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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

Seven years after: frustrated dreams

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Seven years after Ukraine's declaration of independence, this county of more than 50 million people feels as though it has seen few results. Seven Ukrainians strolling the Khreshchatyk, Kyiv's main thoroughfare, expressed their feelings as Ukrainian independence day approaches.

"What do you want from me? I am a photographer," said Kostiatyn Verbetskii, "I don't see it as Ukraine. I used to be an electrical engineer, now I have become a photographer. Now I have more variety, but less money, so they tell me that is good."

"Get out of here, America," he added.

A visitor from Ivano-Frankivsk, Taras Barachuk, said, "Look at it this way, when you give a dog freedom, that dog eats less but barks and bites more."

His friend, slightly built with an aggressive attitude, shared her feelings on the Ukrainian economy, which is in transition: "Seventy years of communism – as a philosophy student, I understand that," said Oleksandra Fokseli. "But I don't understand why Ukraine still does not have a middle class."

Yulia Hulieva, 21, an accountant, commented: "Independence started not badly. All of our dreams were fulfilled. ... Independence in Ukraine came and we were all optimists. Everybody dreamed that as the years progressed, we would better understand." Then she added, "But with every year the dream becomes less understandable."

Liuda Onyshchenko was critical of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada: It is like a stable, "you cannot enter without getting dirty."

Anatolii Stoliar, 51, once worked for the KGB. "I could not have admitted this to anybody seven years ago," said Mr. Stoliar. "I look at Ukraine's independence with happiness. We are now sovereign and free. The problem is that we cannot trust our leadership. Do you understand?" he added.

Svitlana Storozhuk, 40, stated, "I don't look at Ukraine at this moment as an independent country. The Communists maintain power in government. Towards what are we striving?"

Unscientific though it may be, this short survey of public attitudes seems to indicate that the roll of the dice has not yet given Ukraine its lucky sevens.

Finance minister assures investors of Ukrainian market's stability

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The Ukrainian financial market will be able to withstand the monetary collapse of the Russian ruble, Ukraine's minister of finance assured the public and the international community on August 18.

"The government of Ukraine and the National Bank of Ukraine will take all necessary measures to stabilize the national financial market," said Minister of Finance Yurii Mutiukov.

Nonetheless, the hryvnia, besieged by a depleted monetary reserve fund caused by the government's inability to collect revenue and hard currency, and affected by the financial collapse in Asia as well as Russia, continued to fall after the finance minister's statement.

In one day, the trading value of Ukraine's currency, the hryvnia, dropped by 7 percent, even as the National Bank of Ukraine attempted to prop it up.

Seeking to reassure international banks that have invested in Ukraine's treasury

notes, Finance Minister Mitukov said, "In purely technical terms, the Finance Ministry can accommodate all of its debt commitments in any [type of] currency within days, if needed."

Viktor Yuschenko, chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine, was more forthcoming about possible developments of this situation in the economy when he said, "If the crisis in Russia continues to deepen, then we have to

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UNA executives hold post-convention meeting

by Martha Lysko

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — The first post-convention meeting of the Executive Committee of the Ukrainian National Association was held on Saturday, August 8, at the UNA Home Office. Ulana Diachuk, UNA president, warmly greeted and congratulated the newly elected executive committee.

In attendance were: Stefko Kuropas, first vice-president; the Rev. Myron Stasiw, director for Canada; Martha Lysko, national secretary; Stefan Kaczaraj, treasurer; and the chairman of the Auditing Committee, William Pastuszek. Anya Dydik-Petrenko, second vice-president, was unable to attend.

The participants of the Executive Committee's quarterly meeting heard reports for the first half of 1998 and closely examined all membership gains and losses. The pre-convention membership campaign netted 79 new applications for total annual premiums of \$13,684.48. The UNA is still looking to increase membership. At the same time, the pool of willing and capable organizers is dwindling, and they must be replaced with a new sales force.

At the end of June, 22,000 letters were sent from the Home Office to all members who have life insurance policies with the UNA. The letter briefly informed the members about convention resolutions regarding the increase in fraternal dues and the decrease in subscription prices for the UNA's two newspapers. In the same mailing the UNA introduced a new membership package that offers a discount card for members. As part of its fraternal benefits, the UNA paid nearly \$100,000 in annual premiums for 2,170 UNA members who are age 79 and older.

As previously reported, the Ukrainian Fraternal Association at its quadrennial

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Yachting expedition's goal: to help world discover Ukraine

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Imagine a round-the-world voyage on a 25-meter yacht with a cement hull. Dmytro Birioukovitch has dreamed it and now wants to make the trip a reality.

He and the enthusiasts he has gathered around him believe that too little is known around the world about Ukraine, and that a trans-global sailing voyage would help the world discover Ukraine.

The 59-year-old owner of the two sailing vessels, the 25-meter schooner *Batkivschyna* and the 25-meter brigantine *Pochaina*, said he got the idea for the voyage after sailing the Mediterranean and realizing that seven years after independence few people know something about Ukraine, or even that such a country exists.

"In Israel," Mr. Birioukovitch recalled, "we were amazed at the number of people who came up to our boat and asked, 'That flag, what country does it represent?'"

Mr. Birioukovitch and his partner, Roman Maliarchuk, 34, who owns a travel agency in Kyiv, decided that they could let the world know about Ukraine and further their own sailing interests by sailing around the globe in Mr. Birioukovitch's two vessels and acting as goodwill ambassadors for Ukraine.

The "Discover Ukraine" expedition, as the project has been dubbed in English (in Ukrainian it is being called "Let the World Discover Ukraine"), plans 90 ports-of-call during its five-year journey. At each port, crew members will set up a pavilion with information on Ukraine, its history, geography, natural resources, industries, investment possibilities and agricultural potential.

Mr. Maliarchuk said the emphasis will be on getting information about Ukraine out to the general public. "The governments of the world may know about Ukraine, but the average person doesn't," said Mr. Maliarchuk.

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Captain Dmytro Birioukovitch (right) with Roman Maliarchuk, project director of "Discover Ukraine."

NEWS ANALYSIS

Independent Orthodox parish fights for its rights in Donetsk

by Felix Corley
Keston News Service

DONETSK – Nearly six months after Ukraine's Supreme Arbitration Court ruled that it no longer had the right to use its church building or even call itself a religious community, the independent Orthodox Spaso-Preobrazhenska Parish in Donetsk has vowed to carry on the fight for its rights. "We have shown resoluteness in fighting for our legitimate right to be an independent Orthodox community, something that does not contradict the legislation of Ukraine and international legal standards," Archimandrite Yurii Yurchyk, pastor, told Keston News Service on July 16.

The parish has a regular congregation of about 100, with numbers rising to about 1,000 on major feasts. Archimandrite Yurii, who was ordained by a bishop of the Moscow Patriarchate in 1991, but now does not consider himself under the jurisdiction of any bishop, conducts the liturgy in Ukrainian.

The court decision of February 2, according to Archimandrite Yurii, was motivated by the state's preference for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church–Moscow Patriarchate and its dislike of independent Orthodox communities that threaten the dominance of that branch of the Orthodox Church. Archimandrite Yurii is also unpopular among local officials for his close cooperation with other local Christian communities, including Pentecostals and Baptists. He has also maintained international ecumenical contacts, especially with the Anglican Church (funds from one of whose members, John James Hughes, the owner of a metallurgical firm in Donetsk, helped construct the church building in 1910).

Since the court decision nearly six months ago, Archimandrite Yurii said, "There have been attempts by the Donetsk regional administration to blackmail me and my parishioners. For example, it was announced that if we persist, not only will the building be taken away from us, but conditions will be created in which we will not be able to conduct any further religious activity in Ukraine."

He continued: "They have also threatened to slander us in the newspapers and other mass media by calling us amoral people, sectarians, etc. Recently I have further been threatened with physical attack or imprisonment. These threats come from official sources, such as the head of the Directorate for Religious Affairs of the Donetsk region, G. B. Kostenko, and representatives of the Security Service of Ukraine."

Archimandrite Yurii recounted that on April 13 an attempt was made to kidnap him. Unidentified assailants tried to force him to get into a car, but the attempt was foiled by parishioners. Members of the parish council have faced similar threats.

The parish was founded in 1993 and was registered by the Donetsk representative of the president of Ukraine (Decree No. 632 of October 22, 1993). At the time it was part of the Donetsk-Luhansk Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church–Kyiv Patriarchate, which had broken away from the jurisdiction of the Moscow Patriarchate. The parish, which was meeting in a hall of culture, petitioned the local authorities for the return of the Spaso-Preobrazhenska Church on Kuibyshev

Street, which had been closed in 1962 during the persecutions of Nikita Khrushchev. The regional executive committee ruled on September 6, 1995, (Decision No. 203) to hand over the church to the community at the end of 1997, after the occupant, the Donetsk-Vuhillia company, had finished building a new administration complex. Since gaining possession, the community has done extensive repairs to the building.

Increasingly dissatisfied with inter-Orthodox disputes in Ukraine and the Kyiv Patriarchate's stand, the parish decided to leave the Kyiv Patriarchate's jurisdiction in August 1996 and become the first independent Orthodox parish in Ukraine. On September 6, 1996, the parish applied to the city administration to amend its statutes to affirm its independent status, citing provisions in Article 8 of the Law on Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations.

However, the city administration failed to respond either positively or negatively within the maximum period of three months specified in the law. Mr. Kostenko and his deputy, I. M. Prokopenko, indicated their opposition to the emergence of "independent" Orthodox parishes and declared that they had to consult higher authorities before making any decision. The parish wrote to the city administration on December 16, 1996, requesting an explanation about why it had failed to register the amendments to the parish statutes. This letter, too, was not answered.

After disruption of church services by Orthodox loyal to the Moscow Patriarchate (the largest Orthodox jurisdiction in Donetsk), the parish asked the city administration for protection from harassment. The city's Directorate for Religious Affairs declined to intervene, stating that this it was outside its field of competence.

The believers loyal to Moscow had formed the parish of the Holy Apostles Ss. Peter and Paul in August 1995, which was registered on December 8, 1995, and in early 1997, took their case to the Supreme Arbitration Court, arguing that the city administration should turn the church building over to them and was behaving illegally in failing to do so. Neither Archimandrite Yurii nor his parish was informed of the Holy Apostles' court case and claim or invited to attend the hearings. The Supreme Arbitration Court in Kyiv ruled against Archimandrite Yurii and the Spaso-Preobrazhenska parish on February 2 (Decision No. 1/6), declaring that in changing its affiliation the parish had undergone "self-liquidation," thereby revoking the decision of September 1995 that granted the church building to the parish.

Archimandrite Yurii immediately protested this ruling to the Procurator General of Ukraine and appealed to the United States ambassador to Ukraine and the mission in Ukraine of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, calling for help in resolving the problem. Archimandrite Yurii has appealed for international human rights groups to write to President Leonid Kuchma, calling on him to intervene to allow the parish to retain legal ownership of its building and for an end to state harassment.

NEWSBRIEFS

Ukrainians divided on independence

KYIV – A study published in The Willard Group Report by the Institute of Social and Political Psychology of the Academy of Psychological Science reports that 61 percent of citizens feel Ukraine should remain independent, 19 percent do not feel Ukraine should be independent and 21 percent are undecided. Furthermore, 31 percent said that a referendum should be held on "restoring the union of brother Soviet nations." Thirty-seven percent oppose such a referendum. (Eastern Economist)

Coal disaster takes lives of 20 miners

LUHANSK – Twenty miners have been killed and four more people are missing after a methane explosion at the Luhansk-Vuhillia Party Congress mine early on August 16. Over 30 rescue teams are at work searching for the four missing miners. An investigative committee headed by Labor and Social Policies Minister Ivan Sakhan has gone to Luhansk to investigate the accident. Coal Industry Minister Serhii Tulub said the concentration of methane in the mine at the moment of explosion was not unusually high, with meters registering a 0.9 percent concentration of methane; the upper limit for methane concentration is 1.3 percent. Mr. Tulub said that 264 miners have died this year in mining accidents. In April an explosion at a Donetsk mine killed 63 miners and a methane explosion at another Donetsk mine also caused fatalities. Mr. Tulub added that 70 percent of domestic mining equipment is worn out. (Eastern Economist)

Teachers threaten protest unpaid wages

KYIV – The Ukrainian Trade Union of Education Workers has threatened to refuse launching the new school year on September 1 unless teachers are paid their back wages, Ukrainian Television reported on August 17. At its plenary session in Kyiv the same day, the trade union announced it will stage a rally on Kyiv's main street if the government does not meet the teachers' demands within the next two days. A Cabinet member told the television station that the state budget has no funds for teachers and the government does not intend to print money to cover payments. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Educational system lacks funding

KYIV – According to the Education Ministry, Ukraine is unable to finance its educational system. Only 16 percent of the necessary number of textbooks have

been printed. The salary debt for educational workers totals 419.1 million hrv. The situation is worst in the Kirovohrad, Ternopil, Chernivtsi and Rivne oblasts and Crimea, where salaries have not been paid for three to seven months. (Eastern Economist)

Yalta anniversary fest under way

YALTA – A celebration of Yalta's 160th anniversary began on August 15 with a fair, performances by song and dance ensembles, theatrical productions, an air show and a parade of brass bands. Ukrainian Naval and Russia Black Sea fleet personnel are participating in the celebrations. (Eastern Economist)

Chernihiv workers discover treasures

KYIV – Workers at a McDonald's construction site in Chernihiv uncovered a jewelry workshop which experts date to the 11th or 12th century. This discovery is just a few hundred meters away from a recently discovered medieval cemetery. Archaeologists speculate that the workshop, which includes an array of bracelets, rings and crosses, was destroyed by invading nomads. (Eastern Economist)

Kuchma amnesties 25,000 prisoners

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma signed an amnesty law that will free some 25,000 prisoners, Interfax reported on August 12. The amnesty applies to convicts who have not committed grave crimes and will include minors, prisoners who have children under 18 or disabled children and pregnant women. It will not extend to those defined as "dangerous recidivists" by courts or who received the death penalty commuted to a prison term. The law will take effect on the day it is published and will be carried out within three months. As of July 1 there were 236,000 inmates in Ukraine's prisons. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Pustovoitenko seizes cars from debtors

KYIV – Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko continued his crackdown on budget debtors by ordering the authorities to seize personal cars from directors of non-paying companies and to impose severe fines on non-payers, ITAR-TASS and the Associated Press reported on August 14. More than 11,000 cars have been listed for confiscation and 97 cars have already been seized. The tax police have fined tax defaulters a total of 3.7 million hryvni (\$1.8 million). The

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Pustovoitenko orders debtors to civil defense training camp

by Pavel Politiuk

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV – In a radical and unorthodox move, Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko, whose government is short of the cash it needs to pay billions of hryvni in wage and pension arrears, on August 12 ordered hundreds of directors of Ukrainian companies that owe money to the government to a special training camp outside Kyiv.

The prime minister said the directors would be allowed to leave only after they have paid the millions of hryvni they owe to the Ukrainian budget, the pension fund and the Chornobyl Fund.

“Only when they have decided how to pay their debts will they be allowed out,” said Prime Minister Pustovoitenko. “They will be allowed out only with my personal permission,” he added.

After calling a special extended session of the Cabinet of Ministers for August 6 to resolve the issue of non-payment to the government coffers and demanding that all directors pay what they owe the government, which resulted in 1 million hrv (\$510,000 U.S.) of the 3

billion hrv (\$1.4 billion U.S.) owed being placed in government coffers in cash and goods, the prime minister of Ukraine decided that harsher measures were needed to bring the directors and government officials around.

Those who had not settled their debt were told they were required to return daily to the Ukraina Palace of Culture, where the special session was being held, until the government deemed that a sufficient amount of money had been paid. By August 11 that figure had reached 94 million hrv.

Still not satisfied that the company directors and local government officials had made their best effort to repay the debts, Prime Minister Pustovoitenko on August 12 ordered that the 400 directors and government officials, including ministers, deputy ministers, and regional, city and district authorities from across Ukraine attend a special meeting at Ukraine's Emergencies Ministry. There the prime minister announced that a civil defense training camp would take place beginning immediately.

“During the past seven years we have not held such a training,” Prime Minister

Pustovoitenko told government and other officials at the meeting. “But now the situation in the country is very difficult, and we must do the training. We should remember that without fully covering the pension and wage debts we will not be able to solve any of the problems.”

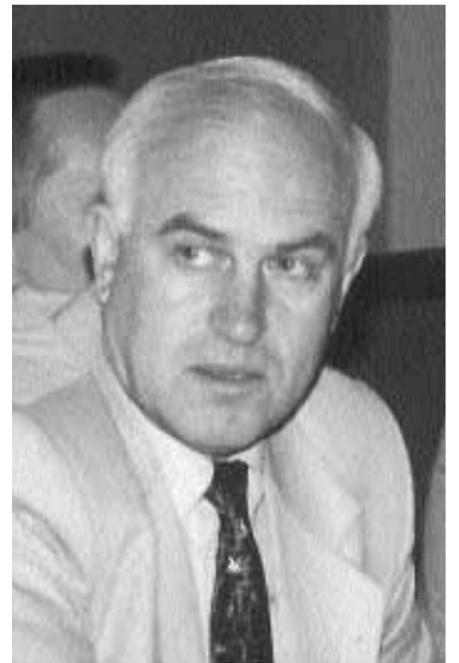
In accordance with Ukrainian law, all local officials and directors of large factories and companies also hold positions of authority in Ukraine's civil defense network, and are charged with managing their workers during possible emergency situations. As such, they answer to Mr. Pustovoitenko, who as prime minister is the chief civil defense officer in the country.

After the meeting the directors and government officials were whisked away in luxury buses to a civil defense training camp located 100 kilometers southeast of Kyiv near the small town of Pereiaslav-Khmelnytskyi, where they were issued military-type gear.

Prime Minister Pustovoitenko, who also participated in the camp, again addressed the directors and public officials at the training facility. “We are here to discuss the situation in the country, problems and measures to resolve them,” said Mr. Pustovoitenko, outfitted in a camouflage uniform.

“I must say that, unfortunately, the traditional means of our government to get obligatory payments to the budget or to Ukraine's State Pension Fund have not brought results. We have decided to hold this meeting in this training camp, where the conditions to work and solve all our problems exist,” said the prime minister.

Earlier, the government had said the payments deficit to the state budget has risen by 2.5 times to reach 7 billion hrv (\$3.3 billion U.S.) during the first six months of 1998, including 4 billion hrv owed by non-state-run firms. The debts of hundreds of Ukrainian companies to the pension fund totaled more than 3 bil-



Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko

lion hrv (\$1.4 billion).

The Cabinet of Ministers had ordered local officials and major enterprises to pay an initial minimum amount of 30 percent of their debt to the state budget. During a recess at the special session held at the Ukraina Palace of Culture, Mr. Pustovoitenko told reporters, “No one is leaving this hall until 30 percent of the debt to the pension fund and 5 percent to the central budget have been paid.”

Mr. Pustovoitenko also said that, in order to persuade companies to more quickly repay their debts, Cabinet officials should take steps to begin reclaiming corporate shares. “Via a government decision we urged the State Property Fund to return to Ukraine the property of joint stock companies that owe money to the budget,” he told a Cabinet meeting on August 7.

Ottawa UCC and Ukraine's envoy discuss areas of mutual concern

OTTAWA – The president of the Ottawa Branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and members of the executive met with the ambassador of Ukraine to Canada, Volodymyr Furkalo, to discuss key issues of concern.

“We are looking for a new era of cooperation,” said the ambassador following the meeting at the Embassy.

The most far-reaching issue discussed was a new global initiative to end famine-genocides. The initiative, put forward by UCC Ottawa and adopted by the World Congress of Ukrainians, will seek agreement from the governments of Canada and Ukraine to sponsor a joint commemorative action at the United Nations condemning famine-genocides and the use of food as an instrument of war and suppression.

“The World Congress is a powerful forum to champion such a major human rights issue,” said Oksana Bashuk Hepburn, president of the UCC Ottawa. “On the 65th anniversary of the famine-genocide in Ukraine that eliminated 7 million people, the Ukrainian diaspora has a moral obligation to focus on the

fact that dictators are still using food as an instrument of wars and political suppression.”

“We will be putting the initiative forward to our government,” said Ambassador Furkalo.

UCC Ottawa, acting as an organizing committee for the World Congress of Ukrainians, advised that it has had initial discussions with officials of the Canadian governments, as well as with the United Nations Association of Canada.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights that condemns the use of food as an instrument of war or coercion.

Also discussed was the celebration of the seventh anniversary of independence of Ukraine, a daylong celebration featuring debates, dancing, bonfire sing-alongs, sport tournaments and children's activities, organized by the UCC. The celebrations will be held at the St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Camp at Newcomb Lake in Quebec on August 23. Funds collected will go to the Ukrainian Famine Genocide Scholarship Fund.

Editorial staff also were discussed. Editor-in-Chief Zenon Snylyk retired, and Serhiy Myroniuk is temporarily coordinating the editorial staff's work. The UNA is currently looking for an editor-in-chief for Svoboda.

The following information also was reported at the Executive Committee meeting.

- The Ukrainian National Urban Renewal Corp. showed a profit of \$66,000 for the first half of 1998.

- Soyuzivka cannot be evaluated fully until after the summer season concludes, and the decision on whether to keep it open or close it for part of the year is still under discussion.

- It will take at least a full year to have a complete picture of the UNA's financial gains.

- In accordance with a resolution of the recent UNA convention, the UNA will hire an outside consultant to review all UNA operations.

- The Scholarship Committee met on June 29 and granted \$52,550 in scholarships to 195 recipients, which was reported in the UNA's newspapers. A special scholarship edition of *The Ukrainian Weekly* will be published later this year.

UNA executives...

(Continued from page 1)

convention in June rejected the proposed merger agreement with the UNA and decided to continue existing independently. Although the Ukrainian National Association was prepared to meet most of the UFA's requirements and was looking forward to this unity, it will now concentrate on expansion of its own membership. The UNA plans to offer new financial and fraternal services to all its members within a year.

The executives also discussed the work of the Investment Committee and reviewed the UNA's current investment policy versus Insurance Department guidelines.

Losses on both UNA publications have been curtailed due to outsourcing of printing operations and the changeover of the *Svoboda* daily to a weekly. Since the decrease in subscription fees for both *Svoboda* and *The Ukrainian Weekly*, the newspapers have gained some subscribers. At the same time, all expenses have been lowered.

Personnel changes on *Svoboda's* edi-

St. Catharines MP tapped to assist Industry Minister; trade mission is set

by Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj

Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO – Walter Lastewka, the member of Parliament for St. Catharines, Ontario, was assigned to another term of assisting Industry Minister John Manley with his parliamentary and portfolio responsibilities when Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien appointed parliamentary secretaries for the upcoming fall session.

A week earlier the PM had announced that the fifth Team Canada Trade Mission will travel to Ukraine, Poland and Russia in January 1999. Industry Canada will be handling some of the organizational work connected with the trip.

Mr. Lastewka, 57, was first elected in the October 1993 Liberal landslide that swept the Progressive Conservatives from office, and was re-elected in 1997 with 44 percent of the vote. He also sits on the Parliament's Committee on Industry.

An official at the MP's constituency office in St. Catharines said he was still assembling information on the Team Canada mission.

Team Canada update

In early August, the Team Canada Task Force set up its own website at http://www.infoexport.gc.ca/team_canada/

By August 11, over 11,000 visitors to the site had been informed that “close to 2,000 Canadian companies ... will be

invited to apply to join the Team Canada trade mission to Ukraine, Russia and Poland. To ensure the integrity and quality of the business program, the business delegation will be limited to a core of approximately 200 firms.”

According to the Team Canada site, “companies who will receive an invitation to apply will be identified through a consultative process involving provincial government economic development authorities, International Trade Centers, Canadian embassies, federal government departments, as well as private sector associations and organizations.”

Participants will be selected on a first-come-first-served basis until the application deadline (December 15) or the maximum number of business participants is reached.

The site outlines criteria to join the elite commercial and trade junket. The applying firm or institution “must be an active exporter or be export-ready; must have a corporate presence in Canada; must produce goods and/or provide specialized services for international markets; must demonstrate the capacity to sustain international marketing activities in the countries or regions selected for the mission; must be willing to pay the business program fee [about \$10,000], which would likely include the cost of transportation and accommodation.”

Those interested in participating are

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Seven years after

This year as we mark the anniversary of Ukraine's independence, we find ourselves asking: What can we say about independent Ukraine as it turns seven?

Certainly we can point to some of the positive developments for Ukraine in its seventh year of independence – they all are proof that Ukraine is making progress in being accepted as a member of the international community.

Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister, Hennadii Udovenko (who later resigned his ministerial post when he took his seat in the Verkhovna Rada), was elected president of the 52nd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

A Ukrainian cosmonaut, Col. Leonid Kadenyuk, went into space aboard the Columbia, in the process becoming not only the first Ukrainian to fly aboard a U.S. shuttle, but also the first Ukrainian to fly in space since Ukraine declared independence.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visited Lviv; at that city's recently erected memorial to victims of Soviet repression, she delivered a major address in which she spoke out forcefully about empowering women and protecting their rights.

The U.S. State Department's annual report on human rights said Ukraine had continued to make progress in that sphere, and the chief rabbi of Ukraine, Yaakov Bleich, praised the Ukrainian government for its positive position on minorities.

Athletes from Ukraine made a good showing at the Winter Olympics in Nagano, and turned in an even better performance at the Goodwill Games, coming in eighth in the medals count.

Ukraine's relations with the European Union were upgraded via an agreement on partnership and cooperation.

A new Verkhovna Rada was elected and, finally, after two months of wrangling, voted in a chairman who promised, believe it or not, that he will work with – not against – the executive branch.

Perhaps the most significant reality is the one cited by Vice-President Al Gore before he left on his recent trip to Kyiv for a meeting of the Kuchma-Gore Commission: Ukraine's independence is no longer an issue; there is no going back to the Soviet Union. Today, it's Ukraine's economic and political vitality that is the central issue, he observed at a meeting with Ukrainian American community leaders.

Indeed, Ukraine, at age 7, faces myriad problems – tough problems for which there are no quick fixes. The economy is in need of serious corrective measures, corruption looms large and the Verkhovna Rada still has not done its job to provide a legislative basis for a better tomorrow. Journalists find themselves to be targets of those who do not like what they report, miners and teachers are not getting paid, senior citizens – the forgotten stratum of society – barely survive on their measly pensions, and parents wonder whether there will be enough money to provide for their kids.

The people of Ukraine, as we see from the comments of several passersby interviewed this week on the Khreschatyk in Kyiv, once had dreams of a better life in independent Ukraine but now are full of disillusionment, disgust and dismay. And what's most distressing is that their leaders do not seem to care.

Still, a glimmer of hope remains. Maybe, just maybe, the Parliament will come back from its summer recess and get down to brass tacks. Perhaps the national deputies will hear the voices of the people and realize that they, as the elected representatives of the people, must take the lead in securing the future of Ukraine and Ukrainians of all backgrounds.

To be sure, the promise of the independence proclaimed and affirmed in 1991 remains to be fulfilled. And yet, as we observe this seventh anniversary of the Parliament's declaration of Ukraine's independence, we must look back to see where Ukraine has been in order appreciate where it is today and where it is headed.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Remembering a champion of freedom: educator and writer John Kolasky

by Andrij J. Semotiuk

If you had to single out one outstanding fact about the life of educator and writer John Kolasky, it would be that he had the courage to recognize the truth even when it contradicted his 30-year commitment to communism in North America.

The realization that he spent three decades defending a system that was destroying the land of his forefathers taxed Mr. Kolasky to the extreme. In fact, he fell physically ill, more than once, during the process of his awakening. Yet he endured, despite great hardship and even danger to himself. Ultimately he became a champion of freedom for Ukraine and oppressed people elsewhere.

Rarely do you meet someone who has a singular impact on the life of your community as well as on you personally. But such was the impact of Mr. Kolasky's life on the Ukrainian community in North America and on those who knew him (among them this writer). On October 20, 1997, the life of Mr. Kolasky, and his good work suddenly ended at the age of 82.

After contributing so much to the cause of a better Ukraine, and to the lives of those he touched, it seemed he passed on too quietly, almost unnoticed, like a blip on a radar screen that just disappears. Such a death was not in keeping with the giant legacy he left behind him. If today's Ukraine, like a newborn child, is growing stronger with every step; then in part, this is due to the tireless contributions of Mr. Kolasky in decades past. This legacy is worth at least a moment's reflection.

I remember first hearing about Mr. Kolasky in the late 1960s from my friend, Peter Smylski, who told me that Mr. Kolasky had been a member of the Communist Party of Canada for some 30 years until he was sent to Kyiv by his colleagues to attend the higher school of the Communist Party. Soon after his arrival Mr. Kolasky realized that Ukraine was being extensively Russified by Moscow and that Marxism and internationalism were nothing more than a camouflage for Russian imperialism in Ukraine and the other non-Russian republics of the USSR. Thus began the conversion of Mr. Kolasky from communism to democracy – and his efforts on behalf of a free Ukraine.

I distinctly recall my first meeting with Mr. Kolasky in Vancouver. Even back then he was a bald, frail, graying, modest man with bushy eyebrows and delicate, paper-thin skin. He had a pale complexion with steel blue eyes. Although gentle in physical appearance, Mr. Kolasky was a moral giant. In our first meeting on the campus of the University of British Columbia (UBC), Mr. Kolasky shared his extraordinary experiences with us. He was the kind of man who spoke in terms of ideals and with whom an idealist like me could develop a lifelong friendship despite our 30-year age difference. I sensed his commanding grasp of the political realities of those days and was very much attracted to his work. We agreed that his story needed to be shared with the widest possible circles.

Strangely, even though we became close friends, there were many important things about Mr. Kolasky that I did not know. For example, I did not know until his death that

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as a teenager he rode trains across Canada during the Great Depression in search of work. I did not know that it was the privations of the Depression that drove him to Marxism as a solution. I did not know that he was once a school teacher and that he had earned an M.A. from the University of Toronto. I did not know very much at all about his family life.

What Mr. Kolasky shared with me on that first meeting was the profound disenchantment he developed in Ukraine during his first visit there in 1963-1965.

He related how, at great personal risk, he began to collect everything he could about the Russification of education in Ukraine and to ship those materials in large trunks to Canada. Still unsuspected and trusted, his mail safely made its way to Canada. Meanwhile he continued to participate in the higher party school for two years as an insider.

His standing gave him a freedom of movement that foreigners otherwise could not enjoy. Using this freedom to his advantage, Mr. Kolasky met with the prominent dissidents of Ukraine in the 1960s and befriended them. In short, Mr. Kolasky transformed himself into a champion of Ukraine's centuries-old dream of independence and freedom.

After the KGB discovered what he'd done, Mr. Kolasky was arrested, interrogated and marshaled out of Ukraine. On his return to Canada he wrote his first book, "Education in Soviet Ukraine." Mr. Kolasky was looking for outlets to share his newfound insights into the political realities of Ukraine and to help those he befriended back there. I agreed to organize a meeting of the Ukrainian Students Club at UBC where he could speak.

On reflection, I have to admit that we faced a daunting task back then. Few people were politically aware enough to understand what Mr. Kolasky was talking about. To make a difference in the life of Soviet Ukraine, Mr. Kolasky had to raise the political consciousness of an entire generation of young people.

The Ukrainian club meeting went well. Soon Mr. Kolasky was visiting other communities in Canada and speaking at similar meetings.

In the meantime, we maintained our friendship and worked together to promote Ukraine's freedom. I attended law school, while Mr. Kolasky wrote other books in Vancouver. As time passed, each of us remained active in different aspects of Ukrainian affairs. But in the early 1970s came an event that drew us together again.

Soviet Premier Aleksei Kosygin was invited to visit Canada, and Vancouver was one of the cities he would visit. Mr. Kolasky and I were drawn into helping to organize a demonstration protesting Mr. Kosygin's visit. Part of our efforts included appearing on open-line radio shows to explain our opposition to Mr. Kosygin.

Not everyone shared our animosity to this man's iron rule of the Soviet Union. In particular, pro-Soviet Ukrainian Canadians and members of the Canadian Communist Party phoned into these radio programs to voice their contempt for our "fascist" and "backward" mentality. Mr. Kolasky was a master at rebuffing these critics. As if by instinct, Mr. Kolasky often identified the callers by name and tore their arguments to shreds.

I remember the evening that Mr. Kosygin was in Vancouver. He was lodged at the Hotel Vancouver, while we participated in huge demonstrations next door, in

August
24
1991

Turning the pages back...

Seven years ago on August 24, the Supreme Soviet (Council) of Ukraine voted to proclaim the republic's independence from the Soviet Union. The vote – which came just

days after the failed coup in Moscow that reverberated around the globe – was the beginning of the end of the USSR.

Following are excerpts from The Weekly's news story about that historic day, as filed from our Kyiv Press Bureau by Chrystyna Lapychak.

* * *

The Communist-dominated Ukrainian Parliament's vote for independence came as a big surprise to the majority of citizens of this nation of 52 million.

During the tense 11-hour extraordinary session on August 24, the heated debate focused on the behavior of parliamentary, government and Communist Party leaders during the failed Moscow coup of August 19-21.

Several thousand people gathered in front of the Supreme Soviet building and shouted "Shame on Kravchuk" as the Parliament's chairman addressed the session, defending his cautious actions during the crisis. His address was followed by speeches by Communist majority leader Oleksander Moroz and National Council leader Ihor Yukhnovsky.

Mr. Yukhnovsky presented the National Council's list of legislation in reaction to the coup: immediate declaration of independence; depoliticization of the Ukrainian Procuracy, KGB, Interior Ministry and militia, state organs, institutions and work-

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Changing names not part of solution

Dear Editor:

The letters from Andrij D. Solczanyk (March 13), Oksana Pisetska Struk (April 19), S. Zmyrkevych (May 24) and Andrij Homjatkevyc (August 9) on Ukrainian transliteration and transcription are all very topical, engaging and informative.

I, too, find it difficult to comprehend why in Ukraine today they still go through Russian when transliterating and transcribing. It is no secret in the international linguistic community that the Russian language has a major phonetic flaw when compared to Ukrainian and when applied within the European family of languages: the Russians don't have the "H" sound. As the result, we witness phonetic perversions in Russian foreign language studies and the creation of such names as Gollywood, Khelsinki and thousands of other Russified nearwords.

And even though the Ukrainian language does not have these problems, in Ukraine, nonetheless, when transliterations are done from English into Ukrainian, they pretend they have no "G" (Vice-President Al Gore!) or that they have no "H," when they shift from Ukrainian to English (gryvnia).

I am hopeful, however, that as Ukraine matures as a sovereign, independent nation, all this will change. Ukrainians in Ukraine will finally recognize and acknowledge the uniqueness of their own language, will do their own transliteration and transcription, and will stop plugging

into Moscow's linguistic interference and jamming.

In North America, however, to change from Polish or German and use English as the basis for transliterating and transcribing Ukrainian names, as has been suggested, involves different rules and a different reality. We note, for example, that our newspapers often give the phonetic listing after the printed name because that name may have more than one pronunciation. Houston in Texas has a different pronunciation than the busy crosstown street in New York City with the same spelling. Also, the reality is that for generations many families have retained their non-English names, yet have accepted and welcomed their new American pronunciations (former New York City Mayor Ed Koch). And we should also keep in mind that Americans do not seem to have any difficulty with the correct pronunciations of such non-English names as Johann Sebastian Bach, Carl Jung, Edgar Degas, even Czecho-Slovakia and many, many others.

So, unless English is revised and becomes a more phonetic language, to start changing Ukrainian names in North America at this time may not necessarily be part of the solution.

As always, I am grateful that The Ukrainian Weekly provides a forum for discussion and an opportunity to express ideas.

Michael Pylypczuk
New York

The writer is vice-president of the Ukrainian World Association of Professional Educators.

It's OK to criticize, but not to overreact

Dear Editor:

In a free society it is O.K. to criticize President Bill Clinton, President Leonid Kuchma, the pope, the patriarch, Myron Kuropas and, yes, even Harvard! There are no sacred cows. Criticizing is not the same as condemning. It is often an expression of a frustrating disappointment and an encouragement toward improvement.

Certainly our community supports Ukrainian studies at Harvard, but the people at Harvard should not feel that they are above criticism. We well remember that they were (kicking and screaming all the way) one of the last institutions in America to drop the article "the" in front of Ukraine. They finally did this because of the reality of an independent Ukraine recognized by the entire world. Prior to this, they called the critics of the "the" controversy "anti-intellects" and "activists."

There has been a long history of discontent between the Harvard elite and the "grunts" in terms of expectations and disappointments, for example, Harvard's unwillingness to aid the Demjanjuk

defense team was beyond disgraceful. It sent a very negative and demoralizing signal to the community.

In the opinion of many community grunts, including myself, Harvard exploited strong community sentiments about the anniversaries of the 1933 Famine and the Millennium of Christianity in Rus'-Ukraine to gather money. One of HURI's earliest books, the untranslated and poorly photocopied "An Early Slavonic Psalter from Rus'" by Moshe Altbauer and Horace Lunt was published at a time when the grunts expected something more. The spin doctors quickly reassured the faithful that there were things going on behind the scenes that were just too complex for us to understand, and the message was to be patient and keep giving.

One can hardly blame Dr. Kuropas for letting his patience wear thin. Was his criticism "fair"? Probably not. What is "fair" anyway? Was it a "disservice to the community"? No way, Harvard is not our sacred cow. When you pay, you have a right to criticize.

Every Ukrainian should love and be proud of the Ukrainian presence at Harvard. By the same token, the Harvard elite should not act (overreact) to every criticism.

Jaroslav Sawka
Sterling Heights, Mich.

Shevchenko Society to mark 125th

NEW YORK – The Shevchenko Scientific Society – the oldest Ukrainian association of scholars – is celebrating its 125th anniversary in 1998. Founded in 1873 in Lviv, it is currently active in Europe, North America and Australia.

The American Shevchenko Scientific

Society is planning to mark this important anniversary in New York City during the weekend of October 3-4. The celebration will consist of a scholarly conference, a musical and artistic program, and a banquet. Further details about the program will be provided at a later date.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Coal and prairie: painting the past

North America's Ukrainian community has produced three outstanding native-born artists whose major works were devoted to pioneer life.

The first was Nicholas Bervinchak, born in Schuylkill County, Pa., the son of a coal miner. Influenced greatly by the colorful church environment in which he grew up, Nicholas demonstrated an early artistic talent. As a young man living in Minersville, he met Paul Daubner, a European-trained muralist and frescoist who was in town to decorate one of the churches. Nicholas soon became Mr. Daubner's assistant, and the two of them worked on a number of Byzantine churches in the area, painting frescoes, murals and icons.

Noticing the strikingly distinctive work that Nicholas produced with pen and ink, Mr. Daubner introduced his young assistant to the art of etching, which the young man eventually adopted as his major, and most successful, medium. Inspired by the pioneer coal miners who established America's early Ukrainian communities, Mr. Bervinchak devoted his life to portrayals of the "men down under."

Most of his art was produced during the 1930s and included, in addition to coal mining and farm scenes, a portrait of Anna Sten, a well-known Ukrainian Hollywood actress of the era. His works were later displayed at the Smithsonian Institute, the Whitney Museum of Modern Art, at the World Fairs in Chicago (1932) and New York (1939), and at museums in Stockholm and Milan.

Canada has produced two extraordinary Ukrainian artists of the prairie. The first is the renowned William Kurelek, born in 1927 to Ukrainian Canadian pioneers near Whitford, Alberta. In the words of his biographer, Patricia Morley, "Bill grew up strongly influenced by the landscape, the farm routines and the rural culture which fed the artist's imagination." The family moved to Stonewall, just north of Winnipeg, when Bill was 7. "The flat black farmland of Manitoba and the life of its immigrant settlers became the subject of many of his paintings and one of the deepest emotional attachments of his life," writes his biographer.

Much of Kurelek's work has been reproduced in a series of superb collections, including "A Northern Nativity: Christmas Dreams of a Prairie Boy" and "They Sought a New World: The Story of European Immigration to North America." My personal favorite is a collection of some 160 paintings, "The Passion of Christ According to St. Matthew." The originals can be viewed at the Niagara Falls Art Gallery and Museum in Ontario.

Another prairie native is Peter Shostak. Born in 1943 on a farm in northeastern Alberta, he received an M.Ed. in art education at the University of Alberta; later he became an associate professor of education at the University of Victoria. In 1979 he left teaching to pursue a full-time career as an artist. His most ambitious project, completed in 1991, was a series of 50 oil paintings devoted to early Ukrainian pioneer life in western Canada. Five years in production, the collection was later published in "For Our Children," a splendid coffee-table book portraying the many trials and triumphs of

Canada's Ukrainian pioneers. The latest book featuring his paintings is "Prairie Born," released in 1997.

Active in the Ukrainian Canadian Community – he was president of the Ukrainian Canadian Cultural Society of Vancouver for 10 years – Mr. Shostak resides in Victoria, British Columbia, with his wife Geraldine and son Andriy.

In his preface to "For Our Children," Mr. Shostak wrote: "As I read first-hand accounts of settlers' experiences, certain topics or themes began to surface. Although each of the 50 paintings is centered around one of the themes, the series does not tell the complete story of life in this new land. However, I would like to think that many of the main topics have been dealt with."

"It is hoped that this publication will serve as an introduction to the history of Ukrainian settlement in Canada and that interested individuals will seek out some of the source publications and documents listed in the bibliography. It is also hoped that more of this material, which is not readily available to the average reader, will appear in publications which are widely distributed."

Although they are generations apart, there is one element that binds all three Ukrainian artists: pride. Pride in their American and Canadian heritage. Pride in their Ukrainian roots. Pride in the sacrifices their parents and grandparents made in establishing their family and community life in the new world.

There is pride and there is also love. Has anyone ever made a more loving statement regarding one's Ukrainian heritage than Mr. Shostak in his "Is That Your Baba's Coat?"

I believe Messrs. Kurelek and Shostak are one of the reasons Ukrainians in Alberta are alive and well. Isn't it about time that we in the United States took Mr. Shostak's example to heart and began paying more attention to those on whose shoulders we stand? If we learned more about our past, perhaps we could learn something that would sustain us in dealing with the present.

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



Peter Shostak's "Is That Your Baba's Coat?"

Yachting expedition's goal...

(Continued from page 1)

The Discover Ukraine expedition will promote Ukraine by making contact with residents of the port cities at which they call with their cement-bottom sailboats.

Mr. Birioukovitch, who will captain the voyage of the two sailing vessels, is a civil engineer and master yachtsman in Kyiv. Along with his two older brothers, has been building ships with Ferro-cement hulls since 1960.

The bottom of the boat is not a single block of cement, as one might imagine. The steel framework of the hulls of the ships that Mr. "the captain," as his crew affectionately calls him builds are encased in a thin layer of a special cement mix and "smoothed to the consistency of an eggshell," explained Mr. Birioukovitch. The rest of the construction, in which more standard materials are used, proceeds from there.

"Ferro-cement has its unique qualities, which makes it better than other materials," said the yacht builder.

He explained that each material used in the construction of sailboats, whether wood, fiberglass, steel or Ferro-cement, has positive and negative aspects. Mr. Birioukovitch favors Ferro-cement for the skin of the hull because it is inexpensive, does not corrode or crack under stress, is not flammable and can be kept in the water during the winter months.

He admitted that a minor drawback is that Ferro-cement, because it is denser than other construction materials, makes each yacht heavier.

Ferro-cement was introduced as a material for use in ship construction and as a general building material in the early 1950s by Italian architect Pierre Luigi Nervi in several books he authored. Since then it has been utilized in major boat-building centers in France, Australia and New Zealand.

In the Soviet Union the brothers Birioukovitch made use of the Nervi technology in the ships they have constructed since 1960. Today Kyiv is the center of that technique and Dmytro, the youngest of the three Birioukovitch brothers, is the foremost expert on the subject in Ukraine and the former Soviet Union.

The *Batkivschyna*, the flagship for the expedition, was built in Mykolaiv in 1957 and used to ferry supplies to the Soviet fishing fleet off the coast of that port city. It was obtained by Mr. Birioukovitch in the late 1980s and rebuilt with a cement hull.

Mr. Birioukovitch first used the *Batkivschyna* in 1990 as a charter craft for people crossing the Black Sea to trade goods in Istanbul, Turkey. Since then it has made several excursions into the Mediterranean and has racked up more than 25,000 nautical miles.

The *Batkivschyna* also is a star of the silver screen, having been used in a movie directed by Mykhailo Iliyenko of the Kyiv Dovzhenko Film Studios. Mr. Iliyenko has expressed interest in filming the trans-global trip of the Discover Ukraine expedition.

Currently Mr. Birioukovitch uses his two ships for charter excursions along the Dnipro River. All that will change in the spring when the expedition sets sail.

Mr. Birioukovitch's round-the-world journey will consist of three stages. In the first year the two sailing vessels will travel around Europe, by means of the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmara, the Dardanelles, the Aegean Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, during which the Discover Ukraine expedition will call on 42 ports in 17 countries.

During the second leg, the expedition will cross the Atlantic Ocean and enter the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico before sailing back into the Atlantic Ocean and up into the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes.

After traversing the U.S.-Canadian eastern border the expedition will travel into the South Atlantic, through the Panama Canal, into the Pacific, around Australia and into the Indian Ocean, past the horn of India, into the Arabian Sea.

The 60-month voyage of the *Batkivschyna*, the *Pochaina* and their crews will conclude after the expedition enters the Red Sea and the Gulf of Suez, moves back into the Mediterranean Sea, and soon afterwards into the Black Sea, heading for home.

The *Batkivschyna* carries a crew of 11 to 12 sailors and has berths for an additional 10 to 12 individuals, which Mr. Birioukovitch, who will captain the voyage, explained would be utilized for VIP guests and members of the press who might want to tag along for a portion of, or the entire trip.

The planned voyage has received the support of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which will clear the way for entrance into the territorial waters of the



The schooner *Batkivschyna* in Turkish waters on its way to the Mediterranean in 1997.

countries and ports at which the two vessels will make calls, and the Embassy of Argentina in Ukraine, which has already extended a formal invitation for a visit by the Discover Ukraine expedition, whose ambassador is tracking the development of the effort.

In addition, Ukrainian National Radio has agreed to cover the details of the expedition in radio broadcasts.

If all goes well – which in the parlance of today's financially strapped Ukrainian sailing community, means "if all the money is raised" – Mr. Birioukovitch plans to begin his journey in May of 1999.

"We would like to be in the United States for a major sailing regatta to mark U.S. Independence Day in the year 2000," said Mr. Birioukovitch. "If we leave Kyiv in the spring of 1999, we would make it on schedule."

Mr. Birioukovitch has assembled an international organizing team to help him implement his dream. He has convinced Roy Kellogg, a lawyer from Toronto, and Ivan Ivanov, a student from Russia who is the son of Russian Embassy's consul general in Kyiv, that his dream can become a reality.

Mr. Kellogg, 43, who happens to be Mr. Birioukovitch's son-in-law as well, said Ukraine needs this type of positive self-promotion. "People are tired of hearing only the negative about Ukraine – like Chernobyl, for example," said Mr. Kellogg.

He said that his father-in-law, above all else, is a staunch supporter of independent Ukraine. "This is one man who would not leave Ukraine no matter what," said Mr. Kellogg.

Unless, of course, it's to sail around the world.



A view of the *Batkivschyna*'s deck as it sails the Dnipro River.



The brigantine *Pochaina*, which is undergoing repairs.

INDEPENDENT UKRAINE: THE 7th ANNIVERSARY

The vote for Ukraine's independence: a personal reflection

Irene Jarosewich was funded by grants from the Rochester N.Y. and Chicago chapters of the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine to work in the public information section of Rukh, the Popular Movement of Ukraine between July 1991 and December 1992 at the organization's headquarters in Kyiv. On the eve of the seventh anniversary of Ukraine's independence, Ms. Jarosewich, now a staff editor at The Ukrainian Weekly, offers some personal reflections on the events surrounding August 24, 1991.

by Irene Jarosewich

PART I

The 7 a.m. phone call didn't actually wake me – the morning sun and adrenaline had already done that. I hadn't slept for more than two to three hours per night for almost a week, since even before the coup in Moscow, and again, the night before I had gotten home at 2 a.m. I had walked the several kilometers from the Rukh office in the warm night – and then sat on the small balcony outside my room overlooking Prospekt Peremohy until 4 in the morning, hoping that exhaustion would overtake excitement so that I could get some rest.

Now on the morning of August 24 I quietly slipped out of my room to grab the phone, before the rings could wake my hostess, who had been getting even less sleep than I.

I was a guest of Larysa Skoryk's, and we had become accustomed to phone calls that began at dawn. It was the summer of 1991 in Kyiv, she was an elected member of Ukraine's Parliament from the Democratic Bloc, while I worked with foreign visitors and correspondents out of Rukh's information office. In the intensity of the events of just the past several weeks – the disappointment of the August 1 speech by President George Bush, the protests against the union treaty, the preparation for Ukraine's first presidential elections, and then the August 19 coup in Moscow – the distinction between personal and public space and time had frequently blurred. We had an unspoken agreement that I got the 6-7 a.m. slot for phone calls, and she got the slot at 7-8 a.m. Then, after she left, I got the 8-9 a.m. slot until I left for the craziness that was my office at Rukh where a dozen people and a fax machine struggled for time on two phone lines.

As I whispered good mornings into the receiver, I heard the voice of my friend and colleague, Chrystyna Lapychak of the Kyiv Press Bureau of The Ukrainian Weekly: "Hi. I can't sleep. I figured you can't either. What do you think they're going to do today? Hmmm? Do you think they'll do it? Do you think they'll have the guts to do it? I think they'll do it, today. You know, I actually think they'll do it."

The "they" was Ukraine's Parliament and the "it" was a vote for Ukraine's independence. Once the initial shock of the news of the coup in Moscow in the early hours of Monday, August 19, had passed, Rukh had gone into full swing to use the opportunity of a weakened Moscow leadership to push for Ukraine's independence.

Dozens of viewers had crowded in front of Rukh's one television set on the evening of August 19 and in stunned silence watched coup organizer Gennadi Yanayev's pathetic, drunk-like appearance. A dozen other viewers were openly derisive, yelling at his image on the television screen. After Mr. Yanayev's press conference from Moscow, to which prob-



Chrystyna Lapychak

August 24, 1991: Stanislav Hurenko, chairman of the Communist Party of the Ukrainian SSR, at the podium during reports; directly behind him is Leonid Kravchuk, chairman of the Verkhovna Rada. Prime Minister Vitold Fokin is seen in the upper center, and seated at the presidium is Parliament First Deputy Chairman Ivan Pliusch.

ably every working TV in the Soviet Union was tuned, it became apparent that the coup was less threatening than first feared. That assessment – combined with the fact that nobody had been detained or arrested, that Rukh hadn't been shut down (in fact, lights burned on all three floors of the headquarters building and all the windows and doors were wide open in hopes of catching an evening breeze to cool the August heat), and despite several false alarms of army tanks poised right outside the city – bolstered confidence in radical action. Furthermore, though the coup organizers initially had control of all regular radio and television broadcasts, news of Boris Yeltsin's standoff was being picked up on short-wave and via telephone from contacts in Moscow.

Rukh had condemned the coup by midday Monday, and by Tuesday, August 20, members of the National Council, the democratic faction in Ukraine's Parliament, were actively calling for a special session of Parliament by the end of the week. Though the call for a special session was officially coming from the National Council, practically speaking, Rukh, with its organizational structure and staff, did a lot of the leg work.

The complete details and inside story of how in a few short days between August 20 and 23, with many of Ukraine's political figures and government officials out of the city, Ukraine's Communists became convinced to accept a declaration of Ukraine's independence and that they considered such a declaration to be in their best interest, is still not completely known. However, it is certain that without the Communists, the democratic and centrist forces in the Parliament would not have been able to muster the necessary votes for independence.

Officially Ukraine's Communists declared their support for independence by claiming that the events and leadership in Moscow had betrayed communism and the wrong would be righted in Ukraine. Unofficially, speculation had it that Ukraine's Communists hoped to protect themselves against a Yeltsin/Gorbachev

retaliation. The return of Mikhail Gorbachev to Moscow on August 22 marked the end of the coup, and manifested failure for those who supported the putsch, including many of Ukraine's Communists.

However, on Saturday morning, August 24, independence was not yet a certainty. Though the atmosphere at Rukh and the Ukrainian Writers' Union building, where Rukh and the National Council had held press conferences twice a day beginning on August 19, was optimistic, even buoyant by the end of the week, the simple reality of the situation was it was not even certain that there would be a quorum present in Parliament. Many of the 450 people's deputies were spending their August recess outside Kyiv, at their dachas, or at resorts with their families, some outside of the republic. I was told by one of my colleagues at Rukh that Communist deputies had received a "vkazivka" (directive) by phone to show up on Saturday morning, but who would actually make it was not known.

In order to even hold a valid extraordinary session (there was agreement that everything had to be done by the book so that later there would be no accusations that this had been an invalid process), 150 signatures – one-third of the Parliament – had to be obtained on a petition. The signature-gathering campaign was spearheaded by Oleksander Yemets of the Party for the Democratic Rebirth of Ukraine (PDVU), who along with a fellow "young Turk" of PDVU, People's Deputy Volodymyr Filenko, hustled around Kyiv and drove out to dacha areas around the capital city to obtain signatures. It wasn't until Wednesday, August 21, that the leaders of the National Council could declare with certainty at their press conference that the requisite number of signatures had been obtained to convene a special parliamentary session on Saturday.

And, even if there was a quorum at the special session, who knew how the votes would go? Just the evening before, August 23, the National Council held a last-minute caucus about 6 p.m. in the

Writer's Union building to count votes, bolster confidence, iron out differences and discuss tactics and strategy. A senior member of the State Department staff from the U.S. Consulate in Leningrad was in Kyiv, and she and I sat in the back of the small auditorium, along with some other non-caucus members, as the meeting got under way.

Early on, Henrikh Altunian, a former prisoner of conscience, spotted the group of us and said, "I know that we plan to build a democracy, but I must insist that only members of this caucus and 'dovireni osoby' (trusted persons) be present right now." Oles Lavrynovych, one of my closest colleagues at Rukh, rose up in our defense, noting the need to change the Soviet style of closed-door sessions. I whispered to him that, even in a democracy, political strategy is discussed behind closed doors. He winked and whispered back: "But don't tell them." In the front of the room, a deputy from Lviv got up in support of our presence, claiming the need for outside observers to this historic process, while Mr. Filenko, who was chairing the caucus, saw me and announced, "Irene, don't worry, by tomorrow your journalists will know everything. Either we will have made history, or history will be dealing with us (bude z namu spravliatys)."

As the debate (and genuine concern) continued about whether it was "undemocratic" to ask as to leave and whether it was important to start changing Soviet-style habits immediately, it became obvious to us that we had become the focus of the debate. My visitor whispered to me, "we should leave," and I nudged Mr. Lavrynovych that we were going. He then rose again to announce a compromise: we would not be asked to leave, but we would not be invited to stay; if we chose to leave it would be of our own volition. We said our thanks, and about a half dozen of us left.

As we exited the Writers' Union for a hotel dining room to try and get some dinner (not always a sure thing at hotel

(Continued on page 12)

INDEPENDENT UKRAINE: THE 7th ANNIVERSARY

From Toronto's Bloor West to Kyiv's Khreschatyk, and back

by Roman Waschuk

Strolling along Bloor Street West in my old Toronto neighborhood on a sunny mid-August day, I happen upon a poster in a bank window advertising a "Ukrainian Festival" to take place on the 22nd, complete with parade, performing groups and a cabaret night – all in honor of Ukrainian Independence Day.

Three thoughts cross my mind:

(A) The festival is on a Saturday; clearly, in my four-year absence, the Ukrainian lobby has failed to entrench August 24 as a nationwide long weekend.

(B) For the first time in a long time, my family and I are not in Ukraine for the festivities; we are back on the outside, peering

in through the trusty diasporic prism.

(C) The redevelopment of the Khreschatyk, begun before I left Kyiv, must be nearly complete. The government's decision to tear up and resurface the capital's main street in time for the national day may have been controversial with many hard-pressed Kyivites (and understandably so), but was a big hit with our 2-year-old son, who was impressed with the assembled might of Ukraine's construction equipment working at full tilt.

Bloor Street, by comparison, seems ... well, comfortable, but rather sedate.

In Kyiv, Independence Day – an official fixture for six years running – is slowly taking its place in the hearts and minds of the

populace as a genuine holiday, right up there with New Year's, Christmas and International Women's Day.

Though some of their compatriots in the south and east may still question the entire premise of August 24, Kyivites have come to know and value the benefits, both attitudinal and material, of living in the national capital of a sovereign state.

For children starting school this year, it's the only condition they've ever known.

Walking to the Golden Gate metro stop from the Canadian Embassy along Yaroslaviv Val, I recall a little girl asking her mother: "Mama, what was the Soviet Union?" She was given a storybook reply: "Oh, it was a country where we lived long ago, before you were born ..."

Though Western visitors (and, indeed, many Ukrainians) may feel that elements of the Soviet past are still all too prevalent, time is on the side of Ukraine, establishing its identity through its own trials and (inevitably) errors.

Were we, too, no more than glorified visitors, albeit with a multi-year diplomatic visa? I would like to think not. In our various capacities, we were and remain stakeholders in Ukraine's future.

As a diplomat, I worked daily to put flesh on the bones of Canada's partnership with Ukraine, sensitive both to Kyiv's strategic importance (well appreciated by ministers) and to the domestic political imperatives (represented, among others, by *The Weekly's* readers).

My wife, Oksana, who has worked as a translator, advisor and editor of government documents, strove to bridge the gap between Ukrainian legalese and the English-centered world of trade law – eso-

teric yet key to Ukraine's economic future.

As parents of a toddler who spent all but the first few months of his life in Kyiv, we scoured the bookstalls for ever-elusive Ukrainian preschool books and tapes, meeting some of their creators – artistically talented, yet financially beleaguered – and helping them navigate the shoals of shifting rules and regulations.

While we count the blessings of a return to the administrative sanity of Ottawa (proof that all things are relative), the first tinges of "Ukraine regret" and nostalgia are nevertheless setting in. Can anyone here recite a children's rhyme quite as convincingly as our friend the Kyiv poet? Will we ever again eat as much (or as well) as on our farewell trip to Kolomyia and Lviv?

And what will become of our war veteran neighbor and his dogs, one named for Raisa Gorbacheva, the other for Margaret Thatcher, and both his pensioner equals in dog years?

Fortunately, the answers to these questions are the stuff of free and open people-to-people contacts, possibly the greatest achievement of independent Ukraine's relations with Canada and other partners. They no longer depend on government fiat on either side. As a bureaucrat with many personal ties to Ukraine, I'd have it no other way.

Roman Waschuk returned to Toronto in July, after serving as political counselor at the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv for five years. In June, he received the Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers' Foreign Service Award for 1998.

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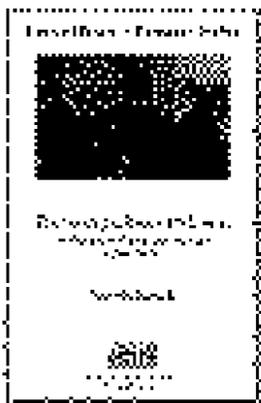
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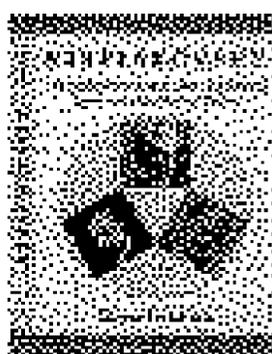


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INDEPENDENT UKRAINE: THE 7th ANNIVERSARY

Ukrainians support both Ukrainian and Russian languages

by Stefan Korshak and Vitaly Sych

RFE/RL Newsline

KYIV – Most Ukrainians would like to keep Ukrainian as the sole language for government use, but an even larger percentage would like to give the Russian language some official status as well, according to a recent Ukrainian Surveys and Market Research/Kyiv Post poll.

The survey also confirmed Ukraine's east-west linguistic divide: respondents from the west are more likely to favor the Ukrainian language, while respondents from the east and south are more likely to support Russian.

The results also show that the younger the person, the more likely he or she is to favor the Russian language.

Comparisons with the Soviet era are impossible, as comparable surveys were not taken. However, the results suggest that the current policy of conducting all public education in the Ukrainian language has so far failed to halt a long-term trend toward linguistic Russification in Ukraine.

The primary language in the western oblasts and in some rural areas, Ukrainian, was confirmed in the Constitution in 1996 as the sole "state language." All government documents, public education and commercial contracts must be in the Ukrainian language, although such regulations are less likely to be enforced in Russian-speaking regions.

Of the 1,000 people polled throughout Ukraine, more than 70 percent said they favor giving Russian some kind of official status, but almost 60 percent were against making Russian a state language.

The results are not a mandate for radical change. Slightly more than 30 percent favored keeping Ukrainian as the sole state language and at the same time giving Russian legal status in the commercial sphere only. The status quo was favored by 24.2 percent. But 36 percent favored making Russian a second state language. Only 4.6 percent said they would like to see Russian become the sole state language, while 4.1 percent approved of "completely banning the Russian language from Ukraine."

In the east and south, resistance to current policy is strong: solid majorities there favored putting Russian on an equal legal footing with Ukrainian, while about a quarter of respondents preferred merely recognizing Russian in the commercial sphere. And the south was also the most pro-Russian: more people there favored making Russian the sole state language (8 percent) than favored the status quo (6.2 percent).

Likewise, anti-Russian sentiment was strong in the west. Less than a third (29 percent) in that area favored recognizing Russian in any way, while more than half (54.7 percent) favored the status quo and 16.1 percent favored banning Russian.

The capital, Kyiv, differed from the north as a whole. In both the city and the region nearly half of the respondents were in favor of recognizing Russian in the commercial sphere. In the region 25 percent favored the status quo and 22.6 percent favored making Russian a state language, while in Kyiv 37.1 percent favored the status quo and only 12.7 percent favored making Russian a state language.

Ukraine's handling of ethnic and language issues has been a relative success. Observers have long predicted growing ethnic tension between Ukrainian nationalists in the west and ethnic Russians in the east and Crimea. Ukrainians appear to be fairly comfortable with not one, but two functional national languages.

The survey confirmed that, despite its relegation to non-offi-

Stefan Korshak and Vitaly Sych are Kyiv-based correspondents for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.



Olena Welhasch

Ukrainianization Mc Donald's-style on Kyiv's main boulevard, the Khreschatyk.

cial status since the declaration of Ukrainian independence in 1991, Russian remains the primary spoken language in Ukraine. The number of respondents who said they spoke Russian at home outnumbered those who said they spoke Ukrainian at home by a ratio of 3:2.

Nationwide almost half of respondents (45.6 percent) said they speak Russian at home, 29.8 percent said they speak Ukrainian, and 23.5 percent said they speak both languages. The high number of bilingual households may be partly explained by the use of mixed Ukrainian-Russian dialects.

Younger people are considerably more likely to speak Russian. In the 30-39, 40-49, and 50-and-over

age groups, 41 percent said they speak Russian at home, while 53 percent of people in their 20s and 57 percent of people age 15 to 19 said they spoke Russian.

People in their 30s were most likely to speak Ukrainian, with 36 percent saying they speak it at home. That figure fell to 29 percent among people age 50 and over and to 24 percent among people age 15 to 19.

Younger people are also more likely to support making Russian an official language: 46.4 percent of teenagers favored such a move, as did 41.4 percent of those in their 20s, 40.1 percent of people in their 30s, 40.2 percent of people in their 40s, and just 37.3 percent of people age 50 and over.

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INDEPENDENT UKRAINE: THE 7th ANNIVERSARY

Ukraine joins ranks of nations releasing Europa stamps

by Ingert Kuzych

Stamps with a Europa theme are popular around the world, not just in Europe. Many collectors enjoy going after Europa stamps to obtain a kind of yearly Europe sampling. The purpose of this article is to present a bit of background on Europa stamps and to alert collectors to the fact that a new Europa-issuing country, Ukraine, has emerged. Ukraine has released a very striking engraved first issue and, because of the small quantity printed, this release could become very scarce.

Official Europa issues began in 1956 with a joint stamp of the six European Common Market countries (Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands). These six countries continued to release a single joint issue annually until 1960, when other European countries joined in. Through 1973 most issues shared a common symbolic design emphasizing European unity. In 1974 various themes were depicted. The following year a common topic was agreed upon and that tradition has continued to the present.

Currently dozens of European countries, as well as some self-governing possessions (e.g., Great Britain's Isle of Man or Portugal's Azores), all issue very colorful Europa stamps, usually two or more annually. With the fall of communism (1989-1991) new East European countries became free to join the Europa stamps fraternity.

Last year's Europa theme of "History and Legends" was a popular one; various countries issued interesting and attractive stamps on these topics. The postal service of Ukraine decided its first venture into the annual Europa stamp release journey would be a memorable one; it prepared a two-stamp souvenir sheet that not only depicted scenes from a legendary tale, but also reproduced the entire legend in microprint along its margins. Although a few entities have released Europa souvenir sheets in the past, as far as I know, this is the first time so much text has ever appeared on an issue. The microprint in no way detracts from the fascinating design.

The tale that Ukrainian philatelic planners decided to illustrate is taken from the ancient manuscript "Povist Vremennykh Lit" (Tale of Bygone Years), depicting the legendary founding of Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, some 1,500 years ago. From left to right, the two 40-kopiyka stamps, show the four personages credited with establishing the settlement: Kyi (after whom the city was named), Schek, Khoryv and their sister Lybid. According to legend, they were members of the Polianians, a Slavic tribe; the siblings, along with their followers, built the town on a wooded, hilly site overlooking the Dnipro River.

Kyi apparently was a popular and powerful ruler. At one point, according to the legend, he traveled down the Dnipro to Constantinople (Istanbul) to visit the Byzantine emperor, who "received him with great respect and honor." On his way homeward, Kyi noticed a site at the mouth of the Danube river that appealed to him and where he established another settlement. The local population, however, proved inhospitable, and Kyi and his kinfolk returned to Kyiv. Nonetheless, the town

(Continued on page 12)



Ukraine's debut release: a souvenir sheet depicting the legendary founders of Kyiv.

Weekly announces official website

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Ukrainian Weekly Archive has moved to its own official site at <http://www.ukrweekly.com> as of August 21. The site, which now contains 3,853 articles, is constantly being expanded.

The website is dedicated to archival materials published in the newspaper since its founding in 1933, among them The Ukrainian Weekly's inaugural issue dated October 6, 1933, two issues devoted to the 1960 visit of Nikita Khrushchev to the U.S., and special issues dedicated to the 50th (1983) and the 60th (1993) anniversaries of The Ukrainian Weekly and the centennial of the Ukrainian National Association (1994).

Year-in-review issues of The Weekly from the years 1976-1997 (and the "Decade in Review" published at the end of 1979), and issues reporting on the Chernobyl accident (1986), Ukraine's declaration of sovereignty (1990), its proclamation of independence and national referendum on independence (both 1991) also are found on the archive site.

The site also includes The Weekly's special issue

about the Great Famine of 1932-1933, published on the occasion of that genocide's 50th anniversary. Additional information – including scholarly analyses and contemporaneous accounts – about the Great Famine is now being prepared for inclusion on the site; the new section, dedicated to the famine's 65th anniversary, is expected to be unveiled in September.

The archive also contains excerpts of top stories published each week in 1998, and full texts of all issues published in 1996 and 1997. All sections of the site are searchable.

The site's webmaster is Serge Polishchuk, The Ukrainian Weekly's layout artist/graphic designer. The site is prepared by the newspaper's editorial and production staffs.

The Ukrainian Weekly Archive was originally unveiled with 3,300 articles on April 6 of this year at <http://www.panix.com/~polishuk/TheWeekly/home.shtml>.

Previously, excerpts of The Ukrainian Weekly's top stories appeared in the Current Events section on the Tryzub site, which put The Weekly into cyberspace in July 1995.

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INDEPENDENT UKRAINE: THE 7th ANNIVERSARY



Irene Jarosewich

Thousands gathered on the plaza outside Ukraine's Parliament, standing for hours to hear results of the independence vote.

Vote for Ukraine's...

(Continued from page 7)

dining rooms in those days), I suddenly stopped in the middle of the sidewalk and turned to my visitor and asked: "Please tell me if I have this straight. We're in Kyiv. It's August 23. Four days ago there was a coup attempt in Moscow. We just got kicked out of a caucus where Ukrainian parliamentarians are soberly discussing Ukrainian independence, which, by the way, is scheduled for tomorrow. Am I sane?"

Yes, she replied and sighed: "It's definitely, definitely a big deal." Then we looked at each other and grinned.

By Saturday morning, however, I had stopped grinning and was simply nervous. Right before I walked into the Parliament building – it was a beautiful August morning – I paused to watch the hundreds of people (later in the day the number grew to thousands), who had gathered on the plaza outside, cheering

certain parliamentarians as they entered and urging them to vote for independence. These supporters were the informed few, since the vast majority of Ukraine's population had no idea what was about to happen. I said a little prayer as I entered.

After the break-up of the Soviet Union, I was often involved in discussions about when the Soviet Union fell apart. Was it the first time that Gorbachev gave his glasnost and perestroika speeches? Was it Chernobyl's explosion? Was it when Mr. Yeltsin was elected president of the Russian Republic or maybe the coup of August 19? Was it December 1, 1991, after Ukraine ratified its independence by popular vote, or December 8, when the CIS was formed, or not until Mr. Gorbachev resigned on December 25?

For me, the end of the Soviet Union came on August 24 – not with the actual vote for independence on the floor of the

Parliament, which was not taken until early evening, but a little bit before that in the building's auditorium.

The day had been filled with reports and debates about actions taken and not taken throughout the week of the coup; several breaks were called so that the numerous resolutions being put forth could be discussed in caucuses. Behind the scenes, final touches were being put on the wording of the Act of Declaration of the Independence of Ukraine, and a new element, a public referendum to validate the declaration was being discussed.

Late in the afternoon a recess was called for one hour, with the announcement that democrats would meet on the top floor, Communists in the auditorium. As the people's deputies rushed out of the chamber, some upstairs, others down, Ms. Lapychak and I walked out of the press gallery, which was on the top floor, to listen to the National Council's final caucus. Suddenly she turned to me and said, "We

know what they're going to do, we know what they're going to say – let's go see if we can get into the auditorium."

We almost flew down several long flights of wide carpeted stairs to get to the auditorium before the doors shut. I had no expectation of getting in. Whereas the National Council caucus was in the open, for all to hear and see, I fully expected the Communists to hold their caucus behind closed doors. We were surprised; we were let in and sat down near the second entrance to the auditorium.

This was to be the final and largest legal gathering of the Communist Party of the Ukrainian SSR. By the next day they would be declared disbanded and their property transferred to the guardianship of Ukraine's Parliament. Oleksander Moroz conducted the caucus, explaining quietly that the next vote on the agenda was for the declaration of Ukraine's independence. One by one the parliamentarians got up and gave their arguments for the act – the coup in Moscow had showed the ineptness of the leaders, and therefore they were dangerous; and arguments against – comrades, my entire life I have been an internationalist, I cannot bring myself to vote for Ukraine's independence, it is the wrong historic course.

The atmosphere in the room was restive and there was a stir as National Council members Dmytro Pavlychko and Volodymyr Yavorivskiy walked in the second entrance, from the back of the auditorium to the front. I had spent many hours translating for Mr. Pavlychko and had

(Continued on page 13)

Ukraine joins ranks...

(Continued from page 11)

they left behind retained the name of Kyivets. After the deaths of the three brothers in Kyiv, their descendants assumed leadership of the Polianian tribe.

The border of the Ukrainian Europa souvenir sheet illustrates aspects of this tale. Along the top, on either side of the word "Kyiv," are various wooden buildings of the early town. Shown along the bottom are the sailing ships of Kyi's expedition to Byzantium. Along the sides, interspersed with intricate ancient motifs, is the story itself, written in Ukrainian. The Cyrillic microprint can be read quite easily with the aid of a simple magnifying glass.

The release of the 100mm x 80mm souvenir sheet was reportedly delayed due to a controversy over the luxurious attire in which the siblings were depicted; apparently, the style is of a later period. Nonetheless, the souvenir sheet was issued on May 6, 1997, in Kyiv. Prepared by the government printing office in Kyiv, the sheets were printed in four colors: lemon, yellow, slate-green and brown; only 300,000 copies of this extraordinary souvenir sheet were prepared.

Examining many dozens of these souvenir sheets, I have been able to consistently find a "smudge variety" of this issue. About half of the sheets that I have scrutinized show a small green smudge over the head and/or right shoulder of Khoryv on the right stamp.

Tiny smudge or no, this beautiful item will undoubtedly be much sought not only by Europa collectors but by anyone who appreciates superb graphic design. In my humble opinion, this souvenir sheet is the finest philatelic specimen Ukraine has released since it resumed issuing stamps in 1992 – a true masterpiece of graphic art.

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INDEPENDENT UKRAINE: THE 7th ANNIVERSARY

Vote for Ukraine's...

(Continued from page 12)

observed that, when he was in the mood, he had an almost elfin sense of humor. The front of my seat abutted the entrance; as he walked by, I will swear, his step was elated, his mood was giddy. He was loving this.

It became obvious that this arrival was what we all had been waiting for. Mr. Moroz took the piece of paper that Mr. Pavlychko handed him, read it, looked up at Stanislav Hurenko, chairman of the Communist Party of Ukraine, seated halfway up the auditorium, and gave a slight nod to Mr. Hurenko. Mr. Moroz then asked Mr. Pavlychko to read aloud the act. Mr. Pavlychko read the short declaration of independence and the compro-

mise resolution providing for a public referendum to confirm the declaration.

Stanislav Ivanovych is a tall man; at this moment, he was a physically impressive man, who rose slowly and fully to his height. He offered the auditorium a few introductory words, then fell quiet. "Comrades," he continued, "today we will vote for Ukraine's independence, for if we do not vote for her independence, there will be trouble for us."

There was absolute, total silence in the auditorium.

This was it: the final directive from the head of the Communist Party to vote for the independence of Ukraine.

And for me, Stanislav Hurenko's statement will always be the moment when the Soviet Union came to its end.



Irene Jarosewich

National Council members gather for final caucus before the independence vote.

Independence: bye-bye, USSR

Following is the full text of *The Ukrainian Weekly's* editorial published on September 1, 1991, after the proclamation of Ukraine's independence.

The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic is no more. In its place, on August 24, arose an independent democratic state called, simply, Ukraine.

Events unfolded quickly. Almost without warning and, literally, overnight Ukraine's long-sought independence became reality. Impelled by the failed coup in Moscow, the obvious disintegration of the union and the hopeless demise of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Ukrainian Parliament overwhelmingly adopted the Act of Declaration of the Independence of Ukraine. Democrats, Communists and those in between all saw that Ukraine simply must seize the moment, that Ukraine must take its future into its own hands and not wait for outside forces to determine the destiny of this nation of 52 million.

Suddenly the news media were replete with reports on "the vital Ukraine," "the agricultural and industrial powerhouse" and "the breadbasket of the USSR." Commentators pointed out that the second most populous republic of what was the Soviet Union – and, according to Deutsche Bank, the republic ranked highest in terms of economic criteria on its chances of succeeding on its own – would now play the decisive role in defining what type of union or federation, if any, would be formed in place of the USSR.

All around, day by day, the USSR was withering away. The coup's principal achievement was to prove that central power in the Soviet empire is dead, and power was fast devolving to the republics. "What has happened is the collapse of the central empire, the full destruction of the structures of imperial power. There can be no illusions: the Soviet Union no longer exists," Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, people's deputy from Ukraine told the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin was perhaps the first to realize this as he seized power, issuing decrees, subordinating all-union matters and institutions to the RSFSR and shamelessly dictating to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

But the actions of Tsar Boris soon aroused the suspicions of republics which saw the resurrection of "Big Brother" Russia, a republic "more equal" than others. Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman warned republics sharing borders with Russia that it would not let them secede taking heavily populated Russian areas with them (i.e. the Crimea and Donbas in Ukraine, and northern Kazakstan).

Finally, Russia's emissaries had to travel to Ukraine to persuade that newly independent state to sign a temporary bilateral agreement on military and economic matters in an attempt to halt the "uncontrolled disintegration" of the union seen by many around the globe as an extremely dangerous situation – especially in view of the fact that nuclear weapons are found in various republics. Ukraine acted responsibly, signing an agreement with Russia on these crucial matters but at the same time emphasizing that this is a bilateral, horizontal agreement between two equals – not a precursor to any new form of union. (It should be noted that the pact goes so far as to refer to the "former USSR.") And, a pledge to respect each other's territorial integrity was reconfirmed as part of the deal.

Thus, Ukraine appears to have passed its first big hurdle as an independent state. But what lies ahead? Many more hurdles, we are certain. As we've seen lately, so much can happen in so little time. And there are three months between now and December 1 when the people of Ukraine of all nationalities will be asked to affirm Ukraine's independence declaration in a plebiscite.

Surely, there is no one in Ukraine who doubts that it will be completely independent. Observers worldwide have commented that Ukraine's independence declaration is irreversible. Mr. Gorbachev, now more clearly than ever a transitional figure in the USSR, still hopes to save the union, but is slowly becoming aware that his vast country and the people have changed. Meanwhile, governments around the world have begun reacting to the reality that exists on the territory of what once was the monolithic USSR.

Here in the U.S., we are somewhat buoyed by President George Bush's statement earlier this week that the U.S. "will respect the freely expressed wishes of the people of Ukraine" in the upcoming referendum and his pledge to "continue to move in a way to encourage independence and self-determination" – words he dared not utter in Kyiv so recently. However, we also point to Mr. Bush's inaction this week on the issue of recognition of the independent Baltic states. Ever prudent, Mr. Bush said he did not want to contribute to anarchy in the USSR and would prefer to wait until the USSR Supreme Soviet grants the Baltic states their independence, thus implying U.S. recognition of Soviet authority over Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia.

So, what lies ahead? Much work in preparation for the December 1 referendum in Ukraine. Much work in preparing world leaders to accept an independent Ukraine as a participant and partner in international affairs. Will the leaders and people of Ukraine, and Ukrainians in the diaspora, be equal to the task?

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Finance minister...

(Continued from page 1)

understand that reasons may exist to change our current strategies."

In trying to bolster investor confidence in the stagnant Ukrainian economy, Mr. Yuschenko explained that Ukraine has sufficient reserves to make 1998 payments on its debts.

"In the current situation what is most important is that the psychology surrounding the financial markets of Ukraine must be changed," said Mr. Yuschenko, adding, "I want you to accentuate that we are not planning any major adjustments to our monetary policies."

The government of Ukraine has increasingly turned to the West to sort out its post-Soviet bureaucratic inconsisten-

cies and borrowed on the international short-term credit market at rates approaching 40 percent. But, with interest rates flying even higher into the stratosphere and overstressed by the defaults of many Russian banks, and Russia's de facto 33 percent devaluation of its ruble, the Ukrainian currency has felt a drop that will make it more difficult for the government to make good on what it owes.

Finance Minister Mitiukov made it clear that the West has not abandoned Ukraine. "We are currently, and will continue to work with NG Barrons, Nomura and Chase Manhattan," said Mr. Mitiukov.

Those banks, to which Ukraine has become heavily indebted, are among the leaders in the intricate international lending system that makes decisions on the future possibilities of international currencies.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 4)

places, central television, radio and press; the immediate release of imprisoned People's Deputy Stepan Khmara and reversal of last November's vote stripping Dr. Khmara of the official immunity; the firing of Ukrainian SSR Chief Procurator Mykhailo Potebenko and Ukrainian TV chief Mykola Okhmakevych for complicity with the coup regime; and the creation of a special commission to investigate the actions of officials during the botched overthrow.

As thousands of flag-waving Ukrainians outside chanted "independence," the debate inside lasted for hours; several breaks were called to alleviate the tension and allow the majority and minority groups to hold strategy meetings.

After Volodymyr Yavorivsky proposed the vote on independence, reading aloud the text of the resolution and act on the declaration of independence, Parliament Chairman Leonid Kravchuk called a one-hour break, when the Communist majority met and debated the historic issue.

During their debate it appeared that most of the Communists felt there was no choice other than a decision to secede and, as they expressed it, distance themselves from the events in Moscow, particularly the strong anti-Communist movement in the Russian Parliament.

"If we don't vote for independence, it will be a disaster," said Ukrainian Communist Party chief Stanislav Hurenko during the debate.

Toward the end of the debate, two representatives from the National Council, Mr. Yavorivsky and Dmytro Pavlychko, came to the majority meeting to propose a compromise: a clause in the resolution requiring a nationwide referendum on independence on December 1.

After the break, at 5:55 p.m., the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine voted 321 to 2, with 6 abstentions, out of 360, for the Act of Declaration of the Independence of Ukraine and "the creation of an independent Ukrainian state - Ukraine."

At 6 p.m., the Ukrainian Parliament voted 346 to 1, with 3 abstentions (out of 362), for the resolution declaring Ukraine an independent, democratic state, effective immediately, and calling for a republican referendum on December 1.

Expressions of euphoria from the crowd gathered outside could be heard coming through the windows to the foyer, and could occasionally be heard as the doors into the session hall were opened.

Source: "Ukraine declares independence" by Chrystyna Lapychak, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, September 1, 1991, Vol. LIX, No. 35.

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Democratic National Committee honors Ukrainian Americans

WASHINGTON – The Democratic National Committee (DNC) honored Ukrainian Americans on June 10 during Ethnic Day on Capitol Hill. The event was hosted by the DNC's Office of Ethnic Outreach and the National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Committee.

The event recognized the Ukrainian American community for contributions to the American culture and for commitment to maintaining democracy in America.

Over 200 leaders representing various ethnic communities traveled to Washington from many states, including California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin, as well as the District of Columbia.

Several members of the U.S. Congress joined in the celebration of ethnic America. House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt (Mo.), one of the guest speakers at the lunch, delivered a speech on Democratic Party values and the significance of ethnic Americans in the political process. Sen. Robert Torricelli (N.J.), Sen. Paul Sarbanes (Md.) and Rep. Elliot Engel (N.Y.) also delivered addresses on the issue of ethnicity. Other guests during the day's program included Craig Smith, assistant to the president, and Reps. Dennis Kucinich and Marcy Kaptur, both of Ohio.

A special reception with Vice-President Al Gore concluded Ethnic Day. The vice-president spoke enthusiastically about the cultural traditions of ethnic Americans and the importance of their contributions to forming American society.

"We were delighted with the attendance from the various ethnic communities and look forward to meeting with them again next year," said DNC National Chair Steve Grossman. "The ethnic communities are an integral part of American society, and we cherish our strong relationship."

General Chair Gov. Roy Romer said, "It was a pleasure meeting with the ethnic communities. They are the backbone of the nation and the bedrock of our Democratic Party."



Representatives of the Ukrainian American community who attended the Ethnic Day celebration held on Capitol Hill.

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Attention, Students!

Throughout the year Ukrainian student clubs plan and hold activities. The Ukrainian Weekly urges students to let us and the Ukrainian community know about upcoming events.

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AUTHORIZED AGENTS

Remembering...

(Continued from page 4)

front of the old courthouse along with thousands of other Canadians of various ethnic origins. Mr. Kolasky was the featured speaker that night. Drawing on the image of a cowboy in a western movie on television, Mr. Kolasky described the Soviet interloper's visit as "Mr. Kosygin has come to town." The remark was very effective and summarized our feelings on that day.

Shortly after these events I moved to Toronto to become involved in SUSK, the Ukrainian Students Union of Canada. Mr. Kolasky also made his way out east since he was writing another book for Peter Martin, his publisher. Thus, in the early 1970s we met from time to time for dinner and discussed the current state of Ukrainian affairs and other matters.

Our paths crossed again at the Habitat Conference on Human Settlements in Vancouver in summer 1976. Again our efforts were directed at the Soviet Union and its failure to respect the rights of Ukraine and other East European nations.

Again we appeared on open-line radio shows. And once again Mr. Kolasky was masterful in rebuking Canadian pro-Soviet callers who challenged our criticisms of the USSR. In one instance a caller was commenting on how wonderful life was under Soviet rule. Mr. Kolasky blurted out "tell it to the Czechs," referring to the Prague spring and its aftermath, when Czech opposition to Soviet domination was crushed by Soviet tanks. With one comment Mr. Kolasky shot down the caller's argument in flames.

Later in the 1970s we again met in Vancouver to help Leonid Plyushch, the first Ukrainian dissident released to the West by Soviet authorities. Mr. Plyushch had come to Vancouver to attend an international meeting of psychiatrists where he wanted to raise the issue of Soviet abuse of psychiatry for political purposes. While Mr. Plyushch was in Vancouver the Ukrainian community held a banquet in his honor. It was there that Mr. Kolasky exhibited his talent for fund-raising and organization.

Mr. Kolasky gave a speech appealing to all those present to donate to a fund we were creating for Mr. Plyushch. Mr. Kolasky then had us fan out to each banquet table like ushers covering pews in a church. At each table we passed out lists on which each person was to write his or her name, address and the amount he or she was donating. Since we ensured that every person signed on the list we missed nobody. We collected over \$5,000 that night from the 300 people who attended.

It was some time during this period that Mr. Kolasky once asked me whether I felt in any circumstances that the end could justify the means. Posing the problem in Ukrainian, he asked: "Chy mozhna zlom zrobyty dobro?" With a gleam in his eye, he then explained to me that the means you choose determine the end you achieve.

Obviously, Mr. Kolasky spoke Ukrainian. Yet it was not, strictly speaking, his native language since he was born and raised in Canada. Still, he exhibited an infectious love for the language – probably in part because people who spoke it in Ukraine were persecuted for doing so. He made it a point to speak to me in Ukrainian even though both of us were more fluent in English.

Mr. Kolasky was instrumental in virtually all activities the Ukrainian diaspora undertook regarding Ukraine. For example, he played a role in the publication of the book "Report from the Beria Reserve" by Valentyn Moroz. He shared our disappointment with Mr. Moroz following the Soviet political prisoner's release to the West. Frankly, like the rest of us, Mr. Kolasky hoped Mr. Moroz would play a more inspiring role in the campaign to gain the release of other Ukrainian dissidents still incarcerated in the Soviet Union.

Although I was not with Mr. Kolasky during the final stages of the demise of the USSR, I know how big an impact this had on his life. For him, as for all of us, the collapse of the Soviet Union and the establishment of a free Ukraine was a dream come true. While all of us projected that the Soviet Union would one day collapse, none of us – not even Mr. Kolasky – could predict exactly how it would occur. I remember many occasions when the passion of events or ideas was reflected in Mr. Kolasky's eyes and in his smile. But I doubt there was any event in Mr. Kolasky's lifetime that meant more to him than the declaration of the independence of Ukraine on August 24, 1991. For Mr. Kolasky, Ukraine's independence was a manifestation of a lifelong aspiration.

As fortunate as Mr. Kolasky and his generation of Ukrainians were to live to see their dream come true, it soon became evident that new challenges faced Ukraine as a nation in the international community. Mr. Kolasky rose to help Ukraine face these new challenges. He frequently traveled to Ukraine, despite his declining health. Indeed, I often wondered in those years how this gentle, elderly man with a delicate constitution could continue all his activities.

Mr. Kolasky made two important contributions to independent Ukraine's future. He initiated a scholarship fund to bring Ukrainian students to Canada to learn firsthand about democracy, freedom and free enterprise. He employed his considerable fund-raising skills, traveling across Canada to visit his friends and acquaintances to convince them with his powerful logic of the value of such a student fund. More than once I remember Mr. Kolasky asserting that what he needed most to help Ukraine was "dolary" – U.S. dollars (he pronounced it with a flat "a" not the "ya" sound).

Also significant was Mr. Kolasky's work in support of the Ukrainian Republican Party. Having carefully surveyed the political landscape in Ukraine, Mr. Kolasky became convinced that the best hope for the future of Ukraine rested in supporting the URP, which was made up of former Ukrainian dissidents, primarily members of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group. These individuals, like Levko Lukianenko, had helped Ukraine in its darkest hour and, therefore, could now be trusted to lead the struggle to free Ukraine from its colonial past.

Mr. Kolasky supported the Ukrainian Republican Party by raising money in North America to buy computers that were shipped to Ukraine and donated to the party. These computers were then strategically distributed throughout Ukraine to help the democratic press advance the cause of freedom. While transporting these computers into Ukraine, Mr. Kolasky traveled extensively throughout the country, speaking at a wide variety of gatherings as a Ukrainian Canadian looking at events from the outside. He would often employ the posture of speaking on behalf of Ukrainians in the West, wondering why events were unfolding in the way they were. Always tactful and diplomatic, he never hesitated to expose banalities whenever he encountered them during these tours.

I was surprised to learn that Mr. Kolasky was buried in the village of Khotiv, near Kyiv. After all, for Mr. Kolasky, Ukraine was his adopted homeland. Yet in view of his lifelong commitment to that country, perhaps I shouldn't have been taken aback. His burial there is a symbolic culmination of his life's dedication.

In the end, Ukraine's rich "chornozem" soil has become a suitable resting place for his weary bones. While Mr. Kolasky has now concluded his life, the work he started remains for us to complete. While Mr. Kolasky has fallen, the torch of freedom that he carried so faithfully for so long must now be picked up and carried forward. There is work to be done and a dream to be fulfilled.

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Leading Ukrainian historian awarded Kolasky Fellowship

EDMONTON – Dr. Vladyslav Verstiuk, a leading historian of the Ukrainian revolution (1917-1920), was this year's Ukraine Exchange Fellow at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS), University of Alberta. His research visit was made possible by a grant from the John Kolasky Ukraine Exchange Fellowship Endowment Fund at CIUS.

Dr. Verstiuk directs a research program on the revolution at the Institute of Ukrainian History, National Academy of Sciences in Kyiv, and teaches at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. He is the author of many significant historical studies, including a monograph on the peasant agrarian revolts led by anarchist Nestor Makhno during the revolution, which won the National Academy of Sciences Hrushevsky Award. He recently compiled and edited two volumes of documents on the Ukrainian Central Rada, which was Ukraine's Parliament in 1917-1918. Dr. Verstiuk is a regular contributor to Ukrainian newspapers and runs a popular radio program on Ukrainian history.

His three-month visit to CIUS (from January through March 1998) coincided with the 80th anniversary of the Ukrainian revolution. Dr. Verstiuk was greatly in demand as a speaker, appearing before Ukrainian community audiences in Edmonton and Toronto, and delivering scholarly papers on the Central Rada at the Harriman Institute of Columbia University (New York), the University of Toronto and Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario.

He gave a paper on "Conceptual Foundations for the Study of the History of

the Ukrainian Revolution" as part of the CIUS seminar series in March. An article by Dr. Verstiuk based on his seminar presentation, with comments and responses from other scholars, will appear in the Journal of Ukrainian Studies, published semiannually by CIUS.

During his time at the CIUS, Dr. Verstiuk familiarized himself with historical publications not easily available in Ukraine, especially memoirs of Ukrainians who participated in the revolution, as well as scholarly works of Ukrainian historians in the diaspora. He also contributed to Ukrainian scholarship and community life in Canada through informal discussions and contacts, notably via the Ukrainian program broadcast by radio station CKER in Edmonton.

Since its inception in 1990, the Ukraine Exchange Fellowship Endowment Fund has benefited many distinguished senior and promising junior scholars and professionals in Ukraine, ranging from economists to a computer scientist, an academic publisher and a linguist.

The fund was established by the late John Kolasky, a writer and educator, with the assistance of Peter and Pauline Kindrachuk and William and Justine Fedeyko. Earlier this year the fund was renamed to honor Mr. Kolasky's memory.

The 1998-1999 fellowship has been awarded to Volodymyr Kulyk, a young political scientist from Kyiv. During his three-month stay in Canada, Mr. Kulyk will conduct research in libraries and archives in Edmonton and Winnipeg.



SUMMER PROGRAMS 1998

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Saturday, September 5

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 VOHON – Ukrainian Dance Ensemble – Edmonton
 OKSANA CHARUK – vocalist
 THOMAS HRYNKIV – pianist
 10:00 p.m. DANCE – "TEMPO"; "ZOLOTA BULAVA"

Sunday, September 6

2:15 p.m. CONCERT
 VOHON – Ukrainian Dance Ensemble – Edmonton
 Duet LUBA and MYKOLA
 8:30 p.m. CONCERT
 ROSEMARY MUSOLENO-MARTYNUK – soprano
 THOMAS HRYNKIV – pianist
 10:00 p.m. DANCE – "TEMPO"; "FATA MORGANA"

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Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

previous day the Cabinet of Ministers appealed to all government employees to surrender 50 percent of their August salaries to the pension fund. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Wives of pilots block military airfield

MYRHOROD – Some 30 wives of military pilots have been picketing the military airfield in Myrhorod, Poltava Oblast, for the past week to prevent their husbands from conducting duty flights, Ukrainian Television reported on August 12. The wives are demanding that their husbands' wages for the past six months be paid and are threatening to launch a hunger strike. The Myrhorod airfield is the base for Ukraine's largest group of SU-27 fighters, which defend the country's air space. According to the station, the pilots – who are prohibited from striking by military law – support the action and are letting their wives into the airfield despite the fact that military authorities have dug ditches and set up additional sentry posts. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Belarusian newspaper sues government

MIENSK – The Higher Economic Court on August 12 opened the case brought by the Belarusian-language newspaper Nasha Niva against the State Press Committee, Belapan and RFE/RL Belarusian Service reported. Nasha Niva's chief editor, Syarhey Dubavets, demanded that the committee revoke the warning it issued in May not to use traditional Belarusian spelling, banned by Joseph Stalin's regime in 1933. Mr. Dubavets asked the court to set up an expert linguistic commission to determine whether the newspaper distorts the "generally accepted norms" of the Belarusian language, as stated in the official warning. Judge Ina Petukhova, who speaks no Belarusian, agreed to postpone the court proceedings until August 14. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Foreign investment up so far in 1998

KYIV – Foreign investment in the economy in the first half of 1998 totaled \$517.7 million (U.S.), or 54.3 percent more than in the same period of 1997. Direct foreign investments as of July 1 totaled \$2.47 billion. The largest investors were the U.S. with \$428.9 million (17.4 percent of the total); Holland with \$234.7 million (9.5 percent); Germany with \$196 million (7.9 percent); South Korea with \$182.5 million (7.4 percent) and Great Britain with \$168.3 million (6.8 percent). (Eastern Economist)

Lviv distiller receives gold medal

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Perlova Vodka, distilled in Lviv in accordance with a 400-year-old recipe, won the gold medal in the premium category at the recent international Wine and Vodka Fair in St. Petersburg, Russia. In a blind taste-test nine judges chose Perlova Vodka over 360 entrants in the premium vodka category. Perlova Vodka has been available in Canada for three years and is now also being imported by Perlova imports of Alexandria. This year's St. Petersburg expo, which dates back to 1829, hosted more than 150 distilleries and wineries from Europe and Russia. (Eastern Economist)

Ukrainian planes win English honors

KYIV – The Ukrainian Air Force won honors at the July 25-26 Fairford International Air Tattoo in Gloucester County, England. The Ukrainian AN-72 aircraft won the contest for Best Foreign Flying Display and the TU-22M3 Backfire Bomber was runner-up in the Best Static Display category. Ukraine's Air Force also sent the military IL-76MD cargo aircraft for static display and Ukrainian Cargo Airways sent a IL-76MD civilian aircraft. All military aircraft were from the Poltava Military Regiment. This is the third year of Ukrainian participation in the Fairford Tattoo, which is the world's largest air show. (Eastern Economist)

Ukraine repays \$450 M to Japanese firm

KYIV – The Ukrainian Finance Ministry has repaid in full a \$450 million (U.S.) loan to the Japanese firm Nomura International, Ukrainian News and DPA reported on August 12. That move eases fears that Ukraine is facing bankruptcy. According to Ukrainian News, the Finance Ministry paid \$406 million from the National Bank's hard currency reserves, which amounted to some \$1.5 billion earlier this month. Short-term debts to be paid by Ukraine in August total \$1 billion. (RFE/RL Newsline)

National bank's reserves fall sharply

KYIV – Ukrainian National Bank Chairman Viktor Yuschenko says the bank's reserves dropped to \$1.15 billion (U.S.) from \$1.49 billion in August, following the repayment of a loan to Nomura International. The government initially planned to repay the loan with foreign aid but was unable to secure such assistance because of the lack of confidence in Ukraine among foreign investors. Mr. Yuschenko remains optimistic about the country's financial prospects. "The largest payments in 1998 have been made, and now everything should be done to win the confidence of both market operators and Ukraine's creditors in the Ukrainian market," Interfax quoted him as saying on August 15. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine, Moldova settle border dispute

KYIV – During Moldovan Prime Minister Ion Ciubuc's August 4 visit to Kyiv, agreement was reached on resolving a border dispute in an area near the Danube delta. Under that agreement, Moldova will receive a small area of Ukrainian territory to build an oil terminal on the banks of the Danube River. In exchange, Ukraine will receive a section of the road connecting the Ukrainian cities of Odesa and Izmail. Ukrainian Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko said that Moldova is Ukraine's strategic partner and that economic relations between both countries must be intensified. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine sees better economic prospects

KYIV – Ukraine's vice minister of the economy, Ihor Shumylo, on August 5 presented the government's forecast of basic economic indicators for next year, Ukrainian Television and the Associated Press reported. Ukraine expects economic growth to total 2 percent of the gross domestic product in 1999, up from 0.5 percent planned for this year. The budget deficit is expected to decrease to 1.5 percent of the GDP, down from 2.5 percent forecast for this year. Inflation is expected to decrease to 7 percent from 12 percent anticipated in 1998. Mr. Shumylo said the government's optimistic economic prognosis stems from economic reform measures taken recently by Ukraine to secure a large loan from the International Monetary Fund. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Construction of pipeline begins in Crimea

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma on August 5 attended the inauguration of the construction of a new gas pipeline in Crimea, Ukrainian Television reported. The 269-kilometer pipeline will link the Crimean cities of Dzhankoi, Feodosiia and Kerch, improving gas supplies to some 30 percent of the peninsula's population. The construction will cost \$100 million; 20 percent of that sum is to be paid by the UkrNaftoHaz national oil and gas company and 80 percent contributed in construction materials by domestic enterprises in repayment of their debts to the state budget. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine toughens border controls

KYIV – In a bid to clamp down on illegal immigration via Ukraine, the govern-

ment has introduced new restrictions on foreigners staying in Ukraine's border zone, Ukrainian Television reported on August 6. In addition to valid passports and visas, foreigners there must now have a document from the Internal Affairs Ministry confirming "the necessity of their stay on that territory." Pavlo Shysholin, chief of staff of the Ukrainian Border Troops, told journalists on August 6 that 11,000 border violators were detained in Ukraine in the first half of this year, including 5,000 illegal immigrants who were seeking to reach the West. Two-thirds of the illegal immigrants from Asia, the Middle East and Africa arrive in Ukraine via Russia. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv to cut administration staff

KYIV – Oleksander Yakovenko, head of the personnel policy department in the presidential administration, has announced that the government administration will be cut by 100 people to a total of 600, Ukrainian Television reported on August 6. He added that the Ukrainian president's administration will be cut by 20 percent. He provided no figures for that reduction because, according to the television station, "it is unknown how many people are working in the [presidential] administration." The reductions are part of an ongoing administrative reform that is to be completed in 2010. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukrainian plant threatens to poison river

STEBNIK – Workers of a chemical plant in Stebnik, Lviv Oblast, have threatened to release poisonous waste into the Dnister River unless they are paid their wages for the past six months, ITAR-TASS reported on August 6. The river passes through the Lviv, Ternopil, Chernivtsi and Odessa oblasts, as well as neighboring Moldova. The plant's management has sent a delegation to Kyiv to obtain funds to repay wage arrears totaling 8.5 million hryv (\$4.1 million U.S.). (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine falls short in privatization

KYIV – Oleksander Bondar, acting head of the Ukrainian State Property Fund, said on July 28 that privatization revenues this year will fall short of the planned \$1 billion hryvni (\$475 million), Ukrainian Television reported. In the first six months of 1998, those revenues totaled only 240 million hryvni. In Mr. Bondar's opinion, the fund will not fulfill its privatization plan because of the "emergency situation at a majority of Ukrainian enterprises." He added that it is impossible to sell shares in the most attractive enterprises "even at nominal prices." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Nazi victims receiving compensation

KYIV – The Ukraina Bank has disbursed compensation to 83,666 victims of Nazi concentration camps. The bank's press secretary, Yurii Klymnyk, said that as of July 1, almost 49.7 million DM had been paid out. Payments will be completed after the bank receives more lists of persons entitled to compensation. (Eastern Economist)

Pivdenmash, Case set up joint venture

KYIV – Yurii Alekseiiev, director general of the Pivdenmash integrated works, and Jean-Pierre Rossaue, president of U.S.-based Case, signed an agreement on June 22 creating the joint venture DniproCase. The JV will use Case's technology to make 250 HP tractors in Dnipropetrovsk. The JV hopes to roll out 500 new tractors by the end of 1998 and DniproCase hopes to manufacture 4,000 to 4,500 tractors per year within five years. Within three to four years these tractors will be assembled using Ukrainian-made parts. The JV will also market, sell and service Case tractors in Ukraine. (Eastern Economist)

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St. Catharines MP...

(Continued from page 3)

encouraged to contact their provincial government economic development authority or the nearest International Trade Center (ITC), whose offices coincide with those of the national Industry Ministry.

Likely participants include the Edmonton-based Grant MacEwan Community College, which has an office in Ukraine; Atomic Energy of Canada Limited; Baker & McKenzie, a law firm with an office in Ukraine; and the Royal Canadian Mint, which printed the first issue of Ukraine's official currency in 1996).

Participants in Canada's previous missions have included manufacturing enterprises, resource companies, banks and other financial institutions, agricultural concerns, law and consulting firms, academic and medical institutions, and even modelling agencies.

For further information, contact the Team Canada Task Force at: telephone, (613) 995-2194; fax, (613) 996-3406; there is also a toll free line: 1-888-811-1119.

Contact information for selected provincial ITC's follow below. (For those in the Yukon Territory, contact the British Columbia office; for those in the Northwest Territories, contact the Alberta office; for those in the Maritime provinces, please consult the website.)

British Columbia

ITC/Industry Canada
300 West Georgia St., Suite 200
Vancouver, British Columbia V6B 6E1
telephone: (604) 666-0434
fax: (604) 666-0954
e-mail: pedersen.robort@ic.gc.ca

Alberta

Industry Canada
Canada Place
9700 Jasper Ave., Suite 725
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4C3

telephone: (403) 495-2944
fax: (403) 495-4507
e-mail: henry.reid@ic.gc.ca

or

300,639 Fifth Ave. SW
Calgary, Alberta, T2P 0M9
telephone: (403) 292-4575
fax: (403) 292-4578
e-mail: hislop.jessie@ic.gc.ca

Saskatchewan

Industry Canada
7th Floor, Princeton Tower
123 Second Ave., S.
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 7E6
telephone: (306) 975-5315
fax: (306) 975-5334
e-mail: grantham.john@ic.gc.ca

or

Industry Canada
1919 Saskatchewan Drive, 2nd Floor
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3N8
telephone: (306) 780-6325/6124
fax: (306) 780-8797
e-mail: tait.lynne@ic.gc.ca

Manitoba

Industry Canada
400 St. Mary Ave., 4th Floor
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 4K5
telephone: (204) 983-5851
fax: (204) 983-3182
e-mail: cusson.pierreandre@ic.gc.ca

Ontario

Industry Canada
151 Yonge St., 4th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5C 2W7
telephone: (416) 973-5053
fax: (416) 973-8161
e-mail: paquette.conrad@ic.gc.ca

Québec

Industry Canada
5 Place Ville Marie, 7-ème etage
Montréal, Québec H3B 2G2
telephone: (514) 283-6328
fax: (514) 283-8794
e-mail: bruneau.gaetan@ic.gc.ca

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

(Continued from page 20)

Saturday, September 5

KERHONKSON, N.Y.: The Ukrainian American Nautical Association Inc. (UANAI) is holding its annual meeting on the Soyuzivka deck at 2 p.m. Discussions will focus on the election of officers and future trip planning. Members and anyone interested in sailing are invited to attend. For information call Nataalka Luchanko, (215) 517-7076.

Sunday, September 6

ROUND LAKE PARK, Ill.: Following an 11 a.m. liturgy at Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church, a Ukrainian food and grill, children's games, pony rides, swimming, a Ukrainian orchestra and lottery will take place at the Self Reliance Association's Round Lake Resort. The resort is on Maple and Oak streets, two miles north on Hainesville Road off Route 120. The resort phone number is (847) 546-9728. For more information call the Rev. Myron Panchuk, (312) 829-5209, or e-mail: mpanchuk@aol.com

Wednesday, September 9

NEWARK, N.J.: St. John's Ukrainian Preschool will re-open with Ukrainian-language Montessori sessions each weekday morning from 9 a.m. to noon. Extended hours from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. are available to serve working parents. The minimum age is 2 1/2. The school emphasizes respect for the child, individualized learning and promotion of the child's independence. For more information call Olenka Makarushka-Kolodiy,

(973)763-1797. Check school's webpage at <http://members.aol.com/olenkam>

Sunday, September 13

SCRANTON, Pa.: The Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum will hold a coal miners' picnic at 1-3 p.m. This family event will include storytelling, children's games, a museum scavenger hunt, and homemade pie, ice cream and lemonade. The cost of the picnic is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children. The museum is located on R.D. 1, Bald Mountain Road. Reservations may be made by calling the museum, (717) 963-4804.

Tuesday, September 15

NEW YORK: The Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus will perform for the first time at Carnegie Hall at 8 p.m. Works by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Prokofiev, Tanayev, Brahms, Rutter, Gershwin, Berlin, as well as Ukrainian classics and folk music will be performed by 160 Ukrainian instrumentalists and singers. Prices range from \$15 to \$60. For tickets call the Carnegie Hall Box Office or CenterCharge, (212) 247-7800. For group sales call (516) 324-1248.

Thursday, September 17

NEW YORK: Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 64 invites UNWLA members and the public to a farewell for Ludmyla Kryzhanivsky, wife of Ukraine's consul general in New York. The gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Shevchenko Scientific Society building, 64 Fourth Ave.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, August 23

NEW CITY, N.Y.: Ukrainian American Veterans Post No. 19 and the Ukrainian Heritage Society of Rockland County will sponsor a Ukrainian Independence Day flag-raising ceremony to take place at the Allison-Paris County Office Building, New Hempstead Road, at 1 p.m. For more information call Teddy B. Dusanenko, (914) 634-5502.

NEW YORK: The Committee of the United Ukrainian American Organizations of the City of New York, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council will be holding a Ukrainian Independence Day celebration at the National Home, 140 Second Ave., at 2 p.m. The program will include guest speaker Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko; pianist and winner of international musical competitions Volodymyr Vynnytsky, and Yuriy Kharenko, a Ukrainian artist. Admission is free.

Saturday, August 29

ANNAPOLIS, Md.: The Washington Group is organizing a group outing on the Severn River. Canoes and kayaks (\$25 for half a day) will be rented. The group will

meet in Annapolis at 10 a.m. and is planning to brunch in historic Annapolis after the trip. For more information call Ihor Kotlarchuk, (703) 548-8534.

Sunday, August 30

EMLENTON, Pa.: All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Church Camp will be celebrating its 20th anniversary starting with a 9 a.m. divine liturgy celebrated by the Pennsylvania-Ohio and Pittsburgh Deaneries. A picnic luncheon of Ukrainian foods will follow. At 3:30 p.m. the Kyiv Dance Ensemble of Carnegie, Pa., vocalists and bandurists will perform. Displays and sales of Ukrainian cultural items will be offered. For more information call the camp, (724) 867-5811.

Friday-Sunday, September 4-6

SAN DIEGO: The Ukrainian Festival 98, presented by the House of Ukraine, will be hosting Tropak Ukrainian Dance Theatre from Vancouver. The weekend includes a bonfire, dinner and dance, as well as the dance performance. For help in planning your Ukrainian Festival 98 vacation, contact the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau, (619) 236-1212, or visit <http://www.sandiego.org>

(Continued on page 19)

PLEASE NOTE PREVIEW REQUIREMENTS:

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

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

At Soyuzivka: August 28-29

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Soyuzivka's pre-Labor Day weekend program will spotlight Ukrainian and European music in a concert performed by violist Halyna Kolessa.

The concert, scheduled for 8:30 p.m. in the Veselka auditorium, is dedicated to the memories of Walter Kwas and Dr. Roman Moroz. Ms. Kolessa notes that this will be "a personal tribute to two men who were always dedicated to the Ukrainian community, which greatly benefited from their love and efforts, and to the support that they provided to Ukrainian youth."

Ms. Kolessa will be accompanied by pianist Oksana Ravliuk Protenic. The program will include selections by classical European and Ukrainian composers, including J.S. Bach, Handel, Gounod, Liudkevych, Mykola Kolessa, Ihor Sonevytsky and Shtoharenko.

After the concert, at approximately 10 p.m., there will be a dance at the Veselka pavilion to the tunes of Vidlunnia.

For information about Soyuzivka accommodations, entertainment programs, art exhibits and other special features, call (914) 626-5641.



Violist Halyna Kolessa and pianist Oksana Ravliuk Protenic

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