were treating us with respect," she said. "You don't know what it is like to be treated with respect when you are cannon fodder, when you go out into the street and they shoot you."

Mikhail and Nikolai were 18 and 16, respectively, when Mrs. Ariel and her mother hid under their floorboards. "Even though we were so young, this time aged us," said Mikhail, who at 73 is a college professor and legally blind. "We had to be very careful and keep our tongues, be watchful of who was coming, who was following us, what they were talking about. If we hadn't taken these precautions, we wouldn't have survived, and the people who were with us wouldn't have survived."

The Vavriseviches' reunion with Mrs.

Ariel was organized by the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, a Manhattan-based non-profit group that sends checks, \$30-\$150 a month, to some 1,400 Christians and Muslims who helped save Jews during the Holocaust, and who are now old and poor. The brothers' journey was arranged with the assistance of Viktor Kryzhanivsky, consul general of Ukraine in New York.

Mikhail and Nikolai, 71, a retired doctor, receive \$30 a month from the group. According to Stanlee Stahl, the foundation's executive director, all those who are aided by the foundation with checks have been recognized at Yad Vashem, Israel's national Holocaust memorial.

Following their emotional reunion, Mrs. Ariel took Mikhail to Maimonides Medical Center, where she worked for 46 years as a lab technician, researcher and interpreter, to have his eyes examined. Mikhail underwent two successful operations for glaucoma, and left the United States on January 15 with the ability to see as far as his fingers.

OBITUARY

The Rev. Protopresbyter Volodymyr Bazylevsky, New York pastor, 94

NEW YORK — The Rev. Protopresbyter Volodymyr Bazylevsky, longtime pastor of St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in New York and active member of the Ukrainian community, died on December 22, 1997. He was 94.

The Rev. Bazylevsky was born on June 19, 1903, in the village of Batky in the Poltava region, in a priest's family. His studies at the Poltava seminary were interrupted by the revolution of 1917, thwarting his plans to become a priest.

Mr. Bazylevsky entered the university in Poltava, but was expelled when the authorities found out that his father was a priest. (The Very Rev. Ivan Bazylevsky was forcibly removed from church while celebrating liturgy and deported to a prison camp in Siberia where he was killed by a felled tree).

Thereafter Mr. Bazylevsky had to conceal his past in order to pursue an education. Upon completion of studies, he worked as an architectural designer in the city of Kharkiv. At this time he was under tremendous pressure from the NKVD, including threats of arrest and deportation to Siberia, to become an informer in his workplace for the secret police.

In 1929 Mr. Bazylevsky married Elikonida Kolesnikova; they had two children, George and Inna.

During World War II the family was able to escape to the West — to Austria via Czecho-Slovakia. After the end of the war, while in a Displaced Persons camp in Salzburg, Mr. Bazylevsky was involved in establishing two Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox parishes. He also was an active member of the Ukrainian Hetman Organization.

In 1950 Mr. Bazylevsky emigrated to the U.S. and settled in New York. At first he worked as a laborer, and then, after mastering English, became a building designer, working on many New York skyscrapers, including the World Trade Center.

After retiring at the age of 65, Mr. Bazylevsky finally fulfilled his youthful dream of becoming a priest. He was ordained by the late Bishop Andrij on May 4, 1969. He first served at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Jamaica, N.Y., and subsequently was pastor of St. Mary Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Eastport, Long Island.

The Rev. Protopresbyter Bazylevsky was the pastor of St. Volodymyr Cathedral

in New York from 1974 to 1996. At the age of 93, after 22 years of service, he became pastor emeritus at the cathedral. He continued to concelebrate the liturgy every Sunday and on holy days with the present pastor, the Very Rev. Roman Tarnawsky.

Throughout his life the Rev. Protopresbyter Bazylevsky was an active member in civic and political organizations of the Ukrainian community, among them the United Ukrainian American Organizations of Greater New York, the National Council of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the Ukrainian Hetman Organization.

With Ukraine's independence he became an unofficial chaplain of Ukrainian diplomats who lived in New York. In 1995 he welcomed President Leonid Kuchma to St. Volodymyr Cathedral during the president's visit to New York.

A memorial service for priests ("chyn yereiskoho pokhoronu") was held at St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral on December 26, celebrated by numerous clergy, among them: the Very Rev. Tarnawsky, the Very Rev. Volodymyr Hanas, pastor, All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Church, New York; the Rev. Theodor Mazur, pastor, Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, New York; the Very Rev. Leonid Kishkowsky, pastor, St. Mary Protectress Orthodox Church of America, Seacliff, N.Y.; the Rev. Bohdan Kalynuk, pastor, St. Mary Protectress, New Haven, Conn.; the Very Rev. Patrick Paschak, pastor, St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, New York; the Rev. Michael Lev, pastor, St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Bayonne, N.J.; the Rev. Deacon Andrij Kulyk, St. Volodymyr Cathedral, New York; and the Rev. Deacon Yuri Malachowsky, Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Church, Astoria, N.Y.

Funeral services were held at St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral on December 27, officiated by Archbishop Antony, followed by a service at St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church in South Bound Brook, N.J., and internment at St. Andrew's Cemetery. The Rev. Protopresbyter Bazylevsky was buried next to his wife, Elikonida.

Among speakers at the tryzna-repast held at the parish hall following the funeral were: the Rev. Hanas; Askold Lozynskyj, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America; Dr. Lubomyr Woroch, Conference of Central Ukrainian Academic Professional Organizations; Nadia Sawchuk, Ukrainian National Women's League of America; Borys Fessak, president, board of trustees, St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, N.Y.; Mykola Turetsky, Ukrainian American Veterans; Alexander Redko, Poltava Region Association; Eugene Zmyj, Ukrainian Engineers' Society; Motria Milanych, Senior Division, Plast; and the Rev. Protopresbyter's two grandsons, Bohdan Bazylevsky and Terrance Solomone.



The Rev. Protopresbyter Volodymyr Bazylevsky

The Rev. Protopresbyter Bazylevsky is survived by his son, George, with his wife, Oksana, and their children, Christina (with her husband Ross), Bohdan and Andrew; daughter, Inna Solomone, with her son, Terrance (and his wife, Christina); great-grandson, Andrew; and family in Ukraine.

Maria Savchak, UNWLA officer, employee-activist of UNA, 78

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — Maria Savchak, known Ukrainian community activist who held various important positions at the Ukrainian National Association (UNA), the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) and The Ukrainian Museum, died in Brooklyn, N.Y., on January 8 at the age of 78.

Mrs. Savchak was born on January 7, 1919, in the village of Liadske Shliakhetske in the Stanyslaviv region of western Ukraine. Upon emigrating to the U.S. in 1949, she became active in the Ukrainian community, an involvement that proved to be lifelong.

At the UNA she was employed at the Home Office for over 20 years as secretary of the Organizing Department. She was president and secretary of UNA Branch 25, and secretary of the 30th UNA Convention.

Mrs. Savchak was a two-term president (1987-1993) of the UNWLA. She served as a member of the UNWLA executive board for 14 years and was a member of the board of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (WFUWO). She was a UNWLA delegate to WFUWO and World Congress of Free Ukrainians congresses and conventions.

She was also a member of the editorial board of the UNWLA magazine *Nashe Zhyttia*, as well as a member of the executive board of The Ukrainian Museum in New York.

A panakhyda service was held on January 12 in New York, followed by funeral services the next day at St. George

Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York and internment at St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church in South Bound Brook, N.J.

Mrs. Savchak is survived by two sons, Roman Kupchynsky (in Kyiv) and Mychailo with his wife, Annalisa; a sister Yaroslava with her husband, Myroslav Pastushenko; and a grandson, Markian Kupchynsky (in Kyiv).

Memorial donations may be made to: The Ukrainian Museum in New York; various UNWLA charitable causes; and the Fund for the Rebirth of Ukraine at the UNA.



Maria Savchak

Zynoviy Sokoliuk, 72, prorector and dean at Munich university

MUNICH, Germany — Dr. Zynoviy Sokoliuk, prorector of the Ukrainian Free University, former officer of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and member of the Association of the Ukrainian Supreme Liberation Council, died here on January 2 at the age of 72.

Dr. Sokoliuk was dean of law and socio-economic studies and director of the Institute of German-Ukrainian Relations at the UFU. He received his doctorate from UFU in 1953.

Dr. Sokoliuk was born in Belz, western Ukraine, in 1926.

He was a former officer of the UPA, the Ukrainian military formation that fought from 1942 to 1949, mostly in western Ukraine, against the German and Soviet occupational regimes.

Dr. Sokoliuk, whose nom de guerre was "Semeniv," was a contributor to the UPA journal *Do Zbroii* (1943) and editor of the memoirs of Lt. Maj. Duda ("Hromenko") and Lt. Maj. Stepan Stebelsky ("Khrin") of the Lemko Company of the UPA.

Burial was on January 8 at the



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Regional party organizers from Ukraine train in United States

by Stephen M. Wichar

WARREN, Mich. – A delegation of regional political party organizers from Ukraine came to Washington and Michigan for a two-week training program late last October. The group's trip was organized by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDIIA).

Six Ukrainian political activists representing reformist political groups comprised the delegation. The principal mission of this group was to strengthen the parties in preparation for Ukraine's next national and local elections, scheduled for March.

Their five-day program began in Washington and Virginia, where participants focused on the American party system, party organization during an election cycle with a concentration on public opinion research, message development, media relations, fund-raising, voter targeting and contact, field organizing, civic advocacy, coordinated campaigns and voter participation.

After Washington, the delegates went on to Minnesota and Michigan to observe first-hand how state party organizations function and are planning for the 1998 elections.

In Michigan, the delegation met with Rep. David Bonior from the 10th Congressional District, a Democrat and the minority whip, and with his staff, as well as with Stephen M. Wichar, state chairman of the Ukrainian Clinton-Gore Committee. Discussions were also held about the forthcoming Ukrainian elections with members of the Detroit chapter of the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine.

The NDIIA is a non-governmental organization that conducts programs to promote and strengthen democratic institutions in emerging democracies around the world. The NDIIA has a field office in Kyiv, and the organization has worked extensively with political and civic activists, as well as elected officials from across Ukraine for the last five years.

Participating in the observation and study tour were: Hryhorii Hutsenko, Democratic Party of Ukraine; Liuba Chub, Labor Party; Myroslav Slepko, Democratic Party of Ukraine; Viktor Kopetskyi, Democratic Party of Ukraine; Yelyzaveta Aulina, Democratic Party of Ukraine; and Andrii Klepikov, Social Democratic Party of Ukraine. Kay Fox, assigned by the U.S. Election Observation Study Program, was the group coordinator.



Political activists from Ukraine on a U.S. study tour after meeting with members of the Detroit chapter of the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine.

Military mission geared to improve Ukrainian NCO corps

by Roman G. Golash

CHICAGO – A U.S. military delegation visited Kyiv on November 16-23, 1997, to evaluate the needs of the Ukrainian Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) corps. The NCO corps, consisting of sergeants of various ranks, is an integral part of the U.S. military. Ukraine is attempting to change from the Soviet style to a more Western style structure of enlisted rank and is willing to train its soldiers in the U.S. This training would also enable the Ukrainian armed forces to

become more integrated on peacekeeping missions, such as in Bosnia.

Col. Thomas Brown, who led the delegation, currently serves as the commandant of the U.S. Army Sergeant Major Academy (USASMA), in El Paso, Texas. Sgt. Maj. Danny Hubbard serves as department chief at USASMA. Sgt. Maj. Thomas Wong teaches at the academy and Master Sgt. Fred Couch is an expert in U.S. Army doctrine as it pertains to training. Since the state of California and the California National Guard have been delegated to work with

Ukraine, Command Sgt. Maj. Raul Rodriguez came as an observer; he is responsible for 19,000 troops in California and for facilitating missions to Ukraine such as Peace Shield '98. The interpreter for the mission was Maj. Roman G. Golash of the 4221st Medical Detachment located in Illinois. The American Embassy in Ukraine provided two facilitators: Capt. Robert Webster and Sgt. 1st Class Alan Kosowiec. Upon arrival the delegation was greeted by Ukrainian hosts Col. V. Shevchuk, acting chief of the motorized tank forces

director, and Col. I. Tsytyles, chief of junior experts training group.

During the first day the delegation met with Maj. Gen. A. Ogarok, the commandant of the Kyiv Military Institute for Ground Forces. At the institute the delegation also met 12 young NCOs who were competing for six slots. The chosen six will travel to the U.S. for English-language training, as well as to attend an NCO academy, followed by attachment to a U.S. combat unit and return for more

(Continued on page 13)



Members of a U.S. military delegation to Kyiv (from left): Sgt. Maj. Danny Hubbard, Maj. Roman Golash, Command Sgt. Maj. Raul Rodriguez, Sgt. Maj. Thomas Wong, Col. Thomas Brown and Master Sgt. Fred Couch.

INTELNEWS

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

No moral difference

In the jargon of newspaper and magazine publishing, it's called a "jump quote" — a catchy phrase, set in enlarged type, selected from an article's text to "jump out" and catch the reader's eye. Unlike a headline, the primary purpose of which is to summarize an article's contents in a phrase, the jump quote should somehow be incomplete, in order to tease, to provoke, to entice the reader to read the article completely.

A jump quote from an op-ed piece in the December 22, 1997, issue of *The New York Times* reads: "The child of a Ukrainian kulak deliberately starved to death by the Stalinist regime is worth no less than a Jewish child in the Warsaw ghetto starved to death by the Nazi regime." In terms of catching the reader's eye, this jump quote rated a 10. At the top of the page, above this quote was a pen-and-ink sketch of Lenin wearing Hitler's signature narrow black mustache, and the opinion piece, which was written by Tony Judt, director of the Remarque Institute at New York University, was titled "The Longest Road to Hell."

Mr. Judt's commentary concerned a new publication, "Le Livre Noir du Communisme" (The Black Book of Communism), released in Paris in November. The book, edited by Stephane Courtois, a respected historian of French Communism, is an 800-page compendium, in French, of the atrocities committed worldwide in the name of Communism.

Mr. Judt writes, "The myth of the well-intentioned founders — the good czar Lenin betrayed by his evil heirs — has been laid to rest for good. No one will any longer be able to claim ignorance or uncertainty about the criminal nature of Communism, and those who had begun to forget will be forced to remember anew. ... In the course of a few decades, Communist regimes killed tens of millions of people. ... Whole categories of people, real or imagined, were exterminated not for anything they had done, but just for being who they were. Concentration camps, forced labor and terror were elevated to a system of government. ... A permanent civil war of party-state versus society was inaugurated; its goal was a Gleischtaltung — an atomized oneness — different from Nazism only in its invocation of 'class' instead of 'race' ... mass murder was not an unintended consequence."

The release of this book apparently has caused consternation in Europe among some of Mr. Courtois' fellow scholars and especially among Europe's left. Mr. Judt speculates that the West is reluctant to condemn Communism since the West united with Communism to defeat Nazism. (Nobody wants to think of this victorious alliance as a pact with one mass murderer to defeat another.) He also speculates that among us are still "many well-intentioned men and women beyond the reach of Communism [who] deeply needed to believe in it. ... It is thus difficult for the left-liberal intelligentsia of the West to let go of its memories and illusions, to reconcile itself to having been no wiser or better than Fascism's many foreign admirers in the 1930s."

Mr. Judt concludes that "Communism and Nazism are, and always were, morally indistinguishable." However, he offers a "crucial analytical contrast: there is a difference between regimes that exterminate people in the inhuman pursuit of an arbitrary objective and those whose objective is extermination itself." This crucial analytical contrast, it appears, is too frail to stand up to any kind of scrutiny, since among readers and writers of the numerous letters of response to this commentary there was confusion as to which regime was which. Some thought that Mr. Judt meant that the Communists were pursuing arbitrary objectives, others thought he meant Nazism, and one letter writer included the United States, citing Vietnam as one example where the U.S. used extermination in the pursuit of an arbitrary objective.

The publication of this commentary, as well as several book reviews (some of which may be obtained from the World Wide Web) has apparently sparked some lively exchanges on the Internet. We'd enjoy hearing from our readers about the buzz on the wires. Also, since the book is written in French, we anglophones would be interested to hear from some of our readers, most notably those in Canada, if they can obtain and read the book and then give us some of their views and comments.

Jan.
27
1790

Turning the pages back...

Petro Hulak-Artemovsky was an erudite man of letters whose mark in literature has been etched both by his own accomplishments and by the Ukrainian bard Taras

Shevchenko's contempt for his inability to take them still further.

Born into the family of a priest on January 27, 1790, in Horodysche of the Kyiv gubernia, he studied at the Kyiv Theological Academy until 1813, then taught at various private schools before returning to scholarship at Kharkiv University. In 1818 he was appointed lecturer of Polish language and literature there. Three years later he defended a dissertation in history, and in 1825 he secured a post as professor of Russian history and geography. In 1829-1841 he served as dean of the institution's faculty of Slavic studies, and from 1841 to 1849 he served as the university's rector.

Immediately upon his arrival in Kharkiv in 1817 he began to publish, joining that city's group of writers who contributed to the journal *Ukrainskii Vestnik*. Influenced by Ivan Kotliarevsky and classicism, he wrote travesties of Horace, and affected by the growing mood of romanticism, he translated Jean Jacques Rousseau (into Russian) and wrote Ukrainian ballads such as "Rybalka" (The Fisherman) and "Tvardovskyi" based on the works of Goethe and Adam Mickiewicz.

Best known is his "Pan i Sobaka" (The Master and His Dog, 1818), based on a fable by Polish writer Ignaci Krasicki, which satirizes the brutality of the serf-owning gentry, and which has been the object of a critical tug of war ever since. Some, such as Ivan Franko and Soviet academics, claim that the story is an impassioned critique of the social order and a call to abolish serfdom. Others, such as Serhii Yefremov and G.S.N. Luckyj, point to Hulak-Artemovsky's epicurean careerism and reactionary

(Continued on page 10)

STUDENT REFLECTIONS

Malanka celebrations: then and now

by Olena Welhasch

"Five, four, three, two, one. Happy New Year!" exclaimed the youth of Toronto two weekends ago at Plast's Malanka zabava. I found myself counting down to the New Year, again.

Balloons and confetti bombarded the festive assemblage, who had been partaking in as much waltzing and polka-ing as the overcrowded dance floor allowed. An observer unaware of the occasion would marvel at the fact that these Ukrainian Canadians (and Americans) were celebrating New Year's Eve almost two weeks after it had been officially observed.

I had traveled to Toronto on a whim, as a last thrill before I resumed classes at Penn State University. I couldn't have chosen a better way to end my semester break. The general friendliness and universal acceptance of "Ukie friends" never cease to amaze or delight me. It's uncanny how even when I haven't seen a friend in years, relationships that flourished at various summer camps withstand the test of time and resume as though we'd only missed a few days.

Another unbelievable aspect of our friendship encompasses our mutual understanding of our cultural traditions. This seemingly tardy celebration of New Year's Eve is one of the many customs that reflect ancient pagan rituals that survived even after Ukraine's Christianization. Ukraine, *A Concise Encyclopedia* describes Malanka as "a cheerful festival for young people." That it was and still is.

A motley crew of characters often comprising men dressed as an old couple (Malanka and Vasyl), a goat, a gypsy, a Jew, and/or a policeman, as well as many other characters and musicians, would parade the streets of Ukrainian villages on New Year's Eve. The feast of Malanka — known as Schedryi Vechir (Generous Eve) in eastern and central Ukraine — was originally a pagan agrarian ritual. Now it is the feast of St. Melaniia — hence the term

Olenka Welhash, 19, of Berkeley Heights, N.J., is a student majoring in English at Penn State University.

Malanka — and falls on January 13, New Year's Eve according to the Julian calendar. The feast of St. Vasyl is on New Year's Day. The evening has traditionally been marked by playful merriment. Households echoed with schedrivky, songs that are very similar to koliadky (Christmas carols) in melody and structure.

The menu for the family dinner is very similar to that of Sviata Vecheria (though not meatless), consisting of kutia, meat or cheese varenyky, buckwheat pancakes and sausages. The meal was often interrupted by the young entourage of characters parading through the town. The actors entered the house singing, often carrying a plow, performing the rite of "first furrow" in imitation of plowing and sometimes sprinkling cows with holy water — one of the few Christian customs that have distinguished the feast of Malanka from its former pagan rituals. The person playing Malanka would ask permission to enter the house, promising to put the household in order.

The families also participated in the game playing. The father would hide from his children, waiting to be found, in the belief that his hiding would ensure a good harvest.

Young girls participated in a multitude of games that were to foretell of their future husbands. One tradition included the throwing of shoes: when the shoe lands, the man at whom it points will be the man whom the show-thrower marries. Unmarried women also embarked upon the festive streets in pursuit of this information. A girl would ask for the name of the first man she encountered, and that would be the name of her future husband.

It's pleasing to note that the magic of the ages-old Malanka, although very different in today's practice, still affects Ukrainian youth, even beyond Ukraine's boundaries.

Sources: Oleksa Woropay, "Zvychai Nashoho Narodu," Vol. 1, (Munich: Ukrainske Vydavnytstvo, 1958); *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vol. 3, (Toronto: University of Toronto Press Inc., 1993); *Ukraine: A Concise Encyclopedia*, (Toronto: University of Toronto, 1963).

TWG announces Embassy internship

WASHINGTON — The Washington Group, in cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine, is seeking candidates to participate in a two-month summer internship at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington.

The purpose of the project, which is being conducted under the auspices of the TWG Fellowship Committee, is to provide the Ukrainian Embassy with an intern who could serve as a research assistant to the Embassy staff. In turn, the intern would gain valuable experience in learning how a foreign embassy in Washington works and how it interacts with various Washington individuals and institutions.

TWG has previously funded two internships at the Embassy of Ukraine. Helena Zyblikewycz, a student at Georgetown University, served as a summer intern in 1996. Alexandra Richardson, a student at Marquette University, worked at the Ukrainian Embassy last summer.

Candidates for the 1998 summer internship should: 1) have completed at least two years of undergraduate studies; 2) be proficient in English and Ukrainian; 3) possess excellent oral and written commu-

nication skills; 4) be able to demonstrate excellent computer skills, including use of the Internet; 5) anticipate assisting the Embassy with whatever issues and needs should arise, including general office work; 6) submit a one-page essay explaining their interest in the internship, when they would be available to participate in the project, and how their work, educational and personal experience would help meet the goals of the project; 7) submit copies of academic transcripts and one letter of recommendation, and provide two references.

The Washington Group Fellowship Committee will provide the successful candidate with a stipend of \$1,500.

To be considered for this internship, candidates must submit this information to TWG no later than April 17.

Application materials should be addressed to: The Washington Group Fellowship Committee, Ukrainian Embassy Internship Project, P.O. Box 11248, Washington, DC 20008.

For more information call Adrian Karmazyn, (301) 460-9755; or Orest Deychakivsky, (202) 225-3964.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ukraine must create a positive environment

Dear Editor:

It was exceedingly disturbing to read recently in several Ukrainian American newspapers, that publication of Ukrainian newspapers in Ukraine since 1991 has decreased about 10-fold, while publication of Russian-language newspapers has increased by the same proportion during that period. Furthermore, it is incomprehensible to learn that almost 90 percent of radio and television programs are not in Ukrainian but in Russian. As these articles clearly indicate, this disturbing state of affairs is totally unbecoming a nation that for centuries has assiduously fought to retain its identity.

While recent open letters in the press address their pleas to government administrators, I would like to call on every citizen of Ukraine to stand up and be counted, regardless of ethnic background and origin. Despite the governments they had in the past, the land and the community nonetheless sustained them. Now it's pay-back time. I dare say that 99 percent of Ukraine's citizens are literate, and therefore it is their responsibility to reverse the trend. Russian is fine in Russia, just as Polish is fine in Poland, and therefore Ukrainian is right and proper in Ukraine – nothing less, nothing more. The language of the land is one of the important cementing factors of a nation. Now is not the time to experiment; Ukraine has had its share of experimentation!

Ukraine's leadership is not leading the nation and, worse yet, it is not instilling a community spirit. Incidentally, that includes not only responsibility regarding the language of the land, but also employment and payment of just wages. Individual freedom and independence are extremely important and must be protected at all costs, but we'd better remember that it is the community that can speed up correcting such ills as corruption, the shadow economy, class distinctions, the nomenklatura and the like. It is also the community that can assure success in economic reforms, freedom of the press and other needed changes.

There are a few bright spots in the nation, but that may not be enough. President John F. Kennedy was right when he said that we should not ask what our country can do for us but what we can do for our country. With a democratic government, Ukraine has a chance not only to survive but also to prosper.

However, if citizens of Ukraine, regardless of ethnic background and origin, will not take care of their country, their country will not be able to take care of them. They will be hired hands on their own land. In order to be lord in your castle, you have to work and you have to work hard.

In closing I would like to add that my friends advised me not to send this letter. They tell me that people in Ukraine do not need any advice, all they need is money. Besides, who am I to tell the struggling Ukrainians what to do, a well-fed and well-provided-for American?

As a matter of fact, for several years after coming to the New World, I was not well-cared nor well-provided for, but the opportunity was out there. Ukrainians are no less capable than citizens of any other nation, and therefore they must create a positive environment for all, not only for a select class of citizens. Such a task is for an active, caring and committed community. Individual freedom and independence must be channeled to move pressing issues of common concern forward, to prevent derision, discord and stagnation.

Bohdan M. Slabyj
Brewer, Maine

More on the patriarch and the Kyiv Church

Dear Editor:

The indignation articulated in several recent letters at the insolence of the patriarch of Constantinople toward the national (as opposed to the pro-Moscow faction) Orthodox Church in Ukraine is easily understandable.

It is also useful to dispel some of the smoke that vaguely envisions a basis for the patriarch's eventual recognition of the Ukrainian Church by means of some diplomatic gobbledygook – in a distant future.

The principal concern of Patriarch Bartholomew is not the Ukrainian Church, but his own political survival in the precarious balancing act that has been ongoing for his predecessors in the last several centuries. The patriarch is a Turkish citizen, without a significant visible constituency, and is separated by law from the Church of Greece. His position exists by the sufferance of the Turkish government, flavored by the ambivalence and controversy, and by the wits of some persnickety allies abroad. The latter include the Moscow Patriarchate and, to a lesser extent, Western Christendom.

Patriarch Bartholomew agreed to recognize the Estonian Orthodox Church, which differs from the Church in Ukraine in two significant ways. First, many Orthodox faithful in Ukraine seem to be either indifferent or quite content to belong to the Moscow Patriarchate. Secondly, Ukraine's government has kept itself at arm's length from this issue. Patriarch Bartholomew cannot be a pugilist for the Ukrainian Church and risk his own feathers when Ukraine's government remains on the sidelines. Not only the nomenklatura, but also some national democrats think that religious rivalries are a political minefield, not to be touched with a 10-foot pole, right or wrong, and best handled by the separation of state and church, is a copout.

Boris Danik
North Caldwell, N.J.

About the number of Ukraine's generals

Dear Editor:

Inaccuracies sometimes have a way of creeping into news reports, particularly when harried journalists are bombarded with statistical data at conferences and other public forums. I suspect that this is what might have happened in your report on the York University symposium on Ukraine's security dilemmas (December 21, 1997), specifically with regard to the number of generals in Ukraine's armed forces.

Rather than about 100 generals, as reported, the table of organization in Ukraine's Ministry of Defense, until recently, provided for 386. As part of the new military reform effort, that figure has now been reduced to 281, although only 186 of these slots are filled. These numbers, it should be noted, refer only to the Ministry of Defense and do not encompass other military formations such as the National Guard and the border troops.

As for Russia, which has recently adopted a military reform plan of its own, the corresponding figure is 1,925. Overall, Russia's various military and security organizations plan on maintaining 2,300 generals.

Roman Solchanyk
Santa Monica, Calif.

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



Homage to Mykola Leontovych

I wouldn't have thought it possible, but the truth is I was getting tired of Mykola Leontovych's "Shchedryk" (Carol of the Bells) during this past Christmas season. On the radio, in shopping malls, television, ice-dance exhibitions, even for a champagne commercial, there it was: da, da-da, da; da, da-da, da; da, da-da; da, da-da, da ... If ever there's been a Ukrainian melody that's entered the popular repertoire of American culture, this one has.

The problem is, I can't think of too many other Ukrainian contributions to American society or world culture. Besides Leontovych's "Shchedryk," pysanky at Eastertime and "perogies" (varenyky) any time, what has Ukrainian culture given that's entered popular culture or, for that matter, the world theatrical, literary musical or artistic repertoire?

In art, there's the sculptor, Alexander Archipenko and the printmaker Jacques Hnizdovsky, and in cinema Oleksander Dovzhenko, but they're just about the only artists whose work you'll see outside a Ukrainian context.

This lack of a Ukrainian presence on the world stage, though, does not mean the culture doesn't measure up. But it does reflect the grim political realities that confronted the Ukrainian people throughout most of the 20th century.

Under tsarist Russia, the Ukrainian language was banned. No Ukrainian novels or serious theatrical productions were possible. As for large-scale orchestras, ballets or art galleries, Ukraine with its tiny middle class had neither the money nor the audience to support those ventures. Only with the Revolution of 1917 did the door finally open to serious Ukrainian culture.

Mykola Leontovych was one of those who benefited. He had graduated from a theological seminary in 1899 and then spent nearly 20 years as a teacher and choirmaster in provincial towns. He remained generally unrecognized until 1918, when he came to Kyiv to teach at the new Conservatory and the Lysenko Institute of Music and Dance. His compositions soon entered the repertoire of the Ukrainian Republican Kapell under the direction of Oleksander Koshetz, which was touring Europe and the United States on behalf of the new independent Ukrainian National Republic. One of the works clicked – "Shchedryk" – now you hear it all the time. Without independent Ukraine's investment in the Republican Kapell and Koshetz's dedication, no one would have heard the "Carol of the Bells."

The tiny window of opportunity that opened with Ukraine's independence in 1918 spawned hundreds of other artistic careers. Archipenko had begun his career in Kyiv, but moved to Paris before World War I and made his reputation there. Oleksander Dovzhenko, on the other hand, stayed in Kyiv and created several pioneering movies on Ukrainian themes in the '20s, inventing camera techniques that are now standard cinematic devices.

As for literature, Ukraine from 1918 into the late 1920s exploded with creativity, with a large variety of journals and publishing houses encouraging new, young voices to write poetry, stories, novels and plays for a newly literate nation eager to read about itself.

All of this came to a bloody end with the rise of Joseph Stalin. He and his

apparatus imprisoned and murdered Ukrainian artists, burned their books, stopped their stage productions, banned their music, smashed their sculptures and ripped their canvases. The whole nation was sealed off and its culture targeted for elimination. The world barely noticed the massacre via starvation of 7 million peasants in the winter of 1932-1933.

It was a terrible time for anyone to be alive, but for the artist it was death, either literally with a bullet to the back of the head in some commissar's cellar or in the creative sense, when every original thought was strangled before it could be expressed. Every piece of art had to glorify the state, the party, Joseph Stalin. Artists were punished not just for expressing forbidden thoughts, but for expressing themselves at all, if they dared do so without permission and approval. This era of censorship and socialist realism lasted 60 years, ending sometime during the reign of Mikhail Gorbachev when people gradually lost their fear and eventually rose up.

Today, Ukraine is again independent and the door for Ukrainian culture is open once more. Ukrainian artists are starting to take advantage of the opportunity. The New York Times recently had a very nice review of a Carnegie Hall concert by the Kyiv Chamber Choir, featuring the works of Ukrainian composers spanning the centuries from the 17th to the 20th: Artem Vedel, Mykola Lysenko, Volodymyr Stetsenko, Mykola Diletsky, Lesia Dychko, Volodymyr Stepurko, Alexander Yakivchuk, Yuri Alzhnev, Anatoly Avdiievsky and yes, Mykola Leontovych, who I'm sure would have been pleased that the choir sang something other than his famous "Shchedryk."

The reviewer described the works as "a particularly interesting cultural yield" with the individual works described as "serene, gorgeously harmonized," "compelling" and "lush." The choir, directed by Mykola Hobdych, was "disciplined, well-blended" and "appealingly varied in color and flexible."

I'll be honest with you: I haven't heard of most of these composers, and I've certainly never heard their music. If I haven't, then I doubt if very many others have. The same lack of knowledge about Ukrainian culture prevails across many different art forms.

There are terrific Ukrainian novels, I'm told, by authors like Ulas Samchuk and Pavlo Zahrebelny, but their works are hard to find in Ukrainian and they remain untranslated (as far as I know). Even a fine young American novelist like Askold Melnychuk, who got glowing reviews from The New York Times for his 1994 book about the Ukrainian American experience, "What is Told," is relatively unknown in his own Ukrainian American community. He needs readers to make it in the highly competitive world of American publishing.

Ukrainians are among the strongest, most resilient people in the world. Very few nations have endured the slaughter and the generations-long assault on their culture the way Ukrainians have and emerged from it alive and intact. Nonetheless, the traumas from that grim national experience are deep and troubling: crime, corruption, alcoholism,

(Continued on page 13)

Sabre Foundation and Rohatyn restore educational dreams

by Irena Danysh

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Nestled in the hills of Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast lies the small but proud town of Rohatyn. Rohatyn has several things of which to be proud: for starters, it is the birthplace of the famous Roxalana, who in 1520, at the age of 15, was kidnapped by the Turks and found herself in the harem of Sultan Suliman II, yet rose to become his cherished advisor. Before the sultan's death, Roxalana managed to ensure that her own son would become sultan, and thereafter she continued her powerful advisory role. Today the silhouette of a mosque consecrated to her enlivens the picturesque skyline of Istanbul.

But this is a story of legend and extraordinary luck from ancient days. Today Rohatyn has another source of pride, which dominates its own skyline.

Atop Rohatyn's higher hills sits the handsome and historic gymnasium (secondary school academy) of St. Volodymyr the Great. Like Roxalana, it has been fought over, and appropriated by, various groups for periods in its colorful past. (My own great-grandfather, Judge Petro Kohut, was its main champion and benefactor in the 1920s.)

With the advent of Ukraine's independence, Rohatyn's teachers and parents realized that in order to instill patriotism and moral values in their youth, they would need to "resurrect" their gymnasium. However, lack of proper facilities and dire economic conditions in the country made the survival of the fledgling school even more challenging.

Fortunately, through the donation of a substantial sum of money, the dream of a former "native son" to enable his alma mater to experience a renaissance that would benefit the young people of Rohatyn for years to come is becoming a reality. For his gift to be wisely administered, helping hands were required.

Former Rohatynites – the late Oleh Kudryk, Iwan Oleksyn, Ostap Shenkiryk and Ireney Prokopovych – volunteered to become trustees of the generous benefactor's gymnasium fund.

In turn, the board of trustees sought out further assistance: Rebecca Schneider of the Sabre Foundation, a non-profit organization in Cambridge, Mass., and the largest donor in the U.S. of educational materials to Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Ms. Schneider visited Rohatyn in May 1997 to conduct a needs assessment of the gymnasium's computer facilities, library collection and curriculum support materials.

With the partnership of Sabre, the gymnasium and the board of trustees, a project of goodwill and aspiration toward fulfilling children's educational dreams was begun.

The St. Volodymyr the Great Gymnasium has both flourished and struggled throughout its history. Founded in 1906 by a priest who was determined to save the local young scholars from the long trek to Lviv for their examinations, it flourished in the 1920s and 1930s, acquiring a substantial new wing to extend its capacity. During this time it produced many graduates renowned for cultural and political achievements both at home and abroad. However, politics and impending war forced the gymnasium to close in 1939 when the library was burned down and professors and students were sent into exile.

The gymnasium reopened in 1991 and now boasts approximately 360 students age 7 to 17, 60 of whom are part of the primary school affiliate. Prospective students must pass entrance exams at the age of 12 in order to attend the gymnasium proper.

Hope in renewal notwithstanding, the school has a number of dire needs. Recently housed in temporary quarters near the city square, as well as in a portion of the original building that is shared with an agricultural and technical school, the gymnasium's lack of space necessitates a continual shifting of students to available classrooms. History, for example, is taught in the chemistry room.

Space is but one problem for the gymnasium. Though quite dedicated, the gymnasium's teachers have had to go without pay, at times for several months. In addition, many subjects lack basic instructional materials: physics students have no workbooks or equipment to do any experiments. The chemistry section is so ill-equipped that even the few experiments that are carried out violate safety rules, endangering the health of students and teachers. The cramped library, made up largely of donated books, has not begun to meet actual needs.

Book needs are the most pressing. Last year 20 percent of the textbooks were obtained through the old Soviet distribution system, and in the coming year even this will be eliminated. The gymnasium has had to rent books from other schools in order to meet demands. Students will now have to purchase their books, whose cost is estimated at \$55 (U.S. dollars) per student – far more than many people's monthly salary.

Not surprisingly, Ms. Schneider concluded that even a small infusion of money and materials could improve the students' situations and raise morale among faculty and staff, giving support that is well deserved. "These are

teachers who care, and students who want to learn," said Ms. Schneider.

Despite the lack of resources, there have been some successes: the gymnasium placed fourth of 16 schools in the academic competitions recently held in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast. More impressively, gymnasium students captured two positions among the 12 students chosen from 400 contestants to study in the U.S.

Ms. Schneider produced a detailed report assessing the gymnasium's current state and its critical needs. Her evaluations included an itemized list of each department's basic and optimum financial and material needs, as well as a modest wish lists of teachers of each subject.

The donor foundation was very enthusiastic about Sabre's report and agreed to immediately respond to recommendations. Sabre, the fund's board of trustees and gymnasium principals have been in frequent contact to implement the agreements reached. The board of trustees covered all costs of the needs assessment; a wide range of English-language materials obtained from Sabre's partner in Ukraine, Sabre-Svitlo; and 10 reconditioned computers with appropriate educational software procured by Sabre.

Lastly, on August 1, 1997, Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers decreed that the original gymnasium campus is to be vacated by present occupants and returned to the gymnasium's use by July 1, 1998.

With these initial developments, the first steps have been taken on the road toward restoring Rohatyn's prized institution to the place of honor in educational excellence that its original founders had dreamt for it – to the benefit of Ukrainian children for generations to come.

The Sabre Foundation Inc., founded in 1969, works to build free institutions and to examine the ideals that sustain them. Its largest current project makes millions of dollars' worth of donated new books available to needy individuals in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and other developing regions through non-governmental partner organizations, libraries, universities, schools, research organizations and other similar institutions. In its newest initiative, Library and Information Technology Services, Sabre helps organizations in these regions take advantage of rapidly evolving Internet and related information technologies. Sabre also sponsors domestic and international symposia and philosophical publications exploring the nature and accountability of free institutions.

For more information, see Sabre's World Wide Web site: <http://www.sabre.org>

Ukrainian Studies Fund initiated at U of Buffalo SUNY-New Paltz

by John Riszko

BUFFALO, N.Y. – Like most Ukrainian communities in the U.S., the Ukrainian community here is striving to survive some very daunting challenges. In its fight for survival, it has been able to leave its mark with some notable accomplishments, all in the good name of Ukraine. This was the case on November 16, 1997, when through the effort of The Buffalo Group, a Ukrainian professional and business association, a banquet was held to initiate the Ukrainian Studies Fund, intended to support the expansion of Ukrainian studies at the State University of New York at Buffalo, also known as UB.

Buffalo is home to the largest university center in the New York state university system, and UB is one of the top 50 universities in North America. The presence of a Ukrainian student club at the university goes back to the early 1960s when the University of Buffalo joined the state university system, and it is largely through the creative work of the Ukrainian Student Association that the university community is kept aware of things Ukrainian.

With Ukraine's independence in 1991, The Buffalo Group was formed to enhance the appreciation of Ukraine in the greater Buffalo community. Many members of The Buffalo Group are alumni of the university and believe it to be the ideal forum for the propagation of a positive image of Ukraine. Some successes include the visits to the university

by Ambassador Oleh Bilorus and President Leonid Kravchuk.

Ukrainian language courses (introductory and intermediate levels) have been taught at the university since 1994 in the university's department of modern languages and literatures and attract not only students of Ukrainian heritage, but non-Ukrainian students as well. This academic year, a two-semester sequence of Ukrainian history is offered by the department of history.

The goal of The Buffalo Group is to ensure the continuation of these courses and to expand the Ukrainian studies curriculum. Several academic programs in the university, Polish, Korean and Judaic studies, flourish thanks to the financial support of their respective communities. In the western New York region there are several ethnic communities that trace their origins to Eastern Europe; thus, the university is receptive to the creation of an Eastern European studies program. Ukrainian studies must become an integral component of such a program, and this can happen with the support of the community.

Community support for this worthwhile educational effort was evidenced by its attendance at the banquet establishing the Ukrainian Studies Fund. The main speaker at the banquet was Dr. Orest Subtelny, whose scholarly work, "Ukraine A History" has been translated into several languages, including Chinese. Prof. Subtelny underscored the importance of re-establishing Ukrainian studies programs at institutions of higher learning.

Due to the efforts of Dr. Stephen Velychenko, who teaches the Ukrainian history courses, the university's collection in East European studies was greatly enriched with the presentation of the complete set of The Harvard Ukrainian Studies journals and the complete set of The Journal of Ukrainian Studies from the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies. The journals were presented at the banquet by Dr. Andrew Sorokowsky of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute and by Dr. Roman Senkus from the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, and accepted on behalf of the university libraries by Jean Dickson, bibliographer of the library's Slavic collection.

The talented members of UB's Ukrainian Student Association entertained the banquet audience with their renditions of Ukrainian dances and songs.

At total of \$10,000 was collected during the banquet for the Ukrainian Studies Fund. This initial amount reflects the generosity of the Buffalo area community. It is the hope of The Buffalo Group that the Ukrainian Studies Fund will attract the attention of potential donors, especially the many graduates and alumni of the University of Buffalo who live throughout the U.S. and who realize the importance of supporting Ukrainian studies at this major university.

Tax-deductible donations may be sent to: Ukrainian Studies Fund – The Buffalo Group, P.O. Box 384, Buffalo, NY 14201.

SUNY-New Paltz offers courses in 20 languages

NEW PALTZ, N.Y. – The Language Immersion Institute at the State University of New York at New Paltz has announced its 1998 weekend course schedule.

Language instruction programs are offered at four different sites. At SUNY-New Paltz, weekend courses will be offered on March 6-8, May 1-3 and June 5-7. There will be one weekend at the Mohonk Mountain House: April 3-5; and one at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., on March 13-15. Weekends in New York City include: January 23-25, February 20-22, March 20-22, April 17-19, May 15-17 and June 12-14. Undergraduate college credit is available.

The courses – offered in 20 languages – are geared toward students, teachers, executives and others. The Language Immersion Institute has provided foreign language instruction for the past 17 years to over 32,000 people.

Additional programs include: two-week summer sessions at SUNY-New Paltz; and overseas learning vacations to Spain, Mexico, Costa Rica, France and Italy. The LII also offers customized foreign language instruction to meet the needs of any multi-national business.

For more information call (914) 257-3500. Or visit the LII website at: <http://www.eelab.newpaltz.edu/lii>

Toronto's Vesnivka Choir delights international audiences

by Lesia Ferenc

TORONTO – Music lovers filled a Toronto cathedral to the rafters recently, anxious to hear the award-winning Vesnivka Choir join voices with Canada's internationally renowned Elmer Iseler Singers. And it was love at first sight and sound.

The Vesnivka Choir, a 50-member women's ensemble under the direction of talented founding conductor Halyna Kvitka Kondracka, performed a traditional repertoire of Ukrainian Christmas music, much to the delight of the audience which reveled in the seasonally inspired program.

Though they may not have understood a word, since most of the 600 plus people who filled the pews were non-Ukrainians and long-time fans and followers of the professional Elmer Iseler Singers and that ensemble's conductor Dr. Elmer Iseler, the audience was nonetheless moved by music so beautifully communicated by Vesnivka.

If there's one thing Vesnivka knows how to do well, it's how to get its musical message across to an audience.

The Toronto-based group has been getting plenty of practice over the past few years. This summer Vesnivka pulled out all the stops with an outstanding performance in St. John's, Newfoundland, during Festival 500, a weeklong event opened by Queen Elizabeth II – part of the national celebration to mark explorer John Cabot's historic landfall in 1497 on the rugged shores of what is known today as Newfoundland. Vesnivka was one of only two choirs from Ontario selected to participate in the choral extravaganza that attracted professional, amateur and young singers from every corner of the globe.

For those who may not be familiar with Canada's most eastern province, its music is as hearty and fun-loving as its people. Any Newfoundlander will tell you they were raised on folk music and that it's a way of life.

It was the perfect venue for Vesnivka to showcase its treasure trove of Ukrainian folk songs that have won the ensemble numerous awards, including first place at the 1993 International Music Eisteddfodd in Llangollen, Wales.

Vesnivka won the ovations and hearts of its audiences, and kudos from a local music critic at the Evening Telegram daily newspaper who observed the choir presented "an exceptionally well-prepared, polished performance highlighted by some outstanding solo work."

Dressed in their striking traditional Ukrainian costumes, Vesnivka members were also featured on the front page of the Telegram.

Working with professionals such as Winnipeg Symphony conductor Bramwell Tovey was inspiring and an education in itself, according to Vesnivka President Irka Naberezny.

Mr. Tovey conducted the 600-voice choir and symphony orchestra during its performance of Carl Orff's powerful "Carmina Burana" during the festival gala concert, which was attended by Newfoundland's Premier Brian Tobin.

The festival served as a reunion for Ms. Kondracka and Dr. Iseler, her former music professor at the University of Toronto. In an interview Dr. Iseler expressed his congratulations to Vesnivka and Ms. Kondracka for their high level of professionalism and musical excellence. "It's so rewarding to see former students doing such good work," he said.

After attending a Ukrainian Byzantine rite liturgy sung by Vesnivka at a



Members of Vesnivka aboard the tall ship Scademia in St. John's, Newfoundland, where the choir participated in the international choral celebration Festival 500.

Catholic church in St. John's, Dr. Iseler and Mr. Tovey both offered high praise for the choir.

Many choir members had a chance to meet with Mr. Tovey and other festival performers informally, providing an opportunity for one-on-one discussions about music and singing.

"These are people you don't normally have a chance to meet and get to know," said Vesnivka choir member Marika Baczynsky. "It was wonderful."

Dr. Iseler extended an invitation for Vesnivka to perform with his singers last month, Ms. Kondracka and choir members could hardly contain their delight.

"It was very exciting and we were thrilled," Ms. Kondracka added.

Promoting Ukrainian choral music is one of Ms. Kondracka's and Vesnivka's goals, and audiences at home and abroad obviously appreciate their talents.

As guests of the Utrechts Byzantijns Koors (UBK) during a tour of the

Netherlands and Belgium in 1996, Vesnivka performed to packed houses in six cities. The tour opened with a concert in The Hague attended by Michael Bell, Canada's ambassador to the Netherlands. Impressed by their talents, he applauded members, describing them as "Canada's musical ambassadors."

The Netherlands tour also provided the Vesnivka choir with numerous opportu-

(Continued on page 10)

Detroit-area organizations host author Myron Kuropas

by Stephen M. Wichar

WARREN, Mich. – At an author's night held here on December 6, 1997, at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, Dr. Myron Kuropas gave an engrossing and informative presentation on the topic of his most recent publication "Ukrainian-American Citadel," a 658-page documentary about the Ukrainian National Association.

Although he focused on the first 100 years of accomplishments of this fraternal organization, Dr. Kuropas also voiced crucial and startling concerns about the future of the "Ukrainian identity" in the coming century without supportive organizations like the UNA. Despite this outlook, the talk engaged the audience, and the expert style of delivery was entertaining.

Under the leadership of Dr. Alexander Serafyn, chairman of the UNA's Detroit District Committee, the Shevchenko Scientific Society, the Association for the Advancement of Ukrainian Culture, the Ukrainian Graduates of Detroit and Windsor, and the Ukrainian Cultural Club were enlisted to promote the book in the Greater Detroit area.

Dr. Serafyn was master of ceremonies for the evening and Stephen Wichar, vice-chairman of the UNA District Committee, introduced the featured speaker.

Mr. Wichar noted Dr. Kuropas' career as an educator, researcher, lecturer, author and newspaper columnist (for The Ukrainian Weekly). "Three generations of the Kuropas family served and became national officers with the UNA," Mr. Wichar added and then introduced Stefko Kuropas, a UNA advisor.

Dr. Kuropas had just returned from Ostroh, Ukraine, where he had participated in a two-day workshop with teachers and professors from many different regions. He marveled at the intensity of Ukrainian language usage among these educators, among the people on the streets, in retail shops, among children on playgrounds.

In his lecture, Dr. Kuropas pointed to the fact that the UNA "created the Ukrainian identity in North America." He began to name basic and successful key activities that gave the impetus to other organizations, and he referred to the 104-year consecutive

publication of the daily Svoboda and 64 years of The Ukrainian Weekly.

The author highlighted the crucial years of the 1920s and 1930s, the trials and tribulations, the failures and successes. These were difficult years.

After the influx of a new immigration in the 1950s and 1960s, the UNA rose again to meet emerging challenges. Under the concept of "Batko Soyuz," fraternalism took on another meaning for many new Ukrainians, leaning on the UNA for leadership and financial assistance. Dr. Kuropas reminded the audience that these years were also a productive period. "Soyuzivka was installed, the UNA building was erected, the Shevchenko Monument was dedicated in Washington, many churches were dependent on the UNA for building loans, along with many other projects," Dr. Kuropas added.

"Publications like Ukraine: A Concise Encyclopedia, 'The Harvest of Sorrow' and others would not have been possible without UNA involvement," he said. "It is inconceivable," Dr. Kuropas underlined, "that any major event in the Ukrainian community across America and Canada did not have the blessing and intimate involvement of the UNA."

On a more somber note, Dr. Kuropas was noticeably concerned about the future of Ukrainian identity without the leadership of an organization such as the UNA. "At this juncture," he added, "debilitating evidence, especially in membership loss, is only too obvious. Like other fraternalists, the UNA is beset with this problem, which is correspondingly reflected in financial growth. Along with this, the newest Ukrainian immigration is not very supportive."

The general discussion that followed the lecture was lively and in many instances thought-provoking. However, inconsistent with the theme of the evening, more respondents were interested in the immediate conditions in Ukraine than they were in embracing processes which could ultimately bring about a UNA resurgence.

Before adjourning the lecture meeting, Dr. Serafyn announced that available copies of "Ukrainian-American Citadel" were sold out, but additional copies could be ordered by writing to: Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, 107 Ileshamwood Drive, De Kalb, IL 60115.

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Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

debts were reduced by one-third and now total some \$470 million. This contradicts end-of-the-year figures released by the National Bank of Ukraine showing that some \$2.6 billion is still owed to workers. (RFE/RL Newline)

Cabinet rejects demand for dismissals

KYIV — The Cabinet of Ministers has rejected a demand by the Verkhovna Rada to sack Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko and two other senior officials, DPA reported on January 17. By a margin of one vote, the Parliament on January 16 passed a non-binding resolution that called on President Leonid Kuchma to fire Mr. Pustovoitenko, Culture and Arts Minister Dmytro Ostapenko, and Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko for allegedly embezzling \$40 million during the renovation of Kyiv's main concert/conference hall, the Palats Ukraina, which was completed in 1996. (RFE/RL Newline)

Minister says USSR did not occupy Baltics

TALLINN — According to the Estonian daily Postimees, Russia's vice minister for foreign affairs, Aleksandr Avdeev, has sent an official note to the Russian State Duma arguing that the Soviet Union did not forcefully annex the Baltic states, BNS and ETA reported on January 19. Mr. Avdeev's January 8 note was reportedly in response to Duma Vice-Chairman Sergei Baburin's question about whether Russian Ambassador to Estonia Aleksii Glukhov had admitted

the 1940 Soviet occupation of the Baltics in an interview with an Estonian magazine. Mr. Avdeev denied that Mr. Glukhov had made such an admission, stressing that the ministry's official viewpoint is that Soviet troops were stationed in the Baltics in keeping with international accords and with the agreement of the three countries' leaderships. The Postimees report also claims that Moscow argues that "threatening to use force" was banned only after the United Nations statutes were adopted. (RFE/RL Newline)

Orthodox, Catholic officials slate mission

KYIV — Following closed-door meetings in Moscow, Russian Orthodox and Roman Catholic officials have agreed to send a delegation to Ukraine in an effort to resolve a dispute between the Orthodox and Greek-Catholic Churches, ITAR-TASS and DPA reported on January 15. The Russian Orthodox Church claims the Greek-Catholic Church has taken over Orthodox churches in western Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newline)

Crimeans protest Ukraine-Russia treaty

SEVASTOPOL — A few hundred pro-Moscow protesters in the Crimean seaport of Sevastopol urged the Russian State Duma not to ratify the political accord between Moscow and Kyiv recently ratified by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. Among other things, the treaty consolidates Ukrainian sovereignty over Crimea. The demonstrators claimed that Kyiv officials are "Ukrainianizing" the mostly Russian peninsula. They called for a referendum to help decide Crimea's status. (RFE/RL Newline)

Toronto's Vesnivka...

(Continued from page 9)

nities to meet with international musicians and singers in an exchange of ideas that not only helped foster a better understanding of Canadians but also of Ukrainians and their rich culture.

The tour also strengthened Vesnivka's long-standing relationship with the UBK, which also has been promoting Ukrainian culture for the past 47 years, despite the fact that none of its members are Ukrainian.

In the past Ms. Kondracka has served as guest conductor of the UBK and assisted during that ensemble's highly successful tour of Ukraine in 1990. The UBK has proposed another joint project for the not too distant future.

To mark Vesnivka's 30th anniversary season in 1996, the choir released its first compact disc featuring the best loved Ukrainian folk songs and new works by Canadian composers. Titled "Vesnivka," the CD has been featured on the Canadian Broadcasting Corp.'s (CBC)

popular choral radio program, and has won the choir much acclaim.

Vesnivka is preparing for another exciting year: the choir has been invited to perform a special concert for the Ukrainian National Association's convention to be held this coming May in Toronto — the first time that fraternal organization is holding its quadrennial convention in Canada.

As part of the celebration, Vesnivka will feature Winnipeg singer Alexis Kochan. It's a project the diva of Ukrainian folk music says she's eagerly looking forward to.

"I've wanted to work with Vesnivka for some time," Ms. Kochan said during a recent interview. "This collaboration is certainly exciting."

Ms. Kochan recently released "Paris to Kyiv Variances," her second CD of hauntingly beautiful folk songs, some of which will no doubt be included as part of the program being prepared for the UNA convention. Her first CD, titled "From Paris to Kyiv," has been well received by music fans around the world.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

politics of subsequent years (coming to light after the failed anti-tsarist Decembrist revolt of 1925), which quickly doused any reformist (and even literary) spark.

Indeed, in the 1830s, Hulak-Artemovsky was grouching to Hryhorii Kvitka-Osnovianenko that it was impossible to write anything serious or genuinely moving in Ukrainian, which prompted his interlocutor to produce "Mariusia," the first work of modern Ukrainian prose.

In the end, it's hard to argue with a national prophet. In 1847, in his last year of freedom, Shevchenko wrote the oft-quoted introduction to the second edition of the "Kobzar," in which he skewers Kotliarevsky's "Eneyida" as a "farce for Muscovite tastes" and pillories Hulak-Artemovsky for "becoming a lord" alienated from his own people.

Unfazed, Hulak-Artemovsky lived on comfortably as a university administrator and member of various Moscow- and Warsaw-based literary circles, and died in Kharkiv on October 13, 1865.

Sources: "Hulak-Artemovsky, Petro," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine, Vol. 2* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1988); G.S.N. Luckyj, "Between Gogol and Sevcenko," (Munich: Wilhelm Fink Verlag, 1971); Serhii Yefremov, *Istoria Ukrainskoho Pysmenstva* (Kyiv: Femina, 1995, republished from the 1919 Kyiv-Leipzig original).

SPORTSLINE

by Andrij Kudla Wynnyekyj

FIGURE SKATING

This year's European figure skating championships, held in Milan, Italy, on January 11-18 showed once again that Ukraine has a full complement of top-10 competitors in all events. However with one exception, Olena Liashenko, nobody got close to the winner's podium.

The tourney's main drama derived from the comeback story of Germany's Tanja Szewczenko, who fought off a rare combination of viruses that had sidelined her for a year. Leading after the short program, she touched a hand to the ice during the free skate, dropping her down to the bronze platform on the podium. While her performances border on the miraculous given the circumstances, unless Ms. Szewczenko can shake the fatigue that seemed to grip her again, she is unlikely to challenge either the powerful U.S. trio of Michelle Kwan, Nicole Bobek and Tara Lipinski or the Russians Maria Butyrskaja (the European champion) and Irina Slutskaja at the upcoming Winter Olympics in Nagano.

Olena Liashenko vaulted up from seventh after the short program to her best finish of fourth, making good on the favorable starting order (17th, just before the really big guns) she secured. (The later you skate, the better the chance of getting top marks.) However, few saw it, as ABC chose not to cover her efforts.

Veteran Yulia Lavrenchuk had a credible turn, and was sixth after the short program, but fell back to 12th in the free skate.

Men

1996 European Champion Viacheslav Zahorodniuk, last year's bronze medalist, still skates with the elite, but has slipped out of medal range. He was sixth after the short program and finished seventh overall.

1993 European Champion Dmytro Dmytrenko was right behind him, finishing eighth, after rising to fifth in the short program. Both guys were given great starting order placement. Mr. Zahorodniuk was 22nd, or third from last, Dmytrenko was 19th (third after the flashy Frenchman with the D'Artagnan routine, Phillippe Candeloro), but they didn't capitalize.

Mr. Dmytrenko's fans should visit "Dima's Demented Dormitory" at <http://www.geocities.com/Paris/Metro/2573/dmitrifan.html>, an excellent website dedicated to "one of the most creative and original skaters of all time," set up by a very thorough Eda Tseynev. It's also a model of a well-organized, comprehensive and quick-loading site. A joy to visit.

Pairs and ice dance

Irina Romanova and Ihor Yaroshenko, Ukraine's perennials in ice dancing,

showed their characteristic consistency in placing eighth throughout the two compulsory dances (Quickstep and Argentine tango), the original dance (Rhythm Jive) and the free dance.

In the pairs, two tandems cracked the top 10. The appropriately named Yulia Obertas is coupled with Dmytro Palamarchuk, and they finished seventh overall, while Yevgenia Filonenko and Ihor Marchenko took sixth.

HOCKEY

At this year's World Junior Championships, Team Ukraine showed strong signs of resurgence in Pool B competition. Relegated to the Bs in 1996, the squad faltered badly last year, slipping to fifth as many talented players left the squad.

Things were different at the 1998 tournament, held in Tychy and Sosnowiec, Poland. Led by phenom Oleksander Zinevych, who tallied 15 points over the championship, the team was roaring in its first game, blasting Norway 8-1 on December 28.

The next day, a penalty-filled 7-3 loss to the hosts, Poland, put Team Ukraine in second in Group A after round-robin play, ahead of tournament sleeper Belarus, whom Ukraine tied 2-2 on New Year's Eve.

The team exploded once again against France, bombarding it 9-1, with Mr. Zinevych checking for three goals and two assists. A 4-1 victory over Hungary on January 3 put the team within striking distance of promotion back to Pool A and a trip to Canada for 1999.

Mr. Zinevych's heroics continued the next day in a match against Latvia. He scored three unassisted goals, two of them short-handed, and added two assists to figure in all of the blue-and-yellow's scoring in a 5-1 victory.

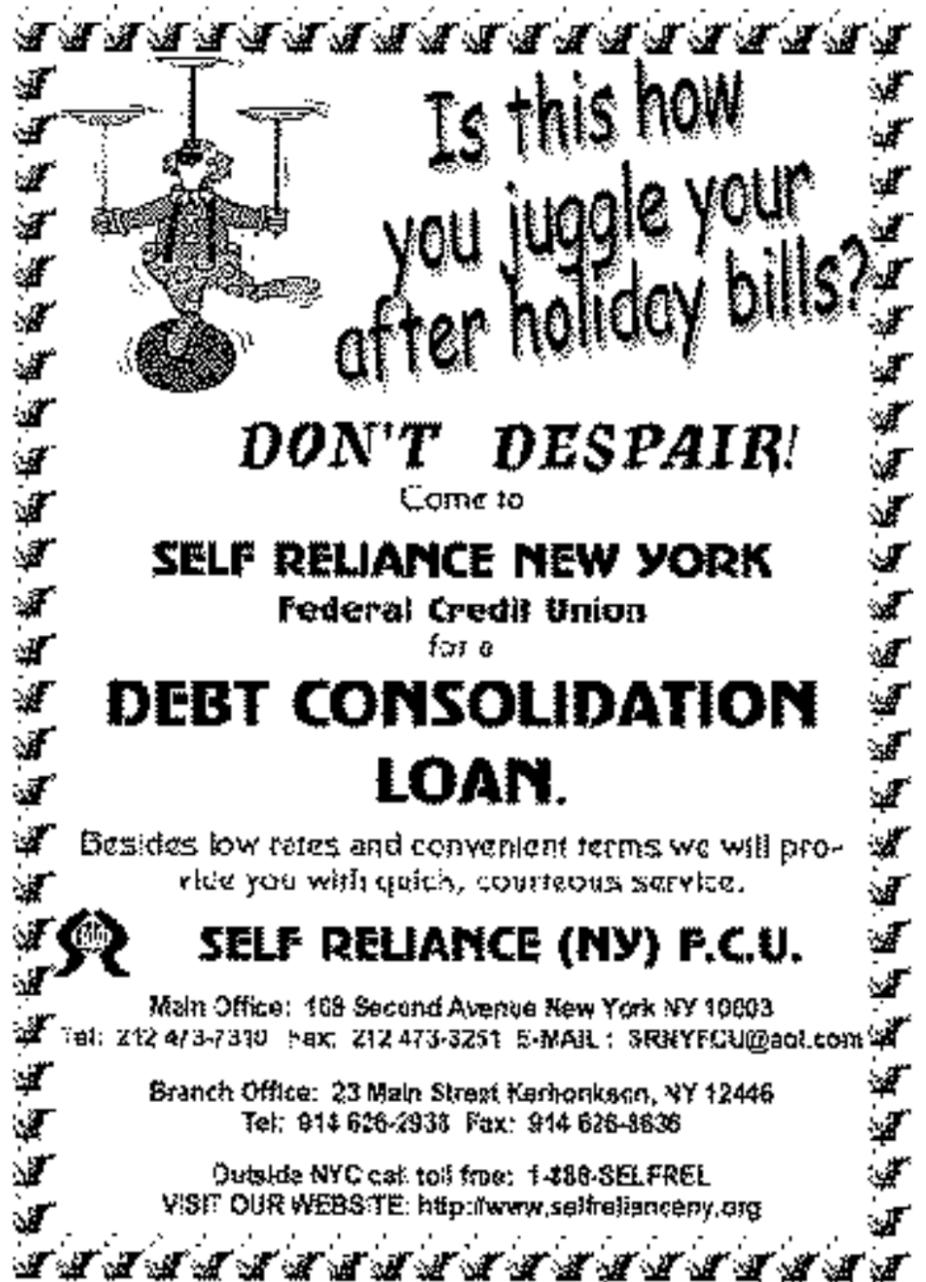
However, Belarus held its own by downing France 5-4, thus winning the tournament and advancing to Pool A.

MISCELLANY

Ukrainian Canadian Olympian

Number 21 on the Canadian women's national hockey team is eight-year veteran Judy Diduck of Sherwood Park, Alberta. The dependable defenseman was named to her country's Olympic squad for inaugural competitions in women's hockey at Nagano, Japan.

Ms. Diduck has been part of four gold-medal-winning teams at the world level, in 1990, 1992, 1994 and 1997. Her brother, Gerald, played in the National Hockey League. (UWC Sports Commission)




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Ukraine: prospects...

(Continued from page 2)

having never signed the charter. In December 1997 President Kuchma pointedly stated that "Every country has its own interests. Ours, for example, lie in Europe."

Without cutting off all ties to the CIS, Ukraine under President Kuchma seeks to accomplish three tasks. First, normalize relations with Russia. A major step was undertaken in this direction with the signing of the Russian-Ukrainian inter-state treaty in May 1997. But, both sides understand this treaty in different ways and Kyiv has not failed to notice that Russian President Boris Yeltsin only flew to Kyiv, shortly before the Madrid NATO summit, because Ukraine had successfully played the NATO card.

The Russian leadership sees the treaty as a way of both restraining Ukraine's westward drift to Europe, as well as a means to cement a military alliance. Both Moscow and Miensk would like to see Ukraine join their fledgling pan-Slavic union. Ukraine, on the other hand, sees such a union or military alliance as leading to a new Cold War because both would inevitably be anti-Western and anti-NATO.

Consequently, even after the signing of the Russian-Ukrainian treaty, the majority

of Ukrainian elites still regard Russia as the main threat to Ukrainian security. Under Mr. Yeltsin this threat will remain non-military, but this could rapidly change to a more serious threat in the post-Yeltsin era, which is likely to be upon us sooner rather than later. The Russian leadership remains torn between supporting geopolitical designs in countries such as Ukraine during the 1998 and 1999 elections or supporting democratic reforms, a conundrum faced in earlier eras, after all, by other great powers in Africa (France) and in Latin America (the U.S.). Ukraine's ideal relationship with Russia will therefore continue to remain "cooperative independence" - not "cooperative integration."

The second task is to continue the activist foreign policy in Ukraine's immediate "near abroad." This will entail the likelihood of Ukrainian membership in the Central Free Trade Association in 1998, providing an enhanced security role to the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Agreement and developing GUAM.

GUAM's members share common security concerns in the field of energy transportation from Azerbaijan and the lessening of energy dependency upon Russia as well as support for their territorial integrity (Ukraine is the only one of the four without a separatist region beyond the control of the central authorities). In the post-Yeltsin era a new Russian leadership could stir up Crimean separatism, as the Yeltsin leadership did in the other three members of GUAM. Ukraine has therefore backed the calls of other GUAM members for it to become involved in peacekeeping under U.N. and OSCE auspices in their separatist enclaves.

The third task is to continue the path of westward integration into Europe. President Kuchma has now stated that Ukraine belongs in the European Union and NATO. This "return to Europe" theme has gained considerable momentum under President Kuchma and now dominates the foreign policy-making community in Kyiv. Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister and President of the 52nd session of the U.N. General Assembly Hennadii Udovenko, for example, is running in the parliamentary elections as a Rukh candidate.

Unfortunately, Ukraine's ambitions to return to Europe look to be thwarted by the slow progress domestically on economic reform and institution building, without which any future membership in NATO or the EU will be impossible. Relations nevertheless will continue to be close between Ukraine and NATO, while remaining temperate with the EU. Ukraine and Hungary were the first countries to establish missions at NATO, reflecting the importance Kyiv attaches to NATO as a security insurance policy vis-à-vis a post-Yeltsin Russia (something reflected in the NATO-Ukraine Charter signed in July 1997).

In addition, the United States, the dominant country within NATO, is convinced of the strategic importance of Ukraine to its own and European security, as well as to the continued democratic transformation of Russia. NATO expansion therefore is not regarded in a negative light by the Ukrainian policy-making elites.

Relations with the European Union are more lukewarm because Ukraine is defined as Eurasian in light of its participation within the CIS, an ambivalent geographic position that it occupies with Turkey, which has sought to enter the EU since 1958. Ukraine is not one of the 10 countries with whom the EU is currently considering negotiating future membership. Associate membership and the creation of a free-trade regime between Ukraine and the EU is all that is currently on offer.

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As of February 1, 1998, the secretary's duties of Branch 222 will be assumed by Mrs. Luba Mudri.

We ask all members of this Branch to direct all correspondence regarding membership and insurance, as well as their membership premiums to the address listed below:

Mrs. Luba Mudri
 2920 George Ave.
 Parma, OH 44134
 (440) 885-4960

Re: Mail delivery of The Weekly

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

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Military mission...

(Continued from page 5)

classroom training.

On the way back to Ukraine, the six Ukrainian soldiers will spend a month in Vilsak, Germany, home of the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Infantry Division. In Vilsak, they will learn about NATO, peacekeeping missions and rules of engagement as they pertain to working with other member-nations. They will be assigned to the Ukrainian peacekeeping battalion in Bosnia.

Col. F. Makavchuk, chief of the 169th training center in Desna, welcomed the delegation the following day. The 169th prepares and trains enlisted personnel to command tanks. Desna also had a Warrant Office School. Col. Brown and the delegation learned the training formats and also attended actual tank maneuvers. The delegation also visited the 72nd Motorized Division in Bila Tserkva, south of Kyiv, and were greeted by a military band and with the traditional offering of bread and salt.

The Ukrainian military has a problem retraining enlisted personnel. Most of the enlisted have been drafted and stay on active duty only for the obligatory 15 months. It is difficult to develop a leadership cadre with inexperienced troops. On the other hand, officers are usually more inclined to stay in the military. Ukrainian NCOs are trained in special training facilities, or they can go through a 30-day intensive course with the unit to which they are assigned. The U.S. mili-

tary has four NCO academies with numerous training opportunities.

The question of which language to use during the delegation visit, Russian or Ukrainian, was still an issue, but since the U.S. delegation had a Ukrainian interpreter, Ukrainian was used most of the time.

It is in the national interest of the United States to continue these missions to Ukraine. More than 75 missions and exchanges have taken place in a little more than a year. These missions will continue in 1998 and hopefully will help Ukraine develop a strong military, one willing and able to withstand any threat.

Homage...

(Continued from page 7)

cynicism, unemployment, falling birthrates – you name it.

The way out of that malaise will not be easy and there is no magic solution. But this I know: Ukraine's problem is spiritual as much as it is economic, social or political, and the way to promote spiritual health is to focus on the arts.

My own New Year's resolution, therefore, is to be part of the audience that buys books and CDs, goes to concerts and gallery openings and other venues featuring Ukrainian artists – in short, to support what is needed for the culture to emerge with another flowing that makes it possible for another Leontovych to emerge. What a pleasant resolution!

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Ukrainian National Association

Monthly reports

RECORDING DEPARTMENT

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

	JUV.	ADULTS	ADD	TOTALS
TOTAL AS OF SEPTEMBER 1997	15,940	36,674	4,592	57,206
GAINS IN OCTOBER 1997				
Total new members	25	27	0	52
New members UL	0	10	0	10
Canadian NP	2	16	0	18
Reinstated	1	7	3	11
Transferred in	2	7	0	9
Change class in	6	0	0	6
Transferred from Juvenile Dept.	0	2	0	2
TOTAL GAINS:	36	69	3	108
LOSSES IN OCTOBER 1997				
Suspended	16	25	16	57
Transferred out	2	7	0	9
Change of class out	6	0	0	6
Transferred to adult	2	0	0	2
Died	0	78	0	78
Cash surrender	30	35	0	65
Endowment matured	26	32	0	58
Fully paid-up	29	67	0	96
Reduced paid-up	0	1	0	1
Certificate terminated	0	3	5	8
TOTAL LOSSES:	111	248	21	380
INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP				
GAINS IN OCTOBER 1997				
Paid-up	29	67	0	96
Extended insurance	9	14	0	23
TOTAL GAINS:	38	81	0	119
LOSSES IN OCTOBER 1997				
Died	0	48	0	48
Cash surrender	21	13	0	34
Reinstated	1	7	0	8
Lapsed	0	0	0	0
TOTAL LOSSES:	22	68	0	90
TOTAL UNA MEMBERSHIP				
AS OF OCTOBER 1997	15,881	36,508	4,574	56,963

MARTHA LYSKO
Secretary

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT

INCOME FOR OCTOBER 1997

Dues From Members	\$	184,549.00
Annuity Premiums From Members		26,577.25
Reinsurance Allowance-Canada		4,658.83
Income From "Svoboda" Operation		42,905.66
Investment Income:		
Banks	\$	446.36
Bonds		246,126.71
Certificate Loans		2,572.89
Mortgage Loans		38,051.77
Real Estate		115,259.50
Short Term Investments		92,798.62
Stocks		7,463.44
Total	\$	761,410.03
Refunds:		
Commission And Overrides On Universal Life	\$	1,939.16
Death Benefits		4,000.00
Employee Benefit Plan		3,576.80
Investment Expense		2,549.64
Postage		245.42
Printing & Stationery		326.60
Rent		600.00
Scholarship		750.00
Taxes Federal, State & City On Employee Wages		129,952.69
Taxes-Canadian Premium		2,475.89
Telephone		110.72
Total	\$	146,526.92
Miscellaneous:		
Due To Broker	\$	710,763.56
Exchange Account-UNURC		189,638.91
Profit On Bonds and Stocks Sold or Bonds Matured		95,517.61
Sale Of "Ukrainian Encyclopaedia"		130.00
Transfer Account		2,471,278.74
Total	\$	3,467,328.82
Investments:		
Bonds Matured Or Sold	\$	2,102,766.07
Certificate Loans Repaid		2,339.55
Mortgages Repaid		98,525.71
Short Term Investments Sold		135,370,793.26
Stock		1,241,236.70
Total	\$	138,815,661.29
Income For October, 1997	\$	143,190,927.06

DISBURSEMENTS FOR OCTOBER 1997

Paid To Or For Members:	
Annuity Benefits And Partial Withdrawals	\$ 40,646.40
Cash Surrenders	35,295.71
Death Benefits	65,580.00
Dividend Accumulations	2,705.97
Dues And Annuity Premiums From Members Returned	262.00
Endowments Matured	75,689.75
Indigent Benefits Disbursed	500.00
Interest On Death Benefits	206.16
Payor Death Benefits	45.73
Reinsurance Premiums Paid	9,336.79
Scholarships	500.00
Total	\$ 230,768.51
Operating Expenses:	
Real Estate	\$ 148,190.36
Svoboda Operation	189,003.01
Organizing Expenses:	
Advertising	2,379.67
Commissions And Overrides On Universal Life	1,793.03
Field Conferences	866.65
Medical Inspections	849.32
Refund of Branch Secretaries Expenses	50,277.55
Reward To Organizers	10,551.14
Reward To Special Organizers	14,046.86
Traveling Expenses-Special Organizers	1,393.94
Total	\$ 82,158.16
Total	\$ 419,351.53
Payroll, Insurance And Taxes:	
Employee Benefit Plan	\$ 72,656.55
Salaries Of Executive Officers	18,663.45
Salaries Of Office Employees	116,577.39
Taxes-Federal, State And City On Employee Wages	141,498.36
Total	\$ 349,395.75
General Expenses:	
Actuarial And Statistical Expenses	\$ 14,606.00
Bank Charges	5,262.39
Furniture & Equipment	40.96
General Office Maintenance	2,342.63
Insurance Department Fees	118.00
Legal Expenses-General	3,796.17
Operating Expense of Canadian Office	350.00
Postage	4,223.57
Printing and Stationery	1,244.89
Rental Of Equipment And Services	24,386.82
Telephone, Telegraph	16,777.45
Traveling Expenses-General	1,418.25
Total	\$ 74,567.13
Miscellaneous:	
Donation From Fund For The Rebirth Of Ukraine	\$ 3,013.25
Donations	350.00
Exchange Account-UNURC	1,872,069.20
Loss On Bonds, Stocks and Foreclosed Properties	167.93
Moving Expense	35,430.90
Professional Fees	13,460.00
Rent	105,018.00
Transfer Account	2,489,429.41
Youth Sports Activities	
Total	\$ 4,518,938.69
Investments:	
Bonds	\$ 712,784.00
Certificate Loans	3,972.89
E.D.P. Equipment	2,621.97
Mortgages	14,709.85
Real Estate	484.99
Short Term Investments	134,197,629.56
Stock	1,970,048.85
Total	\$ 136,902,252.11
Disbursements For October, 1997	\$ 142,495,273.72

BALANCE

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Cash	\$ 104,621.11	Life Insurance	\$ 67,499,353.95
Short Term			
Investments	12,418,066.41		
Bonds	42,250,734.04		
Mortgage Loans	6,990,648.44		
Certificate Loan	763,267.07		
Real Estate	3,078,143.52	Accidental D.D.	2,259,328.54
Printing Plant & E.D.P.			
Equipment	494,765.13	Fraternal	0.00
Stocks	4,035,647.06	Orphans	434,239.25
Loan to D.H.-U.N.A			
Housing Corp.	104,551.04	Old Age Home	0.00
Loan To U.N.U.R.C.	0.00	Emergency	47,522.08
Total	\$ 70,240,443.82	Total	\$ 70,240,443.82

ALEXANDER BLAHITKA
Treasurer

Chief rabbi...

(Continued from page 1)

There are over 300 Jewish organizations and four national umbrella organizations active in Ukraine. And these organizations have been able to set up educational and social services for the Jewish communities, he said.

"I think that this is in no small part thanks to the atmosphere that was created by the Ukrainian government since its independence - since 1991, when the Ukrainian government made it known that (it) will seek a European type of democracy, where national minorities will all be free and welcome to build their own communities within the framework of Ukraine," he explained.

As a result, he noted, there are 16 Jewish day schools in Ukraine, 12 of which are in part government-supported as Jewish national schools.

More than 30 percent of Jewish children in Ukraine receive some sort of Jewish education - 10,000 out of a population of 30,000 with 5,000 of them in all-day schools. That percentage, he pointed out, is better than in the United States. There is also a National Board of Jewish Education, a Pedagogical Center and a teacher-training laboratory for developing a Jewish curriculum.

In most cases, he said, the educational program functions with assistance from abroad, which is also the source of assistance for the large Jewish social welfare programs in Ukraine. These include societies and day centers for needy and elderly Jews that are being financed with millions of dollars from the Claims Conference, various Jewish organizations and the U.S. Department of Agriculture - in all, he estimated, some \$40 million to \$50 million annually. Some of that assistance, especially USDA food aid, he pointed out, is distributed to non-Jewish needy groups as well.

"When you talk about the difficulties and the low standard of living," Rabbi Bleich said, "Jews aren't suffering more than any other segment of the population, although the Jews are reacting, I would say, more than other minorities to the situation and helping the Jewish community cope with the hardships of a transitional economy."

Government relations

When a popular Jewish television program was marking its fifth anniversary recently, every one of the presidential hopefuls sent a personal representative to the reception and a letter of congratulations - all, except for the current Socialist chairman of Parliament, Oleksander Moroz. Rabbi Bleich said he saw this as a sign of "a certain sense of democracy" on the part of the candidates, who recognized the Jewish community as voters.

Similarly, during the celebration of "Community Day" at the time of Hanukkah, Kyiv Mayor Hryhorii Omelchenko addressed the gathering, pointing out the many positive things he has done for the Jewish community, which Rabbi Bleich confirmed he had.

And, in yet another instance, when a

(Continued on page 15)

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Chief rabbi...

(Continued from page 14)

local Jewish political activist told his fellow Jews at a community gathering that they will never be safe in Ukraine and called on them to emigrate to Israel, a government representative asked for permission to respond. He concluded his remarks by saying that the Ukrainian government would like to make Ukraine "a better place to live - better than Canada for Ukrainians, and better than Israel for Jews."

"That may be a far-reaching goal, and there's a long way to go," Rabbi Bleich added, "but I think that the Ukrainian government is doing a lot to try and make the Jews feel at home in Ukraine."

"It really was an eye-opener for us to see how far we've come in really becoming a normal society, where politicians see people as voters (and) voters get to see politicians as politicians," he said.

Anti-Semitism

"There is no 'official anti-Semitism,' which means government anti-Semitism, thank God, has been abolished," Rabbi Bleich said. There are, however, what he termed "grass-root movements" in western Ukraine that espouse anti-Semitism and a number of newspapers that publish anti-Semitic articles.

"Personally, in my opinion, 'nationalism' is not a dirty word. I think that nationalism is a very healthy feeling of pride in someone's national origin," he said.

"And I think that the best thing Ukraine had in 1991, when it declared its independence, was this tremendous feeling of national pride, which, if it would have been harnessed at that time and in the proper direction and movement, I think that would have been the driving force to build Ukraine into a thriving democratic society, with a market economy and everything else."

It is the nationalism in John F. Kennedy's inaugural address, he explained, in which "the individual (is) willing to sacrifice - not being forced to sacrifice - for the good of the country."

"Unfortunately, and it's obvious to everyone, that is lacking today in Ukraine," Rabbi Bleich said, criticizing Rukh for dropping the ball in 1991. "I think that in 1991, if they had moved in the proper direction, they could have done that."

"So I'm not worried about nationalism, per se, but I am worried when anti-Semitism is clothed in nationalism." Calls by some for "Ukraine for Ukrainians" to the exclusion of Jewish and other minority Ukrainian citizens "is anti-Semitism; it's not nationalism," he said.

"It is something that has to be watched, and is being watched," he said. "Unfortunately, the government - I wouldn't say it was because of a weak legislative base; I would say it was due to a weak legislative spine - has not taken the proper action to react to this anti-Semitism in a way that we would expect from a Western country."

The government has yet to prosecute anyone for inciting anti-Semitism, saying that this might result in more instances of anti-Semitism. "They have a good excuse, but not a good reason," Rabbi Bleich said, adding that he would like to see the government at least try it once.

On the other hand, Rabbi Bleich pointed out that Ukraine is sometimes criticized by the United States for not implementing its law against the incitement of inter-ethnic hatred - a law that could not pass the constitutionality test in the United States.

While Ukraine is justly praised for having the best human rights records of the new independent countries of the region, he said, one part of the government remains notorious: the justice system. "It's even a joke to call it a justice system," he said. "The judges and everybody else is still in

place that were there in 1990-1991, and I would say that the way that they judge hasn't changed much."

Responding to a question about possible anti-Jewish discrimination in higher education, in the military and in political life, Rabbi Bleich said that he sees no major problems in any of these areas.

"Basically, if you know the right people and you pay the right price today, you get in anywhere - no matter who you are," he said about higher education. In the case of the military, "I haven't heard of any cases of major anti-Semitism in the military," he said. "Then again, I'm sure not too many Jews serve in the military," he added.

Turning to politics, he cited several prominent Jewish politicians, including six deputies in the Verkhovna Rada, and singled out the very popular mayor of Odesa, as well as the governor of Vinnytsia. He expects that more Jews will be getting into politics in the future, and, unlike their predecessors, they will not hesitate to pursue the agenda of the Jewish community.

The upcoming elections

Rabbi Bleich said the mood in Ukraine is such that the Communists are expected to win the upcoming elections to the Verkhovna Rada. The Communists have the support of "our neighbors nearby." They "definitely are, were and will be supported" by an element within Russia, which gives them the best financial base and political know-how of any party in Ukraine, Rabbi Bleich added.

The Communists are also the beneficiaries of those, primarily Ukraine's elderly, who have "fond memories" about the past, when things were stable, Rabbi Bleich said. He compared such people to those who lost faith during the Exodus from Egypt and yearned for "the good times" in slavery.

Unfortunately, the elderly will vote in numbers, while the young people "will be too busy out there making money," he said. He praised efforts by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and other groups that are working on getting people to vote in the election - especially the young people.

"There are very few people who will be willing to sacrifice their food and their lives for freedom in Ukraine," he said, pointing out that no one demonstrated in Kyiv and not many went to the barricades in Moscow during the failed coup against Mikhail Gorbachev. Rather, most people simply waited, as one man put it, for "life to return to normal."

Even more important, Rabbi Bleich said, especially if the Communists win the parliamentary elections, will be the presidential elections that follow in 1999, because it will be up to the president to counter the leftist legislative branch. He criticized President Kuchma and former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko for the self-destructive presidential campaign they launched even before the parliamentary elections.

International relations

Rabbi Bleich criticized Washington's policy towards Ukraine, which he characterized as: "When Russia's bad, Ukraine is good; when Russia's good, Ukraine is not needed."

He was also critical of the constant "Ukraine bashing" and focus on the negative in U.S.-Ukraine relations. "Ukraine has been getting knocked by the United States since day one," he said. Initially it was nuclear missiles, he pointed out, then it was crime and corruption.

"It's unfortunate, because Ukraine, is a stable democracy - as stable as democracies can be in that part of the world. It is probably one of the most stable democracies, and (in) the things that are important

to the United States, such as human rights, and, shall we say, rights of national minorities, Ukraine definitely has been outstanding in that part of the world."

Rabbi Bleich added that he thinks Ukraine "deserves credit and recognition from the United States just from that point, rather than as a political ally "in a balancing act with Russia."

The U.S. government also "should not be seen as patronizing" in its relations with Ukraine. While Ukraine is the third largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid (after Israel and Egypt), totaling \$220 million last year, that amount, economically, is not that significant and should be seen for what it is: moral support of Ukraine.

As for relations between Ukraine and Israel, the brief "honeymoon" ended after the first two to three years, Rabbi Bleich said, "and then reality set in." But that reality is not necessarily bad, he said; it is merely a shift in emphasis from government-to-government relations to private-sector trade, investment and tourism, which are flourishing.

The largest Ukrainian diaspora now lives in Israel, he said. "And even though they see themselves as Russian Jews, and not Ukrainian Jews, the fact is that their ties are to Ukraine, and when they want to do business, they'll go to Ukraine to do business before they go to Russia."

Rabbi Bleich said the Jewish community in Ukraine sees its own welfare tied to the welfare of Ukraine in general. "If the Ukrainian society is able to develop into a normal democratic, civil society, with a normal market economy and will be able to flourish," he said, "the Jewish community will be able to flourish as a Jewish community."

"Our goal should be to live with the times," Rabbi Bleich said. And while he would not, as Ambassador Shcherbak suggested, leave the past exclusively in the hands of historians, Rabbi Bleich said that the present generation "should take positive lessons from history and build upon them for a positive future for Ukrainian-Jewish relations here and Ukrainian-Jewish relations in Ukraine."

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Monday, February 2

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, as part of its Seminar in Ukrainian Studies series is holding a lecture by Edward L. Keenan, Andrew W. Mellon professor of history, on the topic "What Do Yale University, Joseph Smith, Freemasons and The Igor Tale Have in Common?" The lecture will be held in the HURI Seminar Room, 1583 Massachusetts Ave., at 4-6 p.m.

Wednesday, February 4

NEW YORK: Oboist Ihor Leschishin and violinist/conductor Taras Krysa will perform with the New World Symphony as it celebrates its 10th anniversary with a concert at Alice Tully Hall, Michael Tilson Thomas, conducting. Performance time is 7 p.m. For tickets, at \$30 and \$20, call the box office, (212) 875-5050.

Friday, February 6

EDMONTON: The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta is holding a lecture by Dr. Mark von Hagen, Columbia University, who will speak on the topic "The Russian Imperial Army and the Ukrainian National Movement in 1917." The lecture will be held in the CIUS Library, Athabasca Hall, at 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 7

WHIPPANY, N.J.: The Plast Youth Organization, Newark Branch, is holding its Black and White Ball at the Hanover Marriott. Music will be by Tempo. Cocktails are at 7 p.m., followed by dinner at 8 p.m. Attire: formal black and/or white. Tickets: dinner and dance, \$75; dance only, \$40; students under 23, \$20. For tickets and reservations call Beyond Beepers, (973) 515-8844.

TORONTO: The University of Toronto Ukrainian Students' Club is holding a "Veseli Vechornytzi" – a night of song and dance, featuring Viktor Morozov, Troyisti Muzyky, the Desna Dance Ensemble, the Polyphonia Children's Choir, the Trylia Trio and Sriblyi Peredzvin bandurists, with Mykhailo Luchka, the evening's MC. Music at the zabava will be by Nove Pokolinnia. Admission: \$15; senior citizens and children under 10, \$10. Tickets available at Arka Queen, West Arka and the Ukrainian Students' Club Office.

Saturday-Sunday, February 7-8

HARTFORD, Conn.: The Single Ukrainian Weekenders will hold a Pre-Valentines Day Bash at the Ukrainian National Home, 961 Weathersfield Ave., starting on Saturday, February 7, at 7 p.m. Admission: \$10 (complimentary admission for all who attended the premiere party). The weekend will continue with a Sunday

brunch at the Marriott, 100 Capital Boulevard, in Rocky Hill, Conn., at 11:30 a.m.; cost: \$9.95. To be placed on the group's mailing list or for other inquiries write to: Weekenders, P.O. Box 1607, New York, NY 10009-1607 or send e-mail to: Ukrainian_Weekenders@Lycosemail.com

Monday, February 9

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute is holding a lecture by Mark Kramer, senior associate, Davis Center for Russian Studies, and director, Harvard Project on Cold War Studies, who will speak on the topic "Ukraine and the 1968 Soviet-Czechoslovak Crisis." The lecture will be held in the HURI Seminar Room, 1583 Massachusetts Ave., at 4-6 p.m.

Wednesday, February 11

NEW YORK: Music at the Institute presents Volodymyr Vynnytsky, piano, and Oleh Chmyr, baritone, in an all-Chopin program. The Directors' Fund Benefit performance will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., at 8 p.m. The concert program will feature: Four Mazurkas, Op. 17; Songs; Scherzo in B Minor, No. 1, Op. 20; Ballade in A-flat Major, No. 3, Op. 47; and Sonata in B-flat Minor, Op. 35. Donation: \$20; UIA members, \$15; senior citizens, \$10; students, \$5. For additional information call (212) 288-8660.

Saturday, February 21

NEW YORK: Composer Virko Baley's 60th birthday concert, with Continuum, Cheryl Seltzer and Joel Sachs, directors, will be held at Merkin Concert Hall at the Abraham Goodman House, 129 W. 67th St., at 8 p.m. The concert program will feature: "Orpheus Singing" for oboe and string quartet (1994); Nocturnal No. 6 for piano (1988); "Dreamtime Suite" No. 1 for clarinet, violin and piano (1993-1994); "Treny III" for cello (1996-1997); and "Klytemnestra" for mezzo-soprano, clarinet, violin and piano (1997-1998), world premiere. For tickets, at \$12.50, call (212) 501-3330.

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J.: The Central New Jersey Branch of the Committee For Aid to Ukraine invites everyone to a carnival ball dinner/dance to be held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center starting at 6:30 p.m. and featuring the music of Fata Morgana. Profits from ticket sales to benefit Ukraine. Tickets in advance for the dinner/dance are \$35 per person; \$25 for students with identification. Tickets at the door are \$40 per person; \$30 for students. Tickets can be ordered from: Damian Gecha, (908) 755-8156; the Rev. Ivan Lyshyk, (609) 825-6720; and George Mischenko, (732) 671-1914.

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.

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