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Ukraine's new ambassador to U.S. meets Ukrainian American leaders

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON - Leaders of the Ukrainian American community and Ukraine's new ambassador to the United States, Anton Buteiko, got a chance to meet each other and exchange views on issues of mutual concern December 18, during a meeting and reception organized here at the Embassy of Ukraine.

Before his appointment to Washington, Ambassador Buteiko, 51, was first vice minister of foreign affairs. He arrived here soon after his predecessor Dr. Yuri Shcherbak's departure in late November. He presented his letters of credence to the State Department, but they have not yet been officially accepted by the president.

The meeting was with leaders of some 20 Ukrainian American organizations, among them three umbrella groupings - the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) and the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council (UACC) - as well as the major women's, professionals', medical, academic, scientific and military organizations and foundations.

The 90-minute working meeting was off the record. After the session, however, some of the participants expressed their reaction to the new ambassador and what he said. Without exception, all were positive.

The newly elected UWC president, Askold Lozynskyj, who also serves as president of the UCCA, said he was impressed by Ambassador Buteiko's apparent "practicality," "level-headedness" and "professionalism."

"Perhaps I'm biased, but he thinks the way an attorney does, because he is (one), in fact; he has a juridical background," said Mr. Lozynskyj, who also is an attorney.

"Without disparaging or saying anything negative about any of his predecessors," he added, "I think that he is a quality ambassador, in the fullest sense. He's a pro, and I

expect great things from him."

"He understands the distinction of being an ambassador and ... being a representative of the community," Mr. Lozynskyj said of Ambassador Buteiko. "He understands how far his relationship with the community should go."

[In an "Open Letter" dated October 30, Mr. Lozynskyj had criticized Ambassador Shcherbak, taking the diplomat to task for his presentation at a Ukrainian American professionals conference earlier that month in New Jersey as well as for the work of the Ukrainian Embassy.]

He applauded Ambassador Buteiko's statement that Ukraine would rather earn funds abroad through trade than accept foreign aid.

"He is not seeking handouts," Mr. Lozynskyj added. "He's looking to create an investment climate and environment in Ukraine and a relationship between the two countries which will bring in capital infusion that will enable Ukraine to develop its resources - not by virtue of gifts or donations but by virtue of investment in Ukraine's resources."

Ihor Gawdiak, the newly elected president of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, also praised Mr. Buteiko's businesslike approach.

"Most of all, I liked his response to a question about why Ukraine is the way it is. He said that they were all taught how to destroy capitalism and not how to build capitalism. And so, no one - not only in Ukraine but elsewhere in that region - knows how to convert socialism into capitalism," Mr. Gawdiak said.

Mr. Gawdiak also found Ambassador Buteiko's approach somewhat different from that of his predecessor. "And I say this without any criticism intended," he added. "They simply are two different individuals."

The UACC president said he expects to see very good relations developing between

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Tkachenko, in Moscow, pushes for Russia-Belarus-Ukraine union

by Pavel Polityuk

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV - During his two-day official visit to Russian Federation, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko said Ukraine might joint the Russia-Belarus union and create a new common economic space through a shared currency.

Mr. Tkachenko also said creating such a union is "a necessity" for the three neighboring republics of the former Soviet Union and directly supported Russian Duma Chairman Gennadii Seleznyov, who called for the tripartite Slavic union during his visit to Kyiv this October.

As a chairman of Ukraine's parliamentary delegation, Mr. Tkachenko met with the chairman of the Russian State Duma (the lower house of the Parliament), Mr. Seleznyov; Prime Minister Yevgenii Primakov; vice prime ministers; and the governor of Russian Central Bank, Victor Gerashchenko.

"It was an absolutely successful visit," Mr. Tkachenko said at a news conference in Kyiv on December 21.

He said the major task of the visit was to push a ratification of the treaty on friendship and cooperation between

Ukraine and Russia, by Russian deputies. The treaty was signed last year by Russia's President Boris Yeltsin and the president of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma.

Ukrainian deputies ratified the treaty earlier this year, while Russian lawmakers have delayed the ratification for months.

"My task was to do everything for ratification of the treaty by two sides," Mr. Tkachenko said. "And now I can say that Mr. Seleznyov promised me that the Duma is going to ratify the treaty on December 25."

"I expect the treaty will be ratified by the Duma this month," Mr. Tkachenko said. Russian deputies previously declined to ratify the treaty because the Ukrainian Parliament would not ratify several agreements about the status of Russian Black Sea Fleet in Ukrainian port of Sevastopol.

"We agreed that the Duma will hold ratification without regard to fleet issues or questions about the status of the Ukrainian Black Sea port of Sevastopol," Mr. Tkachenko said. "We have agreed to solve one problem, and to discuss other issues after the friendship treaty is ratified."

The Verkhovna Rada chairman also con-

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Kuchma predicts unless democrats unite presidential victory will go to the left

by Pavel Politiuk

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV - Less than a year before presidential elections, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma forecast that they would be a repeat of last spring's Parliament referendum, when Ukrainian centrist and right-wing parties could not unite and allowed the left to win more than half the seats in the Verkhovna Rada.

"I am sure that the situation with presidential elections will be analogous to the situation during the Ukrainian parliamentary elections," President Kuchma told regional journalists during a meeting on December 15.

"Democrats cannot unite themselves, which is to the detriment of Ukraine," he said. "Each sees himself with the bula-va" [mace - a symbol of authority].

During the past few months Mr. Kuchma several times has called on centrist and right-wing parties to unite in collaboration with the president and the government against a front of powerful Communist and Socialist political forces.

But center and right-wing political leaders have expressed concerns that

President Kuchma is merely trying to compromise the democratic forces and pull them toward him in the run-up to presidential elections because he has little chance of obtaining their support otherwise. Few believe that he would be nominated by any of the current center or center-right parties.

Analysts say the president is afraid to lose his current status as the only candidate who is fighting against Communist influences in government and is trying to convince voters that other political leaders do not have the power to combat the leftist threat.

Even as President Kuchma criticized the lack of unity in the democratic political bloc, a move toward coalition had begun. Early this month, two strong parties - Rukh, which is led by National Deputy Vyacheslav Chornovil and the Reform and Order Party of Viktor Pynzenyk, a former vice prime minister in the Kuchma administration - united in a pre-election political bloc, creating the first potentially powerful election coalition.

"This is a union of two center-right wing parties that has a real chance to

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Yaro Bihun

UCCA and UWC President Askold Lozynskyj (right) continues his conversation with Ambassador Anton Buteiko, during a reception following the new envoy's meeting with Ukrainian American community leaders.

Television documentary focuses on nationalist leader Bandera

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The first television documentary on Stepan Bandera, the Ukrainian nationalist hero and by many accounts the most charismatic Ukrainian national figure of the 20th century, aired on Ukrainian television on December 20.

Bandera led the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists through the 1940s that fought against both Soviet and German occupation until his death in 1959 in Munich, Germany, at the hands of a Soviet KGB assassin.

The film, titled "The Three Loves of Stepan Bandera," contains rarely seen footage of Bandera not long after he and his young followers split from the main body of the OUN to form their own organization of the same name. It also shows the funeral of the political leader after he was assassinated with a spray of the poisonous gas, cyanide, by KGB agent Bohdan Stashynsky.

Mr. Stashynsky, who later turned himself in to West German authorities and was convicted of the murder, stated during his trial that the assassination had been directed personally by the head of the Soviet KGB.

The producer of the film is Yuri Lukanov, a journalist who is already known in Ukraine for his book on current Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

In an interview with *The Weekly*, Mr. Lukanov said the film's title is a reference to the three women that Bandera loved. His romances with them roughly paralleled the three stages of his political involvement: the time to the schism within the OUN that Bandera led; the years of World War II; and the post-war years spent in Munich.

Mr. Lukanov said the idea for the documentary came after he met with a German journalist, who gave him a book on the life of Bandera – a life that he found compelling.

"I decided that Ukrainians needed to know about the life of Bandera," said Mr. Lukanov. "He lived in a tragic time of Ukrainian history. An awful, awful historical period. Brother killing brother."

He said that Ukrainians too often have been prone to destroying and desecrating

their myths and legends. "The Soviets said Bandera was a bandit; people say that Mazepa was a traitor and that Khmelnytsky sold Ukraine to Moscow. People must learn our history. It is a tragic history, but it is ours and we must learn from it," said Mr. Lukanov.

Convincing financial backers that this was a worthy project was among the more difficult tasks that Mr. Lukanov undertook. He said that no independent businessmen whom he contacted wanted to touch the project after Mr. Lukanov mentioned his subject matter. "Some were repelled at the simple mention of the name Bandera," explained the film's producer.

He had little problem with Ukraine's government, although at first the ministry that controls Ukraine's jail system refused to acknowledge that Bandera had been confined in a Lviv jail that Mr. Lukanov wanted to film.

Mr. Lukanov obtained much of the original documentary footage from the Ukrainian National Museum in London, England, and from Stepan Oleskiw, who was among the youngest members of Bandera's inner circle in the immediate post-war years.

"Perhaps this was the hardest thing, I had to convince Mr. Oleskiw that I was not out to butcher the legacy of Bandera," explained Mr. Lukanov.

He had less trouble convincing the television program "Vikna," carried on the ICTV channel, which agreed to broadcast the documentary film. Although "Vikna" declined to finance Mr. Lukanov's travels to Munich and London for on-site filming, which took four days, it did agree to provide him a production crew and editing support.

He said the crew that worked with Mr. Lukanov, a Russian cameraman and a Greek director, gave him a better focus on what he wanted to say. "They were less interested in the political and ideological viewpoint," explained Mr. Lukanov, "For them the subject matter was interesting in itself."

For information on obtaining the film for broadcast write to: Yuri Lukanov, Prospekt Hryhorenka 36, Apt. 230, Kyiv 253141, Ukraine.

selves have tended to be less involved in the use of sophisticated financial instruments than their Russian counterparts.

The EBRD advisors' prescription for Ukraine's economic recovery and health included tight budgetary policies and accelerated structural reform, successful completion of the International Monetary Fund's Extended Fund Facility program, more widespread privatization of large enterprises to strategic investors and an increase in the transparency of the privatization process, as well as reductions in tax, wage and inter-enterprise debts, and the general use of barter.

In an earlier December 2 briefing on the Transition Report held in Washington by EBRD officials, Risk Management Deputy Vice-President Noreen Doyle said of the EBRD's plans, "Next year is expected to be like this year, but the EBRD intends to continue to provide small business loans for worthy businesses within the CIS."

The Transition Report rates Ukraine far more favorably for estimated improvements in general government balances and current account and trade balances than Poland and Hungary for both this and next year.

NEWSBRIEFS

Kuchma seeks abolition of death penalty

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma has asked the Verkhovna Rada to pass a law abolishing the death penalty in accordance with the country's international obligations, the Associated Press reported on December 19. Ukraine agreed to abolish capital punishment in 1995 when it joined the Council of Europe; it introduced a moratorium on executions in March 1997. This year Ukrainian courts have sentenced more than 80 people to death, but none have been executed. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Lazarenko returns from Switzerland

KYIV – Former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, who has been indicted for alleged money-laundering in Switzerland but freed on \$3 million bail, returned to Ukraine on December 19. Viktor Omelych of the Hromada Party, headed by Mr. Lazarenko, told Ukrainian Television that Mr. Lazarenko has been "degraded, insulted and completely destroyed by [Ukraine's] authorities" and "will be continually working to show the [true] reason for his arrest to the entire public." Meanwhile, National Deputy Hryhorii Omelchenko told Ukrainian Television the day before that Mr. Lazarenko deposited some \$200 million in several bank accounts in Switzerland over the past three years. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Central bank cuts discount rate

KYIV – The National Bank of Ukraine has lowered the discount rate from 82 percent to 60 percent as of December 21 and ordered commercial banks to adjust their interest rates to the new figure, the Associated Press reported on December 18. The decision came several days after NBU Chairman Viktor Yuschenko said Ukraine's currency market has started to show signs of stabilization following the onset of Russia's financial and economic crisis. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine opposes strikes against Iraq

KYIV – Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry said on December 17 that it cannot agree with U.S. and British military strikes on Iraq and expressed regret over civilian casualties as a result of those strikes, Reuters reported. "Ukraine, which has consistently advocated resolving any conflict situations by peaceful political means, cannot agree with forcible methods of tackling this issue," the ministry said in a statement. The statement warns against "unpredictable

consequences [of the strikes] for the region and whole world" and expresses the hope that the United Nations Security Council will do "whatever is possible to avoid further escalation of tension around Iraq." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukrainian plane down in war zone

KYIV – A Ukrainian AN-12B plane disappeared over the territory of Angola on December 14. According to the Russian consulate in Angola, that morning Angola's UNITA rebel groups laid siege to the city of Kuito backed by heavy artillery with anti-aircraft capabilities. According to unconfirmed reports the AN-12B flew out of Kuito airport heading to Luanda. After the plane reached an altitude of 5,200 meters a land-air missile hit the plane. The wreck of the Khors AN-12B plane, carrying five crew members and several representatives from the Angola Armed Forces was discovered the next day 12 kilometers north of the airfield. Khors Company Chair Vysochanskyi admitted that he doubted the reliability of information about military activities in the region of the airport at the time the plane took off. Several planes that belong to reliable companies had taken off from this airport just a couple hours before the accident, Mr. Vysochanskyi said in his defense. He stressed that Khors has not transported dangerous loads, except for ammunition in the last five years. It is the only company among Ukrainian airlines operating in Angola. (Eastern Economist)

Rada to halt energy sector privatization ...

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on December 16 gave preliminary approval to a resolution imposing a moratorium on the privatization of the energy sector, the Associated Press reported. The resolution orders the State Property Fund to stop selling energy companies until the Parliament approves an appropriate law. Deputies argue that many government officials make illegal profits from energy privatization by selling stakes to companies linked to them. The Parliament will take a final decision on the moratorium next week. (RFE/RL Newsline)

... stops telecommunications privatization

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on December 15 rejected a government bill providing for the privatization of Ukrtelekom, Ukraine's telecommunications monopoly. Deputies argued that the bill violates the Constitution and agreed to debate an alternative bill next week. Ukrtelekom and Ukraine's oil and gas pipeline network are widely believed to

(Continued on page 41)

EBRD report looks pessimistic for Ukraine's 1999 GDP figures

Eastern Economist

KYIV – EBRD Senior Political Advisor Joel Hillman and Senior Economist Julian Exeter on December 8 presented a review of the bank's Transition Report, focusing their attention especially on Ukraine.

"1998 was a stress test for reform," stated Mr. Hillman in opening the presentation. He went on to emphasize that countries with the strongest reform programs already in place, such as Poland and Hungary, had suffered the least economically from the crisis of 1998 and that without additional institutional reforms any further stabilization of the economy in Ukraine would be endangered.

Mr. Exeter focused on macroeconomic indicators for Ukraine, citing revised EBRD figures for real 1998 GDP growth in Ukraine of minus 2 percent, with inflation predicted to run at 22 percent due to the 60 percent devaluation of the hryvnia between July and November of this year.

Mr. Exeter also said that despite the similarities in the situation in Russia and Ukraine, the National Bank of Ukraine has done a much better job of controlling the banking system, and Ukrainian banks them-

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FOR THE RECORD: Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow addresses UWC

Below is the text of the speech delivered by Premier Roy Romanow of Saskatchewan at the Ukrainian World Congress gala luncheon on December 3.

... I want to begin by welcoming those of you from outside Canada, and to wish you the very best during your visit to our country. And I certainly extend my warmest invitation to come and visit us in my native province of Saskatchewan. Come now if you can – but you would be wiser to visit us in summer!

I bring you greetings from the government of Saskatchewan. And, more personally, I bring you greetings from our people – not only from those who are proud to know Ukraine as their ancestral homeland, but from all of us, wherever our families originated.

For it has been the hard work of all our citizens, toiling together in pursuit of a common dream, who have built a new and tolerant homeland in this multicultural nation called Canada.

This great and tolerant nation has allowed people from everywhere on earth, from every ethnic or linguistic background, from every circumstance, to live that dream.

The Ukrainian patriot Valentyn Moroz once said: "Canada has created harmony and cooperation among ethnic groups, and it must take this experience to the world."

I believe Canada has done this.

I believe that Canada has taken its experience to the world, and that by working together, we have built a nation that has been a "shining light" of tolerance, diversity and respect.

And although our nation faces challenges in its long journey, we can – and we will – keep working together to keep building that dream, and this nation. To be a model for the world.

A model for the world, in proving that there is strength in diversity. Valentyn Moroz, of whom I spoke earlier, also said: "Ukrainian people in Canada are not forced to abandon their roots. This is the message Canada sends to the world."

That is true.

Without abandoning our heritage – indeed, while celebrating our roots – Ukrainian Canadians have been instrumental in building this nation. As a people, we have come from serfdom to freedom in less than a century, from humble beginnings as small farmers and laborers to positions of influence and renown – sometimes in only one generation.

My own father came here in 1928 from a homestead near Lviv. He was a farmer's son, and he wanted nothing more than to be a farmer himself. He got here just as the Dirty '30s were starting – Dad's timing wasn't the best, I guess! – so, like many others, he got a laborer's job, working for the Canadian National Railway.

It was hard, hard work, but he did it, because he was determined to make a better life for his son and his daughter – the life we enjoy today. To put it another way, we succeeded because he succeeded. I think that if there's a common thread to the experience of Canada's immigrants – not just Ukrainian, but all immigrants, it is this: If we have any success, as second- or third- or fourth-generation Canadians, that success is an enduring testimony to their courage and determination.

If we express ourselves with any eloquence at all, it is because they practiced their few words of a new language on the boats and trains that brought them to their new homeland.

If we have any material rewards and comforts, they are the dividends paid on their investment of time, work and optimism. The Saskatchewan folk-singer Connie Kaldor calls our prairie landscape "harsh and unforgiving," and it can be.

But when those Ukrainian emigrants

saw that land, they didn't see its harshness. They saw its promise, they saw home. They saw land that reminded them of where they had come from, and land that held the hope of a new home they wanted to help build. And help they did.

At the national level, we see Ray Hnatyshyn, who served as the governor-general of Canada, the first Ukrainian Canadian to represent the Queen in Canada. And we see his father, John Hnatyshyn, a senator. We see such towering figures as the late Justice John Sopinka, a judge in our Supreme Court and one of the finest legal minds this nation has ever produced.

We see Sylvia Fedoruk and Steven Worobetz, who served as lieutenant governors of my province of Saskatchewan.

In my own government, many ministers are proud of their Ukrainian heritage. And though we are proud to be Ukrainian Canadians, we always keep in mind the contributions made by all Canadians, from all their many backgrounds. We have built this nation, made our contributions, not in isolation from our neighbors, not separate and apart from them – but together with them. The Canadian journalist John Galt once described how Canada differs from most other nations in the world. He said, "In older countries, the future was inherited, largely predetermined by their past. Here, if we had the will, we could choose what we would become."

We did choose. We chose to become a democratic nation, based on values and ideals. We chose to build what Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier called "a partnership of mutual trust," based on our values of democracy, freedom, tolerance and respect for diversity.

That respect for diversity has been a source of strength for this nation. And I believe the Ukrainian experience in

build a strong economy: oil and gas, which is key as Ukraine struggles to lessen its dependence on Russia and other foreign suppliers; agriculture, particularly dry-land farming technology and equipment as well as advanced plant and animal genetics, areas in which Saskatchewan has much expertise to offer; and construction and building materials.

Canada has been at the forefront of NATO's work to build a partnership with Ukraine, and recently made significant contributions toward shaping the content of the recently initialed NATO-Ukraine relationship. And in January, Prime Minister [Jean] Chrétien will make an historic first official bilateral visit to Ukraine, where he will meet with President Kuchma, sign a governance project agreement and meet with business leaders. This historic first visit will further strengthen the bonds of co-operation between Ukraine and Canada.

And those strong bonds, that enduring relationship between Canada and Ukraine is mirrored in the relationship between Ukraine and my province of Saskatchewan.

Just weeks after being elected as Premier of Saskatchewan in November 1991, I watched with fascination the emergence of an independent and free Ukraine. Of course, like many of the citizens of my province with a Ukrainian heritage, it was impossible for me to simply watch developments from the sidelines.

My government established a community-based advisory committee, and asked it to help design a framework agreement for expanding formal relations between Saskatchewan and Ukraine.

A draft agreement was then negotiated with Ukraine's national government before my own mission to Ukraine in 1995. And I can tell you that it was one of the proudest moments in my life when I



Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj

Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow

islatures. Saskatchewan has been a leading participant in this project, and we are currently looking forward to a visit in March from Ukrainian legislators interested in the social sector.

The second action plan also includes cultural partnerships in the areas of publishing and film.

Friends, these are exciting developments. A nation's enduring legacy can be found in its literature, and both Saskatchewan and Ukraine have strong and distinct literary histories.

And since film has been called the "literature of the 20th century," and will certainly be a vital cultural medium in the 21st century, it has a place of importance as well.

That's why Saskatchewan has undertaken to support and promote this important medium, to encourage our artistic and cultural community to explore film to tell our stories to our people.

Not long ago, in fact, I had the chance to attend the first showing of a new Saskatchewan film about the Ukrainian experience – and I was proud to see that this story will be told to our people. And I look forward to two new film co-productions between film-making partners in Saskatchewan and Ukraine – partnerships that again strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation.

I sincerely hope that our Canadian partnership, as well as my own province's projects, will help in building that dream, and creating opportunity and prosperity for all.

Through these projects, and hundreds of others, we are forging a respectful and understanding partnership with Ukraine. "Respectful" means that we in Canada should recognize that we have as much to learn from Ukraine as we have to teach.

We can teach our democratic values and the structure of institutions that have served us well; and we can learn: new methods of governance, new models of cooperation, new ways to build institutions, indeed new ways to approach democracy itself, by watching the exciting growth of the Ukrainian democratic experience.

At the same time, "understanding" means that we in Canada must recognize the enormous challenges involved in such major democratic and economic transitions.

We must understand that such changes take time, and must be undertaken carefully. Let us always remember that the seeds of a new economy do not grow easily. They require careful and patient tending. Likewise, the seeds of a new democracy do not grow easily. They require tolerance and faith in the future.

Like so many other Ukrainian-

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Without abandoning our heritage – indeed, while celebrating our roots – Ukrainian Canadians have been instrumental in building this nation. As a people, we have come from serfdom to freedom in less than a century, from humble beginnings as small farmers and laborers to positions of influence and renown – sometimes in only one generation.

Saskatchewan and Canada has demonstrated this strength for many years. Today, after a century of immigration, there are 500,000 Ukrainian-Canadians. This diaspora gives Canada a special cultural, linguistic and academic linkage with Ukraine – links that give us both the incentive and the capacity to build a special governmental relationship with Ukraine. And we have worked to build that relationship, to enhance Ukraine's status as a member of the family of independent nations.

From the time that Canada first recognized Ukraine's autonomy, Canada has remained a key friend of an independent Ukraine. In 1993, Canada pushed to have Ukraine's delicate economic condition put on the G-7 Naples agenda – at a time when other G-7 countries doubted Ukraine's viability.

In 1994, Canada organized the Conference on Ukraine in Winnipeg, which consolidated global support for President [Leonid] Kuchma's first comprehensive reform program.

At the same time, our federal government tried to improve the commercial aspects of Canada's relationship with Ukraine through the bilateral Canada-Ukraine Agreement on Economic Cooperation. Working closely with the Ukrainian government, three priority sectors were selected in order to help

stood with President Kuchma at the Mariinskii Palace in Kyiv as we signed the Saskatchewan-Ukraine Memorandum in October of 1995. The first plan of action under this agreement included very practical commercial projects in oil field development, electrical systems renovation, agriculture and the cultural industries. Most of the initiatives in this first plan of action have now been completed. So, three months ago, our advisory committee recommended a second plan of actions.

I'll just list a few of the new initiatives: a beef and forage development project at the Pereiaslav Khmelnytskyi demonstration farm, with partners such as the Volhyn Scientific and Industrial Company, the Ukrainian Academy of Agrarian Sciences and the Ukrainian Ministry of Agriculture; the Youth for Health project, which is aimed at helping develop a sustainable national health strategy in Ukraine by assisting with the implementation of youth health policies; the Canada-Ukraine Ag-Biotech Regulatory Development project, which is exploring the possibility of a regulatory memorandum of understanding between the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Ukrainian Ministry of Science and Technology; and the Canada-Ukraine Legislative Cooperation Project, which since early 1996 has allowed Ukrainian legislators to visit Canadian leg-

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



A letter to St. Nicholas

I am a lifelong believer in St. Nicholas. This year I mailed my wish list early. It went beyond immediate family and included the naughty as well as the nice. Here's what I asked for.

A wake-up call for America: The United States has been slowly sliding into a moral marsh since the 1960s. Yesterday's abominations have become today's celebrations. As a people we are being morally disarmed by soft-core relativists who denounce accepted norms as a form of "judgmentalism," what Alan Dershowitz has labeled the "McCarthyism" of the 1990s. In the words of William J. Bennett, however: "Without judgment, there can be no common ethic. No standards. No established authority. No rules to govern behavior. No wise counsel on how best to live." And, I might add, there can be no rule of law. We should remember that during the 1930s the citizens of Hitler's Germany were willing to suspend moral judgment because the economy was good and their leader was popular.

Integrity for President Bill Clinton: This man's presidency is akin to a long and painful Greek tragedy. President Clinton is a man of extraordinary talent, ideas, oratorical skills, vision and charm; he is hardworking, shrewd and dynamic.

He could have been a great president if it wasn't for a fatal flaw, what the ancient Greeks called hubris, the delusion that one is god-like. Friedrich Nietzsche, identified such people as "sovereign individuals" (ubermensch), liberated from the morality of custom, autonomous, supramoral, unfettered by the "slave morality" of the masses. President Clinton has also savored the liberating draughts of deconstructionism, a post-modern philosophy that defines rationality, logic and honesty as illusions. Reality is dependent upon what "the meaning of is, is." In the language of philosopher Jacques Derrida, "the meaning of meaning is infinite implication ..." Truth (defined as a linguistic construct) depends solely on one's point of view at a given time. Will Mr. Clinton do the honorable thing and resign, or are resignations only a Republican phenomenon?

The rule of law for Ukraine: This is what Ukraine needs more than anything else. More than billions in loans, more than foreign investments, more than NGOs, more than sister cities. One can hold forums, debate issues, issue proclamations, even write new laws – but it will be empty rhetoric without a civil society where the law, not individuals, not groups, not lobbyists and not organizations, is supreme. Without the rule of law there is no democracy, no human rights, no freedom.

A backbone for President Leonid Kuchma: Mr. Kuchma is coming to the end of his first term, and he has little to show for it. While Ukraine's robber barons thumb their noses at the government, Mr. Kuchma makes promises and does nothing. Numerous meetings with Vice-President Al Gore have produced "nada," "nits," "nichevo." The old-line Bolsheviks are still flying the Soviet flag. The economy is in shambles and getting worse. The education system is in disarray. Intellectuals are fleeing the country. The government is riddled with corrupt officials. Companies such as Motorola and philanthropists such as George Soros are pulling out, shaking their heads in dismay. How long will it be before Mr. Kuchma stops talking and starts doing?

A conscience for Pavlo Lazarenko: I suppose even St. Nicholas would find it difficult to provide a conscience for someone born into and nurtured by the Soviet elite,

but there's no harm in asking. Pavlo Lazarenko, a billionaire and a former prime minister, is the poster boy for the new generation of nouveau riche in Ukraine. Like so many others, he obtained his wealth not by creating it; apparently, he became rich the old-fashioned Soviet way – he stole. He covets wealth and power with no concern for the common good. Charged with money laundering, Mr. Lazarenko was recently arrested in Switzerland. At the time of his incarceration he was allegedly in possession of eight different passports, including the Panamanian one he presented at the border. The Hromada Party, which Mr. Lazarenko controls, plans to run him for president in 1999. God help Ukraine if he gets elected. Even a Communist might be better.

Humility for Vyacheslav Chornovil: Mr. Chornovil's inflated ego continues to stand in the way of a united democratic front in Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada. Even though they are in the minority, the Communists enjoy power and influence because, as always, they are united and resolute. Under Mr. Chornovil's leadership, Rukh, the leading party of the right, has yet to create a strong and meaningful anti-Communist coalition. With the 1999 elections not far off, right and center parties need to consolidate their forces – seriously this time – to avoid still another political catastrophe.

A reality check for Mykola Plawiuik: As head of the increasingly irrelevant OUN(M), Mr. Plawiuik needs to stop posturing as a very important person. Shutting between Ukraine, where he took up residence, and North America, where he resided for years, he has been living on his laurels as a former president the Ukrainian government-in-exile, a position he obtained by default. Despite a history of abysmal failures in Canada, the United States and Ukraine, Mr. Plawiuik continues to push himself on stage. Whether one likes OUN(B) head Slava Stetsko or not, she does have a constituency (albeit small) in Ukraine and she holds a seat in the Verkhovna Rada. Mr. Plawiuik has neither.

Focused action for the diaspora: Nothing will save the Ukrainian diaspora short of focused action. We've worried. We've talked. We've discussed. We've analyzed. We've suggested. Now we need to act with energy, focusing on the here and the now.

Vision for Askold Lozynskyj: As the newly elected head of the Ukrainian World Congress, Mr. Lozynskyj is in a unique position to unify the diaspora. Much will depend on the weight of the ideological baggage he brings with him. Some Ukrainians are of the opinion that given his previous role as the OUN(B) point (some say "hit") man in the United States, Askold will remain Askold. Only old St. Nicholas knows what will happen. I have faith.

A plan for UNA executives: During the past 20 years the Ukrainian National Association has muddled through with no vision, no meaningful goals, and no plan. In the words of Dr. Bohdan Vitvitsky (who said this about some of our community organizations), the UNA has been "on automatic pilot." Nearly elected (and re-elected) executives have a moral obligation to turn things around in the next two years or resign. Enough is enough.

There you have it: my letter to St. Nicholas. If you believe it's unrealistic, remember that I'm not asking this of just anybody. St. Nicholas is a saint with a centuries-old record. And he delivers.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Recommit yourselves to cause of free Ukraine

Dear Editor:

Now that Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak has concluded his duties as the ambassador of Ukraine to the United States, I want to take this opportunity to express my respect and best wishes for him and to urge Ukrainian American community members to recommit themselves to the cause of a free and democratic Ukraine and to an unquestioned and substantial commitment by the United States government to the cause of democracy and prosperity in Ukraine.

Having founded the Ad Hoc Congressional Committee on the Baltic States and Ukraine during my service in the United States Congress, I clearly remember those dark days of Soviet occupation and persecution when the thought of a free and independent Ukraine was a flickering candle of hope. Ukraine is free today because people in Ukraine and America kept the faith and continued the commitment to that goal.

Today, while Ukraine is free, the storm clouds that threaten its future as an independent democracy hover on the horizon.

Ambassador Shcherbak provided

insightful and determined leadership to the cause of a strong, strategic relationship between Ukraine and the United States. I was privileged, working in cooperation with the Ukrainian Federation of Greater Philadelphia, to arrange personal meetings for the ambassador with key members of Congress, including Sen. Arlen Specter, Rep. Benjamin Gilman, Rep. Frank Wolf and others.

It became obvious at these meetings, which I attended with the ambassador, that the need existed to re-establish a "Friends of Ukraine" in the Congress. Working with the ambassador and the Ukrainian Federation, we initiated this congressional organization under the leadership of our good friend Rep. Jon Fox of Pennsylvania. Regrettably, the defeat of Rep. Fox in the recent election has been a major loss to the Ukrainian American community.

Nonetheless, our efforts will continue to ensure that there is a strong and committed presence in the Congress of an advocacy group for Ukraine. I look forward to working with Ambassador Anton Buteiko in this endeavor.

Charles F. Dougherty
Philadelphia

The writer is a former member of Congress.

BOOK NOTE

The quest for Ukrainian autocephaly

EDMONTON – With the publication of "Between Kyiv and Constantinople" by the Rev. Dr. Andre Partykevich, the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) at the University of Alberta has inaugurated a new series titled "Church Studies Papers."

The series is published by the Church Studies Program at CIUS under the auspices of an editorial board that includes program Director and series Editor-in-Chief Dr. Serhii Ploky, series Managing Editor Myroslav Yurkevich, CIUS Director Dr. Zenon E. Kohut, and Jacyk Center Director Dr. Frank E. Sysyn.

The Rev. Dr. Partykevich's book, the full title of which is "Between Kyiv and Constantinople: Oleksander Lototsky and the Quest for Ukrainian Autocephaly," examines a subject of particular importance for contemporary Ukrainian Orthodoxy: the autocephalous status of the Church and relations with the Patriarchate of Constantinople. Central to this theme is the life and activity of Oleksander Lototsky (1870-1939), an eminent civic and ecclesiastical figure in Ukraine and among the emigrate community in Poland.

Mr. Lototsky was an active participant in the Ukrainian movement in the Russian Empire who was instrumental in helping to lift the ban on the Ukrainian language in 1905. In 1917, under the influence of patriotic Ukrainian circles, he was appointed commissar of the Provisional Government for Bukovyna and Pokuttia. Mr. Lototsky became minister of religious affairs in the government of Hetman Pavlo Skoropadsky (1918) and was involved in the Directory's proclamation of Ukrainian Orthodox autocephaly in January 1919. In the same year, he was appointed ambassador of the Ukrainian National Republic to Istanbul, where he devoted considerable effort to representing the cause of Ukrainian Orthodox autocephaly before the Patriarchate of Constantinople.

As an emigrant in Warsaw, Mr. Lototsky studied problems of Ukrainian ecclesiastical law and published a fundamental two-volume work, "Autocephaly," substantiat-

ing the right of Ukrainian Orthodoxy to independent development.

"Between Kyiv and Constantinople," the first work on Mr. Lototsky to appear in English, presents a detailed account of the history of Ukrainian contacts with Constantinople, a history largely forgotten, but now more important than ever before.

The publication of the Rev. Dr. Partykevich's book was made possible by a generous donation from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. The book itself is dedicated to the memory of Patriarch Mstyslav (Skrypnyk) on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

As indicated in the acknowledgments, the suggestion of a work on Mr. Lototsky was made to the author by the late Prof. Bohdan Bociurkiw. It is highly appropriate that the Church Studies Program, established on the initiative of Prof. Bociurkiw, begin its new series with the publication of this particular work.

The Rev. Dr. Partykevich's study "Between Kyiv and Constantinople" may be ordered from the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, 352 Athabasca Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2E8. The price of the paperback volume is \$14.95. Please add \$3 for postage and handling, or 10 percent of the total for orders over \$30. In Canada, add 7 percent GST. Prices for customers outside Canada are in American dollars.

Correction

A caption to a photo taken of a December 3 session at the Ukrainian World Congress, should have read as follows: Oleksander Rudenko-Desniak, president of the Association of Ukrainians of Russia delivers his report to the UWC seventh congress in Toronto, December 3. From left are: Stefan Romaniw, Australia; Levko Dovhovych, president, European Council of Ukrainians; Taras Pidzamecky, Canada, congress chairman; Volodymyr Shevchuk, congress vice-chairman; Anna Krawczuk, congress vice chairman.

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Politics in Ukraine: the games continue

Elections to the Verkhovna Rada dominated the first half of the year in the arena of Ukrainian politics. Although the election season officially began a month before the March 29 vote and should have ended with the referendum, for all practical purposes it lasted until mid-July, because the newly elected national deputies in 19 attempts could not elect a chairman to lead the parliamentary body. (See related story, "A very long year of Rada elections.")

Elections aside, the political topics that dominated were much the same as those of the past two years, namely, stalled economic reform, corruption and abuse of power, controversies in Russia-Ukraine relations and friction in the Ukraine-U.S. strategic partnership. There were national celebrations and demonstrations, and an announcement that Ukraine's biggest single private benefactor, George Soros had given up on Ukraine and soon would cease operations in the country.

The year ended and began with the name of Pavlo Lazarenko in the headlines. On December 26, 1997, Procurator General Oleh Lytvak announced he had begun an investigation into the unlawful use and concealment of currency earnings associated with the personal and business dealings of the former prime minister.

Mr. Lytvak said the Procurator General's Office had obtained documents that Mr. Lazarenko owned Swiss bank accounts into which he had illegally transferred money from Ukraine.

Mr. Lazarenko rebutted the charges involved in the investigation in a sharply worded commentary in the newspaper *Vseukrainskie Viedomosti* and called the action by the public prosecutor a concerted attack against himself and the Hromada Party, which he heads, to discredit them before elections to the Verkhovna Rada.

"I want to make it clear that I do not have any kind of foreign currency accounts," said Mr. Lazarenko in the newspaper rebuttal.

Mr. Lazarenko, who had once been a close associate of President Leonid Kuchma, was dismissed from his post as the president's prime minister in the summer of 1997 for being soft on corruption and slow in moving on economic reforms. He and the president quickly became bitter political enemies.

In what appeared to be a protracted government action against Mr. Lazarenko and his followers – and which seemed to support the theory pushed by Mr. Lazarenko of a government conspiracy against him – two newspapers associated with Mr. Lazarenko were shut down by the government in the months prior to elections.

First came the January 8 printing ban on *Pravda Ukrainy* for allegedly being improperly registered with government authorities. Then, on March 20, a week before the parliamentary elections, *Vseukrainskie Viedomosti* was forced to close after it lost a \$1.8 million suit filed against it for publishing a story in which it was stated that a Ukrainian soccer star was soon to leave the team *Kyiv Dynamo* and sign with an Italian soccer club.

The Kuchma-Lazarenko war continued on and off throughout the year, reaching varying decibels of shrillness until December 2, when Mr. Lazarenko was arrested at the French-Swiss border near the city of Basel while attempting to enter Switzerland on a Panamanian passport.

The Ukrainian national deputy was promptly transferred to Geneva, where he was initially detained and held in a prison cell while an investigative judge traveled to Kyiv to further investigate charges of money laundering.

Hromada Party supporters claimed the Ukrainian government had asked that Mr. Lazarenko be detained, while Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry said the situation was complicated by the fact that Mr. Lazarenko had presented himself as a Panamanian citizen.

Ukraine did not request the extradition of Mr. Lazarenko, and the national deputy refused Ukrainian Embassy assistance.

The Swiss government remained close-mouthed about the case and would only say that money in Swiss bank accounts thought to be under the control of Mr. Lazarenko had been frozen after Swiss bank officials had launched an investigation into Mr. Lazarenko's finances, prompted by more than 20 requests from the Ukrainian government.

On December 14 the Geneva Judicial Chamber denied Mr. Lazarenko bail in the amount of \$3.5 million, which



President Leonid Kuchma was more successful in the realm of foreign policy than on domestic issues.

he had requested, because the accused could not prove the money was not part of that held in the now-frozen Swiss bank accounts. It also extended his detention for a month as the government investigation continued. However, three days later Mr. Lazarenko was released on a bond of \$3 million extended to him by an unnamed associate.

The Lazarenko-controlled newspapers were not the only ones to feel the weight of the government's ax in 1998. On June 14 the local Kyiv newspaper *Kievskie Viedomosti* was slapped with a hefty libel verdict. A Kyiv court ordered the newspaper to pay Ukraine's Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Kravchenko, a close political ally of President Kuchma, \$2.5 million for accusing the minister of purchasing a \$115,000 Mercedes Benz automobile with money stolen from a fund for the families of slain policemen.

Volodymyr Mostovii, editor of the newspaper *Zerkalo Nedeli*, said the action by the Kyiv district court was "a purely political action directed at closing the newspaper" by forcing it into "an unsustainable economic condition."

In 1997 *Kievskie Viedomosti* publisher Mykhailo Brodsky had become a vocal opponent of the policies of the Kuchma administration. Unable to pay, the newspaper shut down in November.

Mr. Brodsky had already faced prosecutorial ire earlier in 1998. He was arrested on March 10, a little more than two weeks before the Verkhovna Rada elections in which he was a candidate, and charged with receiving large sums of money in illegal trade activity. He was released from jail and the charges were suspended only after Mr. Brodsky won a seat in the Verkhovna Rada, which gave him immunity from criminal prosecution.

The strong-handed control of the Ukrainian press by the Kuchma administration was criticized by several Western media watchdog groups, including the European Institute for the Media and the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, which sent a letter of protest to President Kuchma in response to the closing of *Pravda Ukrainy*.

"CPJ condemns the shutdown and silencing of *Pravda Ukrainy* by the Ukrainian Ministry of Information as a violation of all international norms of free expression," said the organization's letter.

In what many purveyors of the Ukrainian political scene considered an attempt by the Lazarenko crowd to extract revenge for the government's actions against the former prime minister, the Hromada Party announced that its investigation into the lavish government-funded renovation of Ukraine's central concert hall, the Ukraina Palace of Culture, had turned up evidence of financial improprieties. The project was directed by current Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko during his tenure as minister of the Cabinet of Ministers.

On January 16, the Verkhovna Rada passed a non-binding resolution recommending that the prime minister they had approved barely six months before be removed from office by the president for the theft of some \$40 million from the Ukraina Palace project.

Mr. Pustovoitenko defended himself from the accusation at a press conference during which he said that the



Pavlo Lazarenko began the year with his name in the headlines and ended it likewise.

cost of the project was in fact \$57 million, and not the \$80 million cited by some members of the parliamentary faction *Yednist*, which is controlled by Mr. Lazarenko. Mr. Pustovoitenko also said he had forewarned contractors and subcontractors to detail all costs because he had foreseen that such charges could be made. President Kuchma decided to keep his prime minister, who by September had become the longest serving head of government of the four who have held the office during President Kuchma's tenure.

Mr. Pustovoitenko overcame a second attempt by the Verkhovna Rada to remove him later in the year, when he and his Cabinet of Ministers survived an attempt by leftist national deputies to bring down the government on October 13.

The Verkhovna Rada action was spurred by the Socialist, Communist and Hromada parties, who accused the government of failing to bring the country out of its economic malaise and past the financial crisis that had gripped the country in the fall.

Hetman assassinated

Another politician, respected and admired more than most in Ukraine, first failed to get re-elected to the Verkhovna Rada in March and then lost his life to an assassin's bullet on April 22. Vadym Hetman, the first chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine and the chairman of the Ukrainian Interbank Currency Exchange at the time of his death, who was considered a level-headed, elder statesman of Ukrainian politics, was killed after he entered his apartment building.

The reason for his murder still has not been determined, nor have any arrests been made. Ukrainian investigators contend that the killing was due either to his work on Interbank Currency Exchange board or to his private business dealings.

The assassination of Mr. Hetman – not the first of its kind in Ukraine – along with an ongoing problem with corruption, promoted the depiction of Ukraine as the wild, wild east of the post-Soviet era. That image was further enhanced by a report by Transparency International, a non-governmental organization that fights corruption in the business sector, which ranked Ukraine as the 16th most corrupt country of the 85 countries it had studied.

Although the Ukrainian Legal Foundation, which released the report in Ukraine in October, said corruption in Ukraine was more related to the redistribution of wealth among the power elites, the fact remained that in 1998, with the economy going nowhere, the poor suffered most.

The ongoing economic crisis, which leaves the government unable to pay workers and pensioners nearly 2 billion hrv in back wages and pensions, brought striking government workers to the city's capital several times. Most active were the coal miners, who organized a 500-kilometer (310-mile) protest march from Pavlohrad, near Dnipropetrovsk, to Kyiv in late May and early June. In Kyiv some 1,000 coal miners said they would not leave the city until they had been paid the wages and pensions owed them, some of which hadn't been

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paid in more than six months.

After camping on the banks of the Dnipro River for several days, they dispersed when the government agreed to a deal in which some money was released to them.

The plight of the coal miners, whose working conditions have never been very good, has drastically worsened in the last years because money budgeted for coal mine safety and upkeep rarely reaches its destination.

Deaths, cave-ins and explosions have become a common occurrence Ukrainian coal mining, and this year was no exception. On April 7, 63 mine workers perished in Donetsk after an explosion caused by a build-up of gas collapsed a tunnel at the Skachinsky coal mine. Miners blamed the government for not ensuring safe working conditions.

Foreign policy also an area of controversy

Although Ukraine's foreign policy must be seen as an island of calm compared to the turbulence of its domestic politics, there, too, disagreements and political conflict were common.

Ukraine's northern neighbor, Russia, officially agreed on the executive level that Ukraine is an independent, sovereign state via the Ukraine-Russia Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership signed in May 1997 by Presidents Kuchma and Boris Yeltsin. On the legislative level, however, there was no such agreement.

Russia's State Duma failed to ratify the treaty, which the Ukrainian Parliament approved on January 18, and its leadership called for Kyiv's reunion with Moscow several times.

On March 3, a State Duma legislative committee hearing on the treaty turned into a fiasco when individual members and observers began calling for a return of the Ukrainian port city of Sevastopol to Russia and the enforcement of Russian minority rights in Ukraine.

Bohdan Horyn, a Ukrainian national deputy who had been invited to attend the meeting as part of a Ukrainian parliamentary delegation, called it a provocation orchestrated by the chairman of the committee, Georgi Tikhonov, to embarrass the Ukrainian delegation. During the hearing Mr. Tikhonov presented the Ukrainian delegation a petition calling for the re-union of Ukraine and Belarus with Russia.

Several months later, on September 29, the chairman of the Russian State Duma, Gennadii Seleznirov, took his turn to let Ukraine know just what he thought of sovereignty and independence for Russia's southern neighbor. Speaking at a general session of the Verkhovna Rada in Kyiv, to which he had been invited by Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko, Mr. Seleznirov repeated the call for a Russia-Ukraine-Belarus union. The comments caused pandemonium on the floor of the Parliament. While democratic forces hooted and hollered in protest, Communists applauded and chanted "friendship." Mr. Seleznirov's appearance was aborted.

Then, to show how little movement was taking place on ratification by the Russian State Duma of the "big

treaty," Sergey Baburin, the assistant speaker of the Russian State Duma, came to Kyiv three months later to say: "I would not be ready even to say that this treaty is being prepared in the political kitchen. Rather it has been placed in the refrigerator." He also called for union among the three Eastern Slavic countries.

Relations between the leaders of the two countries were more cordial by most appearances than relations between legislators, although the matter of turbines for Iran and a failed rocket launch did cause some friction.

Presidents Kuchma and Yeltsin met outside Moscow at the Russian presidential dacha on September 18-19 to discuss the reasons for the drastic reduction in trade between the two countries that had begun in 1997, as well as the financial and monetary crisis the two countries were experiencing.

President Kuchma returned from Moscow heartened that President Yeltsin had agreed to allow Ukraine to pay in commodities the massive oil and gas debt the cash-strapped country owed Russia.

The two leaders, at the official level at least, did not discuss the sale of Ukrainian turbines for a nuclear reactor that Russia was building in the Iranian city of Bushehr, an issue that for all practical purposes was resolved when U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright visited Kyiv on March 6.

Ukraine had come under increasing pressure from the United States to withhold the sale of a giant turbine built at the Kharkiv Turboatom factory or face denial of the second half of a U.S. foreign aid grant worth nearly \$100 million.

At issue was the \$800 million that the contract was worth to Russia, which it badly needed to bolster a quickly collapsing economy. Ukraine, with its complete dependence on Russian oil and gas, did not want to upset Moscow, but neither did it want to be denied U.S. foreign aid.

Ukraine's decision to halt the sale of the Kharkiv turbine to Russia was announced by Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadii Udovenko while the U.S. secretary of state was in Kyiv.

In return, Washington allowed Ukraine accession to the Missile Technology Control Regime treaty, which allows Ukraine to become a player in the satellite launch industry, and signed an agreement with Ukraine on the peaceful use of nuclear technologies, which Ukraine hopes will encourage U.S. firms to bid on revamping Ukraine's nuclear power industry. Ms. Albright also promised that the U.S. would support science and technology research in Ukraine, and coordinate U.S. investment for factories like Turboatom.

Less than two months later Secretary of State Albright cleared the way for Ukraine to receive the rest of the \$225 million that had been earmarked in the 1998 U.S. foreign aid budget by telling the U.S. Congress that Ukraine had made "significant progress" in resolving disputes with U.S. investors.

Now with international standing to take part in satellite

launches, Ukraine looked optimistically to the September 9 target date for the launch of its powerful Zenit rocket, which would boost into orbit 12 communication satellites owned by a U.S. consortium called Global Star in the first phase of a multi-million dollar project.

The attempt failed dramatically when a computer system malfunction in the fifth minute of launch ordered the Zenit rocket to self-destruct.

Russia and Ukraine immediately blamed each other for the failure. The Russian Space Agency stated that "the launch was considered Ukraine's responsibility," while the Ukrainian government television station blamed the Russian manufacturer of the second-stage booster rocket. Some in Ukraine even suggested that the explosion was a deliberate Russian action to derail Ukraine's international space launch program, which includes participation in the development of an ocean-based launch platform in the Atlantic Ocean called Sea Launch.

However, the conspiracy theories fell away at the beginning of November when Russia admitted that a Russian-produced computer control system defect had caused the explosion. On November 8 Ukraine's national security chief said the destruction of the Zenit rocket was not due to sabotage.

In another project involving Ukraine and Russia, 11 countries from the Black Sea basin and NATO, including the U.S., took part in joint peacekeeping exercises called Sea Breeze '98 near the cities of Odesa and Mariupol. This year, unlike 1997 when Moscow strenuously criticized the military exercises because the mock scenario seemed to be targeted at Russia, the source of criticism came from within the Verkhovna Rada. Leftist forces attempted to quash the exercises, which began on October 26, by introducing a resolution that called the exercises a military threat to Ukraine. But the measure was voted down by 31 votes after heated debate.

NATO, which funds the yearly Sea Breeze exercises under its Partnership for Peace program, continued to develop relations with Ukraine. On November 4 President Kuchma approved a specific plan of cooperation with NATO through the year 2000, which was developed by his National Security and Defense Council and presented to NATO officials in Brussels by the council's secretary, Volodymyr Horbulin.

Mr. Horbulin said after his return from Brussels that the intensification of NATO-Ukraine relations is a "momentous event" and reported that the program was "well received" by NATO ambassadors. He said there had been no talk whatsoever of Ukraine's possible membership in the defense alliance.

The U.S. also continued to develop its relations with Ukraine in 1998. Vice-President Al Gore traveled to Kyiv in July to review the state of the strategic partnership between the two countries and to attend the second plenary session of the Kuchma-Gore Commission, formed in 1996 to develop the partnership. On July 23, he became the highest ranking U.S. government official to ever visit Chernobyl.

New foreign policy chief takes charge

Borys Tarasyuk, a Ukrainian career diplomat with a pro-U.S. and a pro-NATO attitude, took over the reins of Ukraine's foreign policy in 1998, when he was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs by President Kuchma on April 17. In his previous post as ambassador to Belgium and the head of the Ukrainian representation at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Mr. Tarasyuk directed the development of Ukraine's relations with NATO.

He replaced Minister Udovenko, who announced his resignation on April 9, as required by law, to take a seat in the Ukrainian Parliament. Mr. Udovenko, a highly respected diplomat who had been elected president of the United Nations General Assembly in September 1997 continued in that position until the end of his one-year term.

Amid the rancor and turmoil of political life, Ukrainians, as always, took time to commemorate their holidays.

This year, in addition to celebrations of the seventh anniversary of Ukrainian independence, and the now routine demonstrations associated with the October Revolution commemorations, Ukraine remembered the Ukrainian National Republic and its sister Western Ukrainian National Republic 80 years after they were proclaimed, respectively, in January and November of 1918.

Ukraine also officially commemorated the 65th anniversary of the Great Famine of 1932-1933. On November 26 President Kuchma proclaimed the fourth Saturday of each November as National Day of Remembrance of Famine Victims. This year the Famine was commemorated on November 28 with a solemn requiem concert by Ukraine's National Symphony at the



One thing that united Ukraine during 1998 was concern about the devastating floods in Zakarpattia. Above, President Leonid Kuchma visits the disaster area in Mukachiv on November 7.

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Kyiv Philharmonic Symphony Hall.

With all of its political and social divisions, the one event, albeit a tragic one, that absolutely brought this country of 50.9 million people together, and which had no political ramifications, was the disastrous flooding in the Zakarpattia region that took the lives of 16 individuals and left thousands either injured or homeless.

Huge amounts of aid from all the oblasts of Ukraine and international donations from nearly a dozen countries helped to clothe and feed the estimated 24,000 individuals whose homes were destroyed after some 20 dams broke and the rivers Tysa, Latorytsi and Borzhavy overflowed their banks due to torrential rains on November 4-5.

The towns of Mukachiv, Khust and Tiachiv, as well as 118 surrounding villages were nearly submerged by water. Power lines were downed, and highways and bridges were swept away, leaving the region nearly cut off from the outside world.

Ukrainian National Guardsmen and border guards, as well as aid from Hungary, which borders the region, were first to arrive. President Kuchma toured the area on November 7 and earmarked \$10 million from Ukraine's budget for emergency relief aid. A swell of material support followed from Ukraine and the world.

While charitable and non-governmental aid organizations continued to work and expand in Ukraine in 1998, at least one such organization decided that it was time to slowly ease out.

On November 11, billionaire philanthropist George Soros announced he was closing the International Renaissance Foundation in Kyiv. The Ukrainian branch of Mr. Soros's Open Society Institute will begin to reduce its activities in 1999 with a 50 percent cut in its budget of \$10 million and is expected to be out of Ukraine by 2010. Mr. Soros, who admitted while in Kyiv to announce the cuts that they are in part due to the heavy financial losses he incurred as a result of the Asian and Russian financial crises, also said that he was disappointed in Ukraine's reform efforts.

"I have given up on Ukraine. Ukraine lacks political will and any kind of leadership," said Mr. Soros at a Kyiv seminar after his decision was announced.

While Mr. Soros was beginning drastic cutbacks, other organizations were moving forward. The Eurasia Foundation announced on November 18, a week after the Soros decision, that in celebration of its fifth anniversary in Ukraine it was beginning a new initiative aimed at supporting the development of small business in Ukraine's smaller towns and cities.

The Eurasia Foundation, which is a grant-making organization that has supported various projects in Ukraine ranging from business development and economic education to broadcast media and the rule of law, announced that it was investing an initial \$1 million into the new initiative. The foundation has disbursed a total of \$18 million in loans and grants in Ukraine since the Kyiv office opened in 1993.

A very long year of Rada elections

Ukrainian politics in the first half of 1998 was dominated, or perhaps more precisely paralyzed, by elections to the Verkhovna Rada. Even though those elections were held on March 29, the newly elected legislative body did not pass a single legislative act for another three months as its eight political factions maneuvered to pick a parliamentary leadership.

The Communist Party of Ukraine received nearly 25 percent of the vote in Ukraine's first attempt at forming a national legislature based on a new election law that called for half of its national deputies to be elected according to the old majoritarian system and the other half in a vote on a list of political parties.

In the old system, also dubbed "first past the post," the Verkhovna Rada's 450 seats were filled by candidates in 450 electoral districts who received an absolute majority of the vote in each district. When no one candidate obtained 50 percent plus one, a second round of voting was held until a candidate received a majority. In the 1994 elections this led to a situation in which many electoral districts required three or four rounds of voting to elect a parliamentary representative.

In some electoral districts, mostly in Kyiv, deputies were never elected, because after a while voter apathy increased to the point that not enough voters were turning out to elect anybody.

In accordance with the new law, Ukraine's 450 electoral districts were reapportioned to make up 225 districts from which representatives would be directly elected. A candidate would win his district if he obtained a simple majority of all the ballots cast.

The other 225 seats in the Verkhovna Rada would consist of national deputies appointed from political parties, based on the proportion of the vote that the party received. To claim seats in the Parliament, a party would have to win a minimum of 4 percent of the electoral vote. Each voter made two choices, one for an electoral district representative, the other for a political party.

The Ukrainian electorate was faced with a rather daunting selection task because, on average, 28 candidates appeared on the ballot in each electoral district; in addition, there were 30 political parties on the party list.

The final results, announced by the Central Election Commission (CEC) on April 7, showed the Communists winning 84 of the Parliament's 225 seats in party voting; followed by the Rukh Party with 32; the Socialist/Peasant Party bloc with 29; the Green Party with a surprising 19; the National Democratic Party, closely aligned with President Leonid Kuchma, with a disappointing 17; the Hromada Party with 16; and the Socialist Democratic Party (United) and the Progressive Socialist Party with 14 each.

When these numbers were combined with the results of the single-mandate vote, the Communists had a total of 123 members elected; Rukh, 46; the Socialist-Peasant Party bloc, 34; National Democratic Party, 28; Hromada Party, 23; Green Party, 19; Social Democratic Party (United), 14; and Progressive Socialist Party, 14.

After the vote was in, Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko said that with their new "mandate" the Communists would begin the deconstruction of Ukraine's modest democratic and economic reforms, including changes to the Constitution, reduction in the powers of the presidency, and tightened control over foreign financial aid, the National Bank of Ukraine and commercial banks.

However, international analysts expressed the view that the status quo in Ukraine would remain, that the Verkhovna Rada would remain politically rudderless because no party or ideological bloc had a clear majority to implement its agenda. That theory would prove to be very accurate as the Verkhovna Rada had much difficulty fulfilling even its first routine task: the selection of a chairman.

Some national deputies and President Kuchma had opposed the new mixed electoral system, approved by the Verkhovna Rada in September 1997, because they said Ukraine's party system was not yet sufficiently evolved to allow voters an intelligent choice and that the law itself was poorly written.

It passed constitutional muster to some degree on February 26 when Ukraine's Constitutional Court allowed the law to stand even though, in a unanimous vote, it declared 21 provisions in the law unconstitutional.

Most notably, the country's highest constitutional authority declared that candidates cannot run simultaneously in both the single-mandate districts and on national party slates. However, that change would become effective only in the parliamentary elections of 2002.

The Constitutional Court sidestepped the most controversial aspect of the law that it was asked to review: whether a requirement that a party must attain at least 4 percent of the electoral vote to be represented is constitutionally acceptable. The court ruled that the issue is a political matter for the Verkhovna Rada to decide and left the 4 percent threshold in place.

The election results caused some controversy as well. Although official observers from such international organizations as the European Commission, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe gave Ukraine's parliamentary elections an overall passing grade, they noted that the Odesa regional elections were marred by incidents of violence, arrests and actions against candidates, and abuses of public office.

In the key race, in the city of Odesa, Mayor Eduard Hurvits was defeated by oblast leader Ruslan Bodelan in a contentious election that was marked by the murder of several politicians and charges of financial improprieties by both sides.

Ukraine's Central Election Commission said it would conduct its own investigation into the way elections were held in the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, where the Hromada Party, led by Dnipropetrovsk-born former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, received some 37 percent of the election vote, while mustering only about 4 percent in the rest of Ukraine. Several political parties expressed doubts



And the winner, finally, in the voting for chairman of the Verkhovna Rada was: Oleksander Tkachenko.

regarding the political objectivity of the regional electoral commission of the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast.

In Kyiv as well some election results were questioned, this time by those who went down to defeat. However, the CEC dismissed several grievances, stating that although some infractions of election law might have occurred, they were not substantial enough to have affected election outcomes.

The CEC did invalidate one result: the victory of former Minister of Justice Serhii Holovaty, who responded to the action by proclaiming it "politically motivated." Mr. Holovaty had become a pariah in the Kuchma administration because of statements criticizing the president for failing to implement an anti-corruption program that Mr. Holovaty had formulated as justice minister. Mr. Holovaty was dismissed from his ministerial post when the president appointed Valerii Pustovoitenko the new prime minister in the summer of 1997.

Once the general election season was over, the newly elected national deputies were to get down to the business of legislating, but first they had to elect their own leadership – which in this Parliament, with its fundamentally divided ideological composition, resulted in a second season of voting.

It took eight weeks of debate and 20 rounds of voting, during which some 90 candidates were presented, before the national legislature elected the controversial Oleksander Tkachenko of the Peasant Party as its chairman.

The biggest hurdle that the Verkhovna Rada had to overcome was the ideological split that divides the legislative body almost equally between leftist and democratic forces.

That the two sides would have a tough time working together should have become evident to all even after the first meeting of the newly elected Ukrainian Parliament on May 12. It took on a circus-like atmosphere when Communists, offended by the fact that Slava Stetsko of the right-wing Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists read the oath of office, turned their backs on the podium while repeating the pledge and later walked out.

Mrs. Stetsko, 78, whose husband was a leader of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists that fought Soviet Communists in an insurgency during and after World War II, had been given the honor of reading the oath – one allowed her by the Constitution as the Verkhovna Rada's oldest member.

Next, the election of a chairman became mired in controversy even before the first vote was taken. Four centrist political factions, the Rukh Party, the National Democratic Party, the Green Party and the Social Democratic Party (United) put forth a proposal that the chairman should be elected in a package with both deputy chairs. They declared at the time that, until such a proposal was voted upon by the full parliamentary body, they would abstain from any vote on the chair position.

Realizing that it did not have the votes to put one of their own in the leadership chair, the temporary centrist coalition hoped to work out a deal with the left in which it could deny leftist forces a sweep of the three leadership posts.

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The parliamentary split between left and right continued into 1998: Above, Communist deputies applaud as Volodymyr Moiseienko hoists a Soviet-era red flag and congratulates Verkhovna Rada deputies on the 82nd anniversary of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

But the left, which included the Communists, the Socialist-Peasant bloc and the Hromada Party, believed that it could take the chairmanship without the need to agree on a leadership slate and declined to cooperate with the democratic forces.

After six rounds of voting – during which the centrist bloc abstained four times, and leftist leaders such as Communist Party leader Symonenko and Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz, chairman of the last Verkhovna Rada, went down to defeat all six times – it became apparent that a compromise candidate needed to be found.

Although Mr. Symonenko came within five votes of being elected in the eighth round, still no consensus had emerged on how a chairman was to be elected in a Verkhovna Rada split almost evenly along ideological lines.

To search for a consensus candidate and to break the logjam caused by too many nominees, the parliamentary body did agree to form a conciliatory committee to propose candidates agreed upon by representatives of the eight parliamentary factions. The legislators decided that a single candidate's name would be placed into nomination, alternately one from the left and one from the right.

The agreement broke down after Mr. Moroz of the Socialist Party was nominated out of sequence two rounds later. Thirteen rounds into the marathon effort the most prominent leaders had been nominated and rejected – many of them repeatedly.

On June 18, after seven weeks and 13 attempts to elect a Parliament chairman, and with no end in sight to the process, President Kuchma announced to the nation in a televised address that he would take the initiative and would govern by presidential decree until the Verkhovna Rada untangled itself from its political paralysis and once again began to legislate.

He said that all of his decrees, which he explained would be mostly of an economic character to stem a developing economic crisis, would be subject to Verkhovna Rada approval post facto.

In the four months since the previous Verkhovna Rada had adjourned, not a single substantial legislative act had been passed. Earlier, the president had alluded to the possibility of dismissing the Parliament if it did not get its house in order, and fast.

The political division in the Verkhovna Rada, seemingly oblivious to critical public opinion, continued as all nominations were either beaten into the ground or withdrawn in six more rounds of voting.

Then, on July 7, Peasant Party leader Oleksander Tkachenko, who had failed to receive a majority of votes after having been nominated several times previously, received the support of 232 national deputies to win the election.

Although no one would officially confirm, the general belief is that members of the National Democratic Party and the Social Democratic Party (United) also threw their support to Mr. Tkachenko.

Political experts said after the vote that a tacit agreement had been reached with leaders of the two parties

and the Kuchma administration to end the parliamentary paralysis and vote in Mr. Tkachenko. The day before Mr. Tkachenko's election, a Cabinet of Ministers decree authorized restructuring of a \$75 million debt that Land and People Agri-Industrial Association, a company held by Mr. Tkachenko, owed to the government. The debt was the result of a default of a government-guaranteed loan issued by Citicorp to Land and People in 1993. The debt restructuring in effect canceled whatever the company owed the government.

Three days later the Verkhovna Rada approved a presidium and 22 committee chairs as proposed by Mr. Tkachenko. Adam Martyniuk, a member of the Communist faction, was elected first vice-chairman, and Viktor Medvedchuk of the Social Democratic (United) faction was elected second vice-chairman.

Ukraine's economy: staving off collapse

Ukraine's economy showed evidence that an upswing might have begun in 1998, after some regions reported an increase in economic activity in mid-year. However, the onset of a financial and monetary crisis in late August caused by the crash of the Russian financial markets killed any expectations that a Ukrainian economic renaissance was imminent.

The year started with a Kuchma administration prognosis that Ukraine could achieve a 1 percent growth in GDP (gross domestic product) – the first upward swing of economic indicators since independence in 1991 – if Ukraine held strictly to austerity programs and kept the budget deficit to a minimum.

However, a report issued by the United Nations Development Program predicted that the quality of life in Ukraine would continue to decline. The annual Human Development Report, which analyzes living standards, the labor market and welfare provisions, concluded that life expectancy in Ukraine would continue to fall and education and public health standards would worsen as the GDP continued to drop. The study's human development index ranked Ukraine 95th among the 175 countries it surveyed.

At the beginning of 1998, Ukraine was already feeling the aftershocks of the collapse of Asian markets, which had been spreading slowly around the world since Thailand's economy had collapsed in mid-1997.

On January 3, Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko announced that his government would focus its efforts in 1998 on reducing the shadow economy in Ukraine, which accounts for some 43 percent of the country's GDP and which Mr. Pustovoitenko called the major reason for the shortfall in Ukraine's annual budget receipts.

Budget shortfalls had forced Ukraine to borrow money on the international bond market for the last two years, treasury notes that would become due in 1998 just as the

financial crisis hit Ukraine.

Mr. Pustovoitenko steered clear of any mention of a new tax reform initiative to reduce the tax burden on businesses that have caused many firms to hide their profits, but emphasized the need for tighter control over tax payments and to holding "chronic tax dodgers" criminally responsible. In 1997 Ukraine collected merely 76.1 percent of its projected tax revenues.

Mr. Pustovoitenko also called for strengthening anti-smuggling measures, the use of indirect excise taxes, and the development of trust among corporations and individuals in Ukraine's banking-credit system.

A little more than two weeks later President Leonid Kuchma announced an economic austerity program to fend off tremors from the Southeast Asian economic collapse, after international investors began to quit the Ukrainian treasury bond market, increasing concerns of a looming financial crisis in the country.

The announcement, made on national television, directed the government to cut expenses to reduce the projected 1998 budget deficit from 3.7 percent to 2.2 percent and to reduce the number of government workers by 20 percent. The president said he thought that the two moves, along with aggressive tax collections and an ambitious privatization program, would give Ukraine the hard currency it needed to honor its treasury note obligations.

Anatolii Halchynskiy, President Kuchma's senior economic advisor, said on January 20: "The financial situation of the state is close to critical."

That same day the chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko, announced a new currency corridor for Ukraine, a fluctuation band for the Ukrainian currency that the state bank supports and which is supposed to assure foreign investors of the hryvnia's stability. The parameters, which had stood at 1.75 to 1.95 hrv per U.S. dollar, were raised to 1.8 hrv to 2.25 hrv after the NBU failed to support the hryvnia in November 1997 with the onset of panic selling as a result of the Asian market collapse.

The president's administration continued to move strongly to stimulate interest in Ukraine's economy, which had been all but abandoned by foreign investors in the second half of 1997 and had seen a decline in new business registrations by Ukrainian commercial interests. On February 3 President Kuchma signed a second series of presidential decrees to lessen the burden of government regulation and audits, and to establish a fixed tax for small business.

U.S. representatives to the Kuchma-Gore Commission, meeting in Kyiv on February 5-6, applauded Ukraine's efforts to overcome the financial crisis that was threatening the country. "At a time of international financial instability, Ukraine recognized the need to move boldly," said Jan Kalicki, head of the U.S. delegation. However, he noted that barriers to foreign trade and investment still existed, namely, the need to undergo basic economic structural reform and to more strongly support the rule of law.

Ukraine received some hope that it would be able to obtain the money to stave off economic catastrophe and to re-pay its growing international debt when the International Monetary Fund told a high-level Ukrainian delegation in Washington on January 22 that it was ready to negotiate a long-term Extended Fund Facility (EFF) loan program with Kyiv. Ukraine's Vice Prime Minister for Economic Reform Serhii Tyhypko said the figure the two sides were considering approaches \$3 billion and hoped an agreement could be worked out by April.

The IMF also agreed to extend to Ukraine a \$49 million tranche of the old stand-by agreement, which had been due in December but held up by the IMF. The stand-by program had not been working well for Ukraine since its inception in August 1997 because the country had failed to meet IMF reform guidelines several times, causing delays in disbursements.

On March 14, an IMF delegation again left Ukraine without approving an expected \$50 million tranche because Kyiv had failed to maintain agreed-upon financial indicators, which presidential economic advisor Valerii Lytyvtskyi said was associated with problems regarding "the implementation of a mechanism to manage spending and the revival of the bond market."

As negotiations continued with the IMF, and with Ukraine for all intents and purposes having abandoned its effort to receive the stand-by loans, renowned international economist Jeffrey Sachs said in Kyiv on June 15 that if Ukraine was denied a new loan program by the IMF the country would be left in dire financial straits.

"The financial situation in this country and the problems facing the government are very intricate, and it's going to be extremely difficult to draw other funds given the situation that has emerged on the international markets," said Mr. Sachs.

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The Harvard University professor explained that Ukraine would have a difficult time meeting the 87 requirements that the IMF has listed, and that the international lender should ease its conditions.

While Mr. Sachs spoke, an IMF delegation was meeting in Kyiv with Ukrainian officials on the EFF agreement that Ukraine had requested. Among the sticking points were the IMF's demands for an accelerated and more transparent privatization process, and wider structural reforms in the economy.

A little over six months after negotiations began, the IMF agreed to a \$2.26 billion three-year EFF credit arrangement, based on Ukraine sticking to a stringent economic reform program. Among those demands: rationalize the tax structure and reduce tax burdens on business; strengthen financial and monetary institutions; launch administrative reform and rationalize the size of the budget structure; adopt transparent privatization procedures; reduce government intervention in economic activities; reform the energy and agricultural sectors.

On July 31 the IMF mission head said in Kyiv that the economic decrees issued by President Kuchma in the first half of 1998 had gone a long way in improving the business climate in the country and creating conditions for economic growth.

Ukraine received a first tranche of \$257 million during the first week of September, after the IMF's board of directors approved the EFF agreement in Washington.

A week later the World Bank, which had made loans worth nearly \$1 billion available on the condition that the IMF approve the EFF, announced four loans for Ukraine.

In the September 15 announcement, World Bank officials said they had committed \$949.6 million in loans to Ukraine's economic reform effort — \$300 million earmarked for continued enterprise privatization and restructuring the securities market; \$300 million for banking reform; \$300 million for coal and agricultural sector reform; with the remaining money to be dedicated to environmental concerns.

The first two World Bank loans were loosely structured to be available for budgetary use and balance of payments support. Ukraine received the first installment of \$260 million three days later.

The European Union followed suit on October 16, extending to Ukraine a \$182.5 million balance of payments loan and \$203 million for the Chernobyl Shelter Fund that it had promised Ukraine, which had been tied to the approval of the IMF loan. The loan was offered while President Kuchma was in Vienna to meet with European Union leaders and to ask for associate membership for Ukraine. EU officials, while proposing closer economic ties with Ukraine, stopped short of offering associate status.

The money from the IMF, the World Bank and the EU came at a most opportune time for Ukraine as it attempted to deal with the collapse of the Russian economy in August, which included the need to make immediate payments on treasury notes that had come due and to contain a dramatic slide in the hryvnia's value.

Since the beginning of September the hryvnia had fallen 18 percent against the U.S. dollar and would continue to slide until November when its value would stabilize at 3.42 hryvnia to the dollar, a loss of some 75 percent of its value against the U.S. dollar.

The same day the IMF approved the EFF, the National Bank of Ukraine affected a de facto devaluation of the national currency when the hryvnia was allowed to drop below the currency band that had been set in January for 1998. The bank's chairman announced a new band on September 4 that would allow the currency to float between 2.5 and 3.5 hrv to the dollar.

Ukraine had spent millions in foreign currency trying to keep the hryvnia stable as first the Asian and then the Russian crises caused the hryvnia to tumble. By September 9 Ukraine's foreign currency reserves, which had stood at \$2.34 billion in January, had fallen to between \$860 million and \$890 million (U.S.).

With the free fall of Russia's economy, one still closely tied to Ukraine's, Kyiv prepared for the worst. On September 7 President Kuchma sent an economic crisis package of 36 bills to the Verkhovna Rada for immediate approval. Two days later he called an emergency meeting of his top economic officials to examine the state of Ukraine's economy and what further measures were needed to avert a meltdown of Ukraine's economy, as had already occurred in Russia.

On September 14 the government announced two emergency steps to keep hard currency in the country. First, it decreed that Ukrainian banks must keep 75 percent of their currency holdings in hryvni. Then it announced it was restructuring the repayment of matured, short-term government domestic loan bonds to foreign creditors at a 20 percent rate and converting the outstanding debt into long-term

treasury notes. It said that 75 percent of foreign holders of Ukrainian treasury notes had agreed to the deal.

After strong protests from Ukrainian banks regarding the first decree, the government lowered the required hryvnia reserve to 50 percent.

On September 23 the president of the Association of Ukrainian Banks, Oleksander Suhoniako, said Ukrainian banks had lost some \$800 million as a direct result of the financial and business crisis in Russia, and that the major financial threat in Ukraine was to the country's banking system.

Ihor Yukhnovsky, a national deputy and member of President Kuchma's Supreme Economic Council, speaking at a separate press conference two days earlier, agreed. "The financial problem in Ukraine is the 1.7 billion hrv that the Ministry of Finance currently owes the commercial banks of Ukraine," said Mr. Yukhnovsky.

With the hryvnia continuing to fall, Chairman Yuschenko of the NBU faced increasing pressure to resign.

First, his staunch and protracted support of the hryvnia with scarce foreign reserves was criticized by President Kuchma. Then, on October 16, a routine annual report by the NBU chairman before the Verkhovna Rada turned into a protracted two-day debate on the bank's investment procedures, which ended with the formation of a parliamentary investigative commission to look into the matter.

The president, stymied repeatedly in his attempt to get economic and structural reforms completed and Ukraine out of its financial crunch, turned to the Verkhovna Rada on November 19 in a major policy address called a "non-regular state of the nation address" to get the parliamentary body to act on the dozens of pieces of legislation that the president and the Cabinet of Ministers had sent for approval in 1998. Many of the bills were part of a bloc of economic decrees the president had issued beginning June 18 to maneuver around a Verkhovna Rada frozen by its inability to elect a chairman.

The president called on the Verkhovna Rada to work with the executive branch of power to lift the nation out of the economic crisis, to refrain from calling for monetary emission to pay back wages and pensions and to approve a realistic budget.

The Ukrainian budget for 1999 had been sent to the Verkhovna Rada in mid-October, only to be rejected and returned because the economic indicators didn't reflect the financial realities in the country in the aftermath of the financial crisis. Upon its return, the Budget Committee, chaired by Yuliia Tymoshenko of the oppositionist Hromada Party, rewrote part of the budget and presented a balanced budget that a majority of the national deputies called unrealistic. The Budget Committee had raised expenditure levels over that proposed by the Cabinet of Ministers by 33 percent, while calling for a 5.5 billion hrv monetary emission to cover shortfalls in the revenue side and balance the budget.

Although the plan was rejected by the full Parliament on first reading on December 3, it was subsequently approved on December 9 and sent back to committee for reconcilia-



Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko pledged to focus on the shadow economy and get tough with tax evaders.

tion with the Cabinet of Ministers proposal.

The IMF, which on November 4, had issued the second tranche of the new EFF, some \$78 million, said in mid-December that because of concerns regarding the 1999 Ukrainian budget it would hold off the next scheduled tranche until after it had analyzed the final bill — a process it said could be completed by February 1999. Meanwhile Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko assured everyone that Ukraine would have a budget for 1999 by December 25.

In an otherwise bleak economic year for Ukraine in 1998, a few bright moments did exist.

First there was the signing of a 10-year comprehensive economic cooperation pact on February 20 between Ukraine and Russia, with the goal of doubling trade between the two countries by 2007. However, as with any treaty between Moscow and Kyiv, the agreements brought with them criticism. The Ukrainian media and opposition politicians painted the series of agreements as the selling out of Ukrainian national interests and the first step to re-integration with Moscow. National Deputy Serhii Teriokhin called it "the Belarusification of Ukraine."

Then, on May 9-12, Ukraine successfully hosted the board of governors meeting and business forum of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), during which nearly 4,500 guests gathered in



Dymytriy Gavrysh

A piece of good news on the economic front was that officials of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development came to Kyiv for their board of governors meeting and were impressed with the capital city. Above, President Leonid Kuchma greets EBRD officials at the opening of their meeting on May 11.

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Kyiv from around Europe. There were no criticisms of Ukraine – only expressions of delight over the beauty of Kyiv and a changed perception of what Ukraine had to offer Europe.

Ukraine had wanted the convention to be a watershed for changing investor interest in Ukraine. Therefore, it included an exhibition of Ukraine's economic and business potential in the three-day affair. Ukraine's Vice Prime Minister for Economic Reform Tyhypko said that Ukraine succeeded in attracting interest. "Many were here for the first time and were amazed by what they saw," said Mr. Tyhypko.

Ukraine also scored points with the international community through its effort in organizing the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, an 11-member body for the development of cooperation in the fields of transport, energy, communications and ecology, which was officially formed on June 4 in Yalta.

Finally, Ukraine maintained high hopes that it could become a player in the movement of oil from the rich fields found in Azerbaijan to Western and Central Europe. Ukrainian officials returned from a two-day conference in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku on September 8, where Ukraine presented its plan for the transport of oil to the West, convinced that this was the best plan presented.

It would take Azeri oil by rail to the Georgian Black Sea city of Supsa and transport it to the Odesa oil terminal, where the black gold would move via pipeline to the Ukrainian city of Brody and then on to Poland, the Baltic Sea and Western Europe.

Azerbaijan, which had said it would decide on which of three proposed routing plans it would choose by November, has delayed the decision as an oil glut and depressed prices have decreased the viability of all the projects.



Roman Woronowycz

During the Kyiv Days celebration in May, historic figures Prince Volodymyr and Princess Olha stand before the restored belltower of St. Michael's Golden-Domed Monastery. In the background is the St. Sophia complex.

Kyiv reconstructs ancient treasures

Although Ukraine's economy and the standard of living of its citizens continued to decline in 1998, the country's capital experienced a revitalization not seen in decades. Two of the Kyiv's most historic architectural and cultural treasures, as well as the city center, were reconstructed, thus bringing the city closer to the standards of Europe's great cities.

The most dynamic addition to the city's architectural treasure trove was the rebuilding of the historic St. Michael Golden-Domed Sobor, once at the center of Ukrainian spiritual life, based on computer renderings of the Sobor's 19th century appearance.

The 12th century church and neighboring monastery complex, which had been destroyed several times through the ages, were demolished again in 1936 by orders of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin as he tried to stifle Ukrainian cultural and spiritual development.

Plans to reconstruct the sobor began in 1995 after President Leonid Kuchma issued a presidential decree. Actual construction began in late 1997 after a two-year archaeological excavation that turned up much of historic value and a few surprises.

More than 260 valuable ancient artifacts were discovered during the dig. In addition, a portion of the historic church still intact was uncovered.

The major surprise of the excavation was the discovery of the remains of another ancient church that stood several meters from St. Michael's. Experts have yet to find any historical record that such a church existed.

The bell tower of St. Michael's was completed first, in time for Kyiv Days celebrations the weekend of May 14. More than 3,000 people were on hand for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony and the blessing of the 46-meter-high structure, including President Kuchma and Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko.

The bell tower, which also holds a chapel dedicated to victims of the Great Famine of 1932-33 and a museum of the history of the church and old Kyiv, as well as the carillons, faces the equally historic St. Sophia Sobor located about 300 meters to the north.

To connect the two religious shrines, Mykhailivsky Square, located before the bell tower, was enlarged and renovated, and a promenade constructed.

Six months later President Kuchma again visited the site to take part in the ceremonial placing of a two-meter Byzantine cross atop the largest of the six golden cupolas that now cap the church and symbolize the completion of the construction phase of the rebuilding of St. Michael's.

Next year experts and artists will paint and adorn the interior of the church with new frescoes and mosaics, done according to the style and techniques of the 12th century.

Much of the historical art works that were saved before the church was destroyed are found in Kyiv, at St. Sophia Sobor and the Monastery of the Caves (Pecherska Lavra) complex today, but few of those will be moved back into the new church. Unlike St. Sophia Sobor, which will remain a museum, the new St. Michael's is planned to be a functioning church and officials do not want the ancient works damaged.

However, other religious objects that belonged to the church, some of which were deposited in the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow after 1936, will be returned.

New church construction played a major part in the physical revitalization of Kyiv in 1998. In addition to the six golden domes of St. Michael's reappearing on the Kyiv skyline, the single dome of the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother of Pyrohoshcha returned. The Assumption Church, which also belongs to the Kyiv Patriarchate, was rebuilt on the site that it once occupied in the Podil district of lower Kyiv, and opened in time for Easter 1998.

The construction of two other churches, one at the center of Ukrainian Orthodoxy and as ancient as St. Michael's, the other Greek-Catholic, with a new and controversial design, also was begun in 1998.

The 11th century Dormition Cathedral (Uspenskii Sobor) in the Monastery of the Caves complex, which was blown up by retreating Soviet Red Army forces in September 1941, will also be restored to its historic design. On the same day that President Kuchma witnessed the topping of St. Michael Golden-Domed Sobor with a cross on its highest cupola, he also placed a time capsule in the foundation of the Dormition Cathedral. Both Orthodox churches are scheduled to be completed in time for the celebrations in Ukraine of the second millennium of Christianity.

Ukrainian Greek-Catholics also finally will have a church and monastery in Kyiv befitting their status as the second largest Christian confession in the country. Ground-breaking for St. Vasylii Church took place in July 1998, with construction scheduled to be completed by September 1999.

The non-traditional architectural design of the church, developed by architect Laryssa Skoryk, was the subject of some criticism from the Ukrainian diaspora, which has contributed more than \$100,000 to the \$600,000 project. Instead of the traditional domes and cupolas, the new church will incorporate a series of small roofs over the church called "dashky."

The church proper will have room for 400 to 500 worshippers, and the monastery will house about a dozen monks.

Churches were not the only cultural symbols going up in Kyiv in 1998. A long overdue memorial to Mykhailo Hrushevsky, historian, chairman of the Ukrainian Central Rada and president of the Ukrainian National Republic, was unveiled on December 1, the seventh anniversary of the Ukrainian referendum that upheld the August 24, 1991,

declaration of independence.

The Hrushevsky memorial stands on a new city square adjoining the Kyiv Teachers' Building where the Ukrainian National Republic was proclaimed on January 22, 1918.

However historic or needed these building efforts were, the one that received the most publicity – and garnered the most controversy – was the renovation of the Kyiv city center during the summer months.

In a \$25 million effort to rehabilitate Kyiv's main thoroughfare, the Khreschatyk, which hadn't seen a facelift since it was rebuilt after World War II, the street and adjoining sidewalks were uprooted and repaved, pedestrian underpasses were reconstructed, new light fixtures were installed above the street and on surrounding buildings and a fountain was built at the entrance to the Khreschatyk Passage.

Renovation plans began after workers discovered that 50-year-old communications and electrical cables buried below the street had deteriorated dangerously. The work was completed on August 16, in time for Ukrainian Independence Day a week later.

Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko told reporters during a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tour of the Khreschatyk after work was completed that the two-month renovation blitz had transformed the historic strip into "a street as beautiful as any in Europe."

Although national deputies in the nation's Parliament did not voice disagreement with the Kyiv mayor's assertion, some did question the cost of the work at a time when the country was experiencing such difficult economic times and called for an investigative committee to be formed, which has not yet delivered its findings.

Kyiv residents also questioned the need for such an extravagant undertaking. While work proceeded on the Khreschatyk the most common statement heard from Kyivans was: "They can't pay back wages and pensions, but they can put marble in the underpasses."

The revitalization of the Khreschatyk was the second phase of a general sprucing up that Kyiv underwent in 1998. In the spring months, major city arteries were repaved, half-finished construction projects that had languished for years were completed, and many buildings in the city center were given a new coat of paint.

It was all done in preparation for Kyiv's first major international event: the board of governors meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, a convention of European bankers and businessmen that Ukraine hoped would bring badly needed international investment.

Preparations also included the renovations of several Kyiv hotels to bring them up to world standards.

The convention went off without a hitch, and delegates left Kyiv impressed with the beauty of the city. At the closing press conference of the convention, EBRD Acting President Charles Frank said, "Kyiv can rest assured that it has gained many new admirers."

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An agonizing return to Perm Camp 36

The last remaining and most severe political concentration camps of the former USSR were located in the village of Kuchyno, Chusovskyi raion, Perm Oblast, located in the Ural Mountains of the Russian SFSR. The camps were dismantled on December 9, 1987. It is on this last site, a grim reminder of a repressive system, that the human rights group Memorial and Perm Oblast officials have decided to build a museum, The Memorial Museum Perm 36, so that in the future people could understand what was meant by the Gulag Archipelago.

On August 29 of this year two former political prisoners and inmates of Perm Camp 36, Ukrainian human and national rights activists Lev Lukianenko and Yevhen Sverstiuk, returned to witness the museum's founding.

Human rights activists in the USSR were sentenced for various forms of "anti-Soviet" activity and were sent to the same prison camps as were rapists, murderers and other dangerous criminals. The term "zek" refers to the inmates of these camps, at the root of which is the slang term in Russian for prisoner.

According to Mr. Sverstiuk, going back to Perm Camp 36 was "going back to hell, where demons of various ranks waited for you at the entrance."

In an account of his return to Perm he wrote:

"In the first two months they tried to find out your most vulnerable pressure points. KGB agents used systematic pressure to morally break an individual so he was forced to bend to the system. To break down was to turn against friends and go over to the side of the police. The individual who didn't break was beaten daily ... punished in other degrading ways.

"... I gasped when I walked down the corridor that led to the cell in which Vasyl Stus was incarcerated and died. [Stus was sentenced in 1980 to 10 years of strict-regime labor camp and five years of exile. He died on September 4, 1985, at Camp 36.] How dark and cold it seemed. I felt as if I were touching the tools of murder.

"... In the Gulag Archipelago this (museum) is the only testament to past crimes, to the half million graves in Semipalatinsk, to the graves in Norilsk, Vorkuta and Komsomolsk. Almost all of the construction in the north [of the Russian SFSR] is built (with forced labor) on the bones of zeks. ...Western journalists look for traces of these camps and find only rotting barracks among tall weeds. Western human rights activists have decided to help the Russians preserve their history ... are appropriating funds to aid Memorial. Only two zones are left to represent the colossal empire of the gulag. In the early '90s there was an attempt to destroy even these last traces.

"Young people also are taking part in establishing the museum in Perm. Student volunteers are reconstructing the barbed wire around the camp.

"Why do Western Europeans come to Perm to initiate a memorial museum? Why do the Japanese go to the graves of their ancestors? Why do the Germans continue to look for the graves of their soldiers? Perhaps they want to bring peace to their souls, to their consciences. Perhaps they feel a responsibility for a historical process. Man begins from this. Otherwise we will never cut the cord of past terror and inhumanity. Each individual must cultivate peace in his soul. Otherwise, weeds will grow there."



The guard tower at the edge of the "The Prohibited Zone," which encircled the camp, outside which the prisoners were not allowed. The zone was criss-crossed with barbed wire and high-voltage wires and patrolled by ferocious guard dogs called "black wolves" by the prisoners.



Rotting barracks that once housed the prisoners.



Yevhen Sverstiuk stands beside the open lavatory in the prisoners' barracks.



Human rights activists and former Perm Camp 36 inmates (from left) Lev Lukianenko, Yevhen Sverstiuk, unidentified man and Serhii Kovalev.

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Our Churches: good news, and bad

Inter-confessional and intra-confessional conflicts, and even violence, which were evident during the late 1980s and early 1990s, all but disappeared as Ukraine entered its seventh year of independence. The U.S. State Department's annual human rights report, released in January, notes that 1997, like 1996, was basically stable in Ukraine in the sphere of religious activity, except for occasional incidents of religious conflict on an individual basis.

The report does criticize the government for onerous registration and reporting requirements mandatory for religious organizations, especially for those defined as "non-traditional," that is, Protestant. Various Ukrainian, Russian and Western sources cite the growing phenomenon of Protestant churches in Ukraine, a traditionally Orthodox country in which the Orthodox faithful remain split in their loyalties to Ukrainian patriarchs and the Moscow patriarch.

Religious property issues, a topic of much heated debate between government authorities and religious groups, as well as between confessions, have subsided. In fact, 1998 was notable for the amount of renovation and new construction on religious buildings, both in the diaspora and in Ukraine. (See "Kyiv reconstructs ancient treasures" and "Survey on culture and the arts.")

At a roundtable held at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington on January 15, the chief rabbi of Ukraine, Yaakov Bleich, stated that the Jewish community is faring better in Ukraine than in any of the other of the new independent countries of the region. However, he also warned that the welfare of Jews is tied to the general welfare of Ukraine. He stated that though there was no official, or government-supported anti-Semitism, there are numerous anti-Semitic incidents and publication of anti-Semitic articles, most notably in certain newspapers in western Ukraine. He noted the satisfactory resolution of the issues of the Brodsky synagogue in Kyiv and the Jewish cemetery in Lviv.

In an interview with Mustafa Jemilev, the political leader of the Crimean Tatars, who are returning to the Crimean peninsula after having been deported to Central Asia by Stalin after the second world war, the main problems facing the Muslim Tatars are economic and political, including the issue of Ukrainian citizenship, and not religious issues.

Orthodox Church

In the diaspora, there was increased tension within the Orthodox Church this year. The 1995 decision by the hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. to accept the omophorion (protection) of the Patriarchate of Constantinople continued to cause tension among the parishes and faithful in America, many of whom do not support the decision to accept the jurisdiction of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Several parishes threatened to leave the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and on May 29, the Kyiv Patriarchate under the leadership of Patriarch Filaret accepted four U.S. parishes under its jurisdiction, a decision that received harsh criticism from the hierarchs in the U.S.

On May 27, Patriarch Bartholomew arrived in Canada for a pastoral visit (he had visited the U.S. in the fall of 1997). Ukrainian Orthodox, along other Orthodox faithful in Canada, hosted the patriarch in Winnipeg, on the campus of St. Andrew's College and at the Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. The event helped mark the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada. The UOC-Canada accepted the omophorion of the ecumenical patriarch in 1990.

The Sobor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., held October 13-19 at the Consistory in South Bound Brook, N.J., – which began with apprehension over the issues of Constantinople, proposed changes to the Church Constitution and the prospect of additional parishes leaving – ended in an uneasy calm as the changes to the Constitution were postponed and the Sobor accepted three resolutions: to contact the ecumenical patriarch with a request for written clarification of the relationship between Constantinople and the UOC-U.S.A., including commitment to an Autocephalous Church in Ukraine as the Mother Church for all Orthodox Ukrainians; to continue discussions with both Patriarchs Filaret and Dymytrii about Church unity in Ukraine; and, to confirm that only the ecumenical patriarch can grant autocephaly to a Church in Ukraine and that the Church in the U.S. will never belong to any Church controlled or influenced by Moscow. Metropolitan Constantine of the UOC-U.S.A. stated during the Sobor that if there is an independent, united autocephalous Orthodox Church in Ukraine, one that is not controlled by Moscow, then the UOC-U.S.A. will go under the



Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate during a visit to Brunswick, Ohio.

omophorion of the patriarch in Kyiv, one that is recognized by the ecumenical patriarch. This position reassured many Sobor delegates.

In accordance with the second motion, hierarchs of the UOC-U.S.A. met with Patriarch Filaret on October 23, shortly after his arrival in New York. The patriarch traveled to several cities on a pastoral visit to his parishes during his three weeks in the U.S.

Catholic Church

Pope John Paul II on April 6 granted the title of "venerable" to Josaphata Hordachevska, co-founder of the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate. Sister Josaphata is the first Ukrainian woman to be going through the process of beatification-canonization.

Also, in April, a letter from Cardinal Angelo Sodano in Rome to the bishops of Poland stated that married clergy could not serve in Poland, and that all married Byzantine-Ukrainian Rite clergy should return to "their diocese of origin" in Ukraine, though many had no such diocese and were Polish citizens. This letter caught most Ukrainian Catholic Church hierarchs offguard and to many observers, appeared like a throwback to the dark days prior to Vatican II. The letter was immediately criticized by representatives of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ukraine and in the West, as well as by Latin Rite bishops, including the bishops' conference in Australia, and Asia, as well as those attending an ecumenical conference in Washington in June. Cardinal Sodano made a trip to Kyiv in June where he met with Greek-Catholic hierarchs. Though no official response revoking the letter has come from Rome, the issue appears to have subsided.

During the weeks of August 23 through September 10, both a Sobor and Synod of the Ukrainian Catholic Church were held in Lviv, the metropolitan see of the Church in Ukraine. The Sobor discussed the role of the faithful in the Church and prepared a final document for publication later this year. The Sobor is an advisory body to the Church hierarchs composed of laity and clergy; and this was the second convocation of several planned over five years.

The Synod of Bishops discussed the role of the Ukrainian Catholic Church within the Universal Church. Both bodies announced preparations for celebrations of the second millennium of Christianity.

In Canada, the Eparchy of Toronto, which celebrated its 50th anniversary this year, saw the installation of Bishop Cornelius Pasichny on September 24 as its new eparch. His appointment ended a nine-year standoff with the Vatican,

which began when Bishop Isidore Borecky refused to resign in 1984, after he was requested to do so by Pope John Paul II. Present at Bishop Pasichny's installation were representatives from the Vatican, as well as Bishop Borecky, who had agreed to retire. Bishop Roman Danylak, who had been in dispute with Bishop Borecky, was given a new assignment in Rome.

Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, who is the head of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, called for the resumption of Catholic-Orthodox dialogue, a program that had been suspended in 1990. He cited the 1995 apostolic letter on Christian unity by Pope John Paul II. The resumption was announced at a conference in Washington on June 9-12, "Orientale Lumen II," where relations between Churches and confessions were discussed, including a discussion of the Vatican letter that banned married Byzantine Rite priests from serving in Poland. Cardinal Cassidy, who stated that he had no prior knowledge of Cardinal Sodano's letter to the Polish bishops, suggested that the American bishops change their position (which, since 1929, bans the ordination of married men in the U.S.) as an example for Poland to follow.

In November Bishop Lubomyr Husar, who has assumed the daily responsibilities for the primate of the Church, Cardinal Myroslav Ivan Lubachivsky, confirmed that discussions between the government of Ukraine and the Vatican are under way to plan a papal visit to Ukraine, possibly for late 1999.

Other notables

- More than 6,000 pilgrims received sacraments this year during the Feast of the Dormition during their pilgrimage to visit the icon of the Mother of God of Zarvanytsia in western Ukraine.

- The sisters of St. Basil the Great held groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Holy Trinity Chapel and Basilian Spiritual Center in Fox Chase Manor, Pa., on May 10.

- Archbishop Antony, head of the Consistory of the UOC-U.S.A., celebrated 25 years of priesthood on January 17.

- Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, widely considered to be the architect of the Holy See's policy of rapprochement with the Communist East, as well as a supporter of Catholics living under repressive Communist regimes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, including the underground Ukrainian Catholic Church, died during the week of June 7 in Rome at the age of 83.

- On May 17, the UOC-U.S.A. commemorated the 100th anniversary of the birth of Patriarch Mstyslav, and the fifth anniversary of his death with a daylong commemoration at the Church's Consistory.

- At the UOC-U.S.A. Sobor in October, it was announced that Bishop Vsevolod had been elevated to archbishop.

- Sister Augustine, 93, who entered the convent of the Basilian Sisters in 1923, on August 28, celebrated 75 years of service to the Ukrainian Catholic Church.



Bishop Lubomyr Husar, auxiliary to the primate of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, Cardinal Myroslav Lubachivsky.

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U.S. and Ukraine continue as partners

Relations between Ukraine and the United States – now being called a “strategic partnership” – were tested and continued to develop in 1998. There were high-level meetings and visits, frank discussions, agreements, resolutions of disagreements, cooperation, assistance and, through all of it, an apparent sense of normal relations at work.

The year began with the changing of the guard at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv. Ambassador William Green Miller, who spent more than four years in Kyiv helping establish the strategic partnership, returned to Washington and was replaced by Steven Pifer, a career diplomat who last served at the National Security Council.

Ukraine would change its ambassador in Washington in November, when Dr. Yuri Shcherbak concluded his four-year term and was replaced by Anton Buteiko, first vice minister of foreign affairs. For both countries, it would be the third exchange of ambassadors since they established diplomatic relations after Ukraine’s independence.

The U.S. State Department’s annual human rights report, released in late January, noted that “Ukraine continued the process of building a law-based civil society” in 1997. The report, which covers countries that receive U.S. foreign assistance and all countries that are members of the United Nations, noted that instances of human rights violations in Ukraine “remained at the same low level as in 1996.” The latest annual report on Ukraine noted (as it did in 1996) that in many cases shortcomings result from holdover practices and personalities from the Soviet era, the absence of constitutionally mandated enabling legislation and enforcement, as well as the worsening economic situation in Ukraine.

The report cited continuing problems with trial delays and beatings in the unreformed legal and prison systems, and in the army. While noting progress in ensuring the independence of the judiciary under Ukraine’s new Constitution, the report added that “political interference continues to affect the judicial process.” Also, though it no longer criticized Ukraine for working under a Soviet-style constitution, as it did in previous reports, the State Department report pointed out that “the efficacy of the 1996 Constitution and the safeguards that it provides for human rights depends on enabling legislation, most of which has not yet been passed.”

Much of the bilateral activity during the year revolved around Ukraine’s need to secure sizable long-term credits from the International Monetary Fund to shore up its dwindling reserves as well as continued U.S. economic assistance. Both were contingent on Ukraine following through on President Kuchma’s government program of structural and other economic reforms which were stalled before the election to the Verkhovna Rada and appeared threatened altogether following the leftist gains in the election.

There were numerous trips to Washington by Vice Prime Minister for Economic Reform Serhii Tyhypko and other members of the Ukrainian government’s top economic team, culminating in the first visit to Washington by Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko. That came one month after the IMF had approved the \$2.22 billion, three-year Extended Fund Facility (EFF) program for Ukraine and the World Bank followed with more credits and grants totaling \$950 million. Mr. Pustovoitenko’s visit in October coincided with the annual meeting of the IMF and the World Bank, whose continued support became even more urgent when the Ukrainian economy came under pressure from the worldwide financial crisis – and especially the crisis in Russia.

High U.S. officials traveled to Kyiv as well to discuss economic and other U.S. concerns, such as nuclear non-proliferation. Among them were the State Department’s ambassador-at-large for the new independent states, Stephen Sestanovich; the administration’s special advisor on aid to that region, Richard Morningstar; Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright; and Vice-President Al Gore.

The U.S. government was concerned both about Ukraine holding the line on reform and about convincing international financial institutions, the U.S. Congress and private investors that Ukraine was worthy of support. Indeed, Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott wrote an article in the Washington Post two weeks after the Verkhovna Rada election, appealing for the contin-



Efreim Lukatsky

During his July 22-23 visit to Ukraine, U.S. Vice-President Al Gore looks at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and its sarcophagus from his helicopter.

ued support of Ukraine despite the leftward shift in the Rada and pointing out that Ukraine’s stability and security “matter profoundly to Europe and the United States.”

Secretary Albright was directed by Congress to “certify” that Ukraine was making progress in economic reforms and in resolving disputes with U.S. investors. Otherwise, Ukraine would forfeit almost half of the \$225 million in U.S. foreign assistance funds for 1998. Ms. Albright ultimately announced her certification in April, albeit with a small hedge of holding back \$10 million to 15 million as pressure for further progress.

In the 1999 U.S. foreign assistance budget passed by both houses of Congress in October, Ukraine was slated to receive \$195 million, and all of it is subject to the Secretary of State’s certification – within 120 days of the bill’s enactment – “that Ukraine has undertaken significant economic reforms additional to those achieved in fiscal year 1998.”

While in Kyiv in March, Secretary Albright also got Ukraine’s assurance that it would not sell turbines for a Russian nuclear reactor project in Iran, which, Washington feared, could be used to develop nuclear weapons. This agreement paved the way for Ukraine to enter into a peaceful nuclear energy cooperation program with the United States and to join the Missile Technology Control Regime, giving it the opportunity to

participate in such potentially lucrative international commercial space projects as Sea Launch and Global Star. The United States also agreed to assist in the economic development of the Kharkiv region, where the turbines were being made.

Vice-President Gore traveled to Kyiv in July for the second plenary session of the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission. Commonly called the Kuchma-Gore Commission, it was established in 1996 to turn the idea of the “strategic partnership” into reality. It conducts its work through four committees, dealing with foreign policy, security, trade and investment, and sustainable economic cooperation.

The U.S. vice-president praised President Kuchma’s decrees on economic reforms, and expressed his support for the IMF’s EFF credits for Ukraine and Ukraine’s proposal to transport oil from the Caspian Sea to Western Europe through a pipeline across the southwestern region of Ukraine, from Odesa to Brody, and then through to Poland. In August, the United States provided funds for a feasibility study of that route, but in December, it announced its support of another pipeline route through Turkey to the Mediterranean Sea.

The U.S. Congress continued to play an important role in supporting the further development of U.S.-Ukraine relations. The Congressional Ukrainian Caucus,



Official White House Photo

Ukrainian American community leaders at a White House meeting with Vice-President Al Gore on the eve of his visit to Ukraine.

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which now numbers 25 U.S. representatives, in many ways took the lead by organizing briefings on Ukrainian issues, supporting U.S. aid for Ukraine, meeting with visiting Ukrainian officials, sponsoring legislation – including the recent resolution marking the 65th anniversary of the Great Famine – and the annual Ukrainian Independence Day reception in Congress.

There was cooperation also in the arena of international crime. Noting that “democracy is under siege from ruthless, well-financed, well-organized criminal organizations,” Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) convened an April 21 hearing by the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations of the Senate Appropriations Committee to focus on international crime programs. Testifying before the subcommittee were FBI Director Louis Freeh and Gen. Ihor Smeshko, director for strategic planning and analysis on the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine. (Gen. Smeshko was Ukraine’s first military attaché in Washington.) The hearing focused on the Russian mafia operating throughout the new independent states and in the U.S.

In comments about Ukraine, Director Freeh said, “Gen. Smeshko and his agency are one of the several organizations in Ukraine that are direct beneficiaries of the training and institution-building programs that are the focus of this hearing ... Their presence here today stands as a testimony to the commitment by the government of Ukraine to develop modern law enforcement agencies that are based upon the rule of law.”

Gen. Smeshko reported that “the level of crime is increasing” in Ukraine; he pointed to money laundering, which is “like a vacuum cleaner,” and the resale of resources such as energy. He also noted that the “level of corruption of some government bodies is very high.” He attributed the increase to the struggle for power between the left and right as well as the privatization of enterprises.

U.S.-Ukrainian cooperation was evident in other areas as well in 1998. One of the most active areas of U.S.-Ukrainian cooperation is reputed to be between the armed forces of the two countries, through frequent contacts and visits, training and military exercises. In November, Defense Minister Oleksander Kuzmuk came for his second official visit to Washington. This time he referred to his talks with U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen as a “meeting of friends.”

U.S. and Ukrainian officials have also been cooperating in efforts to preserve the cultural heritage of minorities in both countries. In connection with this, Ukrainian representatives at two recent meetings in Washington – of the U.S.-Ukraine Cultural Heritage Commission and the Washington Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets – asked the United States for assistance in obtaining the return of a collection of drawings by 16th century German artist Albrecht Dürer, which were removed from Lviv’s Stefanyk Library by the Nazis in 1941 and later found their way into American and other countries’ museums.

Trafficking in women was another problem area in which Ukraine and the United States cooperated in 1998. During first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton’s briefing in February about her trip to Kazakstan, Uzbekistan, Russia and Ukraine in November 1997, she underscored the need for action on this problem to which she was alerted while visiting Lviv. A month later, at a special White House ceremony marking International Women’s Day, President Clinton outlined the U.S. plan of action, which included an expansion of U.S. efforts on behalf of women at home and abroad, and the convening of an international conference to develop strategies to combat the problem.

The Embassy of Ukraine had played a role in helping bring this issue to the fore, following reports about the problem in the Western media, including *The Ukrainian Weekly*. Ambassador Shcherbak had asked the first lady, in a follow-up meeting after her visit to Lviv, to push the U.S. to raise the issue to an international level.

The Ukrainian Embassy had also been active in fostering understanding of developments in Ukraine as well as its history and culture through various programs. It held a roundtable discussion with Kyiv-based Rabbi Yaakov Bleich about the state of the Jewish community in Ukraine, a commemorative evening for Ukrainian human rights activist Ivan Svitlychny and a presentation of Ambassador Shcherbak’s book, “The Strategic Role of Ukraine: Diplomatic Addresses and Lectures (1994-1997),” published by the Harvard University Ukrainian Research Institute.

As the year drew to a close, Ukraine’s new ambassador to the United States, Mr. Buteiko, organized a meeting at the Embassy with the leaders of major Ukrainian American organizations, to brief them about his agenda and listen to their ideas and concerns.

Canada-Ukraine: exchange of envoys

Canada and Ukraine had exchanged new ambassador by year’s end, but otherwise 1998 marked one of the less eventful years for relations between the two countries.

Given the volatility in global markets, particularly their effect on Russia, a planned “Team Canada” trade mission to be led by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien (his fifth) early next year to that country and to Ukraine was downgraded to an official visit by the PM.

Still, 1998 began on an upbeat note, with the Toronto branch of Canadian Friends of Ukraine announcing plans to help establish a Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Resource Center at the Verkhovna Rada in Kyiv, which would house Canadian federal and provincial laws, as well as regulations concerning various agencies and quasi-governmental institutions. Leonid Kravchuk, former president of Ukraine, agreed to serve as the project’s honorary patron in Ukraine.

Perhaps the center’s resources would include information on Canada’s immigration rules, which came under fire from the Canadian Ukrainian Immigrant Aid Society.

According to the society’s president, Bohdan Mykytiuk, “recent [Canadian] internal Immigration Department documents indicate[d] that there is in fact a quota system for visa offices and that Ukrainians are near the bottom of the targeted groups.” While the annual visa limit for Ukraine is 750, it’s 22,000 for the United States, he said.

Calling the process discriminatory, Mr. Mykytiuk blamed much of the problem on the downsizing of the immigration staff at the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv.

In October the 19th triennial convention of the UCC also raised the issue of Ukrainian immigration to Canada and resolved to demand a review of administrative procedures at the Canadian Visa Office in Kyiv to ensure equitable and timely visas, and address the allegations of bribes being taken by Ukrainian citizens working for the Embassy of Canada.

Meanwhile, the Canadian government announced it would send 10 observers to monitor Ukraine’s March 29 elections to the Verkhovna Rada. Earlier in the month, Canada’s minister for international cooperation, Diane Marleau, spent two days in Kyiv and later told *The Weekly* that she had expressed Canada’s concern over the “slow pace of economic reform” occurring in Ukraine.

“My message to them was that if they make it impossible for us to help, then help becomes impossible,” said Ms. Marleau, who is responsible for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) that oversees Canada’s financial assistance program to Ukraine.

In July, that much-anticipated Team Canada trade trip to Russia, Poland and Ukraine was announced by Prime Minister Chrétien. He said that, by visiting the three countries, “we are making sure that Canadian businesses can explore the opportunities offered by these growing economies.”

While Canada’s Embassy in Kyiv geared up for the prime minister’s visit, they also had cause to celebrate one of their own. Toronto-born Roman Waschuk, a counselor at the Embassy, was one of four members of Canada’s 4,000-strong diplomatic corps to receive this year’s Foreign Service Award, presented annually by the Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers.

Mr. Waschuk, 36, was recognized “for his personal and distinctive contributions to the advancement and close relations between Ukraine and Canada.”

Meanwhile back at home, Dmytro Ostapenko, Ukraine’s minister of culture and arts, joined his colleagues from 20 countries at a cultural summit in Ottawa hosted by Canadian Heritage Minister Sheila Copps in early July. While in Canada, Mr. Ostapenko discussed the establishment of a bilateral cultural agreement between Canada and Ukraine, which Prime Minister Chrétien is expected to sign when he visits Ukraine next month.

On July 15, Canada named a new ambassador to Ukraine, veteran diplomat Derek Fraser, who had recently represented the country in Greece. Predicting that Ukrainian trade “should grow naturally,” Mr. Fraser assumed his duties in Kyiv in late August.

His expectations for Ukraine’s performance had some merit when, in early September, officials of Lviv’s Electron Bank signed an agreement with their counterparts at the Buduchnist Credit Union to facilitate the “easy exchange of funds between individuals and companies in each country at reasonable rates.”

As the year wound down, Ukraine’s third ambassador to Canada, Volodymyr Furkalo, 45, left for his new posting in Yugoslavia after serving in Ottawa for three years. He was replaced by one of Ukraine’s former vice ministers of foreign affairs, Volodymyr Khandogiy, 46, who presented his diplomatic credentials to Canadian Governor General Roméo LeBlanc in early December.

While Mr. Khandogiy was hobnobbing with his hosts at his official welcome-to-Canada event, his Canadian counterpart in Kyiv created a minor furor back home over remarks he made to the Kyiv-based newspaper *Den (Day)* about the Ukrainian Canadian community’s request for an apology from Ottawa over the internment of some 5,000 Ukrainian Canadians between 1914 and 1920. In a December 1 news release issued by the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Ambassador Fraser was quoted as having said that “there were no camps for Ukrainians as such in Canada, [the] camps were for enemy aliens, including Austrian citizens.”



Ukrainian Canadian Congress President Evhen Czolij (center) and UCC Past President Oleh Romaniw (right) present Volodymyr Furkalo, Ukraine’s ambassador to Canada in 1995-1998, with a token of the community’s appreciation at the 19th triennial Congress of Ukrainian Canadians in Winnipeg on October 11.

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The UCCLA communiqué added that Mr. Fraser said that what had occurred during World War I is now "ancient history." In response, UCCLA Chairman John Gregorovich chastised the Canadian ambassador for being "clearly unaware of the facts" and suggested Mr. Fraser "should probably be better briefed on this subject before he publicly pronounces on it, embarrassing Canada in Ukraine by revealing his ignorance of this unfortunate episode in Canadian history." The UCCLA planned to ask Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy for both an explanation and apology from Mr. Fraser.

At year's end, it turned out that provincial prime ministers would not be heading east to Kyiv and Warsaw with their federal colleague. According to Prime Minister Chrétien, the events of the second half of 1998 made it clear "that what Russia needs now is not a large-scale trade mission." Nor did it appear that Russia needed a visit by the Canadian PM, based on late-October reports that ailing Russian President Boris Yeltsin had told Mr. Chrétien to effectively stay at home.

So, come January, the prime minister is scheduled to make his first trip to Ukraine and Poland – alone.

Our diaspora: news at the UWC

The Ukrainian World Congress held its seventh congress on December 2-6, and elected Askold Lozynskyj, head of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, as its president, after a six-month scramble to find candidates who would stand for the post.

Ukraine's ambassadors to the United Nations and Canada, respectively, Volodymyr Yelchenko and Volodymyr Khandogiy, addressed the congress, as did Saskatchewan's Premier Roy Romanow. Not only were delegates from Slovakia (Lev Dovhovykh) and Russia (Oleksander Rudenko-Desniak) officially represented for the first time in the congress's history, they played a key role in focusing debate on relations between Western and Eastern diasporas, on the issue of "autochthonous" Ukrainians versus diaspora Ukrainians, and on the need for the government in Kyiv to take a stronger stand in defending the interests of Ukrainians abroad.

One discussion panel addressed issues of the diaspora's self-definition and the challenges it faces ("The Ukrainian Diaspora in the New Era," i.e., post independence) and another dealt with questions of "The Diaspora and Ukraine" (in terms of what forms of assistance should flow in which direction.)

Delegates' even-handed approach to questions of interaction with the "mother country," whether with regard to relations with the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council and its president, Ivan Drach (he attended the congress), or the government in Kyiv, suggested that the post-independence blush of euphoria is well off the rose.

Commemoration of the 1932-1933 famine was again seen as a crucial focus for work at both the local level and the international arena – efforts to prompt U.N. resolutions condemning the use of famine as an instrument of coercion and enshrining the right to food were considered.

Religious concerns were also central, at the UWC conclave, notably the disunity in the Orthodox Church in Ukraine, the Moscow Patriarchate's invasive presence there and its actions against the Kyivan Patriarchate's Archbishop Adrian.

The congress was again marked by the near total absence of young delegates, although the presidium chairman, Taras Pidzameckyj, was the most visible symbol of the inclusion of younger activists in positions of influence, and the incoming executive is relatively young.

Happily, internal UWC conflicts over the issue of relations with the UWCC appeared to have been sufficiently aired prior to the congress, and so the various recriminations aired during the year concerning a UWC delegation's attendance at a UWCC plenum in May did not surface in the proceedings.

At a presidium meeting on February 20-21, a strong majority in the UWC hierarchy had finally had enough of UWCC's inconsistent approach to by-laws, unwillingness to face questions of conflict of interest and the need to operate at arms length from the Ukrainian gov-



Two Ukrainian World Congress presidents: newly elected Askold Lozynskyj (left) and outgoing Dmytro Cipywnyk.

ernment, and half-hearted repudiations of the Ukraina Society's anti-diaspora past. It had resolved to discontinue formal meetings until these questions could be satisfactorily resolved.

An April 6 meeting of the UWC executive gave conditional approval for the delegation's trip to Kyiv, but this caused a rift in the world umbrella body by the time of the a plenary meeting of the UWC's secretariat on June 5-6.

At the congress in December, President-elect Lozynskyj said Mr. Drach had agreed to make a statement repudiating and renaming the Ukraina Society that was acceptable, and that this would serve as a point of departure for improved relations.

Around the world

- Just as 1997 was ending, on December 31 at about 7 p.m., a 400-year-old church on long-term lease to the Ukrainian community in Tallinn, Estonia, since 1993, was destroyed by fire.

- Ukrainians in Austria marked the 225th anniversary of their presence in that country with the issue of a stamp depicting Vienna's St. Barbara's Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church.

- In January, following seven years of hardship in the aftermath of the war in former Yugoslavia, Ukrainians began returning to Vukovar, Croatia, and the effort to reconstruct the Ukrainian Catholic Church of Christ the King was begun.

- The Plast Ukrainian Youth Organization held its international jamboree in Manitoba from July 29 to August 6, with close to 700 members arriving from Canada, the U.S., Argentina, France, Germany, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine.

- On September 17-19, the World Congress of Ukrainian Lawyers convened in Lviv, with jurists from North America and Europe participating, and issued a statement honoring the victims of the 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide and marking the tragedy's 65th anniversary.

- The third congress of the League of Ukrainian Political Prisoners was held in Toronto on October 16-18 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center. At the gala banquet, remains of those who died in a Nazi concentration camps in Flossenbürg were accepted by Ukraine's Consul General in Toronto Volodymyr Kyrychenko, for suitable interment in Ukraine.

- The World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations celebrated its 50th anniversary in Jenkintown, Pa., with an address by Dr. Zoya Khyzhnyak of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, on October 25, and then, during the annual meetings of its executive in Toronto on October 30-November 1, with former Helsinki Monitoring Group member Iryna Senyk arriving for the gala banquet on October 31 after being chosen as one of the "World's 100 Heroines" by an international women's rights agency in Rochester, N.Y.

- The European Congress of Ukrainians convened

its third meeting of leaders of European national umbrella organizations in Kosice, Slovakia, on November 20-21. Representatives from Germany, Romania, Slovakia and the United Kingdom met with observers from Bosnia, Croatia and the Czech Republic, and formally accepted applications for membership in the ECU from organizations based in Bosnia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia.

- On November 27, Ukraine's prime minister, Valerii Pustovoitenko, lent a higher profile to the opening of a Ukrainian culture center in Moscow which is to "concern itself with the needs of the several million Ukrainians living and working in Russia."

The Great Famine: a reassessment

Seventy years ago, momentous changes began to occur in Ukraine. Let us recall that at that time Ukrainian lands were divided between several countries. Most of western Ukraine was under the rule of a newly restored Polish state, with small areas controlled by Czecho-Slovakia and Romania. Eastern Ukraine, a larger area was under Soviet rule. However, for five to six years the Soviet authorities had introduced a policy that permitted non-Russian republics to develop governments that were "national in form, socialist in content." Ukraine had made significant progress in the development of national culture. In 1928, this was about to change.

In the 1920s a power struggle took place in the USSR during which Lenin's successors waged a non-publicized battle for control. This struggle was won by the Georgian Iosif Djughashvili, better known as Stalin, "man of steel." Stalin was a man paranoid by nature, trusting no one, with an almost overwhelming suspicion of the peasantry. He had cast off his Georgian background like an old shoe that he no longer wished to wear. Instead, he adopted the outlook of a Great Russian, disguised as internationalism, whereby any manifestation of one's national culture – in a non-Russian form – could be labeled "national deviationism."

But Russification was only one goal. The major questions for Stalin were how to ensure that the mass of the population was pacified, and how to feed a growing industrial workforce harnessed to his First Five-Year Plan. Could there be a guaranteed supply of food?

Lenin had advocated an alliance between the workers and the poor peasants that would lead to class warfare in the countryside. Throughout the period of the civil war, harsh grain requisitions had been extracted from the farms through the Committees of the Poor Peasantry. The policy was an abject failure that resulted

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in mass hunger, drought and eventual famine. In March 1921, this policy was exchanged for the New Economic Policy (NEP), which replaced requisitions with a flat tax and allowed the peasants to sell their excess grain on the open market. It was, in brief, a return to capitalism in the village.

NEP undoubtedly worked for a time, but the more ideological Communists resented what seemed to be a return of capitalist practices to the village. Also, prices for industrial goods were generally higher than those for agricultural products, and what was termed a "scissors crisis" developed, making it economically inexpedient for the farmer to sell grain at continued low prices. It was often better for him to store the grain in anticipation that grain prices would eventually rise.

Stalin, who had but a single experience of this practice during a visit to a farm in the Urals, called this "hoarding." To him it was a signal that the peasant farmer would never willingly give up grain to the state. If the USSR was to become a powerful industrial country and to catch up with the capitalist nations of the West, it would not only have to industrialize, it would have to ensure that food reached the growing industrial workforce. And like his mentor Lenin, he believed in the use of coercion and an artificial class warfare in the villages, particularly in grain-growing republics such as Ukraine.

The beginning of collectivization

Stalin's answer was mass collectivization – a policy that was intended to divide the peasants among themselves, to outlaw the richer peasants, and form alliances with the poorest and the middle. In reality the regime went much further than this: by 1928, the concept of a rich peasant was alien to the average village. Even according to Soviet statistics, only 5 percent of all peasants could be termed rich. Thus, the mass of middle-ranking peasants also were targeted. They all were encompassed by the general term "kulaks," who were either executed as criminals, arrested or deported to Siberia and other remote regions.

Stalin demanded that the kulaks be "liquidated as a class." The result was wholesale expropriation of land and property, and the deportation of families under the harshest of conditions. This was the prelude to collectivization and included about 5 million peasants.

Collectivization was imposed from above. Outsiders usually came into a village. They were given blocks of 10 houses and had the task of "persuading" the heads of household of each one to agree to form a collective farm. This entailed giving up one's land, livestock and implements, and being permitted only a small kitchen garden on which to grow crops privately. Those peasants with little or no land or livestock were naturally the first to join since they had little to lose. The richer farmers rarely joined such farms willingly.

Collectivization was imposed first in grain-growing regions, foremost of which was Ukraine. In Stalin's mind, if grain was to reach the towns, then the grain-producing peasantry had to be completely subjugated. Left to himself, he believed, the peasant would not willingly produce a large surplus of grain; and even if he did, he would not sell it to the state at the sort of prices introduced in the 1920s. What was required was a class war, during which the kulaks were arrested and executed or exiled from the native villages. This policy was first evident in Kazakhstan where the farmers were nomadic. In 1930-1931 it is estimated that one-third of all peasants lost their lives as a result of a famine in Kazakhstan, a casualty figure of around 1 million. This was a foretaste of things to come.

Ukraine was collectivized faster than most other regions. Rather than give up their livestock to what seemed a hopeless enterprise, many families shot and ate them. Between 1929 and 1932 there was a drastic reduction in the number of dairy livestock, sheep and horses. Collective farms would spring up and collapse overnight, as soon as the Soviet authorities left the villages. In March 1930, Stalin tried to slow down the process, publishing an article in Pravda that claimed his officials in the countryside were "dizzy with success." They had been over-zealous and violated the voluntary nature of the process of collectivization. It was time to call a temporary halt. In this way the blame for the abuses perpetrated were shifted from the Soviet leader to the regional bureaucracy. Given an opportunity, the peasantry abandoned the collectives in droves.

With the help of fanatical Communists from the new towns – they were called 25,000ers, after the total number eventually chosen for the task – collectivization was renewed in the fall of 1930. A grain quota was then set



Grain is delivered to the Soviet government authorities. This photo and the two on the next page are reproduced from "1933: The Famine," a memorial book published in 1991 in Ukraine in memory of the millions who died in the Great Famine. The volume, compiled by Lidiia Kovalenko and Volodymyr Maniak, contains testimony by 1,000 persons who survived the famine, period photos, commentaries and archival materials.

by the state and had to be given up before peasant families could feed themselves. The quota in Ukraine reached one-third of the total output. When the harvest was bad, as in 1931, no reserves were left. The state officials took any surpluses of grain that was destined for export or to feed the Red Army in the Far East. The peasant farmers themselves, the grain producers, received last priority. After the disastrous harvest of 1931, when it was evident that Ukraine could not meet its quota of grain, the state provided aid to avert a crisis.

One year later, however, these policies were rejected as too lenient and the harshest measures were imposed for failure to meet the quota. In January 1933, the former party boss of the Kharkiv region, Pavel Postyshev, became second secretary of the Communist Party of Ukraine and Stalin's local plenipotentiary. His job was to reverse the mild policies hitherto embraced by the leadership of the Communist Party of Ukraine.

Both Viacheslav Molotov and Lazar Kaganovich, two of Stalin's closest associates, made frequent visits to Ukraine at this time to ensure that the state quota was being fulfilled. The grain was confiscated or stored, and the majority of collective farmers in the regions of eastern Ukraine were not paid for their labor; generally they received this payment in kind rather than in wages. Famine broke out in Ukraine in 1932 and continued throughout 1933. The peasants ate their domestic pets, or bark off the trees. Every living thing was consumed. Before long it was common to see the dead lying for days in the streets.

The Western reaction

Many myths abound about that Famine. It was denied by the Soviet authorities for the next 54 years. Those westerners who visited the Soviet Union in these years – George Bernard Shaw and the Fabians Sidney and Beatrice Webb are the classic examples – were taken to see model farms and returned home glowing with praise for what they had seen. Propaganda movies showed villages loaded with grain, happy villagers singing for joy. But in Poltava, Kharkiv and other regions, the peasants were starving.

What causes a famine? It is not a natural event. Drought may occur naturally but famine requires the intervention of the human hand. In Ukraine's case it was an official silence in response to the cries of millions. They were not allowed to leave their villages to find food because of the official passport system, and there was no one to whom they could appeal. Those Ukrainian party leaders who made known to the Moscow officials what was happening were regarded as dangerous subversives, as putting Ukrainian interests above those of the party. Virtually all these people were to perish in the purges over the next several years, including the archetypal Stalinist Postyshev himself.

The world remained preoccupied with the social effects of the Great Depression, but was also duped by a

combination of Soviet duplicity and the collusion of the Western media corps in Moscow, several of whom were not willing to provide an accurate portrayal of what was happening in the Famine regions. Walter Duranty of The New York Times, who won the Pulitzer Prize for his reports from the Soviet Union, was the principal culprit, reporting in his bold prose that there were indeed food problems in the Soviet utopia, but no famine. In dispatch after dispatch he refused to use this word.

It should be noted, however, that even those who accused Mr. Duranty of one-sided reporting, such as William Henry Chamberlin and Malcolm Muggeridge, were at one time or another admirers of the Soviet experiment. To them, it seemed that a great economic transformation was taking place by means of which the USSR would avoid the massive depression that capitalism had brought elsewhere in the world. They were not anxious to expose such a system as fraudulent. In addition, many feared that they would lose their accreditation as Moscow correspondents if they were too critical of the system.

One consequence of such misreporting was the diplomatic recognition of the USSR at the end of the Famine year of 1933 by the United States.

It was possible for the authorities to conceal the effects of the Famine also because those suffering had no means to alert outsiders as to their plight. The media was under state control. The party authorities could only report to Kyiv, and in turn to Moscow. Very few foreigners were able to travel to these areas. Some foreign correspondents witnessed starving peasants at railroad stations but it was often hard to gauge the massive scale of the problem.

In general it is fair to say that many outsiders regarded peasants in the former Soviet Union as passive and somehow used to suffering. If one reads these accounts from Moscow correspondents today, they seem both callous and unperceptive. They speak of Russian peasants – never Ukrainian, the concept of a distinctive Ukrainian peasant was alien to them – who had long accepted their difficult fate, who continued as always to live in deplorable conditions and who had barely advanced from the medieval age (in spite of the abolition of serfdom some 70 years earlier). If this was the attitude of correspondents, one can presume that it had filtered to government circles also.

To take this perspective one step further – for it is very significant when analyzing Western perceptions of what was occurring in the USSR – the Soviet government was attempting to transform the situation with a great experiment. Many western technicians and specialists traveled to the USSR in the early 1930s to lend their expertise and assistance to the Soviet regime. They soon became disillusioned, but their personal predicaments did not alter fundamentally the attitude of their governments or intellectual circles. One recalls that in this period also, the Cambridge economist Malcolm Dobb began recruiting agents for the Soviet cause: Guy

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Burgess, Kim Philby, Donald Maclean, Anthony Blunt and company. Stalin did not merely hoodwink his own public; foreigners were anxious to believe in his utopia.

Several Moscow embassies filed information about the Famine back to their governments, but the latter were reluctant to take action against the Soviet regime.

The results of the Famine

In 1932-1933, between 4 million and 7 million people in Ukraine, the Kuban region and the North Caucasus died of starvation. The exact number may never be known because there was no census taken of the Soviet population between 1926 and 1937. For Ukraine the horror of this period is hard to measure. So-called rich farmers had already been banished from their homes, the purges were just four years hence. Stalin told Churchill curtly during a World War II discussion that 10 million peasants had died during the upheavals of the 1930s.

The Ukrainian population fell by more than 3 million between the censuses of 1926 and 1939 (and we now know from the research of S.G. Wheatcroft and others that the latter census was doctored), whereas the population of Russia increased by 16 million over the same period.

The Famine, then, was part of a series of calamities that befell the Ukrainian republic in this decade. But what caused it precisely?

The scholarly debate

Today, 65 years later, we are only beginning to comprehend these issues. Historians continue to debate the reasons behind the Famine, whether Stalin had turned on Ukrainians specifically, peasants in general, or whether he decided to sacrifice the villages in order to feed the cities. No definitive answer has emerged thus far, but the scholarly debate has been extensive. Until the mid-1980s there were no academic Western monographs on the Famine and, naturally, none from the Soviet Union. However, in the 1960s, Ukrainian historians tried manfully to highlight the true state of affairs without going so far as to mention the fact of the Famine.

In the West, a notable article by Dana Dalrymple appeared in the British journal *Soviet Studies* in 1964 but did not attract much attention. Classic works on collectivization, such as "Russian Peasants and Soviet Power," written in the 1960s by University of Pennsylvania historian Moshe Lewin, made no reference specifically to a major famine in Ukraine.

In 1983, on the 50th anniversary of the Famine, a Harvard University Project was already under way, headed ultimately by Robert Conquest, a British literary historian based at Stanford University, and his assistant, James E. Mace, a native of Oklahoma. Dr. Conquest was well-known for his work on the Stalin purges, but he had also made himself a reputation as an outspoken anti-Soviet ideologue, as evident from the title of one of his books, "What To Do When the Russians Come." The result of his labor was "The Harvest of Sorrow," a book that was widely acclaimed as providing the best account of the Famine to date.

That book did not satisfy everyone, however. Several critiques appeared. One alleged that Dr. Conquest relied on sources that were unreliable, such as the collection, "The Black Deeds of the Kremlin: A White Book," which had been compiled by anti-Soviet activists. Another noted that not all the photographs in the book were authentic, as many were extracted from collections portraying the Famine of 1920-1921 in Ukraine and other regions. Westerners had received appeals from the new Soviet government to respond to that Famine – a result of seven years of world war and civil war, and also excessive grain requisitions – and numerous photographs had been taken. The same criticism was also leveled at a film produced in Montreal and eventually shown on the PBS network called "Harvest of Despair."

The Communist sympathizers in North America were also quickly on the attack: in the summer of 1987, a Winnipeg schoolteacher and Communist called Douglas Tottle published a book with Progress Publishers of Toronto called "Fraud, Famine and Fascism," which alleged that the new details about the Ukrainian Famine were a myth propagated by Ukrainian nationalists to divert attention from their collaboration with the German occupants of Ukraine during World War II.

This astonishing claim was soon undermined by none other than the dour archetypical Communist Party boss in Ukraine, Volodymyr Shcherbytsky, who acknowledged the existence of the Famine for the first time in a speech of December 1987, likely under pressure from Moscow. This speech opened the floodgates for Ukrainian scholars to delve deeper into the subject, led by the indefatigable

Kyiv historian, Stanislav Kulchytsky.

By this time the U.S. government had established a Commission on the Ukraine Famine, led by Dr. Mace, assisted by Walter Pechenuk and others, which conducted interviews with dozens of elderly eyewitnesses and published the results in a three-volume collection.

Further research was carried out from 1983 onward by the Harvard-based Ukrainian demographer, Aleksandr Babyonyshev, whose careful calculations established irrefutably that the number of deaths was at least 3.5 million.

But has this research helped us determine the exact cause of the Famine? There are several schools of thought. That of Dr. Mace, who is now based in Kyiv, supports the notion that the Famine was an act of genocide against the people of Ukraine. This school of thought, to which also subscribe most historians of the Institute of History of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, cites the fact that the borders were closed, that there was no famine in Russia or Belarus, that the Famine coincided with an assault on national deviationism led by Stalin's henchman, Kaganovich, and that the intention was to suppress potential national opposition to the Stalin regime in Ukraine. Writing in the prestigious scholarly journal *Slavic Review*, Mark B. Tauger attempted to refute this claim by producing figures that purported to show that the harvest of 1931-1932 was much poorer than recognized hitherto, and that the authorities faced an acute shortage of grain over which they had little control. Dr. Tauger's article, which appeared in 1991, sparked a furious exchange with Dr. Conquest in future issues. One can say that even if Tauger's theory is correct, then one would have derived the cause of grain shortages, but not necessarily famine.

My own perspective is that the chief cause of the Famine was excessive grain requisitions from the Ukrainian villages, a failure to pay farmers adequate wages or food, and an acute shortage of machinery or draught animals on the new collective farms. The latter were often run by people chosen more for their Communist sympathies than for farming ability; often they were outsiders to the village. The situation in the countryside east of Kyiv was one of absolute chaos. Genocide seems unlikely for several reasons. [The genocide question is complex. I take genocide to be the premeditated attempt to physically exterminate a group on racial grounds. There is no evidence in this case of any premeditation or that Stalin made any particular distinction on racial or ethnic grounds between the different nationality groups of the Soviet empire. – Author's note.] The Famine affected only certain areas of Ukraine (an Alberta doctoral scholar, Colin P. Neufeldt, recently demonstrated conclusively that there was no famine in the southern regions of Ukraine inhabited by some 80,000 Mennonites, for example). Moreover, the known famine territory extended to the North Caucasus and the Kuban and Don regions. Also, the hunger was ended by the decision of the authorities to supply grain from outside Ukraine in 1934.

Thus there was no long-term plan against Ukraine as



A hungry child at the time of the famine.

a region of the USSR. Stalin was a vindictive and neurotic tyrant who was suspicious of everyone. His suspicions of Ukraine reached a culmination in the second world war, but prior to that there are few indications of a prejudice against Ukrainians per se. Paradoxically Stalin had probably treated the Georgians the worst of any Soviet nationality group in the period of the Civil War. He could never forgive the presence there of a Menshevik government.

Stalin was nonetheless prepared to sacrifice Ukrainian farmers in order to fulfill his quotas of grain. In this, as noted earlier, he was following a policy initiated by Lenin during the period of so-called War Communism in 1918-1921. He was also fomenting a civil and class war. Stalin and his close associates were responsible for the onset of the Famine. There is moreover no proof either that collectivization provided a safeguard for industrial develop-



A wagon on which bodies of famine victims are carted away.

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ment, or that more grain reached the towns after collectivization than before. The Stalin regime chose the most extreme of all alternatives. To paraphrase Stalin's own words, one could not make an omelette without breaking eggs. Yet even the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union began to show signs of rebellion. At the 17th Party Congress, Stalin no longer received the most votes from the membership. The situation in the countryside, particularly in Ukraine, had horrified even his most loyal followers.

Conclusion

The period 1929-1933 has been termed the Second Bolshevik Revolution, and it was one that produced far more victims than the first, even if one includes the period of the Civil War. Whatever the cause, the Ukrainian peasants were the victims of a policy so tyrannical that it almost defies belief: those who fed the country were not permitted to feed themselves. Grain could rot in barns rather than be used to make bread to feed ravenous families. After August 1932, a peasant could be executed for the theft of a single ear of grain from land that he had cultivated himself.

The Famine remains as one of the 20th century's most lasting monuments of humankind's inhumanity to its fellows. It occurred under Stalinism, a system that even today has not acquired the stigma that it deserves, a system that showed not an ounce of feeling or remorse for the suffering that it induced.

It is important in my view for historians to reach a consensus about the Famine. It is not taught rigorously in schools, and it lacks both the publicity and the horror elicited by events such as the Jewish Holocaust. In part this problem may be a consequence of Ukraine's unfortunate history during the Soviet period when one event ran into another: the Famine, purges, the losses of World War II and the more recent catastrophe at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. But the other significant reason cannot be escaped, which is sympathy of some sort for the Soviet system by scholars, writers, and the media from the 1930s until the darkest years of the Cold War. Not until 1990 did a Western historian, Alan Bullock, take the obvious step of comparing Stalin with Hitler.

The newly independent Ukrainian state, moreover, has yet to establish a new school of historians freed from the ideological guidelines of the Soviet system. This has not been an easy transformation and is reflected in the regularity with which Ukrainian historians prefer today to cite Western secondary sources in their works rather than primary documents. The Soviet perspective has been discredited, but there has been nothing with which to replace it other than emulation of the West.

What is needed is an objective consensus on what could or did cause the Famine, the number of deaths and the like. Instead the focus has been on the proverbial: Who is to blame? Further, the difficult economic conditions in today's Ukraine, the corruption endemic in society and the struggle for subsistence in some rural areas have precluded the diversion of funds for something as frivolous as academic research. Professors in Ukraine cannot even make a living from such pursuits. This situation is particularly problematic when so many questions pertaining to 20th century Ukraine merit more profound investigations. There are too many "blank spots" in Ukrainian history.

As for Western historians, there is no Famine school as there is on other atrocities of this century. One can say that at best the topic is marginalized, despite the tremendous interest in contemporary Ukraine. What is sorely needed is work based on Soviet archives in Moscow that reveals some of the discussions held at the highest levels of the Soviet bureaucracy.

But the picture is not universally gloomy. Independent Ukraine has survived for seven years – longer than any other time in its history. Thus, while we commemorate today the millions of silent, innocent victims, men, women and children, we should also acknowledge the spirit of the people of these lands, which was not cowed by the persecution of Stalin or Hitler, but which preserves the memory of lost relatives and friends and has the courage to face a future that may be no less difficult than the Stalinist past.

– Dr. David R. Marples

The writer is professor of history and director of the Stasiuk Program on Contemporary Ukraine at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta. He delivered this paper to the Calgary Ukrainian Professional and Business Club, at the University of Calgary, on November 19.

Our community recalls 1932-1933

The year 1998 marked the 65th anniversary of the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, and Ukrainians around the globe recalled this genocide, which killed between 7 million and 10 million of their brothers and sisters. The Famine was not a natural disaster, but a man-made atrocity, a heinous use of food as a weapon – in this case used by Stalin and his henchmen to destroy a nation.

Many communities took advantage of the anniversary to increase public awareness about the Famine and its ramifications.

Montreal led the way with a series of commemorative events in the spring. On May 9, over 500 people attended a Montreal march in memory of the millions who died during the artificially created Famine. Other events in Montreal included a lecture at McGill University by Prof. Roman Serbyn and a screening of Slavko Nowytski's "Harvest of Despair," as part of the second annual conference on 20th century genocides organized by Armenian students; segments about the Famine on the Ukrainian radio program in Montreal, special classes in the city's Ukrainian schools; and an exhibit at the Université du Québec à Montréal.

In the Canadian capital the Ukrainian community held a memorial manifestation, plus a memorial service on June 14. A week earlier, about 200 people had gathered at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Ottawa to remember Famine victims through prayers, poetry and speeches.

The Ottawa community took a pragmatic approach to the solemnities. A scholarship fund was launched to support research into the politics of famine and a "soup kitchen" fund was established to feed the hungry in Ukraine today. As well, community members are pushing for a section on the Great Famine in Ukraine to be included in the federal government's plans for a Holocaust or genocide museum in the National Capital Region.

In Toronto, on October 4, more than 2,500 gathered at the Ontario Provincial Parliament buildings at Queen's Park, then marched to Nathan Philips Square at Toronto's City Hall. The keynote speaker at the event was Dr. James Mace, an adjunct professor of history at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, former director of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine and former research associate of the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard. The commemorations had been unofficially launched with an educational program hosted by the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center (UCRDC), at its headquarters in the St. Vladimir Institute near the university, which presented materials to elementary school children from various local schools on the afternoon of September 26.

An exhibit, "The Famine-Genocide, Ukraine, 1933," prepared by the UCRDC and sponsored by Media Watch Ukraine and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Toronto branch, was on view in the Rotunda of City Hall from

September 30 until October 9. The exhibit featured documents implicating senior Soviet officials in issuing lethal procurement orders, coverage of the Famine that appeared in the Ukrainian and international press at the time, statements read out earlier in the year in Canada's House of Commons in commemoration of the Famine, and a continuous screening of the video "Harvest of Despair."

As part of the agenda of the opening day of its 19th triennial conclave held in Winnipeg on October 9-12, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress commemorated the victims of the Famine with a wreath-laying ceremony at Winnipeg's monument to the Famine. Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada Volodymyr Furkalo and UCC President Oleh Romaniw performed the honors.

Similar events were held in the U.S., with major commemorations held in New York, Washington and Chicago.

Ukrainian Americans of metropolitan New York commemorated the 65th anniversary of the Great Famine at St. Patrick's Cathedral on November 8 – designated as "Ukrainian Famine Days of Remembrance" throughout the United States – with a "panakhyda" (memorial service) for the Famine victims concelerated by Bishop Robert Brucato, auxiliary bishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York; Bishop Basil Losten, eparch of the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Stamford; and the Rev. Andrei Kulyk from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

In his greeting to the participants, President Bill Clinton wrote, "... the Famine still evokes strong feelings of grief and anger. We have a solemn obligation to keep alive the memory of the innocent victims who suffered and died because of Stalin's attempt to crush Ukraine."

Messages from New York Gov. George Pataki and New York Mayor Rudy Guilliani, as well as the text of the Congressional Resolution that had been approved by both houses of the U.S. Congress, were read at the commemoration. Addresses were delivered by Ambassador William Green Miller, former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, and by Ukraine's permanent representative to the U.N., Volodymyr Yelchenko.

The cathedral, which seats 4,500, was filled to capacity.

In Washington on November 8, the Ukrainian community gathered at the Church of the Pilgrims (opposite the Taras Shevchenko monument). Executive proclamations from the states of Maryland and Virginia were read, as was a proclamation issued by Washington Mayor Marion Barry. Speakers for the early evening commemorative observance included Carlos Pascual, director of the National Security Council's bureau for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia; Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S.; and Volodymyr Zvighyanich, adjunct professor at George Washington University.

At the conclusion of the program, Famine survivors proceeded to the altar of the church, where the clergy assisted them in lighting the "Candle of Freedom." A candlelight procession from the Church of the Pilgrims to the Taras Shevchenko monument followed.

In the Chicago area on September 20, nearly 1,000 Ukrainians gathered at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Addison, Ill., for a moleben offered by Orthodox



Children of Ukrainian schools and youth organizations participate in Montreal's memorial march recalling the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine.

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and Catholic clergy, a procession around the church, a wreath-laying ceremony at the foot of the monument to victims of the Great Famine, and a formal program in the church auditorium

Other commemorations of the Great Famine's 65th anniversary were held in Parma/Cleveland (June 28 and November 8), Warren/Detroit (October 27), San Diego (November 7), Newark, N.J. (November 13), Philadelphia (November 21) as well as in many other communities.

In Ukraine, President Leonid Kuchma issued a presidential decree proclaiming the fourth Saturday of each November as National Day of Remembrance of Famine Victims, and Ukraine officially commemorated the 65th anniversary of the Great Famine of 1932-1933 on November 28. A program at the Kyiv National Philharmonic Hall recalling the millions who perished featured a program by Ukraine's National Symphony, preceded by an address by Vice Prime Minister Valerii Smolii.

"That the Famine was artificially induced is a historical fact," said Mr. Smolii. He called the Famine part of the "deliberate criminal policies of the Communist regime."

World governments ignored reports and the world knew little about the forced starvation and genocide of millions of Ukrainians engineered by Soviet leaders to force the peasantry onto collective farms and under Soviet servitude, even as reporters such as Malcolm Muggeridge of the Manchester Guardian attempted to focus attention on the man-made tragedy. But, as Mr. Smolii explained, others did not forget what happened – especially the Ukrainian diaspora, whom he thanked for keeping the memory alive.

"Ukrainians abroad consistently rang the bell," said Mr. Smolii. "Even those who traveled across the ocean from the territories of western Ukraine, which were under Polish rule and did not experience the Famine, felt it a matter of honor and national dignity to let the world community know the truth about the unparalleled Stalinist crime. They put together titanic efforts so that all would realize: the Ukrainian Famine of 1933 stands on the level of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 and the Jewish Holocaust."

President Kuchma attended another official commemoration held earlier in the day during which he, along with Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko and Second Vice-Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Viktor Medvedchuk, laid flowers at the monument to the victims of the Great Famine, located on Mykhailivskyi Square, at the foot of the belltower of the newly rebuilt St. Michael's Golden-Domed Monastery.

Also participating in that ceremony was the Rukh Party, which had attempted for over a year to have November 7 – still celebrated either officially or unofficially in most former Communist countries as October Revolution Day – transformed into a national day of mourning for victims of Communist terror, including those of the Great Famine.

For our part, as a public service on the occasion of the solemn anniversary, we at The Ukrainian Weekly created a special section on our official website (<http://www.ukr-weekly.com>) featuring information about the Great Famine. The Ukrainian Weekly Archive is home to the Internet's largest collection of materials about the Famine. (See "At The Weekly, life goes on...")

Ukrainians in U.S.: looking to the future

Will there be a North American Ukrainian Diaspora in the year 2020, and does it matter? That was the principal theme and just one of the questions posed on October 10-11 at The Year 2020 Conference sponsored by the Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons Association of New York and New Jersey.

The conference was opened by Bohdan Vitvitsky, an assistant U.S. attorney in the Frauds Division, District of New Jersey, who is a founder of the UAPBA and its current president. Dr. Vitvitsky, who guided the conference from its germination as an idea to its conclusion, set the stage for the four panel presentations that were to follow. He offered that "there are three views of our community": the first says "don't worry, we're on automatic pilot"; the second that "only Ukraine matters"; and the third, which he referred to as "the sky is falling, the sky is falling" view, is that "we as a diaspora are doomed to near immediate extinction."

"I and some of my colleagues do not subscribe to any of these views. And, it is in part our disagreement with all of these views that has prompted us to organize this conference," he explained. "I believe that there are still far too many of us who care about what we have inher-



Newly elected UACC President Ihor Gawdiak (standing) shares some of his ideas with Ukraine's new ambassador in Washington, Anton Buteiko (left), as UCCA and UWC President Askold Lozynskyj listens (extreme right).

ited to allow our community to disappear," he stated. "It does matter a great deal whether there is a diaspora in the year 2020, and the reasons it does are numerous."

Among the reasons Dr. Vitvitsky cited were: "the diaspora is a transmission belt for a rich and distinctive cultural, religious and intellectual heritage created over centuries on two continents"; the diaspora serves as a "counterweight to the vulgarity and moral imbecility of so much that passes for popular culture in North America today"; the Ukrainian ethos is "an endangered species"; Ukraine still needs our help; and, finally, "we owe it to ... the millions upon millions of Ukrainians ... who fought and died to preserve that which was handed down to us – to stay the course and keep our blood- and tear-soaked heritage and traditions alive both for our children and grandchildren."

Dr. Vitvitsky exhorted his listeners: "we must collectively commit ourselves to the community's continuity" and that requires an "investment of time, imagination and money."

It was a topic that concerns – or should concern – all segments of our Ukrainian American community. And that is why this newspaper devoted ample space and serious coverage of the conference panels. As well, The Weekly published the full text of Dr. Vitvitsky's seminal address.

Questions addressed at the conference included whether an independent Ukraine helps or hinders the diaspora; what institutional infrastructure it needs to survive; and what is necessary for the diaspora's retention of language and culture, as well as its religious, educational, cultural and financial institutions.

Additional panels were devoted to the younger generation's views and perspectives on the future, developments in Canada and the relationship between the American and Canadian diasporas, and the role of the recent "Fourth Wave" of immigrants to North America.

Conference speakers included Weekly columnist Dr. Myron Kuropas, Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute Director Prof. Roman Szporluk and Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Dr. Yuri Shcherbak.

Prof. Szporluk provided a world historical perspective on the times in which the diaspora came into being and is likely to continue to flourish, while Dr. Shcherbak, soon to conclude his term as ambassador to the U.S., outlined future areas of cooperation between Ukraine and the diaspora that would ensure their common welfare. The ambassador also read out a "thank you list" for diaspora efforts in support of Ukraine (including a mention of the UNA's Ulana Diachuk, Eugene Iwanciw and The Weekly's Editor-in-Chief Roma Hadzewycz "for publishing a thoroughly modern newspaper that prints interesting materials about the life of Ukraine and the diaspora"). Dr. Kuropas provided a context in terms of continental immigration history and offered a summary of the conference's conclusions.

Our community's future was also a focus of the fourth convention of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council as it met in Warren, Mich., on November 21-22. A special panel discussed "The

Ukrainian Diaspora in the 21st Century" and how it relates to independent Ukraine.

But perhaps the most significant theme at the UACC convention was change: in the community and its leadership, and in Ukraine. The Ukrainian umbrella organization – one of two in the U.S. – elected a new president, Ihor Gawdiak, to a four-year term. Ulana Diachuk, who held the office for two terms, did not seek a third term as UACC chief.

In his first interview after the convention, Mr. Gawdiak, who previously served as chairman of the UACC's National Council and director of the organization's Washington office, pledged to engage the "new generation" of Ukrainian Americans to build a new civil society in Ukraine. As well he expressed his satisfaction that the convention had approved his proposal to name R.L. Chomiak as the UACC's Washington bureau head and to move that office to Washington, thus adding another voice in support of Ukraine.

A word is in order here about the other Ukrainian American umbrella organization, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, headed by Askold Lozynskyj. The UCCA continued its work during the year on all its usual projects, like the annual celebration of Ukrainian Independence Day held in Washington. This year's event was organized jointly with the UACC and the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus.

The UCCA also ran a program aimed at encouraging the youth of Ukraine to vote in the March elections to



The cover of the program for The Year 2020 Conference, which asked "Will there be a Ukrainian diaspora in North America in 2020?"

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Irene Jarosewich



Yaro Bihun

Bidding their farewells to the U.S.: Ambassadors Hennadii Udovenko and Yuri Shcherbak.

the Verkhovna Rada. In mid-January the UCCA announced that it had been awarded a \$175,461 grant by the United States Agency for International Development through the Eurasia Foundation for a civic education project called "Focus Ukraine," whose goal also was to increase the participation of Ukraine's youth in the parliamentary elections. Later that project received an additional \$35,000 grant from the National Endowment for Democracy. "Focus Ukraine" employed what it called "town hall" meetings in central, eastern and southern Ukraine, television programs, public service announcements, public polling and informational brochures.

Another get-the-vote-out program was implemented by the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine (CCAU), which said in February it was dedicating \$100,000 to a public awareness campaign. According to the UACC President Wolodymyr Wolowodiuk, the program did not take any political position to avoid any suggestion that the organization is involved in the internal political affairs of a foreign country. One part of the campaign targeted youth, who tend to be most apolitical in Ukraine. Wolowodiuk said that part of the funding went for a series of ads to be placed in local newspapers throughout Ukraine calling on Ukrainians to simply vote.

During Christmastime, the CCAU announced another program to aid Ukraine: a fund to help the country's needy intellectuals – writers, artists, scholars and others, who in today's harsh economic times find it difficult to survive. The CCAU called on Ukrainians to support these members of the intelligentsia by becoming supporters of stipends for these individuals. The organization plans to coordinate a program of 200 stipends for 1999.

Of late, negotiations between the UCCA and UACC about reuniting into one Ukrainian American central organization have not been taking place, as first the UCCA (in 1997) and then the UACC prepared to hold their respective conventions. However, the UACC says it still is ready to talk about unity if there is parity among member-organizations of the UCCA, the UACC and non-aligned organizations. Thus, the split that occurred at the 1980 convention of the UCCA continues into its 19th year.

In other community news, the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund completed its 20th airlift in November. The shipment arrived at Boryspil Airport on November 11, and volunteers and staff worked into the night in a driving snowstorm on November 12 to unload more than 70 tons of medical cargo designated for 20 hospitals in nine cities of Ukraine. The airlift delivered more than \$3.4 million of humanitarian aid that included antibiotics, analgesics, surgical supplies, diagnostic equipment, children's multivitamins and neonatal technology.

Eleven containers holding more than \$400,000 worth of medical supplies were especially set aside for clinics and hospitals in the Transcarpathian regions that had been devastated by massive flooding a week earlier.

In addition to the relief shipment for flood regions, the CCRF assigned large amounts of aid to hospitals in

Vinnytsia, Svitlovodsk, Lutsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and a small amount for Lviv. Since 1990 CCRF has delivered more than 1,200 tons of aid valued at more than \$40 million to Ukraine.

1998 was also the year that a major institution in our community, the Ukrainian Institute of America, celebrated its 50th anniversary. More than 325 people gathered at a luncheon on May 31 in the elegant grand ballroom of the Plaza Hotel to celebrate that anniversary and to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the landmark building that is the UIA's home. President Walter Nazarewicz, speaking about the future of the UIA and the diaspora, explained how the board of directors, in order to ensure the future success of the UIA, was actively seeking the involvement of younger members of the Ukrainian American community to pass along the heritage and responsibilities of the institute.

Founded in 1948 by engineer and renowned inventor William Dzus, an immigrant from Ukraine, to promote Ukrainian heritage and culture, the institute was originally located in the Parkwood Mansion in West Islip, Long Island, near the Dzus family home. In 1955, the Fletcher Mansion, located on Museum Mile on Manhattan's Upper East Side, was acquired by the UIA. Commissioned by banker Issac D. Fletcher – and immediately prior to its purchase by the UIA, owned by the descendants of New York's Gov. Peter Stuyvesant – the French Gothic limestone mansion was designed by architect Charles H. Gilbert and completed in 1898.

In honor of its dual jubilee the UIA established the Crown Jewel Fund to raise a \$5 million endowment fund during the next five years for the restoration of the landmark mansion.

The saga of "The Ugly Face"

A major news development in 1998 was the Ukrainian community's victory in the latest round of its battle with the CBS network over "The Ugly Face of Freedom" segment on the popular newsmagazine "60 Minutes."

The United States Appeals Court for the Circuit of the District of Columbia heard oral arguments in the case of Serafyn v. FCC on January 23 – three years and three months after that segment was broadcast.

A three-judge panel, having reviewed legal briefs from attorneys representing appellant Alexander Serafyn of Detroit, appellee the Federal Communications Commission and intervenors (legalese for a non-party interested in the outcome of litigation) CBS, Infinity Broadcasting Corp., Westinghouse Electric Corp. and WPGR Inc., heard arguments from Mr. Serafyn's and the FCC's attorneys. At issue was the propriety of the FCC's decision not to grant Mr. Serafyn a factual hearing on the question of whether the controversial segment constituted an intentional distortion of news and a violation of the federal requirement that broadcasters serve the public interest.

[A number of actions originally were brought against CBS, its affiliates, and, later, Westinghouse Electric, by various plaintiffs, among them Mr. Serafyn, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and Oleg

Nikolyszyn of Providence, R.I. All these cases were later combined into one action, insofar as they all stemmed from the same event, broadcasts of "The Ugly Face of Freedom," and the relief sought by the various plaintiffs was closely related.]

According to Mr. Serafyn's attorney, Arthur Belendiuk of the Washington-based firm Smithwick and Belendiuk, all three justices subjected FCC attorney Barry Posh to considerable pressure relating to the FCC's position denying that the appellant had "failed to present extrinsic evidence of intentional news distortion so as to raise a substantial and material question of fact sufficient to require the FCC to designate a hearing on the issue."

The judges were especially troubled by the FCC's rejection of what the appellant argues are "CBS's egregious linguistic mistranslations"; CBS's portrayal of Ukrainian boy scouts as an anti-Semitic organization; and alleged CBS misuse of a German wartime propaganda film to impute Ukrainian, as opposed to German, responsibility for the rounding up and destruction of thousands of Jews in western Ukraine.

The August 11 ruling was a significant victory for the Ukrainian community. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia found that there are serious questions about whether CBS intentionally distorted information in that news report aired on October 23, 1994, and it ordered the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to revisit the case. Thus, it appeared that the network's journalistic integrity was on the line – along with its broadcast licenses.

The federal appeals court ruled that the FCC "acted arbitrarily and capriciously" in denying a petition for a hearing on the issue of whether CBS engaged in news distortion when it broadcast the segment, which purported to uncover rampant anti-Semitism in Ukraine. The FCC made its decision "without analyzing more precisely the evidence" presented, therefore, the court decided to vacate the FCC's decision and ordered that federal agency to review the matter.

Significantly, the appellants, Serafyn et al, showed that CBS did not have a policy against news distortion. As noted in the appeals court's decision, "Serafyn also submitted evidence that '60 Minutes' had no policy against news distortion and indeed that management considered some distortion acceptable."

Proof that the network considered some degree of distortion admissible consisted of articles published in the press in which both longtime "60 Minutes" reporter Mike Wallace and the program's executive producer, Don Hewitt, reflected on deception as a tool used by "60 Minutes." The court found that the FCC "failed to discuss or even to mention this evidence," and that this "failure to discuss Serafyn's allegation relating to CBS's policy on veracity is therefore troubling."

The court also referred in its decision to CBS's misrepresentation of the views of Rabbi Yaakov Bleich, chief rabbi of Kyiv and Ukraine, "when it broadcast his statements without making clear the context in which they were spoken and without including the qualifications and positive statements that accompanied them"; as well as to the broadcaster's misrepresentation to interview subjects of the segment's intent, as "for example, Cardinal [Myroslav Ivan] Lubachivsky [primate of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church] charged that the producers misled him as to the nature of the show."

It referred also to the mistranslation of the word "Zhyd" (Jew) as "kike," noting: "when the word chosen by the translator is an inflammatory term such as 'kike,' the licensee could be expected to assure itself of the accuracy of the translation; if it does not do so, the commission may appropriately consider that fact in reaching a conclusion about the broadcaster's intent to distort the news."

"The inaccuracy of a broadcast can sometimes be indicative of the broadcaster's intent," the court pointed out.

"Since the FCC's decision was vacated, we're now back to square one," said Mr. Belendiuk. "They [CBS] have never lost a case like this – image is everything to them – so it's got to sting." Furthermore, he said; "the appeals court had some pretty harsh words for the FCC, they said their reasoning was muddled, that they did not take the steps required in handling this petition."

Asked for his reaction to this legal victory, Mr. Belendiuk said, "This is the best we could get out of the court. The court overturned the FCC's decisions and said it was improper, not based on the evidence or the facts; it said you [the FCC] have to look at this petition more seriously." What the Ukrainian community got out of the case was "a full voicing of our concerns that this report ['The Ugly Face of Freedom'] looks like distortion."

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The FCC now has three options, according to Mr. Belendiuk: rework its decision, call for more evidence, or call a full-scale hearing on the matter.

Mr. Belendiuk concluded: "It's not easy to get a decision of this type. This is the first time that CBS has lost a case like this; this is the first news distortion case ever overturned on appeal – a milestone case."

"The court's decision has put it out for all to see: CBS seems to find some level of distortion acceptable," Mr. Belendiuk underlined in an interview with *The Weekly* published on August 16.

A Ukrainian Pavilion for EPCOT?

There was news regarding Ukrainians at another major corporation also during 1998. In January correspondent Natalia (Dmytrijuk) Warren reported that Taras (Jason) Harper, president of the Ukrainian Project Fund and an employee of Walt Disney World, had been given the green light by EPCOT Vice-President George Kalogridis to spearhead the EPCOT Millennium Celebration – Ukraine Initiative. The only problem appeared to be a February 1 Disney-imposed deadline for a letter of intent and a security deposit from all corporations that will be sponsoring pavilions. The early deadline was to enable Disney's producers, engineers and architects to partner with the various sponsors in designing the pavilions.

Readers will recall that Mr. Harper and his colleagues are pushing for a Ukrainian pavilion to be constructed at the EPCOT theme park, part of the 44-square-mile Walt Disney World complex. From October 1999 until January 2001, EPCOT will host an enormous Millennium Celebration with the educational entertainment ("edu-tainment") theme of "Hope for a Better World." Joining the current display of countries in EPCOT will be dozens of new pavilions that will showcase the many different aspects of each nation in support of the overall theme. The pavilions, which will average approximately 3,000 square feet and will include food, entertainment, artisans, and audio-visual, architectural and interactive displays, are estimated to cost between \$800,000 and \$2 million each.

"Ukraine is the only former Soviet bloc country that has been approached to participate in EPCOT's millennium celebration," noted Mr. Harper. "Our dancing surpasses that of virtually every other ethnic group. We have beautiful folk art and a distinctive cuisine. Our homeland and our culture would be interesting to people everywhere, and this is a wonderful opportunity for the Ukrainian people to put on a display for the entire world," he added. An estimated 400 to 500 million people will be exposed to the pavilion structures.

In February, it was reported that the deadline has been extended until the end of the month. There was also news that at least three Ukrainian architects had come forth as willing participants in the pavilion project, and that contacts with corporate sponsors were beginning to look promising.

In March, upon receiving a \$10,000 deposit, George Kalogridis, vice-president of EPCOT, granted Mr. Harper a 60-day extension to find sponsorship for the EPCOT Millennium Celebration – Ukraine Initiative. The \$10,000 was delivered to Mr. Harper from the offices of a prominent Ukrainian American businessman who had been considering partial sponsorship of the Ukrainian pavilion since he was contacted about the project in January. At the time, the businessman wished to remain unidentified.

And, Mr. Harper noted, more individuals and organizations had become involved in finding major sponsors. Among the people who had expressed interest in helping was Mr. Lozynskyj of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, who met with Robin Chapman, director of creative development at EPCOT, to discuss the possibility of Ukraine's participation in Disney's Millennium Celebration. "This is an absolutely tremendous opportunity to showcase Ukraine, its culture and its people," explained Mr. Lozynskyj after the meeting. "I think the companies that are working in Ukraine, and the community in general, are going to get very excited about this project," he added.

In order to facilitate the dissemination of information about the EPCOT Millennium Celebration and the Ukraine Initiative, Mr. Harper worked closely with *The Buffalo Group*, the professionals' and businesspersons' association in western New York State, which recently set up a Ukrainian Pavilion website (<http://www.cerg.com/upf/pavilion/index.htm>). "We decided to put together a website because we thought a place where people could find additional information about the EPCOT pavilion would really help get the

word out and answer some questions in more detail," noted George Hajduczuk, an assistant professor of physiology at the University of Buffalo who is president of *The Buffalo Group*.

In April there was more good news. After three days of meetings with EPCOT executives, both the Chopivsky Family Foundation, represented by George Chopivsky Jr., and American Friends for Ukraine, represented by Vira Goldmann, agreed in principle to support the construction of a Ukrainian pavilion at EPCOT.

Even the scholarly world became excited about the Ukrainian pavilion's potential. The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute came forward with a considerable show of support for the Ukrainian pavilion project, as Executive Director Dr. James Clem offered the HURI's in-kind services as a research consultant. With endowed chairs in Ukraine history, literature and language at Harvard, the HURI has on its staff some of the leading experts in these fields. "This is a chance to tell millions of people about Ukraine, and we want to help make sure that the message we convey is right," noted Dr. Clem. Mr. Harper, who wholeheartedly welcomed Dr. Clem's offer, explained that "having an educational institution like Harvard on board as a research consultant will give the Ukrainian pavilion tremendous credibility."

But the major funding remained elusive ...

At year's end, it was learned that Mrs. Goldmann had inexplicably pulled out her support. But, there still was hope as a Disney spokesperson revealed that sponsorship was being discussed in December with a major corporation from Ukraine.

Perhaps the potential of the Ukrainian pavilion was best summarized by Mr. Kalogridis himself in an interview with Ms. Warren: "I think we are going to have an opportunity for 15 months to do something that is going to connect very much on an emotional scale with our audience. ... We will make sure that when a guest leaves EPCOT at the end of the day during this 15-month period that they are going to feel good about where we, as a world, are going and that there are in fact great things happening out there. Hopefully Ukraine will be one of these things. A guest will walk out of here and know something about Ukraine, and before they came they probably didn't even know where it was, much less anything about it. And they didn't know why it's important and why an emerging democracy is important to maintaining a free world in the future. And how important that is."

Ukraine's diplomats are bid farewell

During 1998, it should be noted, Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Yuri Shcherbak continued his practice of hosting meetings with leaders of the Ukrainian community. He also met separately with the leaderships of both the UCCA and the UACC.

Ambassador Shcherbak's principal message to the Ukrainian American community was that he and the government of Ukraine understand and appreciate the work that the Ukrainian American community carries out on behalf of Ukraine. He called on the Ukrainian diaspora to continue to inform Congress and the American public at large of the critical importance of Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity, its efforts to be integrated into the European community and its commitment to maintaining a strategic partnership with the United States.

During his four-year tenure, Ambassador Shcherbak had cultivated strong contacts with the Ukrainian American community. Therefore, when it came time for Dr. Shcherbak to move on to his next assignment in Kyiv as foreign affairs adviser to President Leonid Kuchma, Ukrainian communities in various metropolitan areas, including Washington (October 25) and New York (November 3), bid him a fond farewell.

Another Ukrainian diplomat who had forged strong contacts with our community was Hennadii Udovenko, a man who began serving in 1959 in the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Ukrainian SSR and ended his diplomatic career on September 8, with what he termed "my final diplomatic address" as president of the United Nations General Assembly. Walter Baranetsky, former president of the UIA, reminded guests at a farewell reception at the institute of Mr. Udovenko's quiet patriotism on behalf of Ukraine at the U.N., even during the Soviet era. In turn, he pointed out to the Udovenkos that the Ukrainian community will always remember them with great fondness.

At year's end, leaders of the top Ukrainian American community organizations and institutions traveled on December 18 to Washington – this time for a special meeting convened by Ukraine's new ambassador to the United States, Anton Buteiko.

Canada's Ukrainians: facing serious issues

The Ukrainian Canadian community's battle with the federal government over its approach to handling alleged war criminals dominated the news in 1998. The year began with Olya Odynsky calling for a fair trial for her 74-year-old father, Wasyl, of Toronto, who was targeted by the Canadian government for deportation as one of two suspected Nazi war criminals who arrived in Canada allegedly without informing immigration authorities about their pasts. Mr. Odynsky arrived in Halifax in 1949 after having lived in a refugee camp following his arrest by the Nazis when he was 19, wrote his daughter an op-ed piece in *The Weekly*. "He is not a murderer, nor was he ever a Nazi," she insisted.

In early February, Ms. Odynsky told a gathering in Toronto at the St. Vladimir Institute about the stress her family endured in 1997 after he became the object of denaturalization and deportation proceedings. "[The media] came to my mother's door with hidden microphones and cameras, then showed her picture and played her comments, every hour, on the hour," she said. "They announced my parents' street address and telephone number on the air."

Ms. Odynsky's member of Parliament is former federal justice minister Allan Rock who kicked Canada's war crimes process into high gear. In June, she went to Ukraine looking for witnesses who could corroborate her father's story and his innocence.

Meantime, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress announced in late January that it would challenge Canada's Justice Department in court over its decision to denaturalize and deport 14 citizens suspected of war crimes. "In order to combat what [the UCC] regards to be a grossly unjust course of action by the government against its own citizens," a special committee to deal with the issue was struck earlier in the month. Winnipeg-based immigration lawyer John Petryshyn became chairman of the Justice Committee on Deportation and Denaturalization.

He said the committee would pursue everything from intervention on individual cases based on technical matters through the immigration process, to challenging the constitutionality of the government's "civil not criminal" approach.

Plans were afoot to create an educational research fund on the issue as well.

Federal Court Justice William McKeown ruled in late February that 88-year-old Toronto resident Wasily Bogutin "concealed that he was a collaborator during the Nazi occupation of Ukraine" (assisting in such tasks as "the round-up of young girls"). The judge also said that Mr. Bogutin lied to Canadian immigration officials



Andrij Kudla Wynnykyj

Newly elected Ukrainian Canadian Congress President Evhen Czolij (left) is congratulated by his predecessor, Oleh Romaniv.

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Mykhailo Liakhovych

John Petryshyn, chair of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Justice Committee on Denaturalization and Deportation, addresses a workshop on the issue. From left are: workshop panelists John Gregorovich, chair, Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association; Orest Rudzik and Nestor Woychishyn, defense counsel on four cases before Canadian federal courts; UCC Toronto Branch President Maria Szkambara; and U.S.-based defense attorney Paul Zumbakis.

that he was a "Romanian national" when he applied for an entry visa to Canada in 1951. It was the first Canadian court case focusing on the denaturalization and deportation of accused war criminals since Ottawa abandoned its criminal-court-approach to such cases in 1995.

Though Judge McKeown dismissed allegations that Mr. Bogutin participated in Nazi-led executions in the Selydove area between 1942 and 1943, the elderly man's 40-year-old Canadian citizenship became illegal because of a civil court's decision that he was a collaborator, which is an accusation of criminal behavior. According to a section of the Canadian Immigration Act, Mr. Bogutin could not appeal Judge McKeown's decision.

Nevertheless, then-UCC president Oleh Romaniw called on Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to reject any recommendation to deport or denaturalize the elderly Ukrainian Canadian man.

In late August, Canada's Justice Minister Anne McLellan told the Canadian Bar Association's annual meeting that Canada's newly merged Extradition Act and Fugitive Offenders Act would "enable Canada to meet its international obligations to hand over suspected war criminals to an international tribunal, such as that in the Hague, or to the new international court, which Canada played a very key role in creating."

Canada's attorney general also highlighted a fivefold increase in funding of the war crimes effort to the tune of \$46.8 million (about \$33.4 million U.S.) over the next three years. She said it would "strengthen Canada's ability to bring to justice those responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity and other reprehensible acts in times of war."

Meanwhile, Ms. McLellan's war crimes consultant, Neal Sher, the former director of the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, lashed out at his critics, including those from the Ukrainian Canadian community, during a late-January speech at a Toronto synagogue. "They're not doing any service to their communities by circling the wagons to protect some in their community who are guilty."

But Mr. Sher's appointment as a consultant to the Canadian Justice Department's Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Section came under scrutiny at a late-April Canadian parliamentary Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights. Official Opposition justice critic Jack Ramsay of the Reform Party requested the meeting in response to protests over Mr. Sher's hiring – and because of the heavy volume of correspondence he received complaining about the OSI's handling of no less than the case against retired Cleveland autoworker John Demjanjuk.

Assistant Deputy Attorney General John Sims defended Mr. Sher, who also appeared as a witness before the committee, saying the U.S. attorney was retained by the Canadian government as "an advisor" and not as "boss of the war crimes unit." Mr. Sims

added that Canada's war crimes efforts were "in the same league" as those of the OSI.

In his own defense, Mr. Sher said his OSI reputation was that of a "tough prosecutor but a fair one." He acknowledged allegations that the Soviet regime (the KGB in particular) supplied Nazi hunters with phony evidence but explained that he never encountered instances of such. Furthermore, Mr. Sher suggested that despite the Israeli death sentence being overturned on Mr. Demjanjuk, the Ukrainian American could face new prosecution based on "non-Treblinka evidence." However, he conceded that "mistakes were made that I wish hadn't been made" over the OSI's handling of the Demjanjuk case – considered a "fraud on the court" by two U.S. judges.

The UCC also was unhappy over Mr. Sher's December 1997 appointment and the OSI-Demjanjuk controversy, and it launched an information campaign directed to government officials about both concerns. The Canadian Jewish Congress issued its own communiqué that "strongly reaffirmed its endorsement of Ottawa's choice of Mr. Sher."

In early August, the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association stepped up the campaign against Mr. Sher's appointment and filed a request for information under Canada's Access to Information Act to obtain information about his hiring. Outgoing UCC Ottawa Branch president Dr. Walter Shelest, however, thought UCC national should have been the organization initiating the request.

And the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association entered the fray when it protested a July 23 cartoon appearing in the national edition of *The Globe and Mail* depicting a hand decorated with a swastika and raised in a Nazi salute. The accompanying caption read: "All those opposed to increased funding for war-criminal deportation, please raise their hand." UCCLA chairman John Gregorovich called the cartoon defamatory and "hate-mongering that should be dealt with very sternly."

Earlier in the year, Mr. Gregorovich expressed his organization's opposition to a proposed Holocaust memorial at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. Such a gallery would better be called a "genocide gallery," he told the Senate Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs in February. Mr. Gregorovich also accused war museum officials of not consulting other ethnic groups beyond the Jewish community – and singled out the museum's then-director, Vic Suthren, of focusing solely on the Nazi killing of Jews. The war museum later announced that no Holocaust gallery would be installed there. Much later in the year, the UCC was heartened by comments made by Jules Deschênes, the Quebec Superior Court judge who headed the Commission of Inquiry on War Criminals in the mid-1980s, when he publicly supported bringing alleged war criminals to justice in criminal courts rather than through the civil deportation and

denaturalization process.

In other news, two plaques – one on the grounds of Toronto's Canadian National Exhibition, the other next to the Shevchenko monument at Manitoba's legislative grounds in Winnipeg – were unveiled to commemorate Ukrainian Canadians interned during a national operation that ran from 1914 to 1920. The Ukrainian Canadian community has yet to receive any acknowledgment of injustice or monetary restitution from Ottawa.

Immigration was a key issue for several Ukrainian Canadian groups that were highly critical of a review of Canada's citizenship and immigration policies released earlier in the year. Among several recommendations raised in the review was the highly sensitive issue of revocation of citizenship and deportation when an individual is suspected to be a war criminal.

This year Statistics Canada reported that Canadians of Ukrainian origin ranked ninth (1,026,475, or about 1 in 30 Canadians) in terms of total number among ethnic groups in Canada; 41,085 reported speaking Ukrainian at home. A quarter-century earlier, Ukrainian had ranked fifth as a home language behind Italian and German.

In a March lecture at the St. Vladimir Institute in Toronto, University of Toronto sociologist Wsevolod Isajiw said that Ukrainian Canadians have difficulty in sustaining their influence on the country's society as a whole. The reason: much of their activity is "expressive" (preserving and promoting) rather than "instrumental" (organizing to achieve political and economic goals).

And it was tough to be Ukrainian, or part of any other non-francophone group for that matter, in Quebec in light of remarks made by Quebec's deputy premier. Bernard Landry opined that requiring anything more than a simple 50 percent majority in a future referendum on independence would give the ethnic community a de facto veto, and, "that can't be done," said Mr. Landry.

Several ethnic groups, in turn, suggested the deputy premier was out of line as the incident reminded Canadians of former Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau's attack against "money and the ethnic vote" for contributing to the defeat of his "Yes to Sovereignty" campaign in the 1995 referendum.

At the UCC's 19th triennial meeting in Winnipeg on October 9-12, the UCC's national vice-president, Montreal lawyer Evhen Czolij, was elected president of the UCC, which renamed its presidium a board of directors. The so-called Big Six organizations (Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood of Canada, Ukrainian Self-Reliance League of Canada, League of Ukrainian Canadians, Ukrainian National Federation, Council of Ukrainian Credit Unions of Canada, and the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation) lost most of their power in vetoing decisions. However, the group retained some clout in being able to send a maximum of 50 delegates to a congress – twice as many as other non-Big Six organizations. Also new was the presence of simultaneous translation (Ukrainian and English) at the four-day conclave.

Mr. Czolij – at 39, the youngest UCC president in its 48-year history – didn't wait to flex some muscle. During the triennial meeting, he threatened to resign affective immediately if a convention resolution calling for the resignation of Canada's attorney general and suggestions for making the denaturalization and deportation of suspected war criminals the Congress' main priority weren't dropped. They were, though the latter issue remained a priority. The new UCC boss also hinted that national headquarters could be moved from its Winnipeg base.

The UCC also passed resolutions supporting a "united" Canada and increasing opportunities for Ukrainian immigration to Canada. Some delegates accused the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv of being inept in handling applications from would-be immigrants. Some improvement was seen in new immigration agreements between the federal government, provinces and territories in which Ottawa wouldn't be the sole arbiter of determining quotas.

Other UCC congress activities included the establishment of a Youth Leadership Award of Excellence and the presentation of Shevchenko medals to 29 activists including the late Supreme Court of Canada Justice John Sopinka – the first Ukrainian Canadian appointed to the country's highest court.

On October 29-31 the Ukrainian-Canadian Program at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies and the Robert F. Harney Professorship and Program in Ethnic,

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Immigration and Pluralism Studies at the University of Toronto held a conference titled "Cross-Stitching Cultural Borders: Comparing Ukrainian Experience in Canada and the United States," at which a mix of established scholars and senior graduate students from across North America examined major issues of identity that distinguish the two communities.

Co-organizers Prof. Frances Swyripa (University of Alberta) and Prof. Isajiw elicited presentations and discussions which achieved their respective goals. For Prof. Swyripa, it was to show that the border between Canada and the U.S. is a very real psychological and cultural barrier (with the historical experience of arrival and mainstream integration also differing radically) and yet, on many occasions Ukrainian communities of both countries have managed to interact as if it were not even there. For Prof. Isajiw, it was to refocus scholarly interest on local diaspora concerns, to begin to fill the gaping hole in studies on the life of Ukrainians in the U.S., and to provide an outline of the changes the diaspora on the continent is undergoing.

On a different note, the Toronto-based Petro Jacyk Educational Foundation initiated the nomination of Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma for the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize "for his outstanding contribution to global security" early in 1998.

Later in the year, Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy bid adieu to outgoing Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada Volodymyr Furkalo at a luncheon at which Mr. Axworthy noted the "real progress in [the] bilateral relations between Canada and Ukraine. Mr. Furkalo was reassigned to Belgrade as ambassador to Yugoslavia; he was replaced in Ottawa by one of Ukraine's former vice minister of foreign affairs, Volodymyr Khandogiy.

In the meantime, Mr. Axworthy's hometown, Winnipeg, elected a new mayor – the first openly gay mayor in Canada. Glen Murray also happens to have Ukrainian roots: his maternal grandmother was born in Ukraine. Joining him in Winnipeg's city council were two Ukrainian-Manitoban councilors. Eleven of the 29 community members also won trustee spots in local school divisions.

And, as the year wound down, the war crimes issue again made headlines when Justice Minister McLellan confirmed that Ottawa had not uncovered any evidence that would initiate court proceedings against any member of the Ukrainian Galicia Division – confirming the conclusions reached by Judge Deschênes during his inquiry.

In response, UCCLA's Mr. Gregorovich expressed his hope that "this would bring to a close media reports about the alleged presence of thousands of Nazi war criminals hiding in Canada."

Academia: marked by anniversaries

Major anniversaries were the hallmark of this year's scholarly events and publications schedule: the 125th anniversary of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, 200th anniversary of the publication of Kotliarevsky's "Eneida," 350th anniversary of the Khmelnytsky uprising, 100th anniversary of the publication of the first volume of Hrushevsky's "Istoriia Ukrainy-Rusy" were among the dates noted this year.

Anniversaries

Founded in Lviv on December 11, 1873, Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) has a history of survival and commitment to scholarly excellence during more than a century of dramatic international turmoil and upheaval. Twice shut down, in 1914 and in 1939, its archives and property appropriated in 1940 during the Soviet occupation of western Ukraine, the NTSh was resurrected in 1947 in post-war Munich, and later its European base moved to France. By the 1950s, Ukrainian emigres had set up autonomous society chapters, not only in Europe, but in the U.S., Canada and Australia as well. An executive council was established in 1978, and the NTSh was reactivated in Lviv in 1989. (At present, NTSh has more than 1,200 members and 15 active chapters throughout Ukraine.)

Commemorative events for the 125th anniversary, which included major conferences, banquets, seminars and artistic programs, were held in Canada on September 19, in the U.S. on October 2-4, and in Lviv



Andriy Wynnyckyj

During Canadian celebrations of the Shevchenko Scientific Society's 125th anniversary, Dr. Oleh Romaniv (left), general secretary of the NTSh World Council, presents NTSh-Canada President Dr. Wolodymyr Mackiw with honorary membership in the World Council, as the council's president, Dr. Leonid Rudnytsky, looks on.

on October 23-25. A roundtable discussion at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) conference September 26 in Boca Raton, Fla., also was devoted to the organization's anniversary.

One hundred years younger than NTSh, the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard nonetheless celebrated a milestone anniversary this year: its 25th. The first chair in Ukrainian studies, the Mykhailo S. Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History was funded in 1968, however, fund-raising continued in the community until funds were gathered not only for two more chairs, but for an endowment to establish the research institute as well, which opened its doors on June 4, 1973. The institute commemorated its anniversary with an exhibit of "Ucrainica at Harvard," a display of rare books and manuscripts from Harvard's collection, the largest collection of rare Ukrainian publications outside of Eastern Europe. Among the items displayed was a unique 1798 edition of Ivan Kotliarevsky's "Eneida," the epic-poem in vernacular Ukrainian that was first published 200 years ago. The edition is part of the permanent collection of the university's Houghton Library.

Also at HURI, the Ukrainian literary critic and scholar Tamara Hundorova, visiting scholar at The Harriman Institute, Columbia University, spoke on the topic of "Eneida" as a national narrative, against the background of its Roman model by Virgil.

Also in honor of the 200th anniversary of the poem's publication, a facsimile edition of one of the early releases of "Eneida" was printed in Lviv.

The Khmelnytskyi uprising (1648-1649) was a defining moment in the histories of the Ukrainians, Russians, Jews and Poles. On May 18-20, at a conference in Israel, "Gezerot Tah-Tak/Eastern European Jewry in 1648-1649: Context and Consequences," marking the 350th anniversary of this period, three scholars, Dr. Zenon Kohut, Dr. Frank Sysyn and Dr. Serhii Plokhly from the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) made presentations.

Later in the year, at the AAASS conference, a special session was held on the topic of Khmelnytskyi and the Jews, and in the fall, Dr. Kohut, who is the director of the CIUS, held a seminar before a capacity audience at Yale University on the topic "The Khmelnytskyi Uprising, the Image of Jews and the Shaping of Ukrainian Historical Memory." The seminar was co-sponsored by the Ukraine Initiative at Yale University, along with the Council on Russian and East European Studies and the Department of Judaic Studies – the first time in the history of the university that all three programs have jointly sponsored an event.

The first volume of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's "Istoriia

Ukrainy-Rusy" was first published in 1898. To commemorate this 100th anniversary, a book launch was held on August 24, the seventh anniversary of Ukraine's independence, for volume 1 of the English translation "The History of Ukraine-Rus'," which is part of the multi-volume Hrushevsky Translation Project funded by the Peter Jacyk Center. The launch was held at the Teachers' Building in Kyiv, the same building where the Central Rada, chaired by Hrushevsky, met during 1917-1918 and the site of the proclamation of the Ukrainian National Republic, of which Hrushevsky was president.

Through it was reported in early 1998, the Conference on Ukrainian Orthography was held in Kyiv at the end of 1997, on December 12-13. Organized by Ukraine's National Committee on Orthography, the Shevchenko Scientific Society and the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the conference was convened to mark the 70th anniversary of the All-Ukrainian Conference on Orthography held in Kharkiv in 1927, which resulted in a modern and unified set of rules of orthography and grammar for Ukrainian – standards that are still in use by many publishers in the diaspora, though they were greatly modified by the Soviet government.

Conferences and lectures

For the second year, the Harvard National Security Program was held at the John F. Kennedy School of Government. The first program, held December 1-12, 1997, and focusing on the topic of development of civil-military relations and strategic planning in Ukraine, was such a great success that a second session was held this year on November 29-December 9, with the topic expanded to include economic reform. Coordinated in part by the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard, speakers included economists Jeffrey Sachs and Marshall Goldman; military advisor Maj. Gen. Nicholas Krawciw, U.S. Army (ret.); as well as security advisors Sherman Garnett and Zbigniew Brzezinski. Approximately 30 participants from the U.S. military, Ukrainian military and security services, as well as Ukrainian parliamentarians attended.

This year, the annual Vasyl and Maria Petryshyn Memorial Lecture in Ukrainian Studies was given at Harvard's Ukrainian Research Institute by John Armstrong, professor emeritus of political science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, on March 12 on the topic "Independent Ukraine in the World Arena: Prospects for the Republic and Implications for Studies." Prof. Armstrong focused on the need for regional alliances such as Georgia-Ukraine-Armenia-Moldova (the so-called GUAM group) and Ukraine-

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A "Symposium in honor of George Y. Shevelov" was sponsored by the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, on October 2 at the university's School of International and Public Affairs. Prof. Shevelov (above), a renowned linguist and literary critic, celebrated his 90th birthday this year. Paying tribute to a lifetime of achievement, speakers praised Prof. Shevelov as "phenomenal," "every inch a scholar" and providing "insights into Slavic languages ... findings that are truly impressive and won him a permanent place among Slavists." The daylong symposium was divided into two sessions, the morning devoted to linguistics, chaired by Dr. Alexander Motyl of the Harriman Institute, and the afternoon to literature, chaired by Dr. Danylo Husar Struk of the University of Toronto. Prof. Shevelov was also honored at another New York event that same weekend, on October 4, as the guest of honor at the Shevchenko Scientific Society's 125th anniversary banquet.

Poland relations as essential to Ukraine's independent development. Prof. Armstrong is the author of the classic work "Ukrainian Nationalism, 1939-1945," and other influential works on the study of nationalism.

An April 24-25 conference at Yale University, "Institutional Reform in Ukraine: Implications for Emerging Markets," drew approximately 150 participants from Europe and North America. The conference was the fourth in a series of the multi-year Ukraine Initiative established at Yale with funds from the Chopivsky Family Foundation to enhance Ukrainian studies at the university. The conference was bracketed by two unexpected developments in Ukraine, the murder of Vadym Hetman, head of Ukraine's Interbank Currency Exchange, and a court decision to invalidate the results of the election to parliament of Serhii Holovaty, former minister of justice. Mr. Holovaty, a speaker at the conference, heard of the results while at Yale.

Both events underscored points made by many speakers about the monopolistic tactics and "financial clan" struggles that are strangling the development of Ukraine both politically and economically. Besides Mr. Holovaty, the speakers included former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Green Miller; National Deputy Serhii Teriokhin; Prof. Robert Kravchuk, Indiana University; Scott Carlson, president, Western NIS Enterprise Fund; Morgan Williams, president, Ukrainian Agricultural Development Company; Prof. Louise Shelly, American University; and Bohdan Krawchenko, vice-rector, Ukrainian Academy of Public Administration.

The Chair of Ukrainian Studies at Ottawa University hosted the second "Towards a New Ukraine" conference in the Canadian capital on October 3-4, with this year's proceedings unfolding in a more pessimistic cast than the conference last year. The tone was set by the keynote address on the opening day of the conference

delivered by Dr. James Mace, currently a lecturer at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, and brought to a powerful conclusion by former dissident Yevhen Sverstiuk, the final speaker of the conference, who spoke about Ukraine's moral crisis.

Economists, including Anders Aslund and Volodymyr Lanovyi, jurists, including former Minister of Justice Holovaty, and several political scientists all contributed to a rather gloomy portrait of the seven-year-old state. Surprisingly, cultural-philological panelists Mykola Ryabchuk, Michael Naydan and Natalia Berezovenko offered the most reason for optimism, offering an image of an ever more linguistically and culturally rich and complex environment in the country, rather than the simply "lumpen" and Russified stagnation that is often described.

Publications

- The CIUS Journal of Ukrainian Studies published a special double issue this spring on Ukrainian writer and philosopher Hryhorii Skovoroda. The papers included in this volume were presented at a conference in 1994 to mark the 200th anniversary of the philosopher's death.

- Schiffer Publishers released "Galicia Division: The Waffen-SS 14th Grenadier Division 1943-1945," a comprehensive account of the short and intense history of the 1st Ukrainian Division of the Ukrainian National Army, authored by military historian Michael O. Logusz.

- Prof. Omeljan Pritsak's "The Origins of the Old Rus' Weights and Monetary Systems," was published by the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard. Prof. Pritsak, former director of the institute, surveys the weights and monetary systems extant in Eurasia in the seventh to 11th centuries; the publication is the most thoroughly researched and documented English-language study of this subject.

- "Between Kyiv and Constantinople: Oleksander Lototsky and the Quest for Ukrainian Autocephaly" by the Rev. Dr. Andre Partykevich, published this fall by CIUS press, analyzes the little-known period of Ukrainian Orthodox Church history, the unsuccessful attempt by Oleksander Lototsky, writer, scholar and Ukraine's minister for religious affairs under Hetman Pavlo Skoropadsky, to gain recognition of the autocephaly of the Ukrainian Church from the Patriarch of Constantinople.

- In September, Harvard Ukrainian Studies published a special volume on the topic "Ukraine and the World: Studies in the International Relations and Security Structure of a Newly Independent State," which incorporated papers from the 1996 conference in Washington of the same title, with additional articles and documents. Renowned international specialists examine the development of Ukraine's foreign policy and external relations after 1991, its role in rapidly changing regional security arrangements, and the country's path to denuclearization. This volume also appeared as a separate publication, under the same title, in the series Harvard Papers in Ukrainian Studies, edited by Dr. Lubomyr Hajda.

- This fall, the Peter Jacyk Center published "Dokumenty do Istorii Zaporozkoho Kozatstva, 1613-1620," the first volume of documents from Russian archives on the history of the Ukrainian Kozaks, including many documents that remained largely unknown to scholars of this topic and shed new light on relations between Russia and Ukraine in the early 17th century.

- "Crisis and Reform: The Kyivan Metropolitanate, The Patriarchate of Constantinople, and the Genesis of the Union of Brest," by Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, explains and re-evaluates the controversial Union of Brest (1596). It was published by the Harvard Series in Ukrainian Studies.

Scholars and their supporters

- In July 1998, Dr. Hajda, associate director of the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University, was also appointed editor of the journal Harvard Ukrainian Studies.

- Dr. Kohut was the first visiting professor to be invited to Yale University as part of the Ukraine Initiative program, which is sponsored by the Washington-based Chopivsky Family Foundation. He was a visiting professor in history during the fall 1998 semester.

- Through a gift from the Canada-based Petro Jacyk Educational Foundation, the Petro Jacyk Distinguished Fellowship in Ukrainian Studies was established at the

Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University. Also with funds received from the Canadian foundation, the Harriman Institute at Columbia University this year announced the establishment of the Petro Jacyk Visiting Professor of Ukrainian Studies. Both programs will begin in 1999.

- Longtime supporters of the CIUS, Daria and Michael Kowalsky established an endowment of \$1 million for the Kowalsky Program for the Study of Eastern Ukraine. The program will give grants to scholars and sponsor seminars dealing with problems related to Ukrainian identity in Eastern, Southern and Central Ukraine, support museum development, award a literary prize for historical novels for young people, as well as fund other projects.

- The University of Alberta recognized Ukrainian studies as one of its centers of excellence in research within its university system and noted the role of the CIUS in providing support for Ukrainian scholarship, including programs in Ukrainian history, literature, language and culture, through its contacts with scholars worldwide.

- The first recipient of the Dr. Robert Franklin Clark Graduate Fellowship in Ukrainian Language and Literature, a yearly fellowship of \$15,000 to be granted to a graduate student pursuing a master's degree or doctorate in Ukrainian language or literature at the University of Toronto, is Marko Andryczyk, 29. Mr. Andryczyk holds a master's degree from LaSalle University in Philadelphia and has spent a substantial amount of time in Lviv, where he has been working on a paper on that city's underground literary movement in the 1970s. He met and befriended many of today's literary figures in Ukraine, and has reported on the Lviv cultural scene for The Ukrainian Weekly.

Survey on culture and the arts

Among significant cultural developments, the outstanding event of 1998 was the rebuilding in Kyiv of two of Ukraine's historic religious landmarks – the 12th century St. Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral and the 11th century Uspenskyi (Dormition) Cathedral. (See "Kyiv reconstructs ancient treasures.")

These are perhaps the most visible manifestations of the numerous initiatives taking place throughout Ukraine: to rebuild or restore churches and monuments destroyed by the Soviet regime, or to build new ones that aim to recover repressed or forgotten moments of Ukrainian culture and history.

Worthy of mention are:

- the erection of a new church and a museum in honor of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky (1865-1944) in his home village of Prylbychi;

- a museum-memorial complex to honor Cardinal and Patriarch Josyf Slipyj (1892-1984) built in the cardinal's native village of Zazdrist in western Ukraine;

- a new memorial at the historic Lychakiv Cemetery in Lviv, commemorating the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen who died in the Ukrainian-Polish war of 1918-1919;

- a new shrine to the Mother of God of Zarvanytsia, a pilgrimage site in western Ukraine which is to be completed next year;

- the renovation of Kyiv's historic Askolda Mohyla (Askold's Tomb), used by local Greek-Catholics as St. Nicholas Church (the church was later attacked by arsonists and defaced; an investigation is pending).

Another important development was the beginning of construction of the long-awaited church and monastery complex of St. Vasyl – the first major church for Ukraine's Greek-Catholics in Kyiv. The modernistic project, overseen by the Order of St. Basil the Great in Lviv, was designed by Ukrainian architect Larysa Skoryk.

On a totally different note, the December issue of Architectural Digest carried a story on the renovation of the Soviet-era "dacha" built outside Kyiv for the former head of the Ukrainian Communist Party, Volodymyr Shcherbytsky. The lavish project was undertaken by a Ukrainian-born American businessman who emigrated with his parents after the war, and after Ukraine's independence, began to do business with his homeland.

Music: anniversary celebrations

Among highlights of the musical season were the 60th anniversary celebrations of two prominent com-

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posers – Virko Baley, founder, and for many years conductor and music director, of the Nevada Symphony Orchestra and guest conductor in Ukraine, and Myroslav Skoryk, longtime professor of composition at the Lviv and Kyiv conservatories and head of the Lviv branch of the Union of Ukrainian Composers.

The yearlong international salute on the occasion of the 60th birthday of Maestro Baley began in February with Mr. Baley leading the Cleveland Chamber Symphony in his Symphony No. 1, and continued in New York's Merkin Hall when the new music ensemble Continuum performed a selection from his 40 years of composing. The concert premiered his new operatic work "Klytemnestra," after Ukrainian poet Oksana Zabuzhko's poem of the same name.

A series of anniversary concerts for Maestro Skoryk were performed in Australia, the U.S., Germany and Ukraine. The world premiere of the composer's latest work, Piano Concerto No. 3, was performed by the Leontovych String Quartet, and the composer, on July 12 at Music Mountain in Connecticut, where it received an enthusiastic reception. The anniversary concert for Maestro Skoryk opened the summer concert series held at the Grazhda in Jewett Center, N.Y., with subsequent concerts held in Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Philadelphia and Washington with the Leontovych String Quartet and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky. The final concert, featuring three new works – Partita No. 6 for String Orchestra, Partita No. 7 for Wind Quintet, and Piano Concerto No. 3 for Piano, String Orchestra and Drum – took place on December 12 at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York with the MATI Chamber Orchestra and Maestro Baley, conducting.

During his stay in Ukraine, Maestro Skoryk was presented an award by President Leonid Kuchma and was named "Man of the Year" of his native city of Lviv for promoting Ukrainian music abroad. Concerts of Maestro Skoryk's music were held at the opera houses in Kyiv and Lviv, and a five-day all-Skoryk music festival opened at the Lviv Opera on November 3 and continued at various venues throughout the city.

- Also celebrated this year was the 95th anniversary of the doyen of Ukrainian music Mykola Kolessa, distinguished professor emeritus at the department of opera and symphony conducting at the Mykola Lysenko Lviv State Music Institute.

- Nick Czorny-Dosinchuk, founder of the New York School of Bandura and one of the major forces in the propagation of the bandura in Ukrainian communities worldwide, was honored with a concert by the All-Ukrainian Union of Kobzars on May 28 at the Taras Shevchenko Museum on the occasion of his 80th birthday (April 20).

- After being banned during Soviet times and never seriously honored after Ukraine's independence, the legendary Lviv composer of popular music Volodymyr Ivasiuk – who was found brutally murdered in 1979, amidst allegations of KGB complicity – was honored in a memorial concert held on May 29 as part of the annual Kyiv Days celebration.

Music: performances

- The Kiev [Kyiv] Camerata, a virtuoso orchestra of 32 soloists under the direction of Maestro Baley and featured pianist Mykola Suk, set off on its first U.S. tour, which began in Baltimore on October 25, included a performance at New York's Merkin Concert Hall on October 26 and ended at the Yale School of Music on November 1.

- Seven young winners – from Ukraine, Israel, Japan, and the U.S. – ranging in age from 12 to 22 – of the first (1995) and second (1997) International Competition for Young Pianists in memory of Vladimir Horowitz showcased their talents in a program of virtuoso piano repertoire in concerts held at New York's Weill Recital Hall on April 9, with subsequent appearances in Chicago, Columbus, Cincinnati and Cambridge, Mass.

- Soprano Oksana Krovyska received critical acclaim in reviews by New York Times critics Alan Kozinn and Anthony Tommasini for the sensitivity and credibility of performance that she brought to the title role in two different productions of Puccini's "Madama Butterfly" at the New York City Opera in March and November.

- The "Music at the Institute" concert series, with Mr. Suk as artistic director, and Dr. Taras Shegedyn, executive director, continues to be an important artistic presence in the New York metropolitan area, marked by varied and interesting programs featuring acclaimed musicians as well as renowned guest performers.



Roman Woronowycz

The reconstructed St. Michael Golden-Domed Cathedral.

- Similarly, the summer concert series held at the Grazhda, under the auspices of the Music and Art Center of Greene County, with Ihor Sonevytsky as music director and Mr. Vynnytsky, pianist, as artist-in-residence, continued to gain recognition for the caliber of its performances.

- The New Jersey Youth Symphony, under the direction of Adrian Bryttan, performed the complete film score in conjunction with the screening of the 1927 silent film classic "Flesh and the Devil," starring Greta Garbo and John Gilbert. The first-of-its-kind event was held at the John Harms Center for the Arts in Englewood, N.J. on February 27 and 28.

- Pianist Alina Kabanova, 16, from Crimea, received a top prize at the London Piano Competition held April 8 at the Harrow School.

- The internationally known Canadian musicians, pianist Christina Petrowska, and opera star baritone Louis Quilico appeared in recital at Merkin Concert Hall in New York on March 30.

- Concert pianist Roman Rudnytsky, member of the piano faculty of the Dana School of Music of Youngstown State University in Ohio, was on his fifth concert tour around the world, playing recitals from June 10 until August 5.

- The piano duo of Luba and Ireneus Zuk, representing Canada, performed a recital of piano works by

Ukrainian and Canadian composers, at the 20th International European Piano Teachers Association Conference, held in Nicosia, Cyprus on October 1-6.

- Winnipeg singer and recording artist Alexis Kochan and third-generation bandurist Julian Kytasty appeared in a program of contemporary stylings of Ukrainian ritualistic songs and Hryhoriy Kytasty's 20th century compositions at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York on May 2. In November, the group Paris to Kyiv, featuring Ms. Kochan and Mr. Kytasty, with violinist Richard Moody, multi-instrumentalist Martin Colledge and percussionist John Wyre, participated in the Canada Council's showcase of Culturally Diverse and First People's Artists held at the Du Maurier Theater at the Harbourfront Center in Toronto.

Music: new releases

- "Ukrainian Musical Elements in Classical Music" by Yakov Soroker, a publication of the CIUS Press, is the first comprehensive account of the influence of Ukrainian motifs on the classical music of Europe and Russia from the 18th century through the first half of the 20th.

- A collection of art songs by the late Ukrainian American pianist-composer Wadym Kipa (1912-1968) was published by Muzychna Ukraina in Kyiv.

- The monograph "Myroslav Skoryk: A Creative

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Two 60th anniversary celebrants: composers Virko Baley (conducting the Kiev Camerata during a concert in Kyiv) and Myroslav Skoryk.

Portrait of the Composer as a Reflection of Our Times" by Liubov Kyyanovska appeared in Ukrainian as a publication of Lviv-based Spolom Publishers in October.

- The new international label Troppe Note/Cambria Recordings, with Maestro Baley, producer, signed an agreement with the Kiev Camerata to release a series of recordings over a three-year period, which will place special emphasis on Ukrainian music and performers.

- The acclaimed Cheres ensemble, under the direction of Andriy Milavsky, released its first solo CD – "Cheres: From the Mountains to the Steppe."

Art and exhibits

Among a host of interesting events and outstanding exhibits held during the year:

- The international exhibition "Treasures from the Ukrainian Steppes," a joint effort of the Institute of Archaeology of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences and host museums in Canada and the U.S., had its world premiere in Montreal at Pointe-à-Callière, where it opened on October 7. The exhibit, which gives a representative overview of the history and archaeology of the Ukrainian steppes from the Paleolithic era to late antiquity, presents some 350 highly significant pieces, including many that have been recently discovered. The exhibit will travel to museums in the U.S., where it will be on view through the year 2001.

- The exhibition "Jacques Hnizdovsky: Selected Portraits," curated by The Ukrainian Museum Director Maria Shust, with most of the work on display from the private collection of the late artist's wife, Stephanie, opened at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York on September 24.

- An exhibit of socialist realism paintings from Ukraine from the late 1940s through the 1960s was held at the Georgetown Art Guild in Washington (May 19-July 31), while recent paintings and works on paper by Ukrainian artists, Oleh Nedoshytko, Roman Romanyshyn and Roman Harasuta, as representative of highly personal painting and artistic styles formerly forbidden under the Soviet regime, were simultaneously on exhibit at the Alla Rogers Gallery in Washington (May 19-June 17).

- Daria Dorosh's exhibit of digital prints, titled "Scraps and Shadows" was on view at the A.I.R. Gallery in New York in May.

- Christine Holowchak Debarry's watercolors were featured in the September issue of American Artist and in the fall/winter issue of Paelagram, the magazine of the Pastel Society of America. The artist also conducted workshops at the Flying Colors Workshop in Acapulco, Mexico, in March.

- Among significant art exhibits held at The Ukrainian Museum in New York were: an exhibition of the works of noted Ukrainian-born artists Volodymyr Makarenko, a resident of Paris, and sculptor Petro Kapschutschenko, a longtime resident of Argentina and now the U.S., held October 11-25; and an exhibit of linoprints forming the series "Symbols and Emblems" by noted Ukrainian artist Bohdan Soroka, chairman of the department of graphic design, Lviv Academy of Art, which was held in November. As part of a series of exhibitions titled "In Celebration of Private Collectors,"

the museum presented an exhibition of lithographs by Alexander Archipenko (1887-1964), as well as oil paintings and watercolors by Alexis Gritchenko (Oleksa Hryshchenko, 1883-1977), which opened on December 6. The works displayed were from the collection of Zenon and Olena Feszczak of Philadelphia and are now a part of the museum's fine arts collection.

- An exhibition of The Woskob Collection, primarily promoting the work of young artists from Ukraine, was held at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York on November 14-December 27. Honored guest at the exhibition opening was Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate. Works on exhibit were from the private collection of Alex and Helen Woskob of State College, Pa.

- The group exhibition "New Figures, New Faces," curated by artist Petro Lopata, with a focus on figurative art, showcased the work of young, mostly Canadian, artists of Ukrainian heritage. The exhibit opened at the Ukrainian Canadian Art Foundation in Toronto on December 27.

Dance and ballet

- The Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Company of Ukraine, under the direction of Myroslav Vantukh, was on tour of North America from April 24 through July 1, performing in 38 cities across Canada and the U.S. in celebration of its 60th anniversary. The performances received excellent and enthusiastic reviews.

- In their annual celebration of Central and East European folk music and dance, the Duquesne University Tamburitzans appeared in concert at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York on October 17.

- Vladimir Malakhov, principal dancer with the American Ballet Theater and Maxim Belotserkovsky and Irina Dvorenko, principal soloists with the company, performed in major roles during the season at Lincoln Center in New York, continuing to be commended by audience and critics.

Theater

- The Les Kurbas Theater of Lviv, under the direction of Volodymyr Kuchynsky, returned to the U.S. to present performances from its current repertoire, as well as to conduct lectures and workshops. The theater premiered Lesia Ukrainka's classic Don Juan play "Kamiany Hospodar" (The Stone Host) in Maplewood, N.J., in March on the 30th anniversary of the play's original American premiere.

In celebration of its 10th anniversary, the theater revived one of the first works from its repertoire, Lina Kostenko's historic verse novel "Marusia Churai," which was presented in New York on February 22. Also presented were a program dedicated to the memory of the late literary critic and political dissident Ivan Svitlychny in Washington on February 24; and a special program of the works of the Ukrainian poet Bohdan Ihor Antonych (1909-1937) that was held at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York on March 28. In addition, workshops and lectures were held at universities and educational institutions along the East Coast, including the performance of Hryhorii

Skovoroda's 18th century philosophic dialogue "Grace-given Erodii" at Yale University on March 3.

- As part of the "Week of European Culture" held in Lviv this spring, the Les Kurbas Theater hosted theaters from Austria, Denmark, Georgia, Latvia, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine in "Yarylo's Games," an eight-day international theater festival devoted to the theme of use of music in theater.

- The Yara Arts Group, under the direction of Virlana Tkacz, in collaboration with the artists from the Buryat National Theater of Siberia, presented "Flight," an all-sung work featuring the music and legends of the Buryat people that was staged at the Buryat National Theatre in Ulan Ude in summer and at La MaMa Experimental Theatre in New York on April 24-May 3.

Yara conducted its 11th annual theater workshops for the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Studies in July. The group also did a poetry presentation in October at The Year 2020 Conference on the future of the Ukrainian community. Yara's work with poetry was praised in Ukrainian papers in Crimea and North America.

- The English-language version of Ukrainian American author's Yuriy Tarnawsky's one-act play "Not Medea," from the play cycle "6x0," was staged on June 6 and 7 at Mabou Mines in New York, under the direction of internationally known actor and director Gregory Hlady with actors Tania Mara Miller and Laila Salins. The Ukrainian-language book of plays, which appeared as a publication of the Kyiv-based Rodovid publishing house, was officially presented to the reading public at the Writers' Union building in Kyiv on October 14 and at the Shevchenko Scientific Society in New York on December 19.

- Mr. Hlady, who currently resides in Montreal, was in Kyiv in October at the invitation of the Les Kurbas Center where he ran a series of workshops with actors selected from all over Ukraine. As part of the workshop, Mr. Hlady staged the Ukrainian-language version of Mykola Hohol's story "The Terrible Revenge" on October 1-10 at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

- Kyiv-based TheatreClub's production of "The Old Woman," an avant-garde interpretation of the Slavic absurdist tradition in the manner of Hohol, was on tour of Canada's Fringe Festivals, beginning in Toronto in early June and continued westward until late September. The play, directed by Oleh Liptsyn, was premiered in Kyiv in 1995 and subsequently performed across Europe.

- The Ukrainian Stage Ensemble, under the direction of Lydia Krushelnitsky, presented the drama-montage "Zhinka Kriz Viky" (Woman Through the Ages), based on the works of the poet/playwright Lesia Ukrainka, at the Fashion Institute of Technology on June 6. The ensemble also gave a stage presentation of the humorous and satirical writings of Edward Kozak and the humorous play of Wasyl Sofroniv-Levytsky in a program titled "In a Crooked Mirror – Humorous Anecdotes," on November 22.

Film and film industry

- The film "Assassination: An Autumn Murder in Munich," directed by Oles Yanchuk, was shown at the

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1997-1998 Freedom Film Festival during its Los Angeles run in February 27-March 3.

- The film "Eternal Memory: Voices From the Great Terror," a historical documentary treatment of Stalinist purges and terror in the former USSR during the 1930s and 1940s, was screened at the 1998 Human Rights Watch International Film Festival at Lincoln Center's Walter Reade Theater on June 17, 19 and 23, followed by subsequent screenings for the Ukrainian community. The film was directed and produced by David Pultz for New York-based Wellspring Films, with narration by Meryl Streep.

- Marian Rudnyk of Monrovia, Calif., former astronomer and planetary photogeologist with NASA, free-lance science writer and cartoonist, worked on special visual effects and digital animation in James Cameron's blockbuster hit "Titanic." (See "The noteworthy: people and events.")

- Yar Mociuk, a 43-year veteran of the film industry and president of Filmtreat International Corporation, received an Emmy Award and was honored by the National Academy of Arts and Sciences for Outstanding Achievement in Technical Advancement, Pioneering Development of Film Scratch Removal Systems for Telecines, at a ceremony held October 12 at the Marriot Marquis in New York.

Photography

- The show "Ukraine: A Photo Exhibit," featuring the photography of nationally recognized American photographer Wilton S. Tiff, was held at the Ukrainian Catholic Shrine of the Holy Family in Washington on March 14-29.

- "Simply Ukraine" ("Prosto Ukraina"), a collection of some 200 photographs spanning more than 30 years by photographer Tania Mychajlyshyn-D'Avignon, was published in Kyiv by Artex Management.

Literary events

- The memory of Ivan Svitlychny, literary historian, critic and poet at the center of the 1960s "Shestydesiatnyky" movement of national revival in Ukraine, was honored on February 24 at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington. Leading the commemoration were Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak, Mr. Svitlychny's sister, Nadia Svitlychna, and five actors from the Les Kurbas Theater of Lviv.

- An evening of poetry by the Ukrainian poet Oleh Lysheha, currently a Fulbright scholar at Penn State University, was hosted by the Yara Arts Group at the Mayana Gallery in New York on April 29. Mr. Lysheha read his poetry in Ukrainian and members of the Yara Arts Group read translations of his work in English.

- The Mayana Gallery, under the direction of Slava Gerulak, continues to serve as an informal forum for Ukrainian writers and artists to present their works to an interested public in New York.

- Pen New-England's Freedom-to-Write Committee presented its first annual Vasyl Stus Freedom-to-Write Award to Kurdish poet and publisher Recep Marasli on May 17 at Radcliffe College.

- The publication of Yuri Andrukhovych's carnivalesque tale "Recreations," first published in Ukrainian in 1992 and now available in English in an edition published by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, (with translation by Dr. Marko Pavlyshyn), coincided with his appearance at this year's prestigious International Festival of Authors in Toronto on October 22-29. He subsequently appeared in a number of East Coast cities in the U.S., including Boston, New York and Philadelphia. "Recreations" has established Andrukhovych as a sophisticated, comic writer with penetrating insight into the contradictions of post-Soviet Ukrainian society.

- Literary evenings hosted by Lviv poet and writer Viktor Neborak of the Bu-Ba-Bu group, are held monthly at Lviv's Museum of Ethnography. The program, which has existed since December 1995 and is broadcast by a local TV channel, serves as an independent forum where Ukrainian writers can meet with an interested public to read and discuss their works. Among this year's participants were: Kyiv-based poet Vasyl Herasymyuk, poet and former Suchasnist editorial board member Moisei Fishbein, Harvard University literature professor George Grabowicz, New York Group poet Mr. Tarnawsky and the poetry group LuHoSad.

- The book "The Magic Egg and Other Tales from Ukraine," a re-telling in English by Barbara J. Suwyn of traditional Ukrainian tales, came out as a publication of Libraries Unlimited, Englewood, Colo. Edited by Natalie O. Kononenko, the book is supplemented with an overview of Ukraine's history, an introduction to Ukrainian folk literature, and other background information.

Literary scholarship

- Oleh S. Ilnytzkyj's "Ukrainian Futurism, 1914-1930: A Historical and Critical Study," published by the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute last year, is the first major monograph in English devoted to this vibrant literary movement and its leader, Mykhail Semenko. (Its release was noted in The Weekly during 1998.)

- Two Ukrainian-language anthologies of modern Ukrainian drama edited by Dr. Larissa Onyshkevych, "An Anthology of Drama of the Ukrainian Diaspora: The Twins Shall Meet Again," (Kyiv/Lviv: Chas publishers, 1997) and the CIUS publication "An Anthology of Modern Ukrainian Drama" issued in Kyiv by Takson Publishers were both presented this fall at the Ivan Franko Lviv State University and subsequently at the Shevchenko Scientific Society in New York and in Philadelphia.

- An anthology of Ukrainian Canadian and Ukrainian prose in translation, "Two Lands: New Visions," edited by Solomea Pavlychko, research assistant, Institute of Literature at the Ukrainian Academy of Science and editor-in-chief, Osnovy publishers, and Ukrainian Canadian writer and scholar Janice Kulyk Keefer, was published by Coteau Books of Regina, Saskatchewan. The launch was held in Toronto on November 1.

The world of sports: Ukrainian, that is

Olympic years place the athletes who compete with the world on a special pedestal. This year, the 18th Winter Olympiad was held in Nagano, Japan, and Ukraine managed to string together a competitive contingent, despite the financial constraints that were making themselves strongly felt.

Just as it did prior to the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, the first at which the nascent country had a separate delegation, the Ukrainian government gave its competitors a gala send-off in Kyiv on January 28, attended by Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko. All told, a team of 56 athletes represented Ukraine in Nagano, along with 47 trainers, competing in 10 of the 14 Olympic winter events.

Stan Haba, veteran fund-raiser and head of the Canadian Friends of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine (NOC-U), attended the gala, and was granted the honor of marching into Minami Stadium in Nagano together with the delegation led by flag-bearer Andriy Deryzemlia.

Ukrainian Canadian contributions went toward the purchase of athletic equipment, booking of hotel rooms closer to practice and competition sites, and walkie-talkies for the biathlon team.

Team Ukraine's only medal winner was Olena Petrova, who brought home the silver in the 15-kilometer biathlon, but the story of the games were the four whirling teens of the freestyle aerial skiing event. Tetiana Kozachenko, 16, Alla Tsuper, 18, and Olena Yunchyk, 15, and Yuliia Kliukova, 16, all qualified for the finals of the women's competition and stayed in the top 10 to the last jump.

The very last competitor in the event knocked Ms. Kozachenko off the podium into fourth place, just ahead of Ms. Tsuper. Ms. Kliukova finished eighth, while Ms. Yunchyk was 10th – astounding placings for a country whose program in the sport was essentially non-existent before Ski Lacroix of Switzerland decided to sponsor Team Ukraine at the Lillehammer Games in 1994.

As it turned out, they were also one of the few Ukrainian athletes who benefitted from the spotty TV coverage, thanks largely to the fact that U.S. aerialist Nikki Stone was vying for the gold medal. Kyiv-based figure skater Yulia Lavrenchuk managed to make it onto the small screen thanks only to an IBM commercial in which she was featured. Ironically, the spot was titled "Watch for me."

Otherwise, Iryna Taranenko Terelia, a veteran of the cross-country skiing circuits, came closest to winning a medal – she garnered two fourth-place finishes, missing the bronze in the 10-kilometer free pursuit race by 2.7 seconds.

On the way home, the Olympians had to endure bizarre difficulties in their flight from Japan (rerouting around China, doors on their plane which wouldn't seal properly), but were honored once again by their sports-mad prime minister on February 24 at the Institute of Physical Culture. Ms. Petrova was given the Presidential Medal, Mr. Taranenko Terelia also was recognized, while Ms. Yunchyk was held out to be the example of Ukraine's future potential.

In a heartening story, Ukrainian paraplegic athletes taking part in the Paraplegic Olympic Games in Nagano, did considerably better than the Ukrainian Winter Olympic team. The paraplegic team won several medals – Petro Kardash from Kharkiv won the 5-kilometer classical ski race, while Olena Akopian from Dnipropetrovsk and Tamara Kulynych won silver in the biathlon. Olha Kravchuk and Svitlana Tryfonova came in second and third, respectively, in the 2.5-kilometer ski race.

Also at the Olympics, but in Canada's red and white colors, were Ukrainian Canadian hockey players Judy Diduck and Kim Ratushny who took home silver medals.

Soccer

Among the main headline-grabbers this year, thanks to the World Cup in France, have been soccer teams. Kyiv Dynamo and Ukraine's national team have proven no exception. Last fall, the nationals finished second in their qualifying group behind Germany to earn a playoff berth, but had the misfortune to draw eventual World Cup third-placer Croatia, which knocked them out in a game played with ruthless efficiency in Kyiv. The Dynamists drove to the quarterfinals of the UEFA



Petro Hritsyk

Andriy Milavsky, Tania Vilkhа and Lilia Dlabоha of Cheres during a New York City performance.

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Efreem Lukatsky

Members of Ukraine's team for the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan, at a send-off celebration at the Ukraina Palace of Culture on January 28.

Champions League Cup competition, shocking PSV Eindhoven and other powerhouses, only to draw the European No. 1 Juventus.

On March 4, in front of 40,723 of Turin's Italian faithful, they faced an unbelievable barrage from a team of world all-stars (Zinedine Zidane, Alessandro Del Piero, Edgar Davids, Filippo Inzaghi), and defended like lions in front of goaltender Oleksander Shovkovskiy, keeping Europe's big guns off the score board. Then, at the 57th minute, a bad clearance from a Juventus defender allowed Andriy Gusin to score. Ahead of Juventus?!

This did not last. Juventus regained composure, tied the game in the 76th minute and continued to press relentlessly, although the tally remained at 1-1 at the final whistle.



Sprinter Zhanna Pintusevych, the second fastest woman in the world.

The pressure did not let up in Kyiv in the follow-up match on March 18. In fact it was ratcheted higher, and Dynamo proved to be no match for 1998's eventual champions. Mr. Inzaghi exploded for three goals, and Mr. Del Piero added another for good measure. Final score: 4-1 (Serhiy Rebrov scored for Ukraine).

Dynamo suffered a let down, and in May appeared to be succumbing to Shakhtar Donetsk's drive for top spot in Ukraine's premier division. Things had settled down by June however, and, with a victory against Zirka Kirovohrad, Dynamo locked up first place and another berth in the European championships.

This fall's campaign began with an uneven ride through the preliminary round. Dynamo first crushed a hapless Barry Town team from Wales 8-0, then stumbled 0-1 against Spartak Prague at home before salvaging the situation with a shoot-out-decided decision, to qualify for group play.

Beaten by Panathinaikos of Greece in the first match 2-1 (September 16), Dynamo played Lens of France (September 30) and Arsenal of England (October 21) to identical scores of 1-1. Things picked up in a 3-1 drubbing of Arsenal on November 4, and then Dynamo exacted a measure of revenge on the Greek team 2-1 on November 25 to put itself in a position to take first place in the very evenly matched Group E. Dynamo did so with a convincing 3-1 victory over Lens on December 9.

The momentum of Dynamo's march to the playoffs has been more sustained of late and the team earned a 14th place ranking in Europe, but they face a daunting task in the next round. Once again, Dynamo has drawn the European No. 1 team. This year, it's Real Madrid. The first match is scheduled to take place in Spain on March 3.

The National Team launched its campaign to capture a European Championship in 2000 by scoring a historic victory over Russia on September 5 in Kyiv. It was historic because this was the first time the two sides faced off in senior international play since Ukraine gained its independence, but it proved anticlimactically one-sided.

Ukraine was ahead 3-1 in the dying moments of the game, a score that could have been even more disproportionate, when some carelessness allowed Viktor Onopko (actually a Ukrainian playing for Russia) to score, bringing the final tally to 3-2. Subsequent matches have involved group doormats Andorra (October 10) and Armenia (October 14), but produced only 2-0 victories on each occasion, a factor that could prove sticky later.

The real test will come on March 27 next year, when the blue-and-yellows travel to play World Champion France at home.

Ukraine's footballers have also headlined on this side of the Big Pond. On December 14, The New York Times carried a story about the contributions made by Dema Kovalenko, Yuri Lavrinenko and Aleksei Korol to the efforts of the best college soccer team in the U.S.

– Indiana University's Hoosiers. It was headlined: "Hoosiers' Title: From Ukraine with Love."

The previous afternoon, Indiana had beaten Stanford 3-1 in Richmond, Virginia, to claim the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) title. Mr. Korol was voted the outstanding player of the tournament and scored the third "backbreaker" goal in the dying seconds of the first half of the NCAA final. Mr. Kovalenko had opened the scoring at the seventh minute, with his 15th goal of the season, on a cross from Mr. Lavrinenko. Then the three Ukes combined to set up a goal by Mr. Lavrinenko 12 minutes later.

According to the Times item, over the last two years, the trio have helped Indiana compile a 46-3 record, with 148 goals for and 25 against, and in this year's NCAA tournament the team scored a record seven goals, the most tallied since St. Louis netted 10 in 1963.

Goodwill Games (and other athletic highlights)

The other major sporting event of the year took place in New York City – the Ted Turner-sponsored Goodwill Games, which featured 1,500 athletes from 66 countries (Ukraine's contingent included 29 athletes, coaches, judges and other sports officials), competing in 15 sports for 15 days and for \$5 million in prize money.

Ukrainian sprinter Zhanna Pintusevych claimed her share on the opening day, July 19, by placing second in the 100-meter dash, behind this summer's untouchable force – Marion Jones of the U.S., who is billed as the fastest woman in the world. The next day Ms. Jones took another gold and Ms. Pintusevych another silver, in the 200 meters.

World champion Olena Vitrychenko went home as the all-around silver medalist in rhythmic gymnastics, but also captured gold in the rope individual apparatus event and bronze in the hoop, and placed fifth in both clubs and ribbon.

Her compatriot Tamara Yerofeyeva came in sixth overall, and was acknowledged as a rising star for placing fourth in the clubs, tying for sixth in both the hoop and the ribbon, and coming in seventh in the rope.

Olha Teslenko claimed another silver medal for Ukraine, in the gymnastics' beam event, beaten for the gold medal in that event by a mere .05 points by Kristin Maloney of the United States. Ms. Teslenko also finished sixth in the women's individual all-round gymnastics competition, sixth in the uneven bars, and sixth in the floor exercise.

Roman Zozulia finished fourth in the individual men's gymnastics all-around competition, seventh in the individual floor exercise and seventh again in the rings event.

Teslenko and Zozulia hooked up for the mixed pairs competition and made it through the first two qualifying rounds (they even finished on top in the first rotation of the competition), but in the end did not reach the podium.

Pole-vaulter Sergey Bubka was off last year's world

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championship form. He was disappointing at the Goodwill Games and no-heighted, once again bedevilled by the newly introduced 90-second rule that forces vaulters to clear their heights within the stated time limit. He'd started the year off well enough – unlike last year, he won the ninth edition of the annual Pole Vault Star International Competition he organizes in January in his home town of Donetsk. Enthusiasts can only wonder if the record-breaker's career will be brought to an end by this technicality.

At the Goodwill Games Anzhela Balakhanova tied for the bronze medal in the women's competition, thus earning Ukraine some pole vaulting hardware after all. Earlier in the year, on February 28, Ms. Balakhanova broke the women's indoor record at the European Indoor Championships in Valencia, Spain (although her mark was eclipsed a week later).

Valentyna Fediushina of Crimea won bronze in the women's shot put, while in the men's event Yuriy Bilonoh came in fourth. At the European Championships in Bucharest on August 18, he took the bronze behind a gold medal performance by compatriot Oleksander Bohach.

Olena Zhupyna and Svitlana Serbina took silver in 10-meter platform synchronized diving. Ms. Zhupyna paired with Olha Leonova came in fifth in the three-meter springboard synchronized diving, and in the 10-meter platform Ms. Zhupyna, the world champion in that event, finished fourth, just out of the medals.

A more powerful display in the pool was shown by Denys Silantiev, who set games records in the 100- and 200-meter butterfly.

Oddly, in addition to summer sports, this year's Goodwill Games featured competition in figure skating. Ice dancers Olena Hrushyna and Ruslan Honcharov took the bronze medal. In men's figure skating, Yevhenii Pliuta placed eighth.

In toto, Ukrainians took home six silver medals, four bronze and one gold from the Goodwill Games, placing their country in a tie for eighth in the overall count.

Swimming

At the World Swimming Championships in Perth, Australia, held on January 8-18, Ukraine's entrants Ms. Zhupyna and Ms. Serbina won a gold medal each, and the country's synchronized diving team took home another.

Joanne Malar, the Ukrainian Canadian phenom from Hamilton who was hyped prior to the Atlanta Games and then suffered from disappointing performances, bounced back this year. At the nationals she claimed her 20th Canadian swimming title by winning the women's 400-meter freestyle.

The comeback got better at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on September 12, when she finished five lengths ahead of her nearest competitor in the 400-meter individual medley final, and less than an hour later helped the Canadian 4x200-meter team capture the bronze medal, and later earned three more medals. Kelly Stefanyshyn of Winnipeg added a gold (in the 100-meter backstroke) and a silver (behind Ms. Malar in the 400-meter medley).

There was an explosion of Ukrainian power from both sides of the Atlantic at the amateur (FINA) World Cup in Edmonton on November 27-28. Ms. Malar won one gold, one silver and two bronze, Ms. Stefanyshyn took four silvers, while Mr. Silantiev arrived from Zaporizhia to claim a gold and a silver for Ukraine. Fellow Zaporozhian Dmytro Kraevsky competed, but did no better than fifth in the 100-meter breaststroke. Michael Mintenko of Canada (a native of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan) won bronze in the 50-meter butterfly.

Figure skating

In February, a reader admonished us to "stop focusing on Oksana Baiul" because of the embarrassments the embattled former world champion figure skater was causing herself and because the hard-drinking competitor had the habit (seemingly brought on by "Oprah" appearances) of referring to herself as "Russian." Well, we tried to resist...

Ms. Baiul checked in for treatment for alcoholism on May 7, and cancelled a summer's worth of appearances with the Champions On Ice tour. On November 16, on "Oprah," she bared her soul about her experiences in rehab. Ms. Baiul also announced that she will make a bid to get reinstated for Olympic competition in 2002. Although she again professed to be "Russian," Victor Petrenko's erstwhile protégé did not say for which country she intends to compete. On November 18, Ms. Baiul finished second to reigning Olympic Champion



European super-heavyweight boxing champion Vitalii Klychko.

Tara Lipinski in a televised "Ice Wars" skate-off.

In the amateur world, Ukraine showed that while it lacks an Oksana Baiul who will dazzle the field, it does have a full complement of top-10 competitors in all events. At the European Championships in Milan, Italy, held on January 11-18, Olena Liashenko finished fourth, and Yulia Lavrenchuk flirted with the top five before falling back to 12th. 1996 European Champion Viacheslav Zahorodniuk finished seventh, and 1993 winter Dmytro Dmytrenko came in eighth. Irina Romanova and Ihor Yaroshenko, familiar to those who follow the sport as one of the more consistent tandems on the circuit, also finished eighth in the ice dance. In the pairs, Yevgenia Filonenko and Ihor Marchenko were sixth, ahead of youthful compatriots Yulia Obertas and Dmytro Palamarchuk.

In Nagano, Filonenko and Marchenko were 11th, actually buoyed by some disastrous skating in the ranks above them. Mr. Zahorodniuk ran into trouble early and couldn't rise higher than 10th. Mr. Dmytrenko was also prone to falls and finished 14th. Romanova and Yaroshenko turned in typically workmanlike performance and earned a ninth spot.

At the World Championships in Minneapolis on March 29-April 5, Mr. Zahorodniuk improved to fourth, Mr. Pliuta came ninth, Ms. Lavrenchuk was seventh, and Ms. Liashenko finished one spot ahead of her compatriot.

On November 14 in Kamloops, British Columbia, Ms. Liashenko shocked No. 1 seed Irina Slutskaya of Russia to take the Skate Canada competition, the second international win in her career.

On November 25, Obertas and Palamarchuk (age 14 and 18, respectively) successfully defended their World Junior Championship.

Other sporting notes

- Vitalii Klychko, brother of Olympic Champion Volodymyr, won the European super-heavyweight boxing championship (the first Ukrainian to do so) on October 25 in Hamburg, Germany, over local favorite Mario Schiesser. The victory, the 22nd by knockout in his career, earned him a shot at the World Boxing Organization's world champion Herbie Hide. The fight is tentatively scheduled for the summer of 1999.

- This tennis season found Greg Rusedski solidified his status as a top-10 player and on December 16, he was ranked fifth in the world, building on having reached the 1997 U.S. Open final. His best performance, which the Montreal-born Ukrainian Canadian called "the highlight of my career," was a straight-set 6-4, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3 victory over No. 1 ranked Pete Sampras of the U.S. in the finals of the Paris Open on November 8.

This year he was a finalist in the Croatian Indoors Tournament in Split, Croatia (losing to local champion Goran Ivanisevic), the Champions Cup at Indian Wells,

California (losing to Marcello Rios, who almost dethroned Mr. Sampras as No. 1 at the end of the year) and the Toulouse Open (losing to Jan Siemerink), and won the European Community Championship in Antwerp, Belgium.

- For Andrei Medvedev it wasn't an entirely disastrous season, since he had a Swedish Open final (lost to Magnus Gustafsson) to his credit, and he acquitted himself well in Davis Cup play, but he finished well down in the rankings (61st), and seems unlikely to threaten for the top again.

- In the summer, Kyiv correspondent Roman Woronowycz asked "Baseball on Independence Day: Could this be Kyiv?" As his report attested, it was. A focus on Coach Dmytro Matsulevych of the Kyiv-based Atma Sports Club and his young charges, it gave some background on the history of the sport in Ukraine. Then in the fall, The Weekly carried the second "Baseball Journal" as recorded by Coach Basil Tarasko, recounting the triumphs and tribulations of "Ukraine Baseball" – Ukraine's cadet, junior and senior teams. This year, his under-16 charges came to the U.S. for the first time, to play in the AA Youth World Baseball Championships near St. Louis. While mostly overmatched against teams such as Chinese Taipei and Korea, they won a game against South Africa to win 11th place in the tournament and watched Mark McGwire of the Cardinals hit, not one, but two home runs. The cadets finished fourth in the Pool A European Championships – no medals, but not a bad performance. The seniors finished fifth in Pool B, but U.S.-based schools and scouts (other than Mr. Tarasko) are beginning to sit up and take notice. Aleksiy Gluhii of Symferopol became the first Ukrainian baseball player to receive a U.S. baseball scholarship (host institution: Lexington College, Kentucky).

- Matt Kuchar of Winter Park, Fla., the 1997 U.S. Amateur Champion wowed the golf pros at the Masters in Augusta, Georgia, in April, kept pace with Tiger Woods for a time, and earned a return invitation for next year's tournament. In June he finished 14th overall in the U.S. Open in San Francisco, attracting intense pressure to turn pro.

- In September, Atlanta's indefatigable popularizer of Ukraine's Olympic movement, Laryssa Barabash Temple, was appointed by the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine as its special attaché to the organizing committee of the Salt Lake City Winter Olympiad in 2002. At the seventh Ukrainian World Congress on December 4, Ms. Temple was elected chair of the UWC's Sports Commission, succeeding Vsevolod Sokolyk.

For the UNA, a convention year

Certainly the top story for the UNA during 1998 was its 34th Convention. For the first time in its 104-year history, the Ukrainian National Association held its convention in Canada. The gathering in Toronto on May 15-19 – which brought together 227 delegates representing UNA branches from across the U.S. and Canada – promised to be one of the most significant in the history of this exemplary fraternal organization.

The local Convention Committee, chaired by the Rev. Myron Stasiw, an advisor of the UNA, began meeting back in December of 1997 to make plans for the quadrennial convention. But the bulk of the work, to be sure, was at the Home Office in Parsippany, N.J. In February the procedure of electing delegates was explained in the UNA's two official publications. In April, The Weekly and Svoboda published the convention program, as stipulated in the UNA By-Laws, announced the members of three convention committees that are active before the opening gavel (credentials, financial and by-laws), and listed the names of all delegates and alternates elected by their branches as representatives to the convention.

The Auditing Committee – composed of Stefan Hawrysz, William Pastuszek, Stefania Hewryk, Anatole Doroshenko and Iwan Wynnyk – concluded its weeklong pre-convention review of the fraternal organization's finances and activity on March 27 at the UNA Corporate Headquarters. They were to report their findings to the 34th convention.

The Auditing Committee's report was published in The Weekly on May 31; copies were not made available to delegates at the convention. In addition to the usual,

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Andrij Kudla Wynnycky

Honorary Member of the General Assembly Stephen Kuropas Sr. administers the oath of office to the newly elected General Assembly. Seen from left are: First Vice-President Stefko Kuropas, President Ulana Diachuk, National Secretary Martha Lysko, Second Vice-President Anya Dydyk Petrenko, Treasurer Stefan Kaczaraj and Auditor Stefan Hawrysz.

almost perfunctory, review of the UNA's various department and subsidiaries, the auditors said they were "troubled by the fact that the Executive Committee did not consider the ramifications of the five-year contract signed in November 1996 with Director of Insurance Operations Robert Cook, whose annual salary is more than \$100,000. The contract does not specify the requirements of his job." As well, they reported that the deficit of the UNA's Canadian office were as follows: 1994 - \$314,984; 1994 - \$399,022, 1996 - \$536,010; 1997 - \$412,089. As regards the UNA's official publications and Soyuzivka, the auditors reported that the deficits for 1997 were, respectively, \$488,162 and \$546,585.

Also in the run-up to the convention, in March the UNA's publication printed the full texts of merger agreements with the Ukrainian National Aid Association of America and the Ukrainian Fraternal Association. In the case of the UNA-UNAAA merger, the documents were signed by Ulana Diachuk, president, and Martha Lysko, secretary, for the UNA; and Wolodymyr Okipluk, acting president, and Odarka Roberts, secretary, for the UNAAA. As far as the UNA-UFA proposed merger was concerned, the UNA president and secretary were the signatories, while UFA officers did not sign the agreement.

The 34th Regular Convention of the UNA was a peculiar conclave, foreshadowed in an op-ed piece by Dr. Bohdan Vitvitsky in the March 22 issue of this newspaper. Dr. Vitvitsky noted that it was a mere two months before the UNA was to convene in Toronto - where delegates would be electing "the most important officers of one of the most important institutions in our community" - and "we do not even know who is running."

"Nor do we know the qualifications - and in particular, the managerial qualifications - of those who are running. We know nothing about their views and analyses of the current state of the UNA, and, most importantly, we know nothing about their platforms or their visions for the future," he wrote.

Indeed, once the convention began, the answer was no clearer. As the primary election - a write-in procedure - was about to take place, the delegates demanded to know who was running for what post. As candidates made their announcements, delegates learned that the current president, Mrs. Diachuk, would not run for a third term, and that at least one serious candidate who was expected to be announced, Auditor Doroshenko, also was not running. That left one candidate for president, and a dark horse at that, Advisor Roma Hadzewycz, who opted to run only after Mr. Doroshenko declined at the last minute, who privately cited back-room maneuverings not to his liking.

However, as the delegates were filing out of the hall to vote, supporters of Mrs. Diachuk spread the word that delegates should write in her name for president after all. Mrs. Diachuk later said she took the write-in tally of 104 votes in the primaries as a vote of confidence in her presidency and reconsidered her decision not to run.

The Ukrainian National Association emerged from its 34th Convention, the last of this century, with a mandate

to merge with two other Ukrainian fraternal organizations, but with its flagship daily, Svoboda, reduced to a weekly publication, and its Soyuzivka resort's season shortened to only the summer months.

The convention voted overwhelmingly to accept the terms of the contracts under which mergers with the UFA and the UNAAA would take place (196-22 in the case of the UFA and 192-25 for the UNAAA), but rejected the proposal that the UNA change its name to the Ukrainian National Fraternal Association in order to accommodate UFA demands. In doing so, the convention dismissed suggestions by Executive Committee members who had negotiated the contracts that a refusal of the name change would endanger the merger. The name change was accepted by 137 delegates (61.2 percent), and rejected by 87 (38.8 percent), thus falling short of the two-thirds majority required to effect a change to the UNA By-Laws.

The convention also voted in several by-laws changes, including a provisions stipulating that the UNA secretary will be referred to as national secretary; an amendment that permits questions requiring approval by a convention to be voted on by mail between regular conventions (such votes are to be conducted by a third party to ensure privacy of balloting); and a requirement that all members of the General Assembly and all branch secretaries must subscribe to one of the UNA's official publications,



The front page of the first issue of the new Svoboda Ukrainian-language weekly dated July 3.

Svoboda or The Ukrainian Weekly.

The most far-reaching proposal passed was the following: "That the General Assembly of the UNA elected at this convention is hereby directed to prepare a referendum to amend the Charter and By-Laws of the UNA to provide for a governance structure consisting of an 11-member Board of Directors to be elected by the 35th Convention to conduct the business of the UNA between conventions. The Board of Directors shall meet no less than quarterly, and shall have the authority to hire the Executive Committee in such manner as it shall determine. This referendum shall be completed no later than December 31, 1999."

On May 18, the Financial Committee issued its report. The committee was composed of John Gawaluch, chairman, Nicholas Fil, Larissa Hwozdulych, Gloria Paschen and Yaroslav Zavytsky. Aided by the acting treasurer, Stefan Kaczaraj, the committee made several suggestions to cut the budget. The budget for 1998 submitted in November 1997 (which predicted an income of \$10,774,000 and \$11,024,000 in expenses, resulting in a deficit of \$250,000) was submitted for substantial modification, which would take into account the restructuring and downsizing of the UNA's operations as agreed at the convention. It was indicated that \$300,000 could be saved by shortening the Soyuzivka season to June 1 through September 15, and that the deficit created by the daily Svoboda could be reduced substantially, if not eliminated totally, if the newspaper were transformed into a weekly. The Financial Committee's report, which also proposed extending the halt on payment of dividends, engendered the most emotional debate of the convention.

On the morning of May 18, delegates voted to reject the Finance Committee's recommendation to make Svoboda a weekly, by a margin of 121-62. However, later in the day, the Financial Committee's request for a reconsideration of the vote was permitted. Another vote was taken and the Elections Committee recorded 138 votes for, 47 against, and 10 abstentions to making Svoboda a weekly. The convention also unanimously voted to adjust Svoboda's subscription rate to \$50 annually for non-members and \$40 for members, with a provision to credit current subscribers to the daily for the difference in rates. The Ukrainian Weekly's rate also was adjusted to \$50/\$40. The changes went into effect on July 1.

The Soyuzivka debate also was extensive. The vote was taken, but the numbers were not recorded by the Elections Committee, as the chair deemed that a sufficient majority had indicated they were in favor of the motion to cut the UNA estate's season to three and a half months. The change was to go into effect for the 1999 season.

[It should be noted that later in the year, however, the UNA Executive Committee, having taken a serious look at the figures, decided to keep Soyuzivka open for the bulk of the year, closing it down only in the period between February 1 and April 15.]

On May 19, the final day of the conclave, delegates re-elected Mrs. Diachuk to a third term as president of the fraternal organization, turning aside a strong challenge from Advisor Hadzewycz. The vote was 122 for Mrs. Diachuk and 99 for Ms. Hadzewycz.

In her acceptance speech, Mrs. Diachuk said, "at the outset of the convention I was 100 percent certain I would not be a candidate [for re-election] ... but only at the last minute when I saw your desires, your support and your confidence in me, I decided to continue to lead this organization." The UNA president expressed hope that all in attendance would look back in four years' time and be proud of what was accomplished at the convention and confident in the difficult decisions made.

Also returning to office were Anya Dydyk-Petrenko, as second vice-president, and Mrs. Lysko as national secretary, both elected by acclamation. Treasurer Kaczaraj, who assumed the office as acting treasurer when Alexander Blahitka went on medical leave in November 1997, was confirmed by acclamation as treasurer.

Two-term incumbent Nestor Olesnycky declined to stand for another term as vice-president, making way for a newcomer. Chicago's Stefko Kuropas was elected first vice-president to the Executive Committee. At age 33 he is one of the youngest candidates to ever be elected to this top post and a staunch advocate of refocusing on the UNA's 104-year fraternal traditions, as well as a vocal critic of his predecessor.

The Rev. Myron Stasiw, chairman of the convention's organizing committee, was acclaimed as director for Canada.

Mr. Pastuszek, Mr. Hawrysz, Alexander Serafyn, Mr. Zavytsky and Michael Groch (representing Canada) were elected to the Auditing Committee. However, either Mr.

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Groch or Mr. Zaviysky were to step aside when or if the proposed merger with the UFA went through, as the contract of merger stipulated that the UFA would require one auditor and three advisor positions on the General Assembly.

Alexander Chudolij and Taras Szmagala Jr., were the top vote-getters in the election for the General Assembly's advisors and both were re-elected. Canada's Tekla Moroz was elected to her seventh consecutive term. Also re-elected as advisors were Nick Diakiwsky, Walter Korchynsky and Stephanie Hawryluk. Newcomers were Halyna Kolessa, Dr. Wasyl Szeremeta and Andre Worobec. Albert Kachkowski of Canada was assured of a place as the UNA By-Laws require two Canadian advisors, while the newly elected Eugene Oscislawski, Barbara Bachynsky and Andriy Skyba would be excused if the merger with the UFA was completed.

One month after the UNA convention, the Ukrainian Fraternal Association concluded its 24th Convention on June 18, voting against merger with the Ukrainian National Association and re-electing Ivan Oleksyn as president. According to the June 25 issue of *Narodna Volya*, the weekly newspaper published by the UFA, the proposed merger between the two Ukrainian fraternal organizations was one of the most important matters before the four-day convention, which was held at the fraternal's Verkhovyna Resort Center in Glen Spey, N.Y.

Narodna Volya reported: "Because the 34th Convention of the UNA, which took place earlier in Toronto, rejected the proposed and agreed-upon addition of the word 'fraternal' to the name Ukrainian National Association, which was the most important prerequisite for the merger of the two fraternal, the 24th Convention of the Ukrainian Fraternal Association did not approve the merger with the UNA by a vote of 22 for and 53 against; however, the convention did not preclude the possibility that our fraternal organizations could merge in the future."

The UNA Executive Committee announced in the June 5 issue of *The Weekly* that payment of dividends for 1997 was suspended, while underlining that all members of UNA would continue to receive the guaranteed interest on the accumulated cash value of their certificate, and the cash value will continue to grow as provided by the certificate. Seniors, however, got a special break from the UNA as its was also announced that more than 2,000 members who are age 79 or older but continue to pay premiums for their life insurance would receive a fraternal donation equal to the amount of their annual premium. The due date of their payments was to be posted to a year after their current date.

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, called the UNA Heritage Program, that combines life insurance (with Blue and Gold options that offer \$3,000 or \$10,000, respectively, of life insurance coverage) with accidental death and membership coverage and a discount card that entitles holders to special prices on services such as car rentals, hotel accommodations, dental and vision care, etc.

The first post-convention meeting of the newly elected Executive Committee of the UNA was held on Saturday, August 8. President Diachuk greeted and congratulated the newly elected executive committee, including Mr. Kuropas, first vice-president; the Rev. Stasiw, director for Canada; Mrs. Lysko, national secretary; Mr. Kaczaraj, treasurer; and the chairman of the Auditing Committee, Mr. Pastuszek. Ms. Dydyk-Petrenko, second vice-president, was unable to attend.

Even before the UNA convention, there were significant changes at the Svoboda Press. The Svoboda print shop in Jersey City, N.J., was permanently closed down on Thursday, April 16. The decision was announced on Friday, April 10, just as *The Weekly's* April 12 issue was going to press.

This paper printed a brief notice in the April 17 issue: "This issue of *The Ukrainian Weekly* is the first to roll off the presses of a print shop that has been contracted by the Ukrainian National Association's Executive Committee to print the fraternal organization's two official publications, *Svoboda* and *The Ukrainian Weekly*. Previously, both newspapers were printed by the UNA-owned Svoboda Press, whose print shop was located at the fraternal's former headquarters building in Jersey City, N.J. The changeover to an outside contractor was announced



Roma Hadzewycz

General Assembly members, with executive officers seated in the front row, during their extraordinary meeting at Soyuzivka in November.

by UNA President Ulana Diachuk on Friday, April 10. As of Wednesday, April 15, *Svoboda* and *The Weekly* are being printed and mailed by Redmond Press, located in Denville, N.J. The Svoboda Press print shop has been closed down."

Colleagues bid farewell to Svoboda Editor-in-Chief Zenon Snylyk on June 18, who retired effective June 19 after more than 36 years of service to publications of the Ukrainian National Association – 18 years at each of its two newspapers – and work on the two-volume *Ukraine: A Concise Encyclopedia*. Present at the informal gathering were Mr. Snylyk's fellow editors at the Ukrainian-language daily newspaper, members of *The Ukrainian Weekly* editorial and production staffs, the Svoboda print shop and administration.

Mr. Snylyk also bid farewell to Svoboda readers and his co-workers in the Saturday, June 20, issue of *Svoboda*: "This is the last time that my name appears as editor-in-chief of Svoboda in the masthead atop this page. ... My retirement is the result of the decision of the 34th Convention of the UNA to change Svoboda to a weekly. Therefore, I do not have the unpleasant duty of writing an epitaph on the gravestone of the Svoboda daily. However, I am obligated to express my thanks to all of you for your support and loyalty during my 36 years and four months at the Svoboda Publishing House."

"I extend my sincere thanks for your loyalty, dedication and cooperation, for your suggestions, advice, support and readiness to work together in the defense and popularization of Ukrainianism," he concluded.

The first issue of the Svoboda Ukrainian-language weekly rolled off the presses on July 1 (bearing the date of July 3) with a new format and layout, as well as new features. The tabloid bears a new flag (the nameplate atop the front page), that incorporates the typeface used by Svoboda in 1914-1920. The paper's editorial referred to the proud 105-year-old legacy of Svoboda, which weathered many difficult times and persevered, continuing to publish out of love for Ukraine and the Ukrainian heritage. Addressing readers, it stated: "Placing into your hands the first issue of the Ukrainian-language weekly Svoboda, we believe that you will accept it as a worthy successor to the daily, that you will support it and will encourage others to do likewise, and that you will ensure its future with your subscriptions."

The new Svoboda weekly's editorial board comprised Serhiy Myroniuk, acting editor, and staffers (in alphabetical order) Petro Chasto, Chrystyna Ferencevych, Halyna Kolessa, Olha Kuzmowycz, Volodymyr Romaniuk and Raisa Rudenko. Mr. Myroniuk was chosen by his colleagues as their coordinator after Mr. Snylyk had announced he was retiring. Mr. Myroniuk, 28, had been a member of the Svoboda editorial staff since 1995. He is a senior majoring in journalism at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J.

Then, in September, a new editor took charge of Svoboda after Mr. Myroniuk announced that he would no longer be able to continue as acting editor due to his university studies. Soon thereafter, just before Thanksgiving,

he left the Svoboda staff. The new Svoboda chief is Raissa Galechko, editor of the humor magazine *Vsesmikh*, based in Toronto. President Diachuk reported to the UNA General Assembly in November that Mrs. Galechko would soon be signed to a two-year contract.

The General Assembly met at an extraordinary session at Soyuzivka on November 7-8. As this was a special meeting of the 25-member Assembly elected in May, the agenda included only three items: review of UNA operations for 1998, approval of the 1999 budget, and review of organizing results for 1998 and plans for the coming year. (During convention years, regular annual meetings of the General Assembly are not held; the next annual meeting will take place in November 1999.)

Leading off the discussion about UNA operations, Mrs. Diachuk focused on the UNA's publications, noting that expenses for Svoboda and *The Ukrainian Weekly* had been reduced by \$141,780 during the first nine months of the year, while income also was down by \$162,877, mostly due to a decline in subscription income from Svoboda, which was a daily through the end of June and with its transformation to a weekly lowered its subscription prices. Subscription income increased for *The Weekly*, however. As regards the number of subscribers to the UNA's weeklies, Mrs. Diachuk reported that both had now gained subscribers in the period of July through September, after losing readers during the first half of the year.

Mr. Kaczaraj provided a quick overview of the UNA's budget for 1999, which foresees income of \$6,187,433, disbursements of \$6,123,429 and a net profit of \$64,004. Certain expenses were not included in the budget provided, he explained. The treasurer forecast a loss on the UNA resort's operations of \$311,747 and emphasized that "Soyuzivka will have to save some more money." Regarding the UNA's publications, he stated that the convention had decided the UNA subsidy to its publications should be \$100,000, and added, "We have to stick to that."

As presented, the budget had allocated \$25,000 for the UNA Scholarship Program in 1999. However, after General Assembly members voiced concern about such a low figure, the sum was upped to \$35,000. Another point of concern was the amount budgeted for salaries of employees (not including executive or publications personnel), which was listed at \$512,000, down from the previous year's level of \$1 million. Other issues discussed included losses on the UNA's Toronto sales office and the UNA's investments.

UNA news in 1998 also included the following.

- The theme of the 1998 Ukrainian National Association Almanac was the 200th anniversary of the publication of Ivan Kotliarevskyi's "Eneida," an event that heralded the use and acceptance of Ukrainian as a literary language. The 228-page almanac contained essays, poems, photographs, calendars and advertisements organized in six sections with several dozen different entries, including articles on the Fourth Universal, the battle of Kruty, Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytskyi, the diaspora and the national awakening in Ukraine.

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- The Gregory Hrushka Award, the UNA's highest honor, was presented to several UNA'ers during 1998. Yaroslawa Zorych was presented the award at the UNA Convention in recognition of her role as chief agent in Canada and longtime secretary of Branch 432. The other Hrushka laureates honored at the convention (all in absentia) were Andrew Jula, former UNA advisor and branch secretary of Pennsylvania's largest branch, Branch 161; Helen Olek-Scott, former UNA advisor and former secretary of Branch 22 in Chicago; Akron, Ohio-based Genevieve Zerebniak, former UNA vice-president and former secretary of Branches 180 and 295; Roman Prychan, former Branch 399 secretary in Chicago; Atanas Slusarchuk, former Branch 174 secretary in Detroit; and Taras Slevinsky, former secretary of Branch 59 and district chairman for Connecticut.

- The 24th Conference of UNA Seniors was held at Soyuzivka on June 14-19 and the current slate of officers, headed by Dr. Anna Chopek, was unanimously re-elected. The highlight of the week was a trip to the UNA Home Office in Parsippany, N.J. The seniors were cordially welcomed by UNA execs and had an opportunity to meet with The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda staff, as well as employees of the UNA. During their conference the seniors raised \$1,000, which was earmarked for Soyuzivka projects and sent to the Ukrainian National Foundation. Next year the UNA Seniors Association will celebrate its 25th anniversary.

- On June 21 the UNA celebrated its 14th annual Fathers' Day at Soyuzivka. Some 500 guests visited Soyuzivka during the weekend and about 400 filled the Veselka auditorium. The concert featured two acts from Montreal, the Troyanda Ukrainian dance ensemble and flamenco guitar soloist Andrey Kutash, as well as Liuba Shchibchik, lyric soprano from Kyiv, accompanied by pianist Oksana Revliuk Protenic.

- The Ukrainian National Association's Scholarship Committee awarded the 1998-1999 UNA Scholarships totaling \$52,550 to 195 undergraduate students. Meeting on June 29, the committee reviewed 237 applications. The grants to 195 students – among them six special memorial scholarships and five scholarships funded by the Ukrainian National Home Corp. of Blackstone, Mass. – were allocated as follows: one at \$2,000, five at \$750, nine at \$500, 13 at \$400, 102 at \$300 and 65 at \$100. A special issue of The Ukrainian Weekly devoted to the 1998-1999 UNA scholars was published in December.

- Soyuzivka, the UNA's upstate New York resort kicked off its 44th summer season during the Independence Day weekend, July 3-5. The season included the usual complement of camps ranging from pre-schoolers' day camps ("Tabir Ptashat" run by the Plast Ukrainian youth organization and Chemney's Fun Center) to tennis camp, boys' and girls' camps, and a Ukrainian dance workshop. As well there were sports competitions in tennis and swimming – including the national championships held during the Labor Day weekend.

- Miss Soyuzivka 1999 was selected on August 15. She is 23-year-old Renata Kosc of Cleveland, an active member of Plast and the Orlykivtsi Plast group. She directed her own radio program geared towards promoting Ukrainian culture to non-Ukrainians. Miss Kosc is a Rhodes Scholar finalist, took part in the International Humanitarian Law Competition and is an honors graduate of Case Western Reserve University in economics and political science. If the Kosc name sounds familiar, it's because her sister Tanya was Miss Soyuzivka 1997. Runners up were Daria Loun and Marianna German, who tied for second place, and Martha Tatarevich who took third place.

- The Ukrainian National Association's English Teachers for Ukraine Program and Summer Institute on Current Methods and Practices in TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) continued in 1998, marking their seventh and sixth anniversaries, respectively.

- The UNA once again published Christmas cards as part of its fund-raising campaign for the Ukrainian National Foundation, a tax-exempt non-profit corporation created by the UNA to support educational, charitable, religious and scholarly projects. This year's traditional Christmas theme was chosen from among originals submitted to the Home Office in response to an ad in Svoboda. Original works selected for this year's cards are by 10 contemporary artists from Ukraine, Canada and the U.S.: Marta Anna, Petro Holovaty, Danylo Koshtura, Zenovia Kulynych, Vitaliy Lytvyn, Luba Maksymchuk, Natalka, Myron Ruzhyla, Yuriy Trytjak and Irene Twerdochlib.

The noteworthy: people and events

Some major happenings and achievements defy easy categorization, ergo this section, the noteworthy – people and events – of 1998 (listed in chronological order).

- Manor Junior College celebrated its 50th anniversary between September 1997 and May of this year. The Ukrainian sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great founded the college in 1947 as St. Macrina College. Their goal was to establish an institution of higher education that would reflect Basilian educational teachings and offer a place where young Ukrainian women could obtain an education while preserving their Ukrainian culture. Today, Manor Junior college has some 650 full- and part-time students. The college offers career-oriented, two-year associate degrees, as well as transfer programs for the purpose of obtaining a baccalaureate degree through its three divisions: Liberal Arts; Allied Health, Science and Math; and Business. In all, there are 14 programs with 13 majors leading to associate degrees, six certificate programs, one diploma program and a transfer program. The Professional Development Department supports the non-traditional student by offering part-time day, evening and summer classes as well as non-credit and professional development workshops and seminars geared to the community needs. Manor Junior College maintains a Ukrainian Heritage Studies Center that promotes Ukrainian heritage and arts through its academic programs, museum collection and archives.

- After his historic flight aboard the U.S. space shuttle Columbia, Ukrainian cosmonaut Leonid Kadenyuk and his back-up, Yaroslav Pustovyi, visited Ukrainian communities in Chicago, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Houston, New York and Newark, N.J., in early 1998. Independent Ukraine's first space-faring cosmonaut, Col. Kadenyuk, flew aboard the Columbia from November 19 to December 5, 1997, as a payload specialist. While in space he conducted various experiments to study the effects of microgravity on plant growth. His 16-day flight aboard the American space shuttle has been hailed as a symbol of the expanding strategic partnership between the United States and Ukraine. Col. Kadenyuk told the audience gathered at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School what he took into space aboard the shuttle: a Ukrainian flag; a portrait of Ukraine's greatest poet, Taras Shevchenko, and a copy of his Kobzar; and recordings of Ukrainian songs sung by famous Ukrainian artists such as Anatolii Solovianenko, Dmytro Hnatiuk, Sofia Rotaru and others; as well as a recording of the Ukrainian national anthem, "Sche Ne Vmerla Ukraina." Dr. Pustovyi emphasized, first of all, that "Ukraine and the cosmos have always been connected." He listed three Ukrainians who made immeasur-

able contributions to space exploration: Mykola Kybalchych (1853-1881), an inventor, foresaw space flight and developed the idea of jet propulsion; Yurii Kondratiuk (1897-1941/1942), a scientist and inventor, was a pioneer in rocketry and space technology who came up with the concept of multi-stage rockets; Serhii Korolov (1907-1966), an aeronautical engineer, designed the first Soviet guided missiles and spacecraft. He also noted that Pavlo Popovych, a Ukrainian, became the USSR's fourth cosmonaut in 1962. Thus, he said, it can be said that Ukraine always was a space-faring country. This space shuttle flight by Col. Kadenyuk, he continued, is "Ukraine's return to the cosmos."

- Longwood College senior Raissa Czemyrnski, a therapeutic recreation major, was one of 20 students nationwide selected to USA Today's 1998 All-USA College Academic First Team. Nearly 1,200 undergraduates nationally were nominated for the 1998 awards. The winners were invited to an awards luncheon on February 13 at USA Today headquarters in Arlington, Va., and were featured that day in a two-page color section of the newspaper, "saluting the best and the brightest." A check for \$2,500 and a trophy were presented to each student. Ms. Czemyrnski was accompanied by her parents, and several professors. Ms. Czemyrnski, 21, is a Longwood Scholar; a member of the college's honors program, Phi Kappa Phi national honor society, and Mortar Board, an honorary leadership society; and a former president of the Therapeutic Recreation Organization. Ms. Czemyrnski organized and partly financed a three-week internship last summer at Lviv Regional Specialized Children's Hospital in Ukraine to conduct therapeutic recreation activities with children age 8-10 who suffer health consequences as a result of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

- John Demjanjuk regained his U.S. citizenship, thanks to a February 20 ruling by a federal judge who reversed his 1981 denaturalization, citing fraud on the part of U.S. government prosecutors. Judge Paul R. Matia of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division, wrote that attorneys of the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) "acted with reckless disregard for their duty to the court and their discovery obligations" in failing to disclose evidence to the Demjanjuk defense. Ed Nishnic, spokesman for the Demjanjuk family, said: "We are thankful for the court and its ruling for reinstatement of Mr. Demjanjuk's citizenship. We're carefully reviewing this decision and deciding on what our next steps will be." Mr. Nishnic, who is a son-in-law of Mr. Demjanjuk, also said: "This is welcome news to the family. This has been a 21-year legal nightmare, and when we got word of the decision it was like waking up after the nightmare. Now we are back to an even playing field." Judge Matia cited a November 1993 ruling in the extradition portion of the Demjanjuk case, in which the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals held that "the OSI attorneys acted with reck-



Among the noteworthy in 1998 were a Ukrainian cosmonaut, Leonid Kadenyuk (left), who visited several cities in the U.S. in 1998 following his late 1997 flight on the U.S. space shuttle, and a Ukrainian American astronaut, Heide Stefanyshyn-Piper (above), who awaits her turn to go into space.

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less disregard for the truth and for the government's obligation to take no steps that prevent an adversary from presenting his case fully and fairly. This was fraud on the court in the circumstances of this case where, by recklessly assuming Demjanjuk's guilt, they failed to observe their obligation to produce exculpatory materials requested by Demjanjuk." Referring to new examples of evidence not disclosed to the defense – information that was revealed in this proceeding – Judge Matia wrote, "this behavior constitutes further fraud upon the court." The new information includes documentation referring to a February 1980 interview with Jacob Reimer, an ethnic German who served as a clerical official at Trawniki, and the Dorofeev Protocols received from the USSR in 1980, which include the statements of five Soviet citizens who served at Trawniki. In vacating the denaturalization order of June 23, 1981, Judge Matia also considered whether any sanctions should be applied. There were two possibilities: dismissing the case with prejudice, or dismissing it without prejudice. Judge Matia chose to dismiss the case without prejudice, which means that the U.S. government could reopen a case seeking to revoke Mr. Demjanjuk's citizenship. If he had dismissed the case with prejudice, the government would have been prevented from reopening any denaturalization proceeding against Mr. Demjanjuk.

- Ukraine's new permanent representative to the United Nations, Volodymyr Yuriyevych Yelchenko, was welcomed at the Ukrainian National Home on February 22, during an informal dinner given by the Ukrainian community to greet and honor him as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Ukraine. Mr. Yelchenko said that much work still needs to be done by the Ukrainian representation at the U.N. during the General Assembly's present session, including the creation of favorable conditions for Ukraine's election to the Security Council as a non-permanent member for the years 2000-2001, which will be voted on during the General Assembly's 54th session. Ukraine has been a non-permanent member of the Security Council twice before – in 1948-1949 and 1984-1985 – years when the possibilities for independent activity on the part of Ukrainian diplomats were restricted, explained Ambassador Yelchenko. At age 39, Mr. Yelchenko is serving his second tour of duty with the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations. He served as second secretary of the Ukrainian Mission from 1986 to 1992. Mr. Yelchenko became the permanent representative of Ukraine to the U.N. last October, succeeding Anatolii Zlenko, who was named Ukraine's ambassador to France.

- The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations commemorated its 40th anniversary on March 27 at an afternoon reception at the Mission for 150 guests, including U.N. diplomats, representatives of the U.N. Secretariat, U.S. businesspeople and representatives of Ukrainian American organizations. Although Ukraine was one of the 51 original member-nations to the United Nations and a signatory on the United Nations Charter at its founding conference in San Francisco in 1945, the government of Ukraine did not establish its Permanent Mission at the U.N. headquarters until March 24, 1958. At a press conference held on March 13, Ukraine's 10th ambassador to the U.N., Mr. Yelchenko noted Ukraine's consistent participation in U.N. activities, beginning with the efforts of Ukraine's first delegation, headed by Dmytro Manuilsky, towards drafting the U.N. Charter, to the present day, when Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs Hennadii Udoenko holds the top post at the U.N. General Assembly. During its 52 years as a member-state of the U.N., Ukraine has belonged to many key U.N. committees and currently has membership in nearly 100 U.N. bodies, specialized agencies and committees. Since proclaiming its independence in 1991, Ukraine consistently has been among the top countries to participate in U.N. peacekeeping missions around the globe, sending 10,000 Ukrainian soldiers to participate in nine out of 17 U.N. missions. Last year Ukraine's U.N. contribution totaled more than \$28 million, making Ukraine the 12th largest contributor to the organization.

- Elected on March 29, Roman Zvarych became the first member of the Ukrainian Parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, to have been born in the U.S. Earlier he had scored another first when he became the first American citizen to take Ukrainian citizenship, which he did in 1995. Mr. Zvarych, 45, whose parents were born in Ukraine but were forced to move to the West during World War II, was born in Yonkers, N.Y., in

1953, and lived in the New York area until 1990, when he moved to Ukraine. He renounced his U.S. citizenship in 1993. Mr. Zvarych, who has a Ph.D. in philosophy, taught at Columbia University and was an active member of Ukrainian Liberation Front organizations while he lived in New York. In Ukraine he headed the Center for Democratic Reform before being elected a national deputy. He is a member of the Rukh faction in the Verkhovna Rada.

- St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral School in Parma, Ohio, celebrated its 50th jubilee with a dinner and ball held at the Astrodome, the parish hall, on Saturday, April 25. Over 500 alumni and guests attended the beautifully appointed affair. A tribute to the school was presented by three eighth grade students, after which guests joined in singing "A Hymn to St. Josaphat." Bishop Robert Moskal presented plaques expressing appreciation to the Rt. Rev. Michael Rewtiuk, who as pastor is sponsor of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral School. Special recognition was granted by Bishop Robert to the Rev. Andrew Hanowsky for his accomplishments as administrator of St. Josaphat School and to Sister Miriam Claire OSBM, school principal.

- When asked what they aspire to do in the future, few 36-year-old women reply "I want to do a space walk." Heide Stefanyshyn-Piper, however, is an exception to the rule. In April, Ms. Stefanyshyn-Piper completed two years of training and evaluation at the Johnson Space Center in Houston and is now officially a NASA astronaut. Ms. Stefanyshyn-Piper currently serves as a member of the Astronaut Support Personnel Team at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. She eagerly awaits a flight assignment, and hopes to complete a space walk with a division of the EVA (Extra Vehicular Activities) at the International Space Station, a new orbiting space station that is being funded by the U.S. and built by Russia. The space station will be receiving its first astronauts in the summer of 1999. Since Neil Armstrong first set foot on the moon, Ms. Stefanyshyn-Piper has been fascinated with the prospect of space exploration. Initially, however, she did not have plans to become an astronaut. At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she earned her B.S. and M.S. in mechanical engineering, she joined the Naval ROTC in the hopes of becoming a jet pilot. A failed eye exam prevented her dreams from coming to fruition and led to a career holding various posts in Navy salvage and diving operations. Ms. Stefanyshyn-Piper was born and raised in St. Paul, Minn., where she belonged to St. Constantine Ukrainian Catholic Church. She was a member of Plast and a local Ukrainian dance ensemble.

- Cmdr. Stephen L. Szyszka of the U.S. Navy assumed the duties of commanding officer of the USS Henry M. Jackson as of June 26. Prior to his command, Cmdr. Szyszka completed a two-year assignment as the U.S. naval attaché to Ukraine (1995-1997), as executive officer of the USS Henry M. Jackson (1993-1994), as executive officer of the USS Henry L. Stimson (1992-1993) and as combat systems officer on the USS Dallas (1988-1991). The USS Henry M. Jackson is the fifth of the Navy's 18 nuclear-powered Ohio-class submarines. The Ohio class, at 560 feet long and almost 19,000 tons displacement, is the largest submarine ever built by the United States and is capable of speeds of over 20 knots and depths of more than 800 feet. The crew consists of approximately 157 officers and enlisted sailors. Each of these ships is capable of carrying up to 24 submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs). Cmdr. Szyszka, a native of Buffalo, N.Y., is active in Plast and its Orden Khrestonostsiv fraternity.

- Behind the Blue Sky-VIFX (FOX) special effects studio doors, Marian Rudnyk, 32, spent a year and a half creating convincing illusions of a world-famous shipwreck. In James Cameron's "Titanic," simulated breathing, depiction of the ship's immense engine room, and the creation of an astronomically correct sky were among the special effects that utilized Mr. Rudnyk's expertise, we reported in our July 5 issue. Visual effects and digital animation aided in the authentic portrayal of the fateful night of the ship's sinking. Perhaps the most appropriate project aboard the "Titanic" for Mr. Rudnyk was the research and precise recreation of the sky that appeared on April 14, 1912. He was well-equipped to perform the historical research of the stars due to his varied past career experiences. Prior to his work in special effects animation, Mr. Rudnyk had worked as an astronomer and planetary rologologist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. During his 10 years at NASA, Mr. Rudnyk charted and named over 200



Leaders of the "Discover Ukraine" yachting expedition: Dmytro Birioukovitch (right) and Roman Maliarchuk.

asteroids. He named the first asteroid he discovered "4601 Ludkewycz," in honor of his mother, whose maiden name is Ludkewycz. Following federal budget cuts in 1994, Mr. Rudnyk's days at NASA ended and he began cultivating his artistic talents by taking classes at the American Animation Institute. In January of 1997, Mr. Rudnyk enrolled in a federal program to retrain displaced aerospace workers to enter the entertainment field; the next thing he knew, his career had moved from asteroid hunting to special effects animation in what was to become the blockbuster hit, "Titanic." Mr. Rudnyk was born and raised in Monrovia, Calif., where he attended Ukrainian school and was a member of Plast. Marian's grandfather, Evhen Ludkewycz, was the founder of Plast in California.

- On July 15 the Ukrainian American Broadcasting Co. (UABC) announced that DIRECTV, America's largest direct satellite system provider, had begun broadcasting Ukrainian television programs over its network, and that an agreement had been signed for distribution of the Ukrainian Broadcasting Network (UBN). "For Ukrainian Americans, this agreement means that members of our community can for the first time watch television programs from Ukraine and about Ukrainians on their home television sets at any time they wish," commented Ihor Dlaboha, general manager of the UBN. The Ukrainian Broadcasting Network also offers a 24-hour-per-day daily Ukrainian Radio Service, featuring programs of the National Radio Company of Ukraine, as well as original radio programming reflecting the life of the Ukrainian diaspora. Mr. Dlaboha noted that by providing television and radio programs from both Ukraine and the diaspora, the UABC "hopes to become the primary medium of Ukrainian information and entertainment on the North American continent." UABC is an affiliate of the Ethnic-American Broadcasting Co., the leading distributor of foreign-language programming in North America, as well as a producer of such programming.

- After 30 years in the military, Col. Donald W. Hrynyshyn retired on July 17, at which time he was promoted to rank of brigadier general. Brig. Gen. Donald W. Hrynyshyn was awarded the Legion of Merit medal (among other awards) at his retirement ceremony. Brig. Gen. Hrynyshyn began his military career as a second lieutenant in June 1968 upon receiving his commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of Delaware. He served in various positions in the United States and Korea, and most recently

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"The Founding of Kyiv," Ukraine's first ever Europa entry, was awarded the 1998 Heorhiy Narbut Prize for best philatelic design of 1997.

was director of personnel and deputy commander of the State Area Command in Delaware. Brig. Gen. Hrynyshyn is the son of the Very Rev. and Mrs. Paul Hrynyshyn. The Very Rev. Hrynyshyn is pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Wilmington, Del.

- In August The Weekly reported on an exciting yachting expedition dubbed "Discover Ukraine," which would take a crew of sailors and some VIP guests on a round-the-world voyage on two 25-meter yachts, one the schooner *Batkivschyna* and the other the brigantine *Pochaina*. Dmytro Birioukovitch, 59, who owns the two vessels, 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 expedition 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. 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 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 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. If all goes well, i.e., if funding is in place, 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," he said.

- At a reception at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington, held on the occasion of Ukrainian Independence Day on August 24, in the presence of U.S. officials, diplomats, businesspeople and members of the Ukrainian American community, Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak also honored a longtime executive officer of the Ukrainian National Association, Wolodymyr Sochan, with the Ukrainian President's Award for Merit medal. Presenting the award, Ambassador Shcherbak noted that it was in recogni-

tion of Mr. Sochan's "personal contribution in promoting Ukrainian-U.S. cooperation and his activities in Ukrainian American institutions for many years." Mr. Sochan, now an honorary member of the Ukrainian National Association General Assembly, retired from the fraternal organization's Executive Committee in 1994 after 45 years of service at the UNA, including 28 years as supreme secretary. He is a former member of the Secretariat of the Presidium of the Ukrainian World Congress and was a member of the initiative group that laid the groundwork for the establishment of the World Congress of Free Ukrainians. Mr. Sochan is also a vice-president of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council and is member of the board of directors of the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine, which he helped found. Mr. Sochan was the UNA representative at the World Forum of Ukrainians held in Kyiv in 1992 and 1997, and, somewhat earlier, was the UNA's representative to Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

- The 53rd session of the United Nations General Assembly convened on September 9, electing Dr. Didier Operti of Uruguay as the new president of the General Assembly and ending the one-year term of Ukraine's diplomat, Mr. Udovenko. The new president praised Mr. Udovenko's tenure as one in which great progress had been made in implementing U.N. reforms, a goal that Mr. Udovenko had set for himself at the beginning of his term. Similar praise was offered by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Mr. Udovenko had given his closing remarks at the final plenary of the 52nd session on September 8. Ukraine's Permanent Mission to the U.N. hosted a farewell reception for Mr. Udovenko at the Mission on September 16. Ukraine's ambassador to the U.N., Mr. Yelchenko, said Ambassador Udovenko, who is greatly admired by his diplomatic colleagues, received numerous accolades during the reception for his efforts in pushing forward the U.N. reform process.

- A Crimean Tatar activist, Mustafa Jemilev, 55, received the 1998 Nansen Medal in recognition of his outstanding efforts to help Crimean Tatars reintegrate in their native Ukraine. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata presented the medal to Mr. Jemilev "for his commitment to the right of return of the Crimean Tatar people" at an October 5 ceremony in Geneva at the Palais des Nations. In 1961, at the age of 19, Mr. Jemilev joined the Union of Young Crimean Tatars and the peaceful struggle for recognition of the rights of the deported Crimean Tatar population. His name is also inextricably linked to the Soviet dissident movement. In 1969, with Andrei Sakharov and other human rights activists, he co-founded the Initiative Group for the Defense of

Human Rights in the USSR. For 20 years between 1966 and 1986, he lived alternately under surveillance, in hard-labor camps, in forced exile and in Soviet prisons. While still in exile, Mr. Jemilev committed himself to defend the basic rights of his people. In 1987 he was elected to the Central Initiative Group of Crimean Tatars, and in May 1989 he was chosen to head the newly founded Crimean Tatar National Movement. That same year he returned to Crimea with his family, spearheading the return of more than 250,000 Tatars to their homeland. As president of the Council of Crimean Tatars (the Mejlis) and as a member of the Ukrainian Parliament, Mr. Jemilev has worked tirelessly side by side with UNHCR to help tens of thousands of Tatars to resettle in Crimea, to obtain Ukrainian citizenship and to uphold their basic rights. The Nansen Medal, awarded for exceptional service to the cause of refugees, is named after the Norwegian diplomat and explorer Fridtjof Nansen, the first high commissioner for refugees under the League of Nations. The prize was established to focus attention on refugees and to rally international support for the plight of forcibly displaced people. The Nansen Committee, which is chaired by High Commissioner Ogata, consists of representatives of the governments of Norway and Switzerland, the Council of Europe, and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies.

- For four days, on October 6-9, 74 Ukrainian golfers from the U.S., Australia, Great Britain and Canada competed in the Inaugural Ukrainian World Golf Challenge on four of South Florida's best courses in the Fort Lauderdale area. The 28-man Australian contingent was victorious, defeating the U.S. by a wide margin on the final day. Forty golfers represented the Ukrainian Golf Association of America; three each came from England and Canada. This was the third competition between the U.S. and Australia, which began in the early 1990s after stories appeared in The Ukrainian Weekly and telephone contact was made by the officials of both organizations. Four years ago the golfers met in Hawaii, where the Australians were victorious. Two years ago the U.S. group visited Australia and won the cup. Now the competition has become a worldwide event. England will host the Ukrainian World Golf Challenge in 2001.

- The 1998 Heorhiy Narbut Prize for the best Ukrainian philatelic design of 1997 went to Ukraine's bold stamp design for its first ever Europa entry. Europa issues are special annual releases of one or a few stamps produced by most European countries on a specific topic. Last year's theme was "History and Legends" and Ukraine's entry, in the form of a two-stamp souvenir sheet, depicted "The Founding of Kyiv" by the siblings Kyi, Schek, Khoryv and Lybid as related in the chronicle "Povist Vremennykh Lit" (Tale of Bygone Years). Europa issues as a souvenir sheet are a bit unusual, but Ukraine Post went a step further and reproduced the entire founding legend in microprint as a design feature along the sheet border. The inspired portrayal by winning artists V. Taran and O. Haruk also depicts scenes from the Povist chronicle along the top and bottom, and intricate design motifs along the sides. Dr. Ingeret Kuzych is the prize initiator and donor of the monetary gift that accompanies the award, presented annually since 1993. A news story about this year's Narbut Prize appeared in our October 11 issue.

- The Ukrainian Technological Society on November 28 presented its 1998 Ukrainian of the Year Award to Dr. Lubomyr T. Romankiw, IBM fellow and head of the Center for Electrochemical Technology and Microfabrication at IBM's Thomas J. Watson Research Center, in Yorktown Heights, N.Y. Dr. Romankiw has 47 patents and 130 published inventions, and has written four book chapters and more than 130 scientific papers. One of his major technology applications is the reader head that makes it possible to store and access vast quantities of information on any computer hard drive. As a member of the Ukrainian community, Dr. Romankiw was elevated to the position of chief scout of Plast, the highest honor bestowed by this Ukrainian youth organization. Dr. Romankiw fostered participation of Plast in the World Organization of the Scout Movement based in Geneva. Dr. Romankiw is a member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (where he has served on the executive board since 1989) and of the Ukrainian Engineering Society. In 1995-1998 he was a member of the board of directors of the Environmental Education Technology Transfer Program, which he helped organize between the University of Connecticut and Ukraine.

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We mourn their passing

During 1998 we mourned the passing of bishops and clergymen, scholars and artists, leading members of the community, and other prominent individuals. Among them were the following.

- The Rev. Protopresbyter Volodymyr Bazylevsky, 94, longtime pastor of St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in New York – December 22, 1977.

- Zynoviy Sokoliuk, 72, prorector and dean of the Ukrainian Free University, and former officer of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) – Munich, Germany, January 2.

- Valentina Pereyaslavac, 90, prima ballerina of major theaters of opera and ballet in Ukraine, choreographer, faculty member at the American Ballet Theatre School in New York, and coach and teacher to world-renowned dancers – Woodside, N.Y., January 4.

- Maria Savchak, 78, former president of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, and member of the executive board of The Ukrainian Museum in New York, Ukrainian community activist who held various important positions at the Ukrainian National Association – Brooklyn, N.Y., January 8.

- Dr. Rosalie Waskul-Kapustij, professor of history and Ukrainian community activist, former president of the Ukrainian Graduates of Detroit and Windsor, instrumental in organizing the national Federation of Ukrainian American Business and Professional Organizations – Sterling Heights, Mich., January 14.

- William Boytchuk, 75, Toronto city councilman and community activist – Hallandale, Fla., January 22.

- Sister Mary Jerome Roman, 88, a Sister of the Order of St. Basil the Great, former educator and first president of Manor Junior College – Fox Chase Manor, Pa., January 27.

- Bishop Paisiy, former bishop of South America and bishop emeritus of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. – Minneapolis, February 3.

- Marie Halun Bloch, 88, former economist with the U.S. Department of Labor and award-winning author of books for children – Cambridge, Mass., February 7.

- Dr. Zenovia Sochor Parry, 54, scholar and leading expert on Ukrainian politics; professor of government and international relations, Clark University; research associate at the Ukrainian Research Institute and the Davis Center for Russian Studies of Harvard University – Southborough, Mass., February 9.

- Neonila Stecki, 77, Ukrainian community activist in area of cultural affairs and director of the Ridna Shkola, the school of Ukrainian studies, in Buffalo – Sarasota, Fla., March 10.

- Anne K. Dubas, 80, accountant and banker, and former Ukrainian National Association Advisor – Lanoka Harbor, N.J., March 26.

- Kvitka (Kacey) Cisyk, 44, popular singer of Ukrainian folk songs and voice for commercial spots for leading U.S. products and institutions – New York, March 29.

- Bishop Teodor Majkowycz, 66, the first bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Wroclaw-Gdansk, Poland – May 9.

- Dr. Teodozia Sawyckyj, 80, social worker and community activist, honorary member of Ukrainian National Women's League of America – Riverside, Conn., May 9.

- Dr. Bohdan Struminski, 68, Harvard-based scholar, specialist in Ukrainian, Polish and Old Slavic historical linguistics; editor and translator; scholarly consultant to the Hrushevsky Translation Project and translator of the third and seventh volumes of the "History of Ukraine-Rus'" – Arlington, Mass., June 23.

- Claudia Olesnicki, 92, social worker and leading member of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America – St. Louis, Mo., July 2.

- Dr. Oleksandra Kopach, 85, pioneer in Ukrainian secondary school education in Canada, writer and scholar – Toronto, July 12.

- Mykola Lebed, 88, top-level leader of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists of the inter-war and war period, and general secretary of the External Representation of the Ukrainian Supreme Liberation Council – Pittsburgh, July 19.

- Walter Klawnik, past national commander of the Ukrainian American Veterans, and former president of Ukrainian National Association Branch 325 – Bayside, N.Y., July 24.

- Nina Strokata, 72, microbiologist, noted activist of the Ukrainian human rights movement and a former Soviet political prisoner – Baltimore, August 2.

- Jaroslaw Padoch, 89, lawyer and leading member of the Ukrainian American community who held top positions in the Plast scouting organization, the Ukrainian National Association and the Shevchenko Scientific Society in the U.S. – New York, August 28.

- The Rev. Petro Borys Tereshkovych Bilaniuk, 66, prominent Ukrainian Catholic theologian and clergyman, leading authority on the theology and history of the Eastern Christian Churches; professor at the department of theology and religious studies, St. Michael's College, University of Toronto – Toronto, September 8.

- Dr. Bohdan R. Bociurkiw, 73, distinguished scholar, specialist in Soviet and post-Soviet politics, with a special interest in Soviet religious policy, particularly in Ukraine; author of "The Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church and the Soviet State (1939-1950)," published in 1996; professor of political science and founding director, Institute of Soviet and East European Studies, at Carleton University; and one of the founders of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies; member of the Canadian Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee in the Department of the Secretary of State (1973-1979) and consultant to several ministers of state for multiculturalism – Ottawa, October 1.

- Bohdan T. Hnatiuk, 83, aeronautical engineer and consultant, professor emeritus at Drexel University, auditor of the Ukrainian National Association and honorary member of the UNA General Assembly – Merion Park, Pa., November 28.

- Irene Czajkowskyj, 81, honorary member of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, active member of the Plast scouting organization, in western Ukraine (Vykhovna Spilka Ukrainskoyi Molodi) and subsequently in the U.S., member of the Ti Scho Hrebli Rvut Plast Sorority – Clifton, N.J., December 6.

At The Weekly, life goes on...

When last we wrote, The Ukrainian Weekly was a mere 64 years old. This year we turned 65. Certainly an age considered respectable ...

It was a year full of departures and new beginnings, a difficult year for those of us who remained on the abbreviated staff of The Ukrainian Weekly – and still managed to put out issues each and every week containing an amazing 1,406 articles.

We bid farewell to our colleague Khristina Lew on January 23, her last day with the UNA's English-language publication. Ms. Lew resigned from The Weekly's editorial staff to take on the position of director of public relations for "Focus: Ukraine," a get-the-vote-out effort in Ukraine led by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development through the Eurasia Foundation. Ms. Lew had joined The Weekly staff on November 26, 1990. Three months later she was named an assistant editor at the paper. In the November of 1991, while on a three-week leave from The Weekly, Ms. Lew participated in the "Aktiv Voli" campaign in Ukraine's eastern oblasts, which was aimed at promoting support for Ukrainian independence in preparation for the December 1, 1991, referendum. Ms. Lew served three tours of duty at the Ukrainian National Association's Kyiv Press Bureau: August through October 1992, July through September 1995 and mid-July through August 1997.

Due to cutbacks mandated by our publisher, we were never allowed to fill the vacancy created by Ms. Lew's departure. Thus, we were down to two and a half staffers in Parsippany, one in Kyiv and one in Toronto.

Our April 12 issue was the last in a long line of Weeklies published at the UNA's Jersey City facility, located in what was once the Ukrainian National Association's headquarters building; it was the last to be printed on the UNA's own Goss offset press. The first run off that press was The Weekly's November 15, 1975, issue – then still a four-page broadsheet edition – soon after the press had been installed in the UNA's then new headquarters building at 30 Montgomery St. Later, the Ukrainian-language Svoboda began to be printed daily on that press. (It wasn't until May 26, 1976, that the editorial staffs of Svoboda and The Weekly moved into the new 15-story building from the previous UNA building located a few blocks away at



Front page of The Ukrainian Weekly's 65th anniversary issue dated October 4, 1998.

81-83 Grand St.) Those same offset presses were the ones that printed The Ukrainian Weekly's first 16-page tabloid issue dated July 4, 1976. Later, with the installation of a third Goss unit on December 17, 1991 (our gift that year from St. Nicholas, we mused in our yearend issue), that press printed our first 20-page issue dated February 2, 1992, and the first 24-pager dated May 17, 1992.

But the shutdown of the Svoboda print shop for us was also a story of the people who worked there for many years – in particular the four employees of the printing and expedition operations who were laid off as a result of the closing. We wrote: "The shutdown of the Svoboda Press print shop marks the end of an era. Therefore, it is fitting that we say a quiet thank you to the many hard-working and dedicated employees who saw to it that the UNA's publications were printed and sent to faithful readers around the globe."

1998 was also the year we marked the sad demise of the Svoboda Ukrainian-language daily newspaper, up to then prestigiously known as "the oldest and largest continuously published Ukrainian-language daily in the world."

As we explained in our June 28 editorial, "as of July 1 the Svoboda daily is no more. The reasons for its demise are complex. The easiest way to explain the decrease in its frequency from a daily (published five times per week) to a weekly is to simply cite the decision made by the recently concluded 34th Regular Convention of the Ukrainian National Association. It was claimed that the main financial drain on the UNA were its publications; that due to financial considerations the UNA could no longer sustain a daily."

As Svoboda stood on the threshold of a new beginning, we took a look back at that newspaper's unparalleled record of service. From its very inception on September 15, 1893, Svoboda was a builder and initiator. As one former editor-in-chief, Anthony Dragan, wrote: "In the beginning was the word." Indeed, already in its fourth issue, Svoboda, which billed itself as the people's newspaper, called for the establishment of a national organization to serve as the protector and benefactor of our community. Less than four months later the Ruskyi Narodnyi Soyuz (which later became the Ukrainskyi Narodnyi Soyuz) was born.

Svoboda also was an enlightener. It promoted education among the people, encouraged their political involvement in American life and raised their national consciousness. It was Svoboda, according to immigration historian Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, that forged the Ukrainian national identity in America.

The paper was a crusader as well. It promoted Ukrainian national aspirations and fought for Ukraine's independence, revealed the truth about the Great Famine, spoke out for displaced persons following World War II and defended the independence newly

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regained during this decade. It spearheaded the campaigns for a Taras Shevchenko monument in Washington and the establishment of Ukrainian studies at Harvard University, and it was an advocate for repressed and persecuted Ukrainian activists for human, national and religious rights.

And, as our communities lost their geographic cohesiveness, Svoboda became our network. It kept us in touch with one another. It kept us informed about developments both in Ukraine and in our diaspora, as well as closer to home. It gave us a forum to share our achievements and losses, our good news and bad.

Svoboda Editor-in-Chief Zenon Snylyk, who retired after 18 years in that position and 18 years prior to that as editor of The Ukrainian Weekly, understood full well the great import of the Svoboda daily. He knew that Svoboda's role was to serve the community and the Ukrainian nation, and that these were his "imperatives" as its editor-in-chief. He knew that the Ukrainian-language daily was a fraternal benefit crucial to the UNA's very identity as a fraternal organization, that Svoboda was its public countenance, that in the eyes of the public Svoboda and the UNA were one and the same. He also knew what his illustrious predecessors knew: that through Svoboda the UNA supported our community and our nation.

As the Svoboda daily completed its last press run on June 30, we bid it adieu.

As the new Svoboda weekly appeared on July 1, marking a new phase in the life of this proud newspaper, we wished our sister publication well.

At The Weekly we tried to introduce some innovations this year. For example, we started off the year with a series called "Doing Business in Ukraine" written by Roman Woronowycz of our Kyiv Press Bureau. Sensing that there still was not enough in our paper about the business world, in October we introduced a new feature which we dubbed "Business in Brief." On December 13 we introduced a new monthly column, "Focus on Philately" written by Dr. Inger Kuzych.

As this year was a year of parliamentary elections in Ukraine, Mr. Woronowycz filed a series of candidate profiles in an attempt to depict the diversity of the political spectrum that existed at that point in time in Ukraine. He and our colleagues Yarema Bachynsky, R.L. Chomiak and Marta Dyczok filed reports on the elections from places as far-ranging as Kharkiv, Symferopol, Lviv and Radekhiv.

Our second annual pre-summer supplement, "A Ukrainian Summer" published on June 7, gave our readers some ideas about "where to go, what to do ..." including a new tourist destination being billed as "Kalyna Country" in western Canada.

In August, we celebrated the seventh anniversary of Ukraine's independence along with the rest of the Ukrainian world. Our special issue on that occasion took a different approach this year, publishing personal reflections on independent Ukraine as well as focusing on the Ukrainian public's perceptions.

Our Toronto bureau, in the person of Andrij Wynnyckyj, was especially busy in the last quarter of the year, what with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress conclave in Winnipeg in October and then the seventh convocation of the Ukrainian World Congress in Toronto in December. (We think Andrij is still digging out from under his papers ...)

Meanwhile, at the home office, we kept Irene Jarosewich busy on the Church beat, covering major Church events, doing interviews, and gathering news on the Sobor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. (because no press was allowed to be present at the sessions) ... besides all her regular duties. Ika Koznarska Casanova, kept busy as our arts editor. Thank goodness for our stalwart production staff: Awilda Rolon and Serge Polishchuk. (Pity they no longer give Stakhanov awards ...)

And then, of course, there are our loyal regular correspondents: Yaro Bihun in Washington, Chris Guly in Ottawa, our columnists (Dr. Kuropas, Andrew Fedynsky, Orysia Paszczak Tracz, Helen Smindak, Ihor Stelmach) and commentators, and numerous freelancers and community activists who have a special connection to this newspaper. What would we do without them?

Proof that Weekly editors never really leave The Weekly came repeatedly during the year. And that is how we gained a Disney World correspondent, Natalia Warren, who kept us posted concerning developments at EPCOT over the proposed Ukrainian Pavilion. Ms. Warren, then Ms. Dmytrijuk, was on The Weekly staff in 1984-1985.

Since this was our 65th anniversary year, we prepared a two-page spread in our October 4 issue to mark that milestone. We published an editorial headlined "Continuing the mission 65 years later"; focused on the founding of The Weekly in our "Turning the pages back ..." feature; reprinted UNA Supreme President Nicholas Murashko's statement that announced the premiere issue of The Weekly on October 6, 1933; announced the unveiling of The Weekly's collection of materials about the Great Famine located on our official website, (<http://www.ukrweekly.com/>); and printed The Weekly Questionnaire, which asked for readers to evaluate the newspaper's contents and performance. (More on the questionnaire in early 1999 when we announce the results of our tabulation of readers' responses ...)

Soon thereafter Editor-in-Chief Roma Hadzercwycz received an anniversary greeting from Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, who stated: "Thanks to the professionalism of your editors and reporters, you are the first to report on many events in the life of the Ukrainian community in the United States and Canada. Through its effective and analytical work, your publication attracts the attention of officials of the U.S. administration and Congress. You have established strong communications with representatives of the Ukrainian government at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington. The pages of The Ukrainian Weekly publicize profound discussions of the most significant topics in the history of the Ukrainian nation, both in the homeland and abroad. ... The newspaper has earned for itself many true friends, who at any moment could be organized into a Society of Friends of The Ukrainian Weekly. For the future, we wish The Weekly much creative success, a high level of authoritativeness and a greater number of readers – not only in North America but also in Ukraine."

Getting back to our website, The Ukrainian Weekly Archive was originally unveiled with 3,300 articles on April 6. On August 21 we announced that our site on the Worldwide Web, then containing 3,853 articles, had moved to its new official site at <http://www.ukrweekly.com/>.

The website, which now contains more than 4,000 articles, 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., the special issue published on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group (1986), 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), as well as 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 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 is prepared by the newspaper's editorial and production staffs.

As already mentioned, the website was expanded on the occasion of our 65th anniversary to include a special section on the Famine – the largest collection of materials on the Internet dedicated to the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine. The special section includes a chronology of the Famine years, eyewitness accounts, editorials, media reports, stories about observances of the Famine's 50th anniversary in 1983, scholarly articles, interviews with journalists who reported on the Famine, transcripts of testimony on the Famine commission bill ultimately passed by the U.S. Congress, texts of statements before the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, references and other documentation, as well as the full text of The Ukrainian Weekly's special issue on the Great Famine published on March 20, 1983.

In addition to our anniversary, another milestone this year was our first 28-page issue, published on November 8. But that pales in comparison to this issue – the largest we've ever printed at a whopping and weighty 44 pages!

Dear Readers: You may wonder at this point why we would even want to produce such a huge issue given the small size of our staff. The answer is to be found in our 65th anniversary editorial. Simply stated, the paper was born with a dual mission: "to keep Ukrainian American



Cover page of "A Ukrainian Summer," supplement to The Ukrainian Weekly's June 7, 1998, issue.

youth involved in the Ukrainian community and to tell the world the truth about Ukraine." That mission has been expanded through the years, but its core is the same: commitment to our communities in the United States and Canada, and to Ukraine.

As we explained to readers on the occasion of our anniversary:

"We pride ourselves on the fact that we have been faithfully serving readers for 65 years by covering news and issues of concern to our community, and serving as a forum for the exchange of ideas and as a newspaper of record. ... During the course of six and a half decades our community and its members have undergone tremendous changes, and The Weekly has grown and matured with them. It has changed to meet the needs of new generations – all the while continuing to work for the Ukrainian commonweal."

During this anniversary year we asked: "Where do we see ourselves at 65 and beyond?"

And we answered without hesitation: "Continuing as the voice of our community and as a purveyor of information about Ukraine and Ukrainians wherever they may be. As long as there's a Ukrainian community, The Ukrainian Weekly will have a *raison d'être*."

P.S.: As in past holiday seasons, this year, at the time of the writing of this mammoth yearend issue, we received a special delivery from Bill and Dozia Pastuszek. Our sincere thanks to them for providing sustenance to the hard-working staffers at The Weekly. Thanks also to our faithful readers and correspondents who took the time to send us Christmas greetings.

Now we would like to take some time to thank all of you, Dear Readers, for being there, for reading, for commenting on our paper.

May your Christmas season be joyous and may the New Year, 1999, bring you good fortune, good health and good news!

Author, author

The materials in this special end-of-the-year section of The Ukrainian Weekly were prepared by our editorial staff at our home office in Parsippany, N.J., Editor-in-Chief Roma Hadzercwycz, and Editors Irene Jarosewich and Ika Koznarska Casanova; Editor Roman Woronowycz of our Kyiv Press Bureau; Editor Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj of our Toronto Press Bureau; our Washington correspondent, Yaro Bihun; and our Ottawa correspondent, Christopher Guly. Our regular contributor Dr. David R. Marples of the University of Alberta provided an analysis of the Great Famine of 1932-1933.

Tkachenko, in Moscow...

(Continued from page 1)

firmed that in Moscow he had called for a common economic space with Russia and Belarus. However, he categorically denied he had spoken about reviving the USSR.

"When I talk about a common economic space [with Russia and Belarus] this is completely different from another Soviet Union," Mr. Tkachenko said.

He added that he is sure the people of the three Slavic nations will support the idea of a common economic space, as well as a common currency. "I am sure that Russians and Ukrainians would support the common economic space and the creation of a common currency," he said.

In Moscow Mr. Tkachenko also had promised Mr. Seleznyov that the Ukrainian Parliament in January will join the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), despite very strong opposition from the centrist and right-wing factions in Verkhovna Rada.

"That is correct - Ukraine will join the Interparliamentary Assembly in January 1999. I spoke with President Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko before the visit and they promised to support this idea," Mr.

Tkachenko said.

But right-wing and centrist Ukrainian parties and their parliamentary factions have declared that any ideas about a union or joining the Interparliamentary Assembly will never be supported by their deputies.

They said such proposals are dangerous for Ukrainian independence and threaten Ukraine's sovereignty, pushing Kyiv to dependence on its northern neighbors.

Leaders of most Ukrainian democratic, centrist and right-wing parties, such as Rukh, the Reform and Order Party, and the National Democratic Party, signed a statement condemning anti-Ukrainian ideas and demanded that he be replaced as Rada chairman.

Commenting about Ukraine's membership in the Interparliamentary Assembly, Roman Besmertny, President Kuchma's representative in Parliament, said that Mr. Tkachenko's declarations could destroy cooperation among President Kuchma, his government and the Verkhovna Rada.

Oleksander Iliashkevych, a member of the Hromada faction in Parliament, said, "Mr. Tkachenko is running very resolutely for president, using his post [as Rada chairman]. ...I think President Kuchma has already understood he made a mistake in accepting Mr. Tkachenko as the chairman of the Parliament."

Ukraine's new...

(Continued from page 1)

the Ukrainian American community and Mr. Buteiko. "But they will be more businesslike, with less camaraderie," he said.

Mr. Gawdiak said there was nothing in what Ambassador Buteiko said that evening which would suggest any impending problems between him and the Ukrainian American community.

UNA President Ulana Diachuk said she, too, expects good relations between the Ukrainian American community and the new envoy. "But we have to understand one thing," she added. "He represents the interests of Ukraine, and we represent the interests of Ukrainian Americans. And we do not have to agree with him on every point."

As for Ambassador Buteiko's presentation and responses to questions, she said, "We could subscribe to everything that he said tonight. But there may be instances in the future when we will disagree with the

position of Ukraine, which he represents. And we have to accept that fact," she added.

The UNA president said she liked the point he made about how the younger generation growing up in Ukraine today is completely different from the older generation and that, ultimately, this new generation will raise Ukraine to its heights.

"In the meantime, we have to persevere as the older generation, which is holding back political and economic progress in Ukraine, slowly is replaced," Mrs. Diachuk said.

Representing the largest Ukrainian American professionals organization, The Washington Group, President Orest Deychakiwsky described Mr. Buteiko as a "very impressive figure, ... one of the chief architects of Ukraine's pro-Western policy."

He said the new ambassador's first exchange with Ukrainian American leaders was productive. "We got a sense of how he approaches issues, how he thinks," Mr. Deychakiwsky said.

Kuchma predicts...

(Continued from page 1)

win the presidential elections next year," said Mr. Pynzenyk, who quit the government last year after accusing it of not being truly dedicated to economic reform.

Ivan Zayets, a leader of the Rukh Party, added at the press conference announcing the union that it is open to other democratically oriented political parties.

Taras Stetskiv, head of Lviv branch of the National Democratic Party, whose best-known member is Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko and which sides with President Kuchma on most issues, said his party is discussing the possibility of joining the Rukh-Reform and Order coalition.

"The union of Rukh and the Reform and Order Party is an extremely positive event for Ukraine, and I expect that a few other centrist parties, including the National Democratic Party, might join the union," said Mr. Stetskiv. "This coalition is the real opponent to the left's re-entrenchment in Ukraine - not Kuchma," he added.

President Kuchma faces uncertain times because both left- and right-wing political parties blame the him for the country's unsuccessful economic policies. Both sides accuse the president of doing too little to steer the former Soviet republic out of its prolonged economic slump - one that has been aggravated by the spill-over effects of the crisis gripping neighboring Russia.

Some leftists have resisted attempting to topple the current government before presidential elections to avoid sharing the blame for the economic situation. President Kuchma has said that he would invite Communists to form a government if the current Pustovoitenko-led Cabinet of Ministers is forced to resign.

The president and his government face grave problems, including payment of more than \$2 billion in arrears to workers and pensioners who have gone without pay for months, and finding a way to repay domestic and foreign debts. Average monthly wages are equivalent to \$60, while pensions range from \$15 to \$17.

President Kuchma also suggested at the press conference with regional press representatives that the president's constitutional right to issue economic decrees - a temporary provision in the 1996 Constitution that is to expire in June 1999 - should be extended for another five years.

The president said he is considering calling a national referendum to make the needed constitutional change and other possible amendment. "I do not see any other way in the future but to hold an all-Ukrainian referendum on major articles of Ukraine's Constitution," said Mr. Kuchma.

Among the amendments he proposed is a provision to replace Ukraine's single-chamber Verkhovna Rada, whose Communist-led leadership has blocked much of President Kuchma's economic reform legislation, with a bicameral body.



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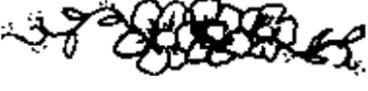
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“New Figures, New Faces” exhibit to open in Toronto

by Yuriy Diakunchak

TORONTO – The art exhibit “New Figures, New Faces” will open at the Ukrainian Canadian Art Foundation in Toronto on December 27 and runs until January 27, 1999. The exhibit, curated by Toronto artist Petro Lopata, will showcase the talents of young, mostly Canadian, artists of Ukrainian heritage.

According to Mr. Lopata’s mission statement, the show is an attempt to take the pulse of contemporary figures and portraiture being created by young Ukrainian artists. It reads: “This may give us a glimpse, albeit in embryonic form, of what to expect in the art of the early portion of the new millennium.”

Mr. Lopata has been working on getting young artists together, in fits and starts, over the past few years. In 1997 he helped organize an exhibit titled “Young Art: Lviv-Toronto” at the UCAF, which showcased artists from Canada and Ukraine. He also participated in “Rising Stars of Ukraine and Canada” in Charlotte, N.C. that same year, and other group shows in earlier years.

“‘New Figures, New Faces’ has been germinating in the back of my head for a while now because of the other shows that I have done,” said Mr. Lopata in a recent interview. “One of the defects of previous shows I put together was this lack of a common thread running through the works, other than that the artists were young and Ukrainian,” said the 25-year-old Mr. Lopata.

“One thing that bugs me about group shows is when they lack a thematic consistency. It turns into a store setting, where everything is ‘commodified.’ There’s no point to the show except to sell stuff. ‘New Figures, New Faces’ not only connects the theme of the show, but also describes the people participating,” Mr. Lopata said.

As the title of the new show suggests, it will focus on the human face and figure. “The figure has been a source of inspiration since the Venus of Willendorf 30,000 years ago,” the curator said. “Running all through art history there is this thread of figurative art ... from the Scythian ‘baby’ [found in the Ukrainian steppes] – all the way to the New Realists in the 1990s,” said Mr. Lopata.

According to its organizer, the show’s name has a double meaning. It serves as a general description of the art to be shown, but also refers to the artists themselves. Most of them will be new to many gallery visitors. “One thing I was trying to achieve with this show is find those people not known to the Ukrainian art-going public in Toronto,” Mr. Lopata said. “In a way I am bringing them back into the fold.”

In part, the “New Faces” curator sees the show as a response from youth to the question of the future of the Ukrainian community in the coming millennium, a topic currently being debated in North America. “I can say for Toronto, we are doing okay. You don’t have to worry about Ukrainian art dying out here,” he noted.

Mr. Lopata said he hopes the show will help strengthen the community as a whole by supporting emerging talent, at the same time he hopes to give the artists “firm footing within the profoundly uncertain art business ... by providing them with exposure to the public at large ... and the potential for financial reward.”

Mr. Lopata began organizing this

show by mailing out some 700 pamphlets to galleries, art schools, museums and Ukrainian organizations across North America. Half of the pamphlets went to non-Ukrainian organizations in the hope of reaching young Ukrainians who are not actively involved in the community. He received responses from as far away as Brazil.

Only one artist from the United States will be at the show, which narrows the focus of the show to a mostly Canadian exhibit. “To be honest with you, I was hoping for a better response from the States,” the organizer said. “I haven’t gotten many responses, even though most of my information packets went there.”

Other problems included initial hostility from the the UCAF board. “As soon as I approached UCAF to do this, there was already some of the older generation saying ‘Oh, look at the big curator!’” But that sentiment passed quickly and now Mr. Lopata said these erstwhile critics want him to join their organization, the Ukrainian Association of Visual Artists of Canada, to inject some fresh blood.

Mr. Lopata also said he worries his show may fall victim to the UCAF board four-person Art Committee’s recent proposal to reserve final say over any paintings included in exhibits at the UCAF.

The curator is worried that a piece by multi-media artist Roman Lysiak may draw the ire of the committee. Roman Lysiak’s untitled mixed media work – a box with five slides on metal runners – requires its audience to interact with the work by pulling the slides out. “Instead of the normal, static dialogue with a work of art, in which the only physical occurrence is the viewer’s bombardment with patterns of light and color,” Mr. Lopata explained, “the viewer becomes an actual kinetic participant in the process of the work’s unfolding and is met with a startling final image that breaks down notions of prejudice and comments on the frailty of human expectations.”

That said, he fears the committee will find the piece inappropriate for the gallery because it is so far removed from the typical visual art displayed there.

Though Mr. Lopata provided \$500 of his own funds to start the mail-outs, he has since received a \$2,200 grant from the Shevchenko Foundation through the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Toronto branch. The grant money will be used to print a catalogue of the works exhibited and will include biographical sketches of participating artists.

Artists whose work is slated to appear in the show include Mr. Lysiak, holographist Mirosława Betlej, painter Marko Koropecky, print maker Oksana Movchan, photographer Terry Pidsany, woodworker and painter Ihor Polischuk, photographer Vitali Pozdnyakov, painter Marina Pribytkov and painter Christina Yarmol, all from Toronto. Also participating will be painter Andrij Korchynsky from Philadelphia, textile artist Barry Goodman from Montréal, painter Janet Prebushewsky-Danyliuk from Saskatoon and painter Nazar Hrytzkiv currently from Prague.

Messrs. Hrytzkiv, Pozdnyakov, Korchynsky and Polischuk, Ms. Movchan and Ms. Pribytkov are originally from Ukraine. Ms. Betlej is originally from Poland.

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Drama anthologies presented in Philadelphia

by Dr. Jaroslaw Zalipsky

PHILADELPHIA – A presentation of two anthologies of Ukrainian drama, compiled and edited by Larissa M.L.Z. Onyshkevych, was held on October 17 at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center.

The event was sponsored jointly by the Philadelphia chapter of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) and Branch 43 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.

The two anthologies, published in Ukrainian are "The Twins Shall Meet Again: An Anthology of Ukrainian Drama in the Diaspora" (Kyiv/Lviv, Chas publishers, 1997) and "An Anthology of Modern Ukrainian Drama" (Edmonton, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, 1998), which gives an overview of Ukrainian drama from the turn of the century up to the 1990s.

The program was opened by Anna Maksymovych, president of UNWLA Branch 43, who introduced Dr. Onyshkevych and briefly spoke of the significance of her work, while Svoboda editor Olha Kuzmowycz, who chaired the program, spoke of Dr. Onyshkevych as an NTSh and Plast activist.

Prof. Leonid Rudnytzky of LaSalle University and NTSh president, spoke of Dr. Onyshkevych's scholarly achievements and the significance of the 1997 anthology. Prof. Hanna Chumachenko of the Kherson Pedagogical Institute, currently a Fulbright scholar at the Harriman Institute, considered the two anthologies in terms of their significance for the study and understanding of Ukrainian literature.

The last presentation was by Dr. Onyshkevych, who in discussing the Ukrainian drama of the diaspora, gave an overview of the three waves of playwrights, the main attributes of their plays, and the balancing factor they pro-

vided to literature in Ukraine by being attuned to current Western literary trends. Dr. Onyshkevych also referred to the modernist and post-modernist aspects of the plays in both anthologies.

Dr. Onyshkevych, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, is past president of the Princeton Research Forum and executive vice-president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. She is the author of numerous articles and reviews on Ukrainian literature, especially drama; author and editor of five books, among them "Existentialism in Modern Ukrainian Drama" and "Lytsar Neabsurdnykh Idei: Borys Antonenko Davydovych"; and co-editor of five compilations, including a chapter on Ukrainian poetry in "Shifting Borders: East European Poetries of the 1980s" (Rutherford, N.J., Fairleigh Dickinson University, 1993) and "Essays on Ukrainian Orthography and Language" (New York, NTSh, 1997).

As a Fulbright senior scholar she taught last fall at the Ivan Franko Lviv State University, where her anthology of Ukrainian drama in the diaspora was presented. The work was received with widespread interest and acknowledgment as an important contribution to the field.

Taking part in a musical interlude to the literary program were Prof. Yaropolk Lassowsky of Clarion University and Dr. Daria Lassowsky Nebesh.

Ludmyla Chaikowska, organizer of the entertainment program, took the opportunity to introduce to the public former actors of the Ukrainian stage who were present in the audience.

The program was closed by Dr. Jaroslaw Zalipsky, president of the Philadelphia branch of NTSh.

(For the New York presentation of Dr. Onyshkevych's anthology of drama of the Ukrainian diaspora, see Tania Keis's article in the April 5 issue of The Weekly.)



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Saskatchewan Premier...

(Continued from page 3)

Canadians, I have such a faith in the future of Ukraine.

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We know very well that the Ukrainian people have always been able to make things grow, as they've proved from time immemorial. They've done so in Ukraine, they've done so in Canada – and everywhere else they have had the chance to put plow into soil. And just as that Canadian soil was sown with hope and dreams of Ukrainian immigrants, so too can Ukrainian soil be fertile ground for the seeds of tolerance, freedom and respect – the seeds of hope and democracy!

Ukraine faces challenges, of course. But the truth is that all countries around the world are subject to stresses and strains, and Canada has its share.

On Monday of this week, a separatist provincial government was re-elected in the province of Quebec.

It is a testament to the strength of Canadian democracy – and to the fundamental strength of the unity of this country – that this can happen in the calm, serene manner that it did.

It is also a testament to the continuing attachment of Quebecers to Canada that 57 percent of them voted for parties who do not favor any more referendums on separation. The overwhelming majority of Quebecers confirm this view in public opinion polls. A healthy and growing majority indicate they would vote to keep Canada united if a referendum was held.

Provincial governments outlined what we mean by this in a declaration signed by all federalist premiers in Calgary a year ago. The first phase to implement the

Calgary Declaration is to affirm and strengthen Canada's social union – the social programs through which we express shared Canadian values of compassion and community. It's time to get back to work.

It's time for serious, good-faith negotiations between the federal government and the provinces over the social union. It's time for real, forthright negotiations involving appropriate give-and-take.

Here is what we should not do. We should not be boxed into a rigid, inflexible negotiating posture designed to fail. Nor should we be boxed in to a rigid, inflexible timetable designed to fail.

Canada is one of the world's great achievements. I have every faith that we will find the road through our distempers and our disputes, in the quiet, incremental, consensus-building way this country was built.

I believe we can do it. I believe that we can collectively create the winning conditions for Canada. To me, that means building a better, stronger, more cooperative federation, in which all governments work together in the interests of citizens. And we can start by successfully completing our negotiations on the new social union for Canada.

And I have faith that the resilient, hard-working people of Ukraine can meet and beat their own daunting challenges to become a prosperous and peaceable member of the democratic community of nations.

I believe we can do it – and I believe Ukrainians can do it. Friends, Prime Minister Laurier once advised Canadians, "to let hope in our future be the pillar of fire to guide us." In Ukraine, you have used hope as your torch throughout this tumultuous decade.

I believe in the future. I believe in the future of the Canada-Ukraine partnership. And I believe in the future of a free, democratic and proud Ukraine. Thank you very much. God bless Ukraine, and God bless Canada.

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TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 127
As of January 1, 1999, the secretary's duties of Branch 127 will be assumed by Ms. Irene Waszczak. We ask all members of this Branch to direct all correspondence regarding membership and insurance, as well as their membership premiums to the address listed below:
Ms. Irene Waszczak
248 Towers Blvd
Cheektowaga, NY 14227
(716) 668-1618

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 126
Please be advised that Branch 126 will merge with Branch 161 as of January 1, 1999. All inquiries, monthly payments and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Nicholas Diakiwsky.
Mr. Nicholas Diakiwsky
2065 Ridge Rd. Ext.
Ambridge, Pa. 15003
(412) 251-9266

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To The Weekly Contributors:

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

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

Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

be the only state assets that could attract large-scale foreign investments into the country. According to Ukrtelekom officials, Ukraine could raise some \$2.4 billion by selling a 25 percent stake in the company. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada rejects Crimean Constitution

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on December 15 voted 210-89 to approve the new Constitution of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, but fell 16 votes short of the required majority of 226 votes, the Associated Press reported. Lawmakers from the pro-government National Democratic Party criticized Crimea's basic law for containing "separatist provisions," in particular those allowing Crimea to engage in economic activities abroad and the Crimean parliamentary chairman to sign international agreements and treaties. The opposition Rukh, Hromada, and Green parties opposed the provision stipulating that taxes collected in Crimea are to be channeled only to the autonomous republic's budget. They added that the document fails to ensure the official status of the Ukrainian language and to provide for the rights of Crimean Tatars. The Verkhovna Rada has set up a commission composed of Crimean Tatar and Kyiv legislators to examine the disputed provisions. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Tax breaks for completion of reactors

KYIV – Ukraine's legislature on December 16 approved three-year profit tax breaks for companies financing the completion of two nuclear reactors at the Rivne and Khmelnytskyi nuclear power plants. A member of the Verkhovna Rada's Nuclear Safety Committee told the Associated Press that the reactors are 80 percent finished and the bill on tax breaks will allow construction to be completed within two years. Ukraine wants those reactors to compensate for the loss of electricity after the planned closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in 2000. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Udoenko at non-proliferation summit

KYIV – National Deputy Hennadii Udoenko participated on December 16 in a Tokyo forum on nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, sponsored by the Hiroshima Institute of Peace. The forum aims to prepare recommendations on non-proliferation initiatives, concentrating particularly on the Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests. Mr. Udoenko stressed that Ukrainians, who experienced awful results of the Chernobyl disaster, understand the real danger of nuclear weapons. (Eastern Economist)

Luhansk miners halt six-month picket

KYIV – Following the attempted storming of the regional administration building in Luhansk, eastern Ukraine, by picketing miners, the Coal Mining Ministry has transferred 1.4 million hryvni (\$400,000) to pay back wages, Ukrainian Television reported. Some striking miners in the Luhansk Oblast will receive payment only after a month, however. In the meantime, miners have

dismantled a tent camp where they had lived for nearly six months in order to picket the Luhansk administration building to demand the payment of wage arrears. Some 200 miners had attempted to storm the regional administration on December 16. Police managed to stop the miners after they pushed down iron barriers in front of the building. The incident occurred two days after one of the protesting miners set himself on fire. Ukraine's miners are owed more than 2 billion hryvni (\$580 million) in back wages. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Pustovoitenko signs agreements in Tbilisi

TBILISI – Meeting on December 7 in the Georgian capital, Ukraine's Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko and Georgian Minister of State Vazha Lortkipanidze signed a 10-year agreement on economic cooperation, as well as accords on trade, banking, culture and transportation, Interfax and Caucasus Press reported. The two leaders discussed coordinating efforts to prevent a further devaluation of their countries' currencies. Mr. Pustovoitenko also held talks with President Eduard Shevardnadze, Parliament Chairman Zurab Zhvania and Foreign Affairs Minister Irakli Menagharishvili. The Ukrainian leader told Mr. Menagharishvili that Ukraine is willing to host talks between Georgian and Abkhaz representatives on confidence-building measures in order to expedite a settlement of the Abkhaz conflict. Mr. Pustovoitenko also inspected the oil terminal under construction at Georgia's Black Sea port of Supsa and again affirmed Ukraine's interest in exporting via its territory Caspian oil shipped by tanker from Supsa to Odessa, Interfax reported. He also visited Batumi, where he discussed the prospects for bilateral cooperation with Adjar Supreme Council Chairman Aslan Abashidze. A rail ferry service between Batumi, Poti and Ilichevsk was to begin operating on December 19 after several postponements. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma signs World Bank deal

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma signed a draft law on a \$200 million World Bank loan to upgrade Kyiv's heating system, the Associated Press reported on December 9. The deal must be ratified by the Verkhovna Rada and is still subject to the International Monetary Fund's approval of the government's reform program. The money would be used to modernize the city's power plants. (RFE/RL Newsline)

The human cost of coal mining

KYIV – Each ton of coal extracted in Ukraine costs the lives of five miners through accidents on the job. As of December 1, 344 miners died in Ukraine, which is 90 more than in 1997, reported the State Labor Protection Committee Chairman Stanislav Tkachuk. In 1998 the number of miners had decreased and the amount of coal extracted was reduced. (Eastern Economist)

Dynamo star signed by Lisbon

KYIV – Benfica of Portugal has signed Ukrainian defender Oleh Luzhnyi, 30, to a three-and-a-half year contract from Dynamo Kyiv, according to the Lisbon soccer club's president, Joao Vale e Azevedo. (Eastern Economist)

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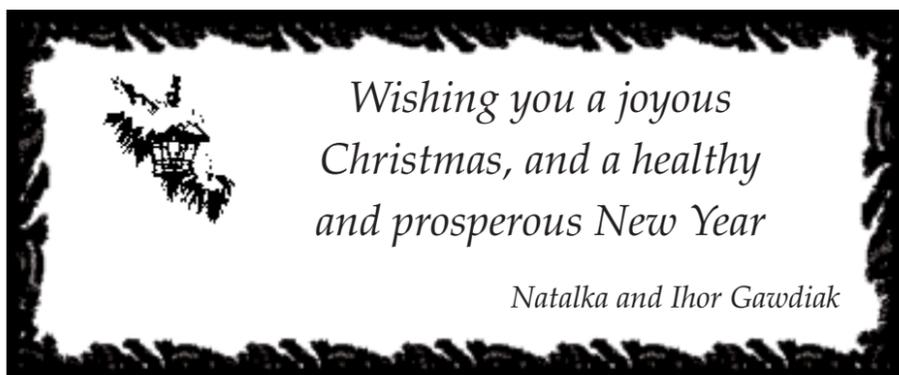
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Ukrainian Dancers of Miami to celebrate 50th anniversary

MIAMI – In honor of their golden jubilee season, the Ukrainian Dancers of Miami will be holding a traditional Malanka celebration on January 15-17, 1999, at the Sheraton Fort Lauderdale Airport Hotel in Dania, Fla.

The Saturday night dinner-dance will feature the popular Canadian band Burya in its last public performance. The three-day event also includes a Friday evening cocktail reception and a Sunday brunch and comedy show with “Barabolya.” For tickets and event information, visit the web at <http://www.1phone.com/udofm/>, call (305) 635-6374, or fax (954) 434-5105.

The Ukrainian Dancers of Miami is a group of youthful Ukrainians, ranging in age from 2 to 40+, who learn and perform traditional Ukrainian folk dance. They perform year-round across the state of Florida at festivals, cultural programs and many other shows.

Rooted in the dances and techniques of Vasyi Avramenko, the man who is credited with bringing Ukrainian folk dance to North America, the Ukrainian Dancers of Miami continue to perform many of his classic works, in addition to more updated pieces choreographed by current dancers and other contemporary Ukrainian dancers.

Like the corporation that oversees them, the dancers are dedicated to the promotion and perpetuation of the Ukrainian culture through its music, song and dance.

The Ukrainian Dancers of Miami was founded in the summer of 1949 by a group of young Ukrainians led by Taras Maksymowich, Kay Hodivsky and Olga Maksymowich.

By 1961, the group began sending dancers to cultural workshops at Soyuzivka, which eventually were strictly for dance, and those who participated returned after the summer with renewed enthusiasm, greater skill and fresh ideas. By the 1970s Mr. Maksymowich and Ms. Hodivsky began delegating instruction and choreography responsibilities to these dancers, most notably Taras Hodivsky, Yurko McKay, Hanya Lotocky (nee Maksymowich), and the group's current artistic director, Donna Maksymowich-Waskiewicz.

Today, the dancers include more classical dance elements in their work, while retaining the character of the traditional Ukrainian folk dance. The group's repertoire includes its eight-minute-long signature piece, Hopak. Since the birth of their annual concert, “A Ukrainian Montage,” the group has presented several modern, more interpretive pieces, as well as reintroduced several traditional dances that had not been performed for many years.

The Ukrainian Dancers of Miami have performed at Epcot Center's World Showcase in Walt Disney World, nationally televised Junior and Senior Orange Bowl Parades, the Miami International Folk Festival, the Orlando Arts Fest, the St. Petersburg International Folk Fair and the 1992 UNICEF Tribute to Children. They perform at city-, county- and state-sponsored events, and can be seen at various events throughout the year in South Florida.

The Ukrainian Dancers of Miami Inc. is a not-for-profit organization, and all funding and services are achieved solely through donations and volunteer work.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

to our relatives and friends

from

Dr. Bohdan and Mrs. Valentina Nowakiwsky
and their children

Lisa Nowakiwsky and Dr. Theodore and Klaudia Nowakiwsky

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Thursday, December 31

CHICAGO: The second annual New Year's Eve Charity Ball, sponsored by St. Joseph Ukrainian Catholic Church, will benefit three different charities: the Ukrainian Orphan Aid Society, the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation (for the Lviv Theological Academy), and St. Joseph Charities (to benefit the needy of the Chicago area with a food pantry, gas vouchers, etc.) The ball will be held in the church hall, 5000 N. Cumberland Avenue. Music will be by the Good Times. There will be a liturgy celebrated at 6:30 p.m. The ball will commence with cocktails (cash bar), at 7:30 p.m.; followed by dinner at 8:30 p.m. and dancing at 10 p.m.. Tickets: \$60; \$45, seniors and students; \$20, dance only. For tickets and reservations, contact Motria Durbak, (773) 625-4805 or Areta, (847) 823-0430.

PASSAIC, N.J.: The Ukrainian Center invites all to a New Year's Eve celebration. Admission for the two-floor gala is \$25 and includes a dance featuring the energetic Zahrava orchestra from Toronto in the ballroom and DJ dancing at the downstairs bar. With a full sit-down dinner, the cost is only \$40. Happy hour with half-price drinks is at 8-9 p.m. and dinner will be served at 8:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the Ukrainian Center, 240 Hope Ave., or by calling (973) 473-3379, or (201) 323-1703.

Saturday, January 9, 1999

HARTFORD, Conn.: The traditional Ukrainian New Year's Eve Dance - Malanka will be held at the Ukrainian National Home of Hartford, 961 Wethersfield Ave., at 9 p.m. Dance to the music of Zorepad. Donation: adults, \$20; students, \$15. For ticket and table reservations, call the Ukrainian Gift Shop, (860) 296-6955.

Thursday, January 7, and Saturday January 16, 1999

SAN FRANCISCO: St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church will celebrate Ukrainian Orthodox Christmas on January 7 with a liturgy at 10:30 a.m., to be followed by supper and caroling in the church hall. On January 16, the parish will hold a traditional Ukrainian New Year's celebration (according to the

Julian calendar). The malanka dinner/dance will begin at 7 p.m. in the church hall, with music by the Anatoli Orchestra. Traditional Ukrainian dishes will be served. For reservations and more information call the parish, (415) 863-0237. St. Michael's is located at 345 Seventh St., (between Folsom and Harrison streets, south of Market); it is accessible by Muni Bus 27, 42, and is a short walk from the Civic Center BART Station.

Friday, January 15, 1999

TORONTO: St. Vladimir Institute will host its traditional Ukrainian New Year's Malanka at the institute, 620 Spadina Ave. Delight in the performances of the Arkan Dance Company as they lead you into a magical and enchanting evening of Ukrainian folklore to throw out the old year and welcome the new. Dine with Peter Ochitwa of Mad Apples; dance to the music of Solovey. The all inclusive price of admission is \$80 per person; \$45, students. Cocktails are at 7 p.m., followed by dinner at 8 p.m. Reserve tables and tickets early by calling (416) 923-3318.

Friday, January 22, 1999

NEW YORK: The Harriman Institute at Columbia University together with the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S., the Shevchenko Scientific Society, The Lypynsky Institute, and the Ukrainian Historical Association present "The Second Conference on the Ukrainian Revolution: The Hetmanate." The conference will be held in Room 1512, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, 420 W. 118th St., at 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information contact Prof. Mark von Hagen, (212) 854-6213.

ADVANCE NOTICE Saturday, February 6, 1999

WHIPPANY, N.J.: The Plast Ukrainian youth organization, Newark Branch, is holding its Debutante Ball at the Hanover Marriott. Music will be by Tempo and Luna. Cocktails are at 6:30 p.m.; presentation of debutantes at 7:30 p.m., followed by dinner and dance. Tickets: dinner and dance; \$75; dance only; \$40; \$20, students under age 25. For tickets and reservations call Maria Welyczkowski, (973) 514-1846.

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