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Ministry of Information suspends publication of Pravda Ukrainy

by Pavel Politiuk

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV — The newspaper Pravda Ukrainy became the first media victim of the political war between President Leonid Kuchma's administration and the opposition political party Hromada led by Pavlo Lazarenko when the Ministry of Information suspended publication of the newspaper on January 28.

The war between the president and Mr. Lazarenko, his former prime minister, began several months ago when Mr. Kuchma's office blamed the ex-prime minister for worsening Ukraine's economic and financial situation while in office and for developing an image of Ukraine that has led foreign investors to shun the country.

Mr. Lazarenko's Hromada Party responded by charging the Kuchma government with financial improprieties, including questions about what happened to \$40 million that was to have gone to the renovation of the Ukraina Palace of Culture (Palats Kultury Ukraina) concert hall.

The Kuchma side responded with a return volley on January 28, when Minister of Information Zinovii Kulyk signed a resolution barring a large state-

run publishing house from printing Pravda Ukrainy, which strongly supports Mr. Lazarenko, because the newspaper was illegally registered.

"Investigations by the Ministry of Justice and the Procurator General's Office have determined that the [registration] certificate of Pravda Ukrainy is ineffective," said First Vice Minister of Information Oleh Bei in an interview in Kievskiy Viedomosti.

The Information Ministry indicated that the newspaper's re-registration last summer as part of a Ukrainian-Antiguan joint venture violated a law restricting foreign participation in joint media ventures.

In addition Mr. Kulyk said the registration papers contained a small, but significant, error. Last July the newspaper registered as a Ukrainian-Antiguan closed joint stock company in which 76 percent belonged to the Antiguan side and 34 percent to Ukrainians.

"They found a partner in remote Antigua but failed to check the documents, which state that the share capital equals 110 percent, not 100 percent," Mr. Kulyk said.

The information minister said this is

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Kuchma administration announces program to cut regulations for business

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The Kuchma administration moved on February 3 to lessen the burden of government regulations and audits that have stifled business development in Ukraine and to establish a fixed tax for small businesses.

In a presidential decree, Mr. Kuchma called on his Cabinet of Ministers to begin implementing a program of government de-regulation that calls for "simplifying the process of creating, registering and liquidating businesses; shortening review periods for obtaining licenses, certificates and patents required to begin business activity; limiting the inspection and auditing of business activity; simplifying customs procedures for cargo in import and export operations; and ensuring the stability and consistency of the normative-legal regulation of business operations."

The president also has authorized his government to pare the list of types of businesses that must be registered in Ukraine from more than 100 to less than 50, and to develop a plan to allow businesses to register quickly, without the various bureaucratic entanglements that today befuddle many entrepreneurs, said Yuri Yekhanurov, chairman of the state

Committee on Business Expansion. He was speaking at a regular weekly press briefing at the Presidential Administration Offices.

Mr. Yekhanurov said business expansion in Ukraine has stagnated for the last two years, with the overall number of registered businesses remaining at around 90,000.

Although the announcement should be music to a businessman's ears, many are skeptical that the changes will occur. "Businessmen have already told me that although they are all for such moves, they cannot believe that change will occur," said Mr. Yekhanurov.

It is the entrenched bureaucracy that will have to make the most changes — a bureaucracy that remains comfortable

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Reps of Kuchma-Gore Commission focus on foreign investment

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — U.S. representatives to the Kuchma-Gore Commission, which met in Kyiv on February 5-6, applauded Ukraine's efforts to overcome the financial crisis the country is experiencing as a result of the collapse of Asian financial markets and Ukraine's heavy reliance on foreign borrowing, but said that Ukraine must begin to take assertive steps to attract foreign business.

"We believe this is the time to act aggressively to move on the problems involving investment in Ukraine," said Jan Kalicki, the head of the U.S. delegation to the Committee on Trade and Investment, which is part of U.S.-Ukraine Bilateral Commission chaired by Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma and U.S. Vice-President Al Gore. The commission's purpose is to promote economic and strategic relations between the two countries.

Mr. Kalicki said that by taking steps to reduce the size of the 1998 budget deficit, by laying plans for the de-regulation of business and licensing reform, and by continuing the privatization of state-run enterprises Ukraine has taken positive steps to overcome the international financial crisis that has engulfed much of Asia and has affected Ukraine. "At a time of international financial instability, Ukraine recognized the need to move boldly," said Mr. Kalicki.

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Former OSI chief reacts to discussion over his role in Canada

by Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj

Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO — "It is not good for the Jewish and Ukrainian communities to clash," Neal Sher, recently appointed as an advisor to the Canadian government, told an audience of about 75 people at the Shaarei Shomayem Synagogue's auditorium here on January 28.

The notes of conciliation were balanced by tones of defiance. "I have been attacked by various communities in Ottawa and Toronto," he added, "and they're not doing any service to their communities by circling the wagons to protect some in their community who are guilty."

Mr. Sher recalled the most difficult moment of his career when he pursued a Jewish man, living in New York City's Brighton Beach area, accused of brutality and collaboration with the Nazis during the war. He did not elaborate.

He dismissed questions of the "numbers of Nazis in Canada" as a matter "of no real relevance," stressing that the pursuit of war criminals is an action against individuals.

Mr. Sher, a former director of the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, was hired as

consultant to the war crimes unit at Canada's Justice Department on December 12, 1997. He spoke at the invitation of the Canadian Society for Yaad Vashem, the Israeli-based Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Authority, delivering an address titled "Nazis in Our Midst."

Mr. Sher said the pursuit of war criminals is particularly important in North America because Canada and the U.S. have traditionally been seen as havens for immigrants, but they should not be havens for those who committed crimes outside these countries. "This cheapens everyone's citizenship," Mr. Sher said.

The former special prosecutor said he'd been attacked in the past for "going after small fry," voicing strong disagreement with those who contend that "it isn't worth it." He said the Holocaust was not only a massive Nazi operation, but also a disaster made up of many small incidents.

"Take the case of Bohdan Koziy," Mr. Sher said. "He picked up a girl who was 4 years old, physically picked her up, pulled out his revolver and shot her, and then went on to shoot the rest of the family."

"There were hundreds of thousands of Bohdan Koziys who made the

Holocaust work," Mr. Sher continued, "If you hear the 'small fry' argument, just keep the Koziy case in mind."

The former OSI director did not mention that the principal witness against Mr. Koziy, a former immigrant to the U.S. now living in Costa Rica, has since recanted her testimony identifying Mr. Koziy as the perpetrator of the incident described.

In the summer of 1994, the only surviving witness to that incident, 65-year-old Hanna Snegur, a Polish Catholic pensioner, admitted that she was forced to testify during an interrogation by the KGB that in 1943 she saw Mr. Koziy, then a militiaman in German-occupied Lysets, Ukraine, carrying off the little Jewish girl.

Mr. Sher said he joined the Canadian effort to prosecute suspected war criminals because "we're dealing with the final chapter of the Holocaust period. We have to be more aggressive than ever in order not to denigrate the memory of the Holocaust."

Mr. Sher suggested he believes the Canadian government's effort to pursue war criminals is "serious" in part because they hired him. "I'm not win-

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ANALYSIS

Growing authoritarianism in Russia demonstrates lessons for Ukraine

by Volodymyr Zvighyanich

It is in Russia's interest to depict Ukraine before the eyes of outside world as a country where the legacy of communism is the strongest (with the exception of Belarus), where independence is not taken seriously by anybody, and where the bulk of the population craves for reunification with its northern brother.

However, Ukraine's carnival-like transition to a market democracy can in no way be portrayed in red colors as desired by the Kremlin. In the same fashion, the processes under way in Russia can in no way be associated with democratic decision-making and conflict resolution. On the contrary, the recent battle of the Kremlin and the Duma over the budget and the no-confidence vote in the government, the clear anti-American stance of Russian foreign policy, the ill-fated Law on Religious Organizations in Russia, and the dismissal of Boris Berezovskii from his post as vice-chairman of the Security Council, testify to the growing authoritarian and clique-oriented tendencies in the upper levels of the Russian establishment.

Russia's experience contains some important lessons for Ukraine.

Behind-the-scenes deals

The recent Kremlin-Duma standoff on the budget did not have anything in common with democratic conflict resolution and decision-making. The adoption of the state budget for Fiscal Year 1998 was not the focus of discussion among the major parties in conflict, the government, the Duma and the Federation Council. The real issue was the power struggle between the executive and the legislative branches dominated by the Communists. As the Russian Constitution gives Parliament virtually no power to set policy, the only way the Duma can get the government to change course is through the threat of a no-confidence vote.

The Communist opposition in the Duma connected the adoption of the budget with the adoption of the law on the government that would force the entire Cabinet to step down if the prime minister resigned, and with the demand that the Parliament be given more radio and TV air time. As a result, the final budget in Russia was not thoroughly discussed; even the government doubts it could be implemented within fiscal year 1998.

Second, the Kremlin and the Duma demonstrated a growing tendency to withdraw controversial issues from public discussion in the Parliament as the only place of democratic decision-making and conflict resolution. Instead, they used the old Soviet technique of decision-making whereby decisions crucial for domestic and world politics were adopted at closed meetings of several Communist Party bosses – the Politburo. The records of these meetings are still sealed in the presidential archives. The same is now taking place in "democratic" Russia, e.g., the decision to raise federal funds transferred to regional governments to 14 percent of total revenues was made at a closed meeting of a tripartite commission composed of the government, the Duma and the Federation Council. The records of the meeting of this commission, just like the records of the meetings of the Soviet Politburo, are unavailable to the public.

Responding to the major demand of

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

Duma Communists to remove Vice Prime Ministers Anatolii Chubais and Boris Nemtsov from the government, Boris Yeltsin on October 21 convened the "Group of Four" (himself, the prime minister, and the chairmen of the two houses of the Russian Parliament). What happened behind the closed doors of that meeting, the public and researchers will probably know in some 30 to 35 years. We know only the result: Mr. Yeltsin has said he will not make significant changes to his government's policies. Mr. Chubais, in turn, made it clear that the government will not agree to a two-year freeze on rent and utility payments.

In a further indication of his virtually unlimited control over decision-making, Mr. Chubais made it clear that President Yeltsin will not change his position concerning the law on the government, which he refused to sign this summer even after both houses of the Parliament overrode his veto. Mr. Chubais also ruled out any Cabinet reshuffle demanded by the Communists.

These events signify two striking tendencies. On the one hand, like in old Soviet times, a narrow circle of selected individuals resolves conflicts and makes decisions, referring to anything and everything, virtually without any public (let alone media) oversight. On the other, the very style of conflict resolution – within the framework of ad hoc created "commissions," "roundtables," etc., not specified in the Constitution or the law – introduces an element of perpetual instability into the political process and leaves it beyond legal control. This situation is leading Russia toward the path of authoritarianism rather than toward democratic development. Democratic conflict resolution presupposes an increase rather than decrease of public involvement.

Anti-Americanism in foreign policy

Recent statements by the Russian president at the Council of Europe reflect a reorientation of Russian foreign policy away from the U.S. and toward Europe. During the Council of Europe summit in Strasbourg, President Yeltsin on several occasions called for Russia's inclusion in a "greater Europe." He also demanded an end to Washington's "interference" in European affairs and a reduced U.S. presence on the continent. Implicit in his remarks was the accusation that NATO serves as an unwelcome vehicle for the exercise of U.S. influence in Europe, as well as a restatement of Moscow's long-standing opposition to NATO enlargement on the grounds that it will introduce new "dividing lines" on the continent.

Such remarks seem to reflect an effort by the Kremlin to drive a wedge between the U.S. and its European allies. That effort was obvious in late October 1997 when it was announced that Russia's Gazprom would take part in a \$2 billion French-Iranian deal to develop a major Iranian gas field. The announcement allowed Russia to side with the Europeans in a long-standing trade dispute of their own with the U.S., and seems sure to sharpen already considerable tensions between Moscow and Washington over Russia's pursuit of friendly relations with Iran at a time when the U.S. is trying to isolate Tehran diplomatically.

Yevgenii Primakov, Russia's foreign affairs minister, is a well-known sympathizer of Iran and Iraq. It remains unclear,

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NEWSBRIEFS

Chornobyl link seen in population drop

KYIV — The Ukrainian government said on January 30 that the Chornobyl nuclear accident is one of the main reasons that the country's population has decreased, Agence France Press reported. The State Public Statistics Committee reported that the population shrank by a total of some 375,000 people in the first 11 months of last year. Medical officials said that male fertility problems linked to the 1986 Chornobyl explosion, had contributed to a 3 percent drop in Ukraine's population since 1991. Another major contributor to the decline is the difficult economic situation, which has lowered life expectancy rates. (RFE/RL Newline)

Lazarenko urges inquiry into his past

KYIV — Ex-Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko asked the Verkhovna Rada on February 3 to create a special investigation commission made up of national deputies to study the information released by the Procurator General's Office concerning Mr. Lazarenko's alleged involvement in financial machinations. The Hromada leader said all the accusations against him are groundless. "In the event of an investigative commission proving my guilt, I am ready to relinquish my immunity as a deputy and to testify in court," said Mr. Lazarenko. (Eastern Economist)

Visas discussed with new ambassador

KYIV — The American Chamber of Commerce held a conference on February 3 with the participation of the new U.S. ambassador, Steven Pifer, and Consular Officer T.J. Rose concerning the visa process. According to official statistics, Ukrainian applicants have a 52 percent refusal rate. The worst offenders for visa fraud and corruption are Russia and Nigeria, followed by Ukraine. Some American-based companies have experienced difficulties in obtaining visas for their Ukrainian employees who need to visit the U.S. for business or training purposes. Statistics show that 6.2 percent of Ukrainians who applied for business visas were turned down. Mr. Rose said the Consular Department must carry out effective screening of applicants in order to weed out potential offenders of the terms under which visas are issued. Applicants under regulation 214b must persuade the consular officer that none of the relevant conditions will be violated. Mr. Rose suggested that U.S.-based companies could avoid some difficulties in the visa process by clearly stating the purpose of the visit and provide as much personal information as possible about the applicant. In related news, the cost of all consular services rose

on February 1. The cost of applying for a non-immigrant visa is now \$45 (U.S.), up from \$20. The cost of an immigrant visa is now \$325, an increase of \$125. (Eastern Economist)

TransCanada ready to rebuild plant

OTTAWA — Meeting with Ukraine's ambassador to Canada, Volodymyr Furkalo, managers of the Canadian firm TransCanada Pipelines confirmed that it intends to invest between \$80 million and \$100 million (Canadian) in the reconstruction of a gas compressor plant in the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast. The company is in a position to expand investments in Ukraine after its recent merger with the Nova Corp. (Eastern Economist)

Yeltsin, Kuchma hold informal talks

MOSCOW — Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his Ukrainian counterpart, Leonid Kuchma, held informal talks in Moscow on January 30-31. Mr. Yeltsin announced that in the next Ukrainian presidential election, scheduled for 1999, he will back Mr. Kuchma. "After all, if there is a different president in Ukraine, everything will have to be done over again. There could be difficulties with the division of the Black Sea Fleet and bilateral economic relations," said Mr. Yeltsin. In a joint statement released on January 31, the two presidents praised "the process of positive changes in Russian-Ukrainian relations" and confirmed that they will sign a program on economic cooperation during President Kuchma's formal visit to Russia, planned for late February. However, the joint statement criticized "an unjustified delay" in settling some issues, such as the demarcation of the Russian-Ukrainian border and the implementation of agreements on dividing the Black Sea Fleet, Russian news agencies reported. They noted the positive influence of the abolition of the value-added tax on trade between the two states and the introduction of an import quota on Ukrainian sugar to Russia, as well as the expansion of trade and production ties. However, they also stressed the need for more active cooperation in important sectors like transport, agriculture and plane-building. The two presidents also discussed joint efforts to reform the Commonwealth of Independent States. (RFE/RL Newline, Eastern Economist)

Impeachment proposal gets Rada backing

KYIV — By a vote of 194-9, the Verkhovna Rada supported a proposal presented on February 3 by one of the leaders of the Yednist (Unity) faction, Viktor Omelych, and included a draft law

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Editor-in-chief: Roma Hadzewycz
Editors: Roman Woronowycz (Kyiv)
Andriy Kudla Wynyckyj (Toronto)
Irene Jarosewich

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Archbishop Antony celebrates 25th anniversary

by Irene Jarosewich

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. — An atmosphere of respect and admiration, as well as great love and affection, prevailed during the celebration here on January 17 of the 25th anniversary of the priestly ordination of Ukrainian Orthodox Archbishop Antony. The daylong commemoration began with divine liturgy at St. Andrew the First-called Apostle Memorial Church, followed by an afternoon banquet at the Ukrainian Orthodox Cultural Center.

Archbishop Antony, eparch of the Eastern Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and president of the Church's Consistory, was ordained to the diaconate on October 1, 1972; several weeks later, on November 26, he was ordained to the priesthood.

During his remarks at the banquet in his honor, Archbishop Antony offered his recollections from the day he was consecrated bishop in 1985. The thoughts from that day, he said, reflect his feelings as accurately on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his ordination as a priest, as they did then:

"There I was, carefree, walking, working, playing, and suddenly God seized me and I heard his voice abruptly — His voice calling to me to give the oath that I would live for Him only. I am amazed and overcome that God Himself has bent down in order to embrace me — an unworthy, poorly endowed and the weakest of beings — to give me shelter under His wing ... I think in the weakness of my humanity that I offer myself to God, but in reality, He makes a gift of Himself to me and I am bathed in His Grace and in His light. ... I invite that gift."

During his remarks, Metropolitan Constantine, eparch of the Central Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., who ordained Archbishop Antony to the priesthood, stated:

"Twenty-five years have passed since the "Axios" (he is worthy) was pronounced in a small parish in Sharon, Pa. ... Axios is both an affirmation by the congregation, and at the same time it is a goal ... because worthiness, it is not automatically given ... it is a process, a lifelong struggle for a priest, for a bishop ... it is a directive from God ... upon hearing his directive from God, he assumed the various duties and responsibilities of the holy priesthood. ... Archbishop Antony, for 25 years now, has proven his love ... has spread the Good News ... and we are deeply in gratitude to you, and to Almighty God, for having sent you to us ..."

Archbishop Antony, baptized John Scharba, was born to Dorothy and John Scharba in Sharon, Pa., in 1947. Friends and family from his youth, from his first parish in Ambridge, Pa., from his days as a seminarian at St. Andrew College in Winnipeg, as well as dozens of leaders of Ukrainian community and religious lay organizations came to honor and celebrate with him.

Also among the 325 guests attending the liturgy and banquet were Archbishop Vsevolod, eparch of the Western Eparchy of the UOC/U.S.A.; the Very Rev. Protopresbyter William Diakiw, vice-president of the Consistory; Ukrainian diplomats, including Ukraine's representative to the United States, Ambassador and Mrs.

Yuri Shcherbak; Ukraine's representative to the United Nations, Ambassador and Mrs. Volodymyr Yelchenko; Consul General Viktor Kryzhanivsky; and Embassy Cultural Attaché Vasyl Zorya.

Attending as well were Bishop Basil Losten of the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Stamford, Metropolitan Maximos of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Pittsburgh, Bishop Vincent D. Breen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Metuchen, N.J., and a representative of Archbishop Theodore McCarrick of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark. Bishop Nicholas of the Capatho-Rusyn Orthodox Church was unable to attend due to illness.

Metropolitan Maximos brought letters of greeting from Archbishop Spyridon of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and from Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who praised Archbishop Antony for his integral role in developing the relationship between the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the Mother Church of Constantinople.

Metropolitan Maximos praised Archbishop Antony for being not only a fine administrator and teacher, but a defender of those who are powerless. "I am thankful to my brother in the episcopacy, Archbishop Antony, for being a representative of true clergy," he said.

In a remark that received a great deal of applause, Metropolitan Maximos continued, "We also expect Archbishop Antony, along with Metropolitan Constantine, to play an important role in the restoration of the autocephaly of the Kyivan Church in Ukraine ... to be fully restored to its canonical, autocephalous status."

Ambassador Shcherbak also echoed the theme of autocephaly. He brought greetings to the assembled Ukrainian Orthodox hierarchs from the government of Ukraine and to the guests assembled for the archbishop's 25th anniversary celebration. He praised Archbishop Antony and expressed his belief that given the archbishop's talents and skills, it would not be long before a "free and independent Ukraine would see its own autocephalous Orthodox Church. We resolutely believe in this day."

Alluding to the complex situation in Ukraine where there are now "four branches of one Orthodox Church," Ambassador Shcherbak commented that the hierarchs in the West having been doing more than the hierarchs in Ukraine to bring about Orthodox unity. "We believe that from here will come the impetus for the long-desired and long-awaited unity," he added. Given that the Church in the West has exhibited exceptional leadership in uniting the Churches in the West under the omphor of the Ecumenical Patriarch, this Church, continued Dr. Shcherbak, "now has the full moral right to insist on unity" for its sister Church in Ukraine, and can be instrumental in bringing about this change.

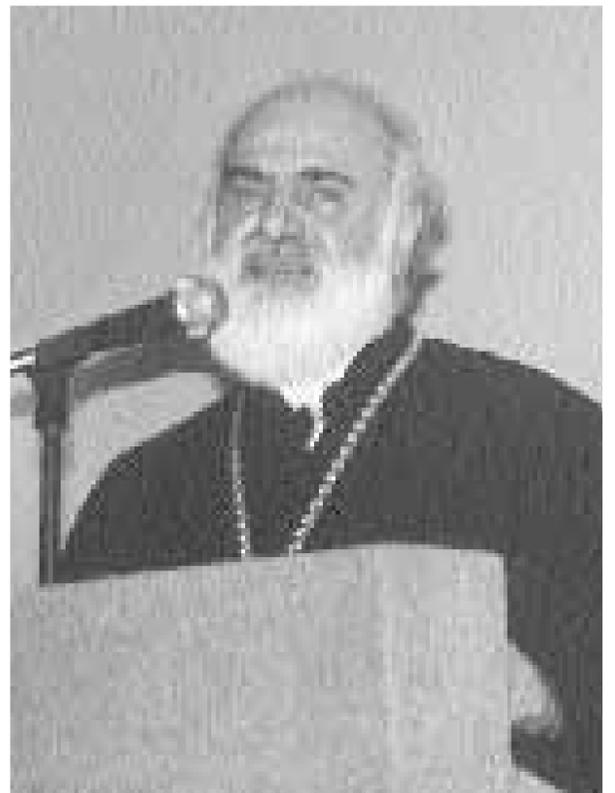
There were many personal, anecdotal recollections of the archbishop offered among the public greetings and private remarks.

Dr. Stephen Sivulich, the banquet's master of ceremonies and Archbishop Antony's cousin, recalled with fondness some of the antics of the archbishop during his seminary

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Archbishop Antony in the church of St. Andrew.



Metropolitan Maximos of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Pittsburgh brings greetings from Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Spyridon.



Joining the celebration are family members, including (from left): Tina Waldron, niece; Carol Waldron, younger sister; Tammy Waldron, niece; the archbishop; Dorothy (Scharba) Popa, the archbishop's mother; Irene Garbera, aunt; Olga Permon, a close family friend; Ted Garbera, uncle; Nick Popa, stepfather.



Bishop Basil Losten, Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Stamford, leaves the church of St. Andrew.

Kuchma administration...

(Continued from page 1)

working in the time-consuming, paper-pushing Soviet way, and has changed only enough to make life for the businessman miserable here. "Audits and inspections today are murdering our business-people," said Mr. Yekhanurov. "I would like to underscore the need for a change of attitude toward the small-businessman, specifically tax inspectors."

He explained also that overlap, redundancy and over-regulation must be eliminated. He cited the example of the meat industry, in which meat processors face inspection for quality by the State Department of Standards, the Ministry of Agriculture and the State Department of Consumer Protection.

"Is it normal that every item on a restaurant menu must be approved by a government inspector, or that to re-build an automobile you need to have a degree from an automotive institute?" he queried.

"It will not be easy to do this," said Mr. Yekhanurov, referring to the de-regulation program. However, he said that by April 1, the date the president has targeted for implementation, the plan will be in place.

The degree of bureaucratic resistance to reforms in Ukraine became quite evident when former Minister of Justice Serhii Holovatyi attempted an anti-corruption program last spring. In the end it cost him his job, as ministers and careerists resisted change to the way they do their work. Mr. Yekhanurov said he has already witnessed much of the same resistance.

"There is pressure not to change," said Mr. Yekhanurov. "The person who wrote me a letter to tell me the problems with inspections of automobile mechanics, and with whom we agreed, wrote again several months later that he had changed his mind. 'I feel better when I am reviewed and inspected,' he wrote."

"Today I must admit that support for the businessman at the government level is still at the starting gate," said Mr. Yekhanurov.

Fixed tax rate

Another part of the Kuchma administration's new effort to stimulate business is a fixed, presumptive tax rate, legislation for which was submitted to the Verkhovna Rada the first week of February and which has passed a first reading. If approved, the government would tax small, family-owned businesses at a fixed monthly rate of 20 to 100 hrv, based on the size and amount of business handled.

Today the government estimates that there are around 500,000 such businesses that work in the shadow economy, mostly as retailers of imported consumer products.

"I think we have to be pragmatic — and I think that we are finally beginning to be. Do we want to receive tax payments? If people are not willing to pay the current variable rate, let them pay a fixed rate," said Mr. Yekhanurov.

Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, the world-renowned economist, who was in Ukraine

the day the president's de-regulation program was announced, said he agrees on the need for a fixed, presumptive tax in Ukraine today. "The fixed tax is a very good idea right now," said Prof. Sachs. "I would like to see it extended to a broader range of businesses. It has worked for other countries."

Mr. Sachs said that eventually the tax system in Ukraine still must be overhauled. "It is impossible to live with this tax system, where if you try to be legal you end up giving all your money to the government," he explained. "What is needed is big tax reform and lower tax rates."

Mr. Sachs, speaking at a press conference after consulting Ukrainian authorities on one of his regular trips here, enumerated what he feels the government must still do to move the economy into the free market zone.

That list includes:

- broad-based tax structure reform and lower tax rates to broaden tax payer compliance;
- spending cuts, especially in areas where there still are large amounts of waste, such as the Chernobyl Fund;
- banking reform, where the government has used the banking system to push credit to loss-making enterprises, which Mr. Sachs called "a policy that must stop";
- more foreign investment, which the economist said was "shockingly little";
- privatization of the telecommunications system;
- much greater transparency in IMF and World Bank dealings with Ukraine;
- transparency in the privatization process; and
- legal reform and adherence to the rule of law.

Prof. Sachs said the problems facing Ukraine, although very serious, are not as formidable as they may seem, but that in the current pre-election season everything becomes more complicated. "I believe the matters that need to be addressed can be addressed in a few weeks. Not solved but addressed," said Prof. Sachs. "But right now there is a politically charged environment."

Reps of Kuchma-Gore...

(Continued from page 1)

However, he noted that barriers remain to foreign trade and investment in Ukraine.

Mr. Kalicki said Ukraine still needs to undergo basic structural reform of the economy and to better grasp the concept of rule of law. "We want to focus on actions and not on words," he said.

During its two-day stay in Kyiv, the U.S. delegation, led by Richard Morningstar, special ambassador to the CIS, discussed the general investment climate in Ukraine and the state of economic reforms with various high government officials, including Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko and Vice Prime Minister for Economic Reform Serhii Tyhypko.

An accent was placed on investment in the agricultural and energy sectors, both of which are due for mass privatization

Ministry of Information...

(Continued from page 1)

not the only legal infraction the newspaper committed. Mr. Kulyk said Pravda Ukrainy is also guilty of distributing more than 500,000 free, three-month-long subscriptions, which he said violates election law.

A top Hromada Party member said the print ban slapped on Pravda Ukrainy is part of a plot to discredit the opposition to President Kuchma in the run-up to the March parliamentary elections and the presidential vote scheduled for next year.

Although the Ministry of Information denied any political motivation for the suspension of Pravda Ukrainy, Oleksander Turchinov, chairman of Hromada's central coordinating committee, said "this is the beginning of the implementation of an acute plan for the destruction of the Ukrainian opposition. Over the last six months one can see how the authorities are trying to destroy the political party Hromada."

Mr. Turchinov and Pravda Ukrainy Editor-in-Chief Oleksander Horobets both said the claim against the newspaper is bogus. Mr. Horobets called the print suspension order "illegal" and said Minister of Information Kulyk had exceeded his authority.

"According to the information law, only the courts or the founders [of a newspaper] can decide to stop publication of the newspaper," said Mr. Horobets. "Kulyk stepped beyond the law, and we will demand a court investigation into his actions."

However the Ministry of Information maintains it has done everything within constraints of the law. "We did not ban anything. We only suspended publication until such time that all the registration documents are in order," said Mr. Bei.

Editor-in-Chief Horobets said he plans to continue publishing the paper and will use private printing houses to do so. The Kyiv tabloid Kievskiy Viedomosti printed the first issue of Pravda Ukrainy

after the print suspension order was put into effect.

Three days after the suspension Mr. Horobets announced that 80 journalists and technicians employed by the paper have decided to live in the Pravda Ukrainy offices as a protest against the state-run building administration's attempts to evict them. "We will continue the struggle," said Mr. Horobets, who vowed to sue Mr. Kulyk and to continue publishing Pravda Ukrainy. "We will print the paper — even if we have to do it by hand."

The Ukrainian Media Club and the Ukrainian Union of Journalists have criticized the decision taken by the Ministry of Information, as has Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz, who said he is sure that "the decision to suspend publication of Pravda Ukrainy is persecution of the paper for its political position."

On February 3, during a plenary session, after a statement by Mr. Lazarenko, who, in addition to being the leader of the Hromada Party, is also the head of the Yednist faction in the Verkhovna Rada, the legislative body voted to appoint a special committee to investigate the Pravda Ukrainy situation.

Meanwhile, the Regional Arbitration Court of Chernivtsi announced a ruling the same day that may shut down another newspaper that supports Mr. Lazarenko and his Hromada Party. Vseukrainskiye Viedomosti, one of Ukraine's most popular newspapers, was ordered to pay 3.5 million hrv (\$1.8 million) to the Dynamo Soccer Club as compensation for printing false information that its star player, forward Andrii Shevchenko, would sign with the Italian soccer club Milan AC.

"No newspaper in Ukraine can afford to pay this amount of money or even earn it in two or three years," said Volodymyr Ruban, editor-in-chief of Vseukrainskiye Viedomosti.

He added that he sees politics influencing the court's decision. "The point of this action is to block the work of the paper," said Mr. Ruban. "There are a lot of questions that have not been answered."

this year. "It is, of course, the key to expansion of business investment in Ukraine," said Mr. Kalicki.

The U.S. side agreed with a move by the president to introduce legislation for a fixed tax system to draw small businesses out of the shadow economy. But Mr. Kalicki said Ukraine needs to do more to make government procurement and the privatization process more transparent.

Mr. Kalicki said the two sides also agreed on the need to reduce "the layers and layers of licensing requirements in Ukraine and to bring under control the constant tax inspections which businesses face here."

Ukrainian problems in piercing the U.S. market were also discussed, an issue that may have caused some friction between the two sides. Volodymyr Ilnaschenko, vice-chairman of Ukraine's National Agency for Reconstruction and Development, and Mr. Kalicki's

Ukrainian counterpart on the trade and investment committee, said the Ukrainian side had raised the issue of certain Ukrainian firms being barred for allegedly dumping goods on the U.S. market.

Mr. Kalicki of the U.S. side downplayed problems Ukrainian businesses face in entering the U.S. market. He underscored that Ukraine's access to the U.S. market "compares very favorably" to the access given other European countries. He also stressed that the number of anti-dumping cases is insignificant compared to the overall amount of trade between the two countries.

"We would be pleased if Ukraine would accord U.S. businessmen the same openness we accord you," said Mr. Kalicki. "We, quite frankly, don't feel that we have the same access and would be very pleased if we could get it."

The next Kuchma-Gore Commission meeting is scheduled for April in Kyiv, with Vice-President Gore due to attend.



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Proposed Holocaust gallery sparks battle in Ottawa

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA — Plans to establish a Holocaust memorial at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa has met strong opposition from veterans' groups and the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association. As head of UCCLA and president of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 360 in Toronto, retired lawyer John Gregorovich represented both interests when he appeared before the Senate Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs in Ottawa on February 4.

The five senators who sit on the panel heard from those who support the creation of a Holocaust gallery at the museum and those who don't.

The legion argument, which Mr. Gregorovich reinforced, is simple: a Holocaust memorial has no place in a museum dedicated to Canada's military history. UCCLA's position also is straightforward. Their argument against the gallery is partly based on semantics.

"We feel that it's important to have a museum dealing with all the genocide that occurred during the second world war," Mr. Gregorovich told *The Weekly*. "Ideally, we think it should be called a 'genocide gallery.'" Perhaps, such a memorial could highlight all atrocities committed against people throughout recorded history and be better housed at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, which runs the war museum and is situated across the river from Ottawa in Hull, Quebec, Mr. Gregorovich said.

The UCCLA has also taken issue with war museum officials who failed to respond to the association's request for input into the proposed Holocaust memorial. Mr. Gregorovich said he sent the museum a letter in January 1997 and never received a reply.

"They chose to work with [the Jewish] community and did no further consultation with other groups," he said. While Mr. Gregorovich says he's not against memorializing the estimated 6 million Jews slaughtered by the Nazis during World War II, he says it's wrong to single out one group under the banner of a "holocaust" when 44 million people died during the war. His brother, Andrew, editor of the journal *Forum*, says 14.5 million of those were Ukrainians.

"We should emphasize the fact that many other people died," said John Gregorovich. "It's quite appropriate to remember that Jewish losses were part of it. But if we're going to be fair, we have to do a fair reading of what happened during the war."

"The director of the war museum, Vic Suthren, said the objective of the Nazis was the killing of Jews. It shows the man is not very well versed in history. The chief objective of the Nazis was the

destruction of Slavs," added the UCCLA chairman.

Regardless of which victims had precedence on the Nazis' brutal hit list, the controversy surrounding whether to have and, if so, where to locate a Holocaust gallery likely won't help the increasingly cool relationship between the organized Ukrainian and Jewish communities in Canada.

The UCCLA and the Ukrainian Orthodox lay organization, the Alberta Ukrainian Self-Reliance League, have both been critical of the federal government's appointment of Neal Sher, a former director of the U.S. Office of Special Investigations (OSI) who in December 1997 was appointed advisor to Canada's war crimes unit.

Eugene Harasymiw, president of the Self-Reliance League, has compared Mr. Sher to U.S. Sen. Joseph McCarthy who blacklisted suspected Communists. He told *The Ottawa Citizen* recently that Mr. Sher and his former employer are "corrupters, and not facilitators, of justice."

Mr. Sher was in charge of the U.S. hunt for Nazis from 1983 to 1994. Few Ukrainian groups will forget that it was under Mr. Sher's leadership of the OSI that John Demjanjuk was extradited to Israel in 1986 under charges that he was the vicious Treblinka death camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible." Though the Israeli Supreme Court acquitted Mr. Demjanjuk and a U.S. appeals court lambasted the OSI for its "reckless disregard for the truth," the Ukrainian community in both the United States and Canada has not forgotten Mr. Sher's role in the debacle.

On the other side, groups like the Canadian Jewish Congress credit Mr. Sher, who happens to be a Jew, as the man most likely to push forward the federal government's agenda of deporting suspected war criminals — rather than trying them on the charges via criminal proceedings as the Ukrainian Canadian community prefers.

In the meantime, the question of building a home to recall the victims of the Nazis or other evil regimes through time remains in limbo. The whole thing has led to a war of sorts, with some alliances being drawn from surprising quarters.

Sen. Orville Phillips, who chairs the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee and served as a bomber with the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II, has already gone on record to say he would prefer to see the financially troubled war museum first get more money before any serious discussions are held about a Holocaust museum.

As the senator told *The Ottawa Citizen* recently, "The history of the war is being revised and interpreted under today's attitude rather than the attitude at that time."

Former OSI chief reacts...

(Continued from page 1)

dow-dressing," the former OSI official said, "If I thought or even suspected I was, I wouldn't have become associated with the effort at all."

He added, in response to a question, that volunteers have no place in such an effort, because its seriousness demands that only professionals be used.

He also said the CBS "60 Minutes" program "Canada's Dark Secret," aired on February 2, 1997, was a factor in intensifying the Canadian government's effort to pursue war criminals.

The U.S.-born advisor dismissed concerns, expressed in the Toronto-based

Globe and Mail editorial of January 14, about the importation of a "made in U.S.A." solution to the issue as "nonsense."

However, he did not offer any details about what he was specifically hired for, nor about his present duties as an advisor at the Canadian Justice Ministry.

Asked to comment on Toronto resident Olya Odynsky's personal appeal protesting the absence of due process in her father's case, published in the January 5 edition of the *Globe and Mail*, Mr. Sher said: "Over the years, I've read many comments and letters from family members [of accused individuals]. I chose not to answer them then, and it's going to remain that way now."

This report was compiled with the assistance of Mykhailo Wawryshyn.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF UNA BRANCHES

of

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ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

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All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

Meeting will be attended by:

**UNA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
and MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

District Committee:

**Eugene Oscislawski, Chairman
Mark Datzkiwsky, Secretary
Longin Staruch, Treasurer**

Honorary District Chairmen:

**Wolodymyr Bilyk
John Chomko**

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF UNA BRANCHES

of

PITTSBURGH AND WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

announces that its

ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1998 at 12:00 NOON

at UNA BRANCH 161

600 GLENWOOD AVE., AMBRIDGE, PA

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

53, 56, 63, 96, 113, 120, 126, 161, 264, 296, 338, 481.

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

Meeting will be attended by:

**ULANA DIACHUK, UNA President
NICHOLAS DIAKIWSKY, UNA Advisor**

District Committee:

**Nicholas Diakiwsky, Chairman
Slava Komichak, Secretary (Ukrainian)
Angela Honchar, Secretary (English)
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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Another charter, another step toward stability

For decades, it was United States policy not to recognize Soviet control of the Baltic republics. Thus, the captive nations Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, which were annexed by the USSR in 1940, were never referred to as Soviet republics. In mid-January, the United States and the three Baltic states moved into the next stage of their long-standing relationship by signing a charter of partnership that offers Washington's support for the Baltic nations' membership in NATO.

The charter does not guarantee them NATO membership. Nonetheless, the Charter of Partnership between the United States and the Baltic republics was welcomed by all three Baltic presidents who came to Washington for the signing ceremony on January 16. President Guntis Ulmanis of Latvia stated: "This charter will serve as a key for the next century. It makes us allies." Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas pointed to the charter as a beacon for cooperation. Estonia's President Lennart Meri, recalled much-valued U.S. support in the past — "With its bipartisan support for a non-recognition policy, American was a true friend of the Baltics in a time of need, acting as a beacon of hope throughout the long, dark and cold years of the Soviet occupation" — and then added that "NATO enlargement to the Baltics will be the next big project of the alliance."

Russia was not amused. Shortly after the charter was signed in Washington, the Duma passed a resolution expressing concern that the charter is seen by the Baltics as "a step toward their admission into NATO." It warned that NATO expansion is not compatible with the Founding Act signed by Russia and NATO. Another Duma resolution asked President Boris Yeltsin and the Russian government to devise a program to counter NATO expansion, which it described as "the most serious threat to our country since 1945." And, Foreign Affairs Minister Yevgenii Primakov cautioned that if that Baltic states were to become members of NATO, "this may have a serious effect on our relationship with NATO, as a whole." All the while Russia continued to offer the Baltics its own "security guarantees," first offered last October 1997 by President Boris Yeltsin and then promptly rejected by all three states.

The Baltic presidents say they are looking westward for security, while working toward improved relations with their huge neighbor and erstwhile occupier to the east. Thus, they are pleased to note that, though the newly signed U.S.-Baltic charter falls short of offering U.S. security guarantees for the Baltic states, what it does offer Estonia, and Latvia and Lithuania is what observers have described as a "moral and political commitment" to their independence and territorial integrity. They take comfort in the words of President Bill Clinton who said America's security is tied to Europe and "Europe will never be fully secure if Baltic security is in doubt."

Sen. William Roth, chairman of the Senate's NATO Observer Group, welcomed the president's most recent focus on NATO enlargement in the State of the Union address. Sen. Roth described the enlargement of NATO as "expansion of a zone of peace and democracy in a continent that is of vital interest to the United States," and he said that "Vaclav Havel put it best: 'If the West does not stabilize the East, then the East will destabilize the West.'"

It is stability, first and foremost, that is sought by the Baltic states — as well as Ukraine, and the first three states now up for membership in NATO, Hungary, Poland and the Czech republic. The West must not fail to hear their voices.

Feb.
10
1773

Turning the pages back...

Vasyl Karazyn had members of the Greek nobility among his forebears; thus, perhaps his fondness for democracy was genetic.

Born on February 10, 1773, in Kruchyk, near Bohodukhiv in Eastern Ukraine, he studied in St. Petersburg to be an engineer, specializing in mining and metallurgy, then secretly traveled to Western Europe to complete his education.

A committed liberal, he worked tirelessly to reform the Russian Empire. He wrote a series of memoranda to the tsar and various influential officials, urging the establishment of a constitutional monarchy and the abolition of serfdom.

In 1801 he was appointed director of schools in the imperial Ministry of Education, and during his term (ending in 1804) he began reforming the system along Western lines. He also convinced the nobility and merchants of his native Eastern Ukraine to establish and fund Kharkiv University, which came about in 1805. A largely foreign-born faculty was assembled, tapping into the latest intellectual currents in Western Europe.

Intellectually restless, he tried his hand at literary criticism (some of his attempts at poetry were published in Aleksandr Herzen's *Poliarnaia Zvezda*), and wrote articles on history, economics, agronomy, chemistry and various branches of industry. He also made several important contributions to climatology and meteorology, and established one of the first meteorological stations in the Russian Empire.

Karazyn's political and economic theories helped lay the basis for modern Ukrainian territorial autonomy. He strongly criticized policies that concentrated industry in central Russia, leaving Ukraine to simply supply raw materials. He also stressed the need to expand foreign trade and improve agricultural practices, and devoted considerable energy to developing agricultural and metallurgical machinery.

Karazyn pushed for the creation of a historical-literary journal (eventually realized, though not under his direction, as *Kievskaiia Starina*) and helped the young Mykola Kostomarov publish the journal *Molodyk*. In 1811 in Kharkiv, Karazyn founded the Philotechnical Society in order to popularize his scientific ideas and to promote the modernization of agriculture. He served as its director until 1818.

Karazyn died in Mykolaiv on November 16, 1842. A monument to him stands in Kharkiv.

Sources: "Karazyn, Vasyl," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vol. 2 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1988); "Karazyn, Vasyl Nazarovych," *Ukrainska Literaturna Entsiklopedia*, Vol. 2 (Kyiv: *Ukrainska Radianska Entsiklopedia*, 1990).

FOLLOW-UP: Disney World grants extension to Ukrainian pavilion project

by Natalia Warren

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — George Kalogridis, executive vice-president of Walt Disney World's EPCOT Center, has granted a one-month extension to the EPCOT Millennium Celebration — Ukraine Initiative. "We feel like we can wait until the end of February to 'put a line in the sand,' he explained to Taras (Jason) Harper, president of the Ukrainian Project Fund and a Walt Disney World employee who is spearheading the initiative.

"We may have an extension until the end of the month," noted Mr. Harper, "but that just means we still have an enormous amount of work to do," he added.

By "we," Mr. Harper is referring to the worldwide Ukrainian community. "The best thing anyone and everyone could do right now," he mused, "is to spread the word so that anyone who may be in a position to sponsor a Ukrainian pavilion at EPCOT Center will know about this unprecedented opportunity."

"It would be a very sad thing to find out two months from now that someone would have been willing to build this pavilion, but hadn't heard about it," he added.

From October 1999 until January 2001, the EPCOT theme park, part of the 44-square-mile Walt Disney World complex in Florida, will host a Millennium Celebration with the educational entertainment ("edu-tainment") theme of "Hope for a Better World." Joining the current display of countries at EPCOT will be dozens of new pavilions, averaging 3,000 square feet in size that will showcase the many different aspects of each nation in support of the overall theme.

According to Mr. Harper, the cost of the pavilion is divided into three distinct categories: design/construction, staffing and leasing exhibit space.

"EPCOT will work with anyone who comes forth as a sponsor to help reduce costs," he explained. "That means that co-sponsorship is a very real option," he added.

"If someone were to commit to the construction of the pavilion and someone else were willing to come up with the cost of staffing the pavilion because they have access to labor from Ukraine, then we could definitely make this happen," he explained.

With this in mind, Mr. Harper was very optimistic in noting that at least three Ukrainian architects have come forth as willing participants. "I'm not certain at this point if any of them would offer their services gratis, but having Disney as a client couldn't hurt any architect's portfolio," he added.

In any case, even if a sponsor is not found, Mr. Harper is notably enthused by the response he has received from people all over the world.

"I can't even begin to count the number of e-mails I've received from individuals who are helping us find a sponsor," he noted.

After the January 18 front-page article in *The Ukrainian Weekly*, Coca-Cola re-emerged as a possible sponsor. And even though Mr. Harper's corporate contact at Coke has promised to push the project as far as he could, he didn't think that Coca-Cola would reign as the Ukrainian pavilion's champion. "Coke is already a Disney sponsor and the market for Coke in Ukraine just isn't that big right now," explained Mr. Harper.

"We've been put in touch with

American Express, Proctor and Gamble, and Liberty Travel," he noted, but as of this writing, none has committed to the project.

"Askold Lozynskyj, the UCCA president, is fully supportive of the pavilion, and the Ukrainian American Broadcasting Co. did an interview with me recently," continued Mr. Harper. "This kind of support is immeasurable."

"It's really going to be up to a single person or a few individuals who would be willing to tap into their resources or those who control the resources of their companies to get on board," explained Mr. Harper, noting that he could continue to follow any lead given to him to its fullest.

"Names and phone numbers or e-mail addresses are very helpful, and it also helps if we can get in touch with anyone who is close to people who are in a position to make the kind of financial commitment we need," he added. The pavilion will cost between \$800,000 and \$2 million.

An estimated 400 million to 500 million people will be exposed to the pavilion structures because Michael Eisner, the Walt Disney Company's CEO, has mandated that all branches of the company focus on EPCOT for the entire 15-month Millennium Celebration.

"When you talk about how many people will be exposed to the pavilion structures because of Eisner's mandate," explained Mr. Harper, "you are talking about nearly one-tenth of the world's population. Ukraine, the country, cannot afford to be left out of a PR opportunity of this magnitude," he concluded.

Mr. Harper may be reached at (407) 827-4982; or via e-mail at home, ukraine7@yahoo.com; or at the office, jason_harper@studio.disney.com.

Fans can contact Olympic athletes

ARMONK, N.Y. — With the Olympic Winter Games starting February 7, Ukrainians have an opportunity to cheer their favorite Ukrainian athletes by sending personal messages via IBM's website <http://www.ibm.com/olympic/fanmail>.

Participating at these Games are 56 Ukrainian athletes competing in 10 different sports.

Many of the athletes and their coaches, as well as the chief of mission, Mykola Kostenko, have already created their own homepages, with the assistance of people like Halia Bula, who work with them in the Olympic Village. These are Mr. Kostenko's third Olympics; he also was the chief of mission for the Games in Lillehammer and Atlanta.

FanMail allows sports fans to send personal messages to their favorite Olympic athlete or team competing in the 1998 Olympic Winter Games, as well as read athletes' personal home pages. A friendly, animated penguin named Pudgy guides visitors through the site and helps them cheer on an athlete, a team, a country's entire Olympic team, all those participating in a specific sport or even all the athletes at the Olympic Games.

The estimated 3,000 Olympic athletes from over 80 countries and regions participating in the Nagano Games will be able to visit the Surf Shack, a hip cyber-haven in the Olympic Village designed in the style of a traditional tea house. There, using IBM Aptiva computers, they can

(Continued on page 16)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Russian videos at Boryspil airport

Dear Editor:

Despite the fact that there are excellent videos available about Ukraine and Kyiv, to my horror I discovered that the video and cassette kiosk at Ukraine's main airport, Boryspil, stocked no such videos for sale. They did have some poor videos of Russia, Moscow and St. Petersburg on their shelves.

This is a shame, and I would suggest that travelers to Kyiv should complain to the kiosk manager and demand that Ukrainian videos be stocked.

O. Varshytska
Vancouver, B.C.

Kuropas' reflections a valuable service

Dear Editor:

Myron B. Kuropas in his "Faces and Places" on "Reflections on Ukraine's civil society" (January 18) is worth his weight in gold.

If only we, the people, clergy and laity, can pick up on his dissertation and carry on from where he left off both in the U.S. and Ukraine, we would be doing a service to our nations.

There is so much work to be done in preserving the values we should believe in and uphold.

Joseph Jackson
New Providence, N.J.

Shuttle souvenirs note Ukraine's role

Dear Editor:

For those still living in the excitement and euphoria of Col. Leonid Kadenyuk's flight on the space shuttle Columbia, there are two sources of official souvenirs.

NASA Mail Order at 1-800-621-9826 carries merchandise based on the official emblem of flight STS-87 (T-shirts, caps, decals, pins, key chains). Very prominent is the Ukrainian flag, Col. Kadenyuk's name and Columbia striped blue/gold.

Souvenirs specific to the Collaborative Ukrainian Experiment are available from IDENTI-T at 1-800-727-9295 (T-shirt, polo shirt and emblem). I recommend the T-shirt with bold colors and graphics; on the back are the U.S. and Ukraine flags from which emerges a plant-bearing rocket.

Olena C. Boyko
Urbanna, Va.

Reflections on Kuropas' reflections

Dear Editor:

I always enjoy Dr. Myron Kuropas' articles, and usually agree with him, but I have problems with his column, "Reflections on Ukraine's civil society" (January 18).

He asks whether Ukraine "can achieve a moral consensus without some kind of religious grounding?" But is there any doubt that Ukrainians are a religious people? Under Communist occupation, when it was dangerous to practice religion, they would secretly go to churches in the middle of the night to have their marriages confirmed and their children baptized. During the Christmas holidays the word would be passed around: "Don't lock your doors tonight, the car-olers are coming."

Again, is there any question of Ukrainian consciousness? Why else did the Communists disperse the people and attempt to Russify them? Why was there such joy when independence was achieved?

Because the development of Ukrainian culture and traditions was hampered by foreign occupation, there is no reason the country could not take the American, or some other country's system as a model. There is no necessity to reinvent the wheel. The people cannot wait generations for the development of some sort of optimum state.

Of course, the citizens of Ukraine don't believe they live in a democracy. What has the government done to address their concerns? A law should be passed that the people be paid ahead of members of the legislative and executive branches. The development of agriculture should be a high priority so that Ukraine can again become the breadbasket of Europe. Foreign investment should be encouraged, as it is obvious that Ukraine does not have the resources to achieve economic growth without such investment.

The professors Dr. Kuropas cites may make some contribution in the future, but there is a greater need now for financiers, agronomists, marketing experts, computer experts, etc.

When I remember with what enthusiasm and hope the Ukrainians greeted independence, I could weep with sorrow and anger. For decades they sang of the day when they would be lords in their own country. Now we see they have been governed so badly that some people long for a return to communism. Shame! Shame! Shame!

Pearl Dent
Danbury, Conn.

CANADA COURIER

by Christopher Guly



The mother of all Ukrainian Canadian pioneers

Plans are in the works to erect a statue on Parliament Hill commemorating Canada's "Famous Five" women: Emily Murphy, Henrietta Edwards, Louise McKinney, Nellie McLung and Irene Parlby. In 1929, these Alberta suffragettes were successful in convincing the British Privy Council that women were "persons" under the British North America Act and could hold appointive positions, such as in the Canadian Senate and judiciary. Canadian women age 21 and over were given the right to vote federal elections in 1918 – 51 years after the country was formed. While the Famous Five were promoting the women's cause on a national scale, Savella Stechishin was doing her part in Saskatchewan. A year after women received legitimacy in the eyes of the Canadian establishment, Mrs. Stechishin became the first Ukrainian Canadian woman to graduate from the University of Saskatchewan with a general undergraduate degree in arts and sciences, majoring in home economics.

She was 27 years old. "It was unusual for a Ukrainian woman to go to university," understates Mrs. Stechishin, now 94, from her home in Saskatoon. "You were expected to be married and be a mother." Which she did. At the age of 17, she married Julian Stechishin, principal of the renowned, 82-year-old Saskatoon-based Petro Mohyla Institute, who wrote the then-definitive guide to Ukrainian grammar. He was 26. "The rector was expected to be married," explains Mrs. Stechishin. Together, they had three children: Anatole, an architect, since deceased; Myron, a dentist living in Edmonton; and Zenia, a Toronto-based teacher.

What wasn't expected, of course, was that Mrs. Stechishin would go to school while her husband helped out with child-rearing duties at home. If there were rumblings in the community, it's likely that the Stechishins took it in stride.

Mr. Stechishin, who went on to obtain a degree in law, died in 1971 at the age of 74. He had faced his own share of opposition when he released his grammar textbook.

"The newcomers who came had their own ideas and thought it was too simple," says Mrs. Stechishin. "They thought they were more educated. They weren't really, but that's the attitude they took." Mrs. Stechishin, who arrived in Saskatchewan from Sokal, west of Lviv, in 1913, had an attitude of inclusion, which she put into practice.

In 1926, the year she set foot on the U. of Saskatchewan campus in Saskatoon, Mrs. Stechishin launched the Ukrainian Women's Association. She had already organized a cultural group of women students at the Mohyla Institute. The UWA, which Mrs. Stechishin led as president for a decade, now has 150 branches across the country.

She also founded the Ukrainian Museum of Canada in 1936. It now has

five national branches.

Mrs. Stechishin, who chose a career in home economics, also wrote the first Ukrainian cookbook in English, "Traditional Ukrainian Cookery." It is now in its 18th printing and sold all over the world. Her husband's Ukrainian grammar book is now out of print.

"Young men who enlisted in the army and married English brides wanted to have their borsch, their kasha, their pyrohy," explains Mrs. Stechishin. "After the second world war, there were no cookbooks and everyone was too busy cleaning up in Ukraine, so I read as many Ukrainian magazines I could get my hands on."

When possible, friends in Ukraine sent her recipes. For a quarter-century, she also wrote the "Around the House" column in Ukrainian Voice (Ukrainskyi Holos), a newspaper published in Winnipeg, which also printed her cookbook.

Mrs. Stechishin, who now has six grandchildren and one great-grandchild, has been recognized for her amazing life and career. She was recently inducted into the Council of Women's Hall of Fame. In 1989 she was made a member of the Order of Canada – the highest recognition given to a civilian.

While a problem with her vocal chords prevents her from speaking at great lengths these days, Mrs. Stechishin's accomplishments speak for themselves.

On October 18, 2000, the federal government plans to unveil its monumental tribute to the Famous Five on Parliament Hill. The event will be an unprecedented one, since the honor has previously been reserved for British monarchs, dead prime ministers and fathers of the Confederation. Now, the mothers will get their chance to be remembered publicly. While Savella Stechishin may not be among the five, the spirit of her achievements certainly will.



Savella Stechishin in a photo from 1948, when she was working on her book "Traditional Ukrainian Cookery."

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University of Minnesota hosts exhibit on Ukrainians' contributions to U.S. agriculture

Dr. Michael J. Kozak

ST. PAUL, Minn. – For many decades, because of foreign occupation, political, religious and economic freedoms were denied Ukrainians in their homeland. Therefore, many of them were forced to look for a better life elsewhere. The United States and Canada, with their liberties and opportunities, were most appealing.

During the last century, over 500,000 Ukrainians immigrated to the United States. They have contributed much to this nation. They worked in factories and on farms, on the railroads and in the mines. Ukrainian Americans succeeded in a variety of occupations, professions and businesses. Many areas of American life have profited from the hard work of immigrants and their descendants.

Unfortunately, for many years very little was known about these achievements and contributions, primarily because Ukraine did not exist on the political map of Europe. Only with the fall of the Soviet Union and the establishment of the independent Ukrainian state is more interest being shown in Ukraine and Ukrainians, including their descendants scattered around the globe.

An important step in this direction is being taken by the Embassy of Ukraine. Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, and his staff can pride themselves on representing and promoting the cause of Ukrainian people.

Among the ambassador's many efforts is an exhibit titled, "Contributions of Ukrainian Americans to the Agriculture of the United States." In collaboration with the National Agricultural Library of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota – or more precisely its Immigration History Research Center and Friends of the IHRC – and the College of Agricultural, Food and

Environmental Sciences, this exhibit was shown at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus, on December 7 and 8, 1997. Exhibit sponsors were: the Monsanto Co., Washington; John Deere, Inc., Moline, Ill.; and Friends of Agricultural Research, Beltsville, Md.

Many materials for the exhibit were obtained from the USDA's National Agricultural Library, the largest agricultural library in the world. Within its collections may be found many publications documenting the contributions of Ukrainians in such areas as wheat production, veterinary medicine, parasitology, forestry, sugar beet production, plant genetics, plant protection and many other topics.

The presentation of this exhibit in the Twin Cities became a reality thanks to the efforts and hard work of well-known Ukrainian community activist Halyna Myroniuk, who serves as assistant curator at the Immigration History Research Center.

The exhibit stressed the contributions of those Ukrainian Americans who, with their talent and ingenuity, helped develop one of the most important areas of the U.S. economy: agriculture. Some of these individuals worked on farms where they developed more practical and economic farm procedures. Others worked at universities and research institutions in fields such as plant and animal genetics, zoology, botany, entomology, soil science and veterinary medicine.

Ambassador Shcherbak arrived from Washington to view the exhibit, accompanied by the consul general of Ukraine in Chicago, Victor A. Kyryk and Volodymyr I. Vlassov, counselor/agribusiness corporation at the Embassy of Ukraine to the U.S.

Since this event was held on a Sunday, the feast day of St. Katherine, the guests attended a liturgy and luncheon at the



Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak with Halyna Myroniuk, assistant curator at the Immigration History Research Center.

recently completed Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Arden Hills, Minn., where the Rev. Hryhorij Podhorec is pastor.

The exhibit opened later that afternoon. Dr. Walter Anastas, a local attorney and community activist, served as master of ceremonies. After brief remarks, he introduced Dr. Gerald Miller, associate dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences. Since 1989 Dr. Miller has been leading an agricultural exchange and development program with various Eastern European countries. He has visited Ukraine five times with various agricultural and humanitarian projects. He also administers the Minnesota Agricultural Trainee program (MAST International), which annually brings over 300 students to the University of Minnesota for educational and work experience on farms and businesses across the United States.

In his remarks, Dr. Miller stressed the significant contributions of Ukrainian Americans to the agricultural development of the United States, and the importance of the present partnership between the people of the United States and Ukraine.

Following Dr. Miller's remarks, Dr. Anastas introduced the event's distinguished guest ambassador Shcherbak, who expressed his pleasure at being able to attend this important exhibit, and pointed to the importance of close cooperation between the United States and Ukraine. He then went on to enumerate the contributions of the Ukrainian Americans, who in various ways helped the growth of agriculture in the United States.

Since the exhibit was held in Minnesota, the ambassador focused his remarks on two prominent Minnesota Ukrainians, Dr. Alexander Granovsky (1887-1976) and Dr. Mykola Haydak (1898-1971).

Dr. Granovsky was a renowned entomologist and biologist. He was considered to be a worldwide authority on aphids (plant lice). Two aphids were given his name by fellow scientists: Calophis Granovskiyi and Drephanothis Granovskiyi. His research led to procedures protecting plant life.

Dr. Haydak was a world-renowned authority on beekeeping. He wrote more than 200 papers and a textbook dealing with this subject.

Final remarks were delivered by Dr. Rudolf Vecoli, a history professor and director of the Immigration History

Research Center. Dr. Vecoli is well known and highly respected among the ethnic groups of Minnesota. He, too, praised the many contributions of Ukrainian Americans to American life. He cited Dr. Granovsky's contribution to the founding of the Ukrainian collection at the IHRC, adding that his personal library formed the basis of this collection.

The program closed with entertainment provided by Yevshan Zilla, an all-female singing ensemble under the direction of Kira Tsarehradsky.

Those in attendance had a chance to view the exhibit and learn about Ukrainians who through their knowledge, dedication and hard work made significant contributions to the agricultural development of the United States.

The next day, the exhibit was viewed mostly by University of Minnesota faculty members and students. Welcoming remarks were made by Dr. Mike Martin, dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences. Dr. Shcherbak spoke about Ukraine's past, present and future contributions to agriculture, while Joel Wurl, curator of the Immigration History Research Center, further enumerated the contributions of Ukrainian American scientists.

Dean Armstrong, the grandson of Dr. Granovsky, also spoke about the contributions of his grandfather to the field of entomology.

Finally, Volodymyr Kucherenko, an exchange student from Ukraine, delivered a short presentation titled "The Perspective of a Ukrainian MAST Student on Ukraine and U.S. Agriculture."

The visit to the Twin Cities by the three representatives from Ukraine also included a visit to the Immigration History Research Center, and a business meeting with representatives of Cargill Inc., a giant agribusiness whose marketing expertise is needed in Ukraine. In addition, they attended a luncheon at the Minnesota World Trade Center, where the ambassador addressed the state's business representatives.

That evening, Ambassador Shcherbak and Consul Kyryk spoke at the Ukrainian Community Center. Dr. Anatol Lysyj served as moderator.

Dr. Shcherbak pointed out the many positive achievements of Ukraine, and the meeting was concluded with remarks by Mr. Kyryk, who also answered many questions regarding travel to and from Ukraine, immigration and other topics.

Ireneus Zuk appointed director of Queen's U. School of Music

KINGSTON, Ontario — Dr. Ireneus Zuk, Ukrainian Canadian pianist and member of the faculty at Queen's University, was appointed director of the university's School of Music last July.

Dr. Zuk received his doctorate of musical arts from the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore in 1985. He also holds degrees from the Conservatoire de Musique de Québec, McGill University, the Royal College of Music, London, and the Juilliard School.

Dr. Zuk joined the Queen's University piano faculty in 1974 and also has taught as visiting professor at McGill University. He has been a jury member of international piano competitions and served as chair of the State Examination Commission for the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine in 1995.

As a concert pianist, Dr. Zuk has appeared in numerous public, radio and television recitals, with chamber music groups, and as soloist with various orchestras. His concerts have taken him throughout Canada, the U.S., Europe and the Far East. He also performs regularly in a piano duo with his sister, Luba Zuk. Since 1982 they have made frequent tours, particularly in Europe, playing concerts in major cities and at international music festivals.

Critics have described Ireneus Zuk as having "responsive urge and boldness" (The Times, London), and "all the power, delicacy and lyricism that could be looked for" (The Daily Telegraph, London) and as "a pianist of great imagi-



Dr. Ireneus Zuk

native flair and always interesting" (Sunday Standard, Edinburgh).

Dr. Zuk's research interests lie in the field of Canadian and Ukrainian music. Many works by Canadian and Ukrainian composers have been premiered by the Zuk duo before international audiences. The duo has also commissioned a significant number of works, some under awards from the Canada Council and Ontario Arts Council, and their recordings have been included in the Radio Canada International Anthology of Canadian Music.

DATELINE NEW YORK: Recalling the holiday season

by Helen Smindak

While "Dateline" took a hiatus for several weeks, the Ukrainian arts and entertainment scene remained alive and animated with enjoyable and wonderful events during the past holiday season.

Most important, in terms of the future of our Ukrainian heritage in the United States, was the blessing of the cornerstone for The Ukrainian Museum's new building – an event that will be remembered as a milestone in this institution's history, formally marking the final phase of the building project and the final step toward the launching of a highly active and diversified Ukrainian cultural center in New York.

Scores of onlookers braved a drenching thunderstorm on November 2, 1997, to watch from under the shelter of umbrellas as clergymen, protected by a canopy, performed the rites of blessing before an attractively covered altar set up in front of 222 E. Sixth St. Officiating at the religious service were Bishop Basil M. Losten of the Stamford Diocese of the Ukrainian Catholic Church; the Very Rev. Patrick Paschak, vicar general and pastor of St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church; and the Rev. Roman Tarnavskij, pastor of St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church; with St. George's choir director, Andriy Dobriansky, singing the responses.

Standing nearby were the museum's president, John Luchechko, who opened the proceedings, and honored guests Viktor Kryzhanivsky, Ukraine's consul general in New York, and Yuriy Bohayevsky, representing the Ukrainian Mission to the United Nations.

A short while later, more than 300 guests assembled at the Ukrainian National Home a few blocks away for a formal luncheon. Excitement ran high as they listened to greetings from a number of dignitaries and were entertained by a musical program featuring pianist Vyacheslav Bakis, violinist Yuri Kharenko and violist Halyna Kolessa.

Keynote speaker Ivan Dzyuba, Ukraine's former minister of culture, stated that the new Ukrainian Museum building will not only attest to the steady patriotic energy of Ukrainians on this continent, but will also be a symbol of the continuing presence of "our creative potential" throughout the world.

He said the new facility will enable the museum to give a more complete and effective portrayal of the arts of Ukrainians on the American continent. More than that, it will ensure a broader and more intensive collaboration with the artists and artisans of Ukraine.

In recreating the image of Ukrainian culture and the Ukrainian national spirit, the museum could become "the cultural-arts representative of Ukraine in the Western world," Mr. Dzyuba declared.

Greetings and good wishes were proffered by Anna Krawczuk, president of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, which founded the museum in 1976, and Zenia Mucha, director of communications for Gov. George Pataki of New York.

Welcoming guests to the luncheon, Building Committee Chairman Roman Hawrylak pointed out that the overwhelming support of dedicated individuals has brought in almost \$3 million to the fund-raising drive. An additional \$2 million is needed to reach the final goal, and he invited museum members, friends and supporters to continue their "tradition of strong community support" for The Ukrainian Museum.

Those present responded to Mr. Hawrylak's appeal and the remarks of other speakers by making donations throughout the afternoon that added up to a total of \$412,000.

Since the New Jersey-based caterer had difficulty getting into New York (Manhattan traffic was caught in a massive gridlock caused by the New York City Marathon, a visit by President Bill Clinton and a city tour by Mayor Rudolph Guiliani), lunch was somewhat delayed. Guests took it all in stride and sat back to enjoy conversation, wine and an impressive musical interlude.

Mr. Bakis, who in 1993 was awarded the title of Outstanding Artist of Ukraine, and Ms. Kolessa, who has concertized throughout the former Soviet Union, the United States and Canada, teamed up to offer a velvet-toned "Elegy" for viola and piano by Andrii Shtoharenko and Dmytro Klebanov. A sonata composed for violin and piano by Maksym Berezovsky brought Mr. Bakis on stage with Mr. Kharenko, an artist who has been a member of Kyiv's Leontovych String Quartet since 1983. All three artists joined in the finale – the second movement of Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante in E Flat major for violin, viola and piano.

The event was organized by members of the museum's Special Events Committee, headed by Tania Tershakovec; the Fund-Raising Committee, whose chair is Anna Alyskewycz; volunteers and museum staff members.



Officiating at the blessing of cornerstone of the new Ukrainian Museum building are (from left): the Very Rev. Patrick Paschak, Bishop Basil Losten and the Rev. Roman Tarnavskij.

Master of ceremonies duties were handled by Dr. Michael Yarymovych.

The new facility, expected to open in the spring of 1999, will expand the museum's capacity to collect, preserve and interpret objects of artistic or historic significance to Ukrainian life and culture. With 17,800 square feet of space spread out on three levels, it will offer climate-controlled exhibition galleries, environmentally sensitive storage spaces for collections, and workrooms for courses and workshops, as well as two auditoriums, a research library, a gift shop, a café/gallery and offices for the president and staff members.

Museum officials and director Maria Shust stress the fact that at its new address the museum will continue to be part of the network of Ukrainian institutions and businesses in the neighborhood. It will also retain its membership in lower Manhattan's busy and expanding academic and artistic area, which includes neighboring Cooper Union, New York University and the Soho art district.

A Christmastime jaunt

At the risk of repeating myself, I'll say it again: Ukrainian musical talents and personalities abound in the Big Apple. Where but in New York, in a matter of less than five hours, could you enjoy the work of three Ukrainian opera singers at three different venues, exchange pleasantries with a member of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America, meet a Ukrainian woman pilot, and do some gift shopping as well? And all

for just a little more than two subway fares!

It's quite possible, especially if you try it during the Christmas season. You might start downtown at St. George's Church, as I did, to take in the noon-hour liturgy and hear the excellent choir directed by Andriy Dobriansky. Mr. Dobriansky, who spent 34 seasons with the Metropolitan Opera as a bass soloist (one critic wrote that he possessed a voice with "a dark, lustrous tone and a virile ring") has been directing both choirs at St. George's for several years. As he conducts, he sings along with the choir, and is often heard in solo responses.

Next stop: the Old World general store just across Seventh Street from the church, Surma Book and Music, where you stock up on ground poppy seed, wheat and honey for your Christmas kutia, select a couple of Christmas CDs from the shop's extensive collection of Ukrainian recordings, and extend season's greetings to the busy shopowners, Myron and Magda Surmach.

Segue by subway to the Lincoln Center Tower Records store at Broadway and 67th Street, where Met Opera bass Paul Plishka is scheduled for an early afternoon personal appearance. Waiting for the star to arrive, you chat with a couple of Plishka fans – Ewgen Tytla, a longtime member of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America, and his wife, Bohdanna – who have driven in from New Jersey to applaud Mr. Plishka and have him autograph a stack of his latest CDs, which they've purchased for gift-giving.

(Continued on page 12)



Guests at the luncheon/fund-raiser held at the Ukrainian National Home following the cornerstone blessing.

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Growing authoritarianism...

(Continued from page 2)

however, whether Moscow's new "anti-Americanism" represents a real shift in Russian policy or just a flash of diplomatic opportunism. Equally unclear is the source of this new initiative. It is possible that the Foreign Affairs Ministry has lost some influence over the making of foreign policy, and Mr. Primakov now wants to restore it.

It may be the case that the impetus for President Yeltsin's recent criticism of the U.S. comes from within his own administration, and that it reflects some tension between foreign policy officials in that apparatus and Mr. Primakov. One guess would be that Mr. Chubais, with the help of Mr. Yeltsin, makes it clear that Moscow is dissatisfied with Washington's continuing failure either to grant Russia most favored nation status or to recognize it as a country with a market economy — policies that have caused Russia economic and "moral" damage. The Kremlin implies that the Clinton administration did little to aid Russia's entry into the Paris and the London Clubs, and complained in particular about Washington's clandestine efforts to block Russia's entry into the World Trade Organization.

Law on religious freedom

In Russia, the history of the Orthodox Church is inseparable from the history of the Russian culture. From the predominant Russian Orthodox perspective, the future of Russia should include the return of the millions taken away from the mother Church by Communist persecution.

That ideology is behind Russia's law on religion — adopted against the protests of the West, but supported by the Duma and signed by Mr. Yeltsin. The law aims to protect the Russian Orthodox Church by limiting its competition. It sets up a two-tiered system of religious organizations. New religious "groups" would be on a 15-year "probation," during which their institutional rights would be limited. After 15 years they could apply for the status of an "organization," which would permit them full rights to own property, publish, provide education and have access to public institutions.

The bill, authored by Viktor Zorkaltsev, a Communist member of the Duma and chairman of its Religious Affairs Committee, restores the traditional Soviet authoritarian practice of requiring all religious organizations and their individual members to register with the state. In addition, it would allow the government to discriminate among religious faiths, such as Catholics, Protestants, Pentecostals, Mormons, Seventh Day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Scientists, etc.

Ariel Cohen of the Heritage Foundation indicates that "under the bill, the government would be able to re-institute aspects of the persecution and oppression that prevailed under Stalin and Brezhnev." He added that the law hinders Russia's integration into the international community.

The opposite point of view claims that the new law is consistent with the Russian tradition of a strong Orthodox Church and reflects the fact that Russia cannot be another U.S. or Europe. Rather, it will follow its "specific path." This is the path of traditional Russian authoritarianism and autarky. Following this path, Russia refuses to recognize the Ukrainian Orthodox Church — Kyiv Patriarchate and deliberately provokes the split among the Orthodox in Ukraine.

Clans struggle for power

The dismissal of Boris Berezovskii as vice-chairman of Russia's Security Council was portrayed in the press as a "victory" of the "young reformers" (Messrs. Chubais and Nemtsov) over the "tycoon."

Mr. Berezovskii, probably the richest businessman in Russia (his wealth is estimated by Forbes magazine to be about \$3 billion), together with seven other bankers, had played the major role in Mr. Yeltsin's re-election in 1996, as dozens of million of dollars were poured into Mr. Yeltsin's election coffers. After his victory, the "magic seven" were given hefty parts of government property in mysterious and secretive shares-for-money deals whereby the cash-strapped Russian government borrowed money from private banks in exchange for shares in governmental property. At that time Mr. Berezovskii was a "reformer" and "democrat."

When Mr. Chubais began the cash stage of privatization, the "great seven" split into rival factions competing for chunks of the most attractive governmental property such as the Norilsknickel and Sviazinvest companies. At least two competing factions emerged: the first one led by Mr. Berezovskii and Vladimir Gusinskii, and the second by the former vice prime minister and head of the biggest private Oneximbank, Vladimir Potanin. Mr. Chubais supported Mr. Potanin and George Soros in their bid for 25 percent stakes in Sviazinvest. As Mr. Chubais is traditionally in favor of the Western media and Harvard-based scholars (Jeffrey Sachs), the routine clash of different financial and political clans for power and property was portrayed in mythical tunes as a battle of good vs. evil, or "democrats" vs. "conservatives."

This simplified picture does not reflect the more complex and potentially dangerous shift of Russia toward authoritarianism and clique-oriented policy-making.

According to Mr. Berezovskii, Mr. Chubais told him when he came on his position to the Security Council, that he could make Mr. Yeltsin sign any decree he wanted. At the time Mr. Berezovskii did not believe him. Now Mr. Berezovskii has said that he sees this true. Mr. Berezovskii added it earlier that was Alexander Korzhakov (formerly Mr. Yeltsin's bodyguard) who could force Mr. Yeltsin to sign any decree; now that power is hold by Messrs. Chubais and Nemtsov. The duo went to Mr. Yeltsin's dacha and dictated a decree on Mr. Berezovskii's dismissal.

Mr. Berezovskii was in charge of dealings with Chechnya, and he managed to bring Russian money for the transit of Azerbaijani oil via Chechnya to the devastated republic. Mr. Nemtsov wanted to build a pipeline bypassing Chechnya. Mr. Berezovskii's dismissal coincided with the transformation of Mr. Chubais into the de-facto ruler of Russia. It should be noted also that he is a proponent of the strong role of a state in economic reforms. Thus, Mr. Chubais is far removed from his image as a "democrat" and "market reformer" as he is described in the Western media.

Lessons for Ukraine

There are several lessons for Ukraine in the present-day scenario in Russia.

- Conflict resolution in democratic society is incompatible with the activities of various ad hoc bodies that are unconstitutional and function without any public control. Providing a seemingly easy resolution to conflicts, such secret decision-making is a characteristic of Soviet times.

- Attempts to find a "third way" between the capitalism and socialism, or to build a market economy within the framework of some "Ukrainian model," will doom Ukraine to provincialism in its political culture and seriously undermine any modernizing trends.

- Continuing pro-Russian bias both in domestic and foreign policy contradicts Ukraine's strategic goals. It undermines trust in Ukraine in the eyes of the Euro-Atlantic community and international financial institutions. This bias weakens Ukraine's economy and has a deleterious effect on the everyday lives of its citizens.

Archbishop Antony...

(Continued from page 3)

days, while the Very Rev. John Nakonachny, pastor of St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Parma, Ohio, who attended the seminary with the archbishop, also recalled a seminarian "who was highly respected in his student days, and very active in student life."

Daria Pisco, representing the Junior Orthodox League, thanked the bishop for "his guidance over the years," and recalled the first league meeting she attended presided over by a new, young priest, the Rev. John Scharba, who had come to her parish. As an expression of

gratitude for his support and efforts on behalf of the Senior Orthodox League, Helen Greenleaf, the league's president, presented the archbishop with a small, engraved glass sculpture.

And the archbishop's mother, in a quiet moment, confessed that throughout the day her eyes had been filling with tears of joy and pride.

After the banquet, more than a hundred guests waited patiently to personally offer congratulations and thanks to the archbishop.

The St. Sophia Seminary Choir, as well as soloist Natalia Honcharenko, sang several selections during the banquet as part of the musical program.



Irene Jarosewich

Archbishop Antony (center) is seen with the Very Rev. Protopresbyter William Diakiw (right), who was the pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Sharon, Pa., home parish of the archbishop, and Pani Matka Sonia Diakiw (left). Archbishop Antony credits the Diakiws with helping guide him to choose the priesthood.



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ATTENTION MEMBERS OF BRANCH 76

Sunday, March 1, 1998
Newark, NJ.

There will be an annual meeting of the UNA Branch 76 "St. John the Baptist Society" at 1:00 p.m. at the St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church basement, Sandford Ave. and Ivy St.

On the agenda: Election of new executive board; election of delegates to the convention.

All members are asked to attend.

Walter Bojarsky, president Andre J. Worobec, secretary

Recalling the holiday...

(Continued from page 9)

Greeting everyone heartily, Mr. Plishka presents a sampling of the Christmas carols he recorded not long ago with the Marble Collegiate Church Choir, soprano Camellia Johnson and organist/conductor Richard Erickson ("Christmas with Paul Plishka" on the Naxos label). With pianist Earl Buys at the keyboard, he offers the beautiful "O, Holy Night," then for a change of style and tempo, he launches into a famous comic aria he has repeated many times at the Met to great applause - "Madamino: il catalogo," Leporello's listing of the Don's conquest of women, from Mozart's "Don Giovanni." After a pause to autograph CDs, he invites the men in the audience to join him in singing the stirring "Adeste Fideles" (Oh Come, All Ye Faithful).

As Mr. Plishka's robust voice fills Tower Records' second-floor space with another CD selection, the Ukrainian carol "Nova Radist Stala," you pull yourself away from the scene (with regret) and take the subway a few stops further uptown to West 82nd Street and St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

A community dinner is in progress in the church hall, and Bohdan Sikora, a former soloist of the Lviv Opera Studio, is entertaining the congregation with Ukrainian folk songs. His agreeable tenor voice, previously heard in the U.S. when he toured with the Homin Choir of Lviv and in Canada with the Ostap Stakhiv Folklore Theater, renders a sturdy "Nalyvaite, brattia," arranged by Mykola Kolessa, and Anatoly Pashkevych's arrangement of "Ishov Kozak Potaikom." Tetiana Ohinska, a cellist by profession who loves to sing, joins Mr. Sikora in the lively folk song "Chorni Ochka Yak Teren," prompting Lusya Petruchenko and Anna Bober to chime in on the final selection, Ihor Bilozor's arrangement of "Zelene Zhyto, Zelene."

Later, over dessert, you talk with Mr. Sikora, a graduate of the Lviv Conservatory of Music who has also studied at the School of Church Conducting and Cantors in Lviv. He is directing St. Volodymyr's choir for a few weeks during the absence of conductor and ballet dancer Stephanie Godino (on tour with the New York City Opera). Finally, after a pleasant conversation with Ludmila Petrush, a blonde airline pilot who flies domestic flights in Ukraine, you soar homeward on a jet stream of church music, Christmas carols, arias and folk songs.



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UNA Branch 22 will hold it's annual meeting on February 15 at 1 p.m.
The meeting will be held at Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church in the church hall.
The Church is located at 745 South Benton St., Palatine, IL 60067
For more information call the branch at 815-899-3535

100 Plast youths participate in 50th anniversary ski camp

by Yaro Bihun

GLENS FALLS, N.Y. — One hundred Ukrainian American youths spent the week between Christmas and New Year's Day skiing in the Adirondacks, renewing old friendships and making new friends at the annual ski camp organized by the "Burlaky" fraternity of the Plast Ukrainian Youth Organization.

Almost all of the teenagers came from East Coast states, from Massachusetts to Virginia; more than half were from New Jersey, with New York and Pennsylvania (Philadelphia) providing most of the rest.

They were cared for by a 30-member counselors' corps, headed by senior plastun Andrey Hankewycz, a member of the "Khrestonosti" fraternity, from Yonkers, N.Y., as camp director, and senior plastun George Danyliw, a member of the "Burlaky," from Southampton, Pa., as administrator.

The camp program kept the young Plast members busy from before sunrise, with reveille at 6 a.m., to lights-out at 10 p.m. It included a full day of skiing — and the increasingly popular sport of snowboarding — with instruction on Gore Mountain, near Lake George, and evenings of get-togethers, games and contests, as well as lectures at the camp headquarters at the Landmark Motor Lodge in Glens Falls. The youngsters could also swim in the hotel's indoor pool or relax in the jacuzzi.

One evening, the camp was bussed to the Glens Falls arena to see the local minor league professional hockey team, the Red Wings, defeat (3-1) the Americans from Rochester. And on Sunday evening, the Rev. Markian



Campers and counselors at the "Burlaky" Plast fraternity's ski camp in the Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York.

Kostyk of Amsterdam, N.Y., came to celebrate liturgy for the campers.

During the week, 17 campers received merit badges in skiing, and some 30 were honored in the "Krasnomovnist" contest, testing not only their Ukrainian-language skills but their ability to think quickly and improvise as well.

The most popular evening activity

came on the last evening of the camp, when the counselors put on the traditional "Mykolaiko" skit that includes St. Nicholas and his entourage of angels and devils, and the campers select the most popular boy and girl among them, whom they call "snizhynka" (snowflake) and "snihovyi did" (old man winter). This year's honorees were Alexandra Kachala,

12, of Locust, N.J., and Daniel Krup, 16, of Stamford, Conn.

This was the 50th anniversary of the ski camp organized by the "Burlaky" fraternity. Their first ski camp was held in the Bavarian Alps in 1947. It also marked the 20th anniversary of the camp's activities in this part of the Adirondack Mountains, north of Albany.



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

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Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

on impeachment of the president on its agenda for the ninth session. Mr. Omelych stressed that the draft law prepared by Yednist is currently being studied by the Parliament's Legal and Judicial Reform Committee. He noted that although an impeachment mechanism is absent in Ukraine, the approval of such a law is important in light of "constant violations of the Constitution by the president and his administration." Mr. Omelych also appealed to national deputies to request that President Leonid Kuchma prepare an annual report on Ukraine's domestic and foreign situation, as outlined in Ukraine's Constitution. The Progressive Socialist Party issued a statement February 3 favoring Mr. Kuchma's impeachment and dismissal of Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz for crimes against Ukraine. The party noted that the president is "completing the demolition of Ukraine's economy." (Eastern Economist)

Rada calls for ban on daily to be lifted

KYIV — On February 3, the opening day of its ninth session, the Verkhovna Rada passed a resolution urging the government to allow the daily Pravda Ukrainy to resume publishing. Former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, the leader of the Hromada Party (which is strongly supported by Pravda Ukrainy), accused the government of exceeding its authority in banning the newspaper and of "rude reprisals" against the opposition media. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Inflation forecast at 17.8 percent

WASHINGTON — According to Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko, the level of inflation forecast by the

Ukrainian government for 1998 is 17.8 percent. The government had previously expected an inflation level of 10 percent for the year. National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Viktor Yuschenko said, "the monetary and credit policy we plan for 1998 and the planned growth in the money base are capable of having an inflationary effect at last year's level, 10 to 12 percent, and the liberalization of utilities prices for the population will add about 6 to 7 percent to the annual figure." Currently, about 20 percent of the cost of utilities is subsidized by the state budget. The government plans to discontinue these subsidies in the first half of 1998. (Embassy of Ukraine)

German president praises Ukraine

KYIV — German President Roman Herzog said after talks with President Leonid Kuchma in Kyiv that Germany fully supports the country's moves toward closer relations with Western European structures, DPA reported on February 4. Mr. Herzog praised Kyiv's partnership charter with NATO, its bilateral treaties with Romania and Russia, and its participation in peacekeeping in the former Yugoslavia. But the German president criticized the slow pace of economic reform, which, he said, had resulted in weak foreign investment. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Large number of suicides in military

KYIV — Vasyl Kravchenko, Ukraine's chief military prosecutor, said on January 28 that there were 107 cases of suicide in the armed forces last year, Interfax reported. He added that five others died as a result of hazing incidents. Mr. Kravchenko reported the statistics in the wake of an incident in which a soldier fatally shot two servicemen before killing himself. The man was ruled to have suffered "permanent psychological damage" as a result of hazing. (RFE/RL Newsline)

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The International Renaissance Foundation (IRF) is the largest foundation operating in Ukraine. An autonomous member of the Soros Foundations Network, founded and financed by George Soros, IRF provides over U.S. \$10 million annually in grants and operating funds for the promotion of open society in Ukraine. Major areas of support include: educational reform, publishing, economic development, culture, public affairs and civil society development. Other program areas are being explored.

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