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Rukh Party in crisis as parliamentary faction votes to remove Chornovil

by **Katya Gorchinskaya**

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV — The national-democratic party Rukh is going through a major crisis: its leader, Vyacheslav Chornovil, has been removed as the head of the party's faction in Parliament and he has been asked to resign as party leader.

Mr. Chornovil accused his opponents of attempting to split the party to weaken its position before the presidential election — an attempt he said, that was backed by people close to President Leonid Kuchma and other presidential candidates.

Last week members of the Rukh faction voted to remove Mr. Chornovil from his position as head of their faction in the Verkhovna Rada. The party's top executive structure, the central leadership (provid), voted no-confidence in Mr. Chornovil on February 20. The leadership also voted to gather an extraordinary party congress February 28 to discuss the situation and elect a leader.

"This is an attempt to start real reform in the party," said Yuri Kostenko, the new leader of Rukh's parliamentary faction at a press conference after the vote.

In response, Mr. Chornovil ordered a new registration of members of Rukh's parliamentary faction with the intention of casting out his opponents. His re-registered faction will be called The First National Rukh of Ukraine. He will also convene a party congress on March 7.

Rukh is the third-largest faction in Parliament after the Communist and the National Democratic Party factions. The Rukh Party is considered to have the second-strongest regional infrastructure after the Communist Party.

The members of the central leadership opposed to Mr. Chornovil accused him of authoritarian rule of the party and said he has been doing nothing to make Rukh a serious political force around which other parties could unite.

"All the decisions taken by the party leader are undemocratic and against the party," said Mr. Kostenko. He added that Mr. Chornovil even removed party secretary Bohdan Boiko from party management recently, despite his appointment by the central leadership.

Mr. Chornovil countered that the accusations against him are not factual but emotional, and that the decision of the central leadership has no legal validity. "They accuse me of authoritarian rule? But we have the most democratic party statutes and a loose party structure," Mr. Chornovil said at press conference on February 22.

He said the decisions taken by the

(Continued on page 4)

Lazarenko seeks political asylum in U.S.

Former PM remains in custody of INS

by **Roman Woronowycz**

NEW YORK — Ukraine's former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, beleaguered by accusations of improper financial dealings in Ukraine and facing money laundering charges in Switzerland, has requested political asylum in the United States after initially being detained by immigration officials for attempting to enter the country with an improper visa.

According to one of his lawyers, Mr. Lazarenko met with U.S. immigration officials on February 24 for four hours to determine whether the current member of Parliament and leader of the Hromada Party has a credible fear of returning to Ukraine, which would be grounds for granting political asylum.

"Mr. Lazarenko has asked for political asylum," said attorney James Mayock of the San Francisco-based law firm Elliot and Mayock. He said he was satisfied that the interview went well for his client. "My understanding is that it took longer than the average interview. The INS is taking this very seriously," said Mr. Mayock.

Mr. Lazarenko, 46, was detained by United States immigration officials at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York on February 19 after he attempted to enter the country with a passport that carried two visas: one an expired diplomatic visa and the other a standard tourist visa. The immigration officer who inspected Mr. Lazarenko's documents decided that the former Ukrainian prime minister's legitimate visa did not suit his stated reason for visiting the United States and had him detained.

"In our discussions with him, it was clear that the purpose of his entry was not simply to be a casual visitor into the United States," said Immigration and Naturalization spokesman Russ Bergeron.

Mr. Lazarenko was traveling alone when he was detained, said his attorney, Mr. Mayock.

The detention in New York was the culmination of a very unlucky week for Mr. Lazarenko. First, the national deputy saw his immunity from criminal prosecution, a privilege granted all members of the Verkhovna Rada, lifted by his peers in a resounding vote on February 17. The next day a warrant for his arrest was issued by Ukraine's Procurator General's Office. The Ukrainian government has accused Mr. Lazarenko of embezzling funds to the tune of some \$4 million, illegally transferring money out of the country and maintaining illegal foreign bank accounts, according to Bohdan Yaremenko, first vice-consul of Ukraine's Consulate General in New York.

Mr. Lazarenko left Ukraine for Greece a day before the vote in the Parliament,

and while there issued a statement that he was being treated for a heart ailment. After the warrant for his arrest was issued by the Procurator General's Office, authorities asked Interpol on February 20 to have Mr. Lazarenko extradited back to Ukraine from wherever he was found to be staying. Mr. Mayock said the state of Mr. Lazarenko's health remains precarious and that he has been examined by doctors during his detention.

Ukraine officially asked the U.S. to return Mr. Lazarenko on February 21. Although no extradition treaty exists between the U.S. and Ukraine, a spokesman for Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that is not a reason not to return the former Ukrainian prime minister. "The absence of such an agreement is not reason enough to deny Kyiv its extradition request for Lazarenko," said Georgy Ilchenko in Kyiv on February 23.

However, Mr. Bergeron of the INS said the immediate issue was to determine whether Mr. Lazarenko had attempted to enter the U.S. without the proper documents. Originally Mr. Lazarenko was in what is referred to as an "expedited removal process"; this has now changed since he requested for political asylum. Mr. Bergeron explained that extraditions normally go through the Department of Justice and the Department of State.

Ukrainian government representatives, including National Bureau of Investigation Director Vasyl Durdynets and Deputy Procurator General Olha Kolinko, who happened to be in Washington the week of February 22 for an international anti-corruption confer-

ence, met with U.S. Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder of the Justice Department on February 23 to discuss the Lazarenko case. According to a press advisory issued by the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington, the group emphasized to the Justice Department official the need to have Mr. Lazarenko deported back to Ukraine.

While Mr. Lazarenko remains in INS detention, a March 2 court date that had been scheduled for him in Switzerland on money laundering charges brought by Swiss officials has been postponed indefinitely. Manuel Sager, press attaché at the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington said Swiss officials expect that Mr. Lazarenko will still be in the hands of U.S. officials at that time. Mr. Sager also said that no extradition proceedings to bring Mr. Lazarenko back to Switzerland to face trial have begun. "He hasn't yet violated his bail agreement, so there has been no need to begin extradition proceedings," said Mr. Sager.

Last December 3 Mr. Lazarenko was arrested by Swiss border authorities after he had attempted to enter the country using a Panamanian passport that identified the Ukrainian politician as Pablo Lopez. The charges that were subsequently brought were based on information that the Ukrainian government had been supplying to Swiss authorities for most of the year. Swiss authorities said in December that the money trail they were investigating involves nearly \$40 million. Mr. Lazarenko was released on \$3.5 million in

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Kuchma welcomes U.S. certification of Ukraine

by **Pavel Polityuk**

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma welcomed last week's declaration by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright that Ukraine is continuing radical economic reforms and has made significant progress.

"The United States in general understands Ukraine's role in the region — a strategic partnership was not declared without reason," Mr. Kuchma told reporters outside Kyiv.

But U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Steven Pifer said disappointment with slow economic reforms and the investment climate was part of the reason for the decline in U.S. aid to Ukraine from \$225 million for 1998 to \$195 million for 1999.

"The secretary's decision in this case was not an easy one," Mr. Pifer said on February 19, adding that four out of a list of investor complaints had been more or less resolved, but that much more work remained on others.

"There is a very strong belief in Washington that the Ukrainian govern-

ment can and should do more in terms of economic reform and in terms of resolution of those particular investor problems," Ambassador Pifer said.

President Kuchma's economic advisor Valerii Lytvyskyi said Ukraine had no serious doubts that Secretary Albright could report progress in Ukrainian economic reforms because a series of presidential economic decrees and the Parliament's approval of the state budget for 1999 have created a new economic situation in the ex-Soviet country.

"We have indeed made significant progress in economic reforms," Mr. Lytvyskyi said.

Ukrainian and foreign analysts and officials said the complaints of American investors were at the heart of the certification problem.

Ambassador Pifer said he was encouraged by changes in the government's attitude towards investor complaints, which he said was demonstrated by the direct involvement, for the first time, of Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko, his deputy,

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Pope John Paul II to head east?

by Felix Corley
RFE/RL Newsline

Pope John Paul II may be about to fulfill a long-held ambition by making the first-ever visit by the head of the Catholic Church to a predominantly Orthodox country. This month, both Romania and Ukraine have issued official invitations, and conditions now seem favorable for such visits to take place. And on February 16 Vatican officials announced that a papal visit to Armenia later this year is also being considered. (The vast majority of the population of Armenia belongs, at least nominally, to the Armenian Apostolic Church, a member of the Oriental family of Eastern Christian Churches.)

The Romanian visit may well take place soon. The pope would never visit a country without invitations from both the government and the dominant religious community, and in the case of Romania, the long-standing government invitation (first extended by former President Ion Iliescu in 1991) has now been complemented by one from the Romanian Orthodox Church, to which 80 percent of the 22 million-strong population belongs, at least nominally. "Given the ecumenical international relations between the Romanian Orthodox and Roman Catholic Church and a recent letter addressed by the pope to the patriarch saying he wishes to come soon to Romania, the synod considers that Patriarch Teoctist can address the invitation," a February 4 statement declared.

The patriarch subsequently issued the invitation, which the Vatican's chief spokesman, Joaquin Navarro-Valls, said the pope had accepted. Mr. Navarro-Valls added that "the date and agenda of the trip have not yet been defined," but Italian media reports and Romania's ambassador to the Vatican suggested it will take place in early May. Ambassador Teodor Baconsky told Romanian Radio that the visit will last two days and be confined to Bucharest, adding that the pope will meet President Emil Constantinescu and Patriarch Teoctist, and hold an ecumenical service and a Roman Catholic mass.

Whether such a circumscribed visit would satisfy the pope remains to be seen. Much of his flock in Romania is to be found in Transylvania, the home of many faithful of the Eastern-rite Catholic Church. Many of the Latin-rite Catholics, especially the ethnic Hungarians and Germans, also live in Transylvania. Although arguments over ownership of some 2,000 former Catholic churches handed to the Orthodox after 1948 largely remain unresolved, the improved atmosphere over the past year has led to a serious attempt on both sides to resolve the squabbles over property.

Felix Corley writes on religious affairs in Eastern Europe.

Newspapers want Information Ministry

Eastern Economist

KYIV – During a meeting with President Leonid Kuchma, the editors of 14 major newspapers spoke in favor of preserving the Information Ministry, announced the president's press secretary, Oleksander Martynenko. The Cabinet of Ministers had raised the question of its abolition in late 1998.

The invitation to Ukraine is likely to be more problematic, in terms of both agenda and scheduling. The February 10 announcement that President Leonid Kuchma had issued an invitation, personally handed to the pope by Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko on a recent visit, leaves unanswered the question of how the Ukrainian Orthodox will respond. With the Orthodox forming the vast majority of the population outside western Ukraine – the heartland of the 5 million-strong Eastern-rite Catholic Church – the pope will have to tread warily.

Moreover, matters are complicated by the bitter divisions within the Orthodox Church in Ukraine, which has split into three main factions. The Vatican follows the lead of the rest of the Orthodox world in recognizing the Ukrainian Church loyal to the Moscow Patriarchate (headed by Metropolitan Volodymyr Sabodan) as the canonical Orthodox Church.

Another complicating factor is the upcoming election: since the pope would not visit a country ahead of such vote, for fear of seeming to endorse any candidate, any visit to Ukraine will have to occur after presidential elections in October and November, but before the end of the year, as the Vatican has declared 2000 a jubilee year during which the pope will not maintain his customary heavy travel schedule.

The pope has long sought to reconcile the two halves of historical Christianity. His fourth foreign pilgrimage as pope, in November 1979, had been to Istanbul to visit Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios. His 1985 encyclical *Slavorum Apostoli* (Apostles of the Slavs) praised the two Slavic saints, Cyril and Methodius, and urged a return to the undivided European Church, which had existed before the 1054 schism. In a 1985 speech, the pope had declared: "The Church must learn to breathe again with its two lungs – the Eastern one and the Western one."

But the existence of Eastern-rite Catholic Churches – which retain Orthodox-style liturgy while acknowledging the jurisdiction of the pope – has long been a source of tension between the Catholic and Orthodox Churches. The recent re-emergence of Eastern-rite Catholic Churches that had been banned under communism annoyed the Orthodox Churches, which regard them as traitors to Orthodoxy, and fueled accusations of Vatican "proselytism" in the Orthodox world.

Partly in response to such accusations, relations between the Orthodox Churches and the Vatican have cooled. The head of the largest Orthodox Church, Patriarch Aleksii II of Moscow and All-Russia, has several times torpedoed projected meetings with Pope John Paul, although the most senior Orthodox hierarch, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, has continued to hold meetings with the pontiff.

Pope John Paul II has made numerous pilgrimages to countries where Catholics are in a minority and has even visited states such as Muslim Morocco and Lutheran Finland, where Catholics do not even make up 1 percent of the population. But with Orthodox passions running against the Vatican, a papal visit to an Orthodox country would have been unthinkable until recently. The influence of the Orthodox Churches over the governments in their countries had in effect erected a new Iron Curtain.

This year appears to offer the best hope yet for Pope John Paul II to push back that curtain.

NEWSBRIEFS

Warrant issued for Lazarenko's arrest

KYIV – Following the Verkhovna Rada's decision to strip former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko of his parliamentary immunity, Ukraine's Procurator-General Mykhailo Potebenko issued a warrant for Mr. Lazarenko's arrest, the Associated Press reported on February 20. Mr. Lazarenko is suspected of stealing \$2 million in state funds and stashing some \$4 million in a Swiss bank. Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Kravchenko said that Mr. Lazarenko is currently in the U.S., where he wants to emigrate. Reuters reported the next day that Ukraine had asked the U.S. to extradite Mr. Lazarenko after he was reportedly detained at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport on February 19 for visa irregularities. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Energy sector officials are fired

KYIV – Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko on February 19 sacked Nur Nihatullin, head of the Enerhoatom nuclear energy company, for "serious drawbacks in work," Reuters reported. The dismissal followed a protest the previous day by nuclear plant workers over wage arrears. One week earlier, President Leonid Kuchma had sacked Energy Minister Oleksii Sheberstov after farmers had criticized the minister for massive blackouts in rural regions this winter. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rukh faction removes Chornovil

KYIV – The Rukh faction in the Verkhovna Rada passed a vote of no-confidence in party leader Vyacheslav Chornovil on February 19. Deputy Yuriy Kostenko will temporarily assume the duties of faction leader. Thirty out of 48 Rukh deputies voted to remove Mr. Chornovil. The faction announced that this would not mean a change in Rukh's position in the Verkhovna Rada, but that it would increase the effectiveness of its work. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Chornovil comments on party split

KYIV – Rukh Party leader Vyacheslav Chornovil said on February 22 that "the present situation within the Rukh Party is threatening to frustrate the party's presidential campaign," adding, "the party split is ordered from above." At the same time, Mr. Chornovil remains confident that if the Verkhovna Rada faction split escalates into a full blown party split, he will be supported by the majority of party members. Mr. Chornovil was removed from his position as head of the Rukh's parlia-

mentary faction, but he remains head of the party. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rukh's choice: past or future

KYIV – According to the February 20 issue of the newspaper *Den* (Day), Vyacheslav Chornovil was removed from his post as leader of the Rukh parliamentary faction for making political decisions single-handedly. "Rukh is facing a choice: either it's historical past or a promising future. The period of idolatry is over," Rukh member Roman Zvarych told *Den*. A Rukh congress on March 6 is expected to address the conflict between Mr. Chornovil's opponents and supporters. President Leonid Kuchma has expressed his regret over the "split" in Rukh and called on party officials to show unity. The nationalist-leaning Rukh, the third-largest party in the Ukrainian Parliament, is not seen as a pro-Kuchma force, although it has not directly opposed the government. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Luzhkov, Zhirinovskiy condemn treaty

MOSCOW – Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov denounced the ratification of the Russian-Ukrainian treaty as "shameful," Interfax reported on February 17. He said that he will let Russian citizens know just who voted for the "surrender" of Crimea and Sevastopol. And the Moscow mayor suggested that the ratification might be declared "improper, immaterial and unlawful" by Russian courts. Meanwhile, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, described the ratification of the treaty as a "black day in Russian history" and said that the Federation Council acted as "a council of Russia's destroyers." Krasnoyarsk Governor Aleksandr Lebed was also among those who sharply criticized the ratification of the accord. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Hard currency reserves shrinking

KYIV – The Ukrainian National Bank said on February 16 that its hard currency reserves had decreased to \$685.5 million at the beginning of 1999, down from \$906 million one month earlier, the Associated Press reported. The bank had said earlier that its reserves stood at \$1.05 billion, but it has now revised that figure downward, using a new international calculation method that excludes all precious metals except gold. Ukraine's reserves stood at \$2.34 billion at the beginning of 1998, but the National Bank of Ukraine systematically sold U.S. dollars in the wake of the

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The secretary of state's certification of Ukraine: a behind-the scenes view

by Michael Sawkiw Jr.

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON – In 1998 Congress allocated a \$195 million earmark of assistance for Ukraine for Fiscal Year 1999. Within the Foreign Aid Bill it was stipulated, however, that 50 percent of the amount of assistance to Ukraine shall be withheld from obligation “until the secretary of state reports to the Committees on Appropriations that Ukraine has undertaken significant economic reforms additional to those achieved in Fiscal Year 1998 and include: (1) reform and effective enforcement of commercial and tax code; and (2) continued progress on resolution of complaints by United States investors.”

As mandated by Congress, that report was issued to the Appropriations Committees of both the House of Representatives and the Senate on Thursday, February 18.

The fairly lengthy report detailed the pace of economic reform in Ukraine, as well as the continued progress in resolving several U.S. investor complaints in Ukraine. Regarding the general assessment of economic reform in Ukraine, Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright reported on the Ukrainian government's continued programs to strengthen the programs initiated by the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

Reference was made also to future areas of growth opportunities for Ukraine as the “government has begun to undertake tax, expenditure and public administration reforms that will help facilitate sustainable fiscal balances in the future.” It was noted, however, that “non-support” of reform in the Ukrainian Parliament has largely stalled Ukraine's ability to proceed with the necessary radical economic reform as indicated by World Bank and IMF programs.

The secretary's report also highlighted several crucial reform programs that have been undertaken since October 1, 1998, by the Ukrainian government in the areas of budget, tax reform, fiscal control, monetary policy, public administration reform, privatization and reform of Ukraine's commercial laws. Each topic was addressed individually, noting the validity of the reform, as well as recommendations that could be implemented by the Government of Ukraine (GOU).

Significant attention was focused on reforming Ukraine's commercial environment, in particular passage of a civil code (commercial law) and regulatory reform efforts, which include standardized methods of international accounting and shareholders rights. In her report, Secretary Albright states: “The [Verkhovna] Rada passed in the first reading a civil code that would comprehensively reform the statutory basis for private commercial activity in Ukraine's emerging market.”

Notwithstanding these reform efforts, many areas have shown inadequate results in Ukraine's move toward a market-oriented economy. “The lack of structural change,” stated the secretary, “in such areas as energy and agriculture have kept Ukraine from creating a sustainable fiscal balance and building incentives for growth.” While privatization of Ukraine's small and medium-size enterprises has consistently forged ahead since independence, “privatization of large enterprises has barely begun.” This is especially evident in Ukraine's private ownership of land and the de-collectivization of its state farms. In offering suggestions for continued economic reform, Secretary Albright noted the Ukrainian government's “interference” in the agricultural market, and the high and numerous tax burdens that result in “pushing economic activity into the shadow sector.”

In its present negotiations with the IMF to renew disbursement of the EFF tranches, Ukraine faces a serious debt payment

schedule in the first half of 1999. Without financing from international financial institutions, the report noted, Ukraine may default on its balance of payments, which would evidently lead to decreased economic confidence in Ukraine and “make further near-term reform progress very difficult.”

The secretary's assessment of Ukraine's overall economic reform program was reviewed in consideration of the political dynamism and otherwise uncontrollable external financial circumstances. The reports states: “The Russian financial crisis, Ukraine's loss of access to international capital and politicking toward the October 1999 presidential election have limited the government's room to maneuver.”

As to the complaints of American business investors in Ukraine, the secretary of state said the Ukrainian government “has taken steps to address some of these impediments, including a comprehensive program to cut regulatory burdens on business, reduce what companies regard as harassment by tax and other government authorities, and protect the rights of shareholders.” The report underlined that hundreds of American businesses are operating in Ukraine, while “several, such as Coca-Cola, Ceres Terminals, Cargill and Procter & Gamble, have recently expanded their Ukrainian investments and commercial activities.” [In early February 1999, Coca-Cola opened a \$100 million soft-drink plant outside of Kyiv, making it the largest non-alcoholic beverage facility in Ukraine.] This is not to diminish the fact that American investors have not faced various business obstacles within Ukraine, however, it was clearly affirmed that “many of these are not specific to this country [Ukraine], but rather reflect the broader challenges of operating in rapidly changing, post-Soviet economies.”

The report went on to state that the Ukrainian government has even established a Council of Independent Experts to assist foreign and domestic investors in overcoming various obstacles to doing business.

Indeed, several American businesses in Ukraine have experienced investment disputes. American officials, whether in the United States or in the Embassy in Kyiv, have been in constant communication with Ukrainian authorities to monitor the complaints filed and any action on them. Secretary Albright acknowledged that four investors (out of approximately a dozen) have been “satisfied” with the resolution of their individual business dispute. Others cases remain to be completely resolved following several verdicts in Ukraine's judicial system, yet the report properly characterizes the situation as it relates to the enforcement of these decisions: “This is an endemic problem in Ukraine and in other states of the former USSR that reflects the weakness of judicial mechanisms only partially transformed from the Soviet system.”

Secretary Albright's final assessment of Ukraine's performance in economic reform concluded that “significant progress as required in this legislation has been made.” Various reform programs have proven noteworthy, in particular Ukraine's fiscal reform, yet “enormous economic problems ... with a range of macroeconomic and structural reforms” must be addressed accordingly.

In regard to the resolution of U.S. business disputes, the secretary reported that continued progress has been made (in accordance with the law adopted by Congress). Though it was noted that many of the disputes have been generic in nature, the report concluded that “even if incomplete [the resolution of all business complaints], there has been significant progress on these issues.” In the final statement of the report to Congress, Secretary Albright reaffirms “that the test of ‘continued progress’ has been met, particularly when viewed against GOU efforts to address a

range of systematic issues that bedevil foreign and domestic investors, which the U.S. business community in Ukraine clearly regards as significant.”

Congressional support for certificate

Various members of Congress, the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, the U.S. business community, as well as the Ukrainian American community focused significant attention on this year's “certification” process.

Following an in-depth briefing to the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus (CUC) presented by Bill Taylor, special adviser to the secretary of state and coordinator of assistance to the NIS, and Ambassador Stephen Sestanovich, ambassador-at-large to the new independent states, the CUC penned a letter to Secretary Albright, urging her to “follow through on our strategic partnership with Ukraine.” Advocating sustained U.S. foreign assistance to Ukraine, the caucus's five co-chairs – Reps. Sander Levin (D-Mich.), Bob Schaffer (R-Colo.), Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.), Mary Kaptur (D-Ohio) and the newest co-chair, Steve Horn (R-Calif.) – pointed to a problem plaguing all of the former-Soviet republics: corruption. “Corruption was a usual occurrence in the former Soviet Union, and Ukraine had inherited these problems.

While Ukraine is taking action to combat these difficulties, doing so effectively and decisively will take time and increased technical presence,” stated the CUC letter to Secretary Albright.

The Congressional Ukrainian Caucus also enumerated the objectives of security and stability in Central Europe should the United States provide a positive report to Congress. Quoting from a speech that Vice-President Al Gore delivered in Kyiv during his most recent visit in July 1998, the caucus co-chairs provided examples of the many cooperative efforts undertaken between the U.S. and Ukrainian governments to achieve stability within the region, as well as continue the course of economic reform. “A negative report to Congress,” stated the CUC, “could signal a subtle shift in U.S. policy away from Ukraine and play into the hands of those who hope to reconstitute a ‘union’ of states closely allied with Russia.”

The caucus concluded its letter by emphasizing the efforts of Secretary Albright in “attaining a level of cooperation [with Ukraine] to achieve an economically strong and democratic Ukraine,” which is in the national security interest of the United States.

In a separate news release Rep. Levin

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BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Hybrid potato awaits Ukraine clearance

KYIV – Monsanto, a leading U.S.-based biotechnology company, is likely to receive all necessary licenses to start selling its New Leaf potato, a genetically altered potato resistant to the Colorado beetle, on the Ukrainian market by spring 1999, it was announced February 18. Currently the potato, first developed in Canada on Prince Edward Island, is being examined by a number of state commissions. “It is harmless,” said Viktor Kyrsenko, representative of the Medicine of Labor Institute, at a press conference organized by Monsanto. “The potato falls into the least toxic category,” he added. However, a number of articles appeared in the press questioning both the potatoes' resistance capabilities and harmfulness. “There has been no scientific research done by independent experts in this area,” said Taisia Omelianets, head of the laboratory of Hygiene and Biomedical Toxicology at the National Scientific Hygiene Center. (Eastern Economist)

Free Internet connection for schools

KYIV – UkrSat, a Ukrainian telecommunications company, has launched a program providing free Internet connections for Kyiv schools, Borys Nepomiashyi, head of the UkrSat board, announced on February 17. The Starokyivskiy district of the city will be the first to benefit. The company will also set up a webpage for the Ukrainian National History Museum in order for its materials to be accessible worldwide. Mr. Nepomiashyi announced that UkrSat will also set up a new satellite communication channel connecting Kyiv to Washington, which will provide a faster and higher quality connection. The company also plans to increase the number of Internet connections it offers. (Eastern Economist)

Truskavets to be a free economic zone

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on February 8 approved a law creating a free economic zone (FEZ) in Truskavets, western Ukraine. According to the document, projects implemented in the FEZ territory that are worth not less than \$500,000 (U.S.), are to be exempted from paying enterprise profit tax for the first three years, and benefit from a 50 percent discount for the following three years. Entrepreneurs are also exempted from paying import duty and valued-added tax (VAT) on equipment used for production, and VAT tax breaks are granted on provision of recreational health services within the zone. Both President Leonid Kuchma and Premier Valerii Pustovoitenko have stayed at the Truskavets resort this year. (Eastern Economist)

Poles to invest in Carpathian region

IVANO-FRANKIVSK – Polish entrepreneurs on January 28 announced plans to finance development of industry in the Hutsul region, part of an agreement on producing souvenirs reached during a recent visit to Ivano-Frankivsk by a delegation of Polish business representatives. The Polish delegation was represented by the owners and managers of seven companies specializing in vegetable, fruit, wood and meat processing, and confectionery production. As part of the same agreement, Polish company representatives agreed to set up a joint venture on consignment and processing of wild fruit in the Verkhovyna region. (Eastern Economist)

Ukraine joins Black Sea cable project

KYIV – Ukraine on January 28 joined the international project to construct a telecommunications cable system that will serve Black Sea countries. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$51 million (U.S.); the system will be built by Armenia,

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Analysts report on varied experiences of "Nations in Transit"

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON – The political and economic transition of countries in Central Europe and the geographic area once part of the USSR has been as varied as their historical legacy, and the U.S. and other Western governments, for the most part, have not taken these differences into account in their assistance policies.

This was one of the major points underscored by the participants in a recent briefing in Congress on the publication of "Nations in Transit 1998: Civil Society, Democracy and Markets in East Central Europe and the Newly Independent States."

The book, published by Freedom House and edited by two of the briefers – Freedom House President Adrian Karatnycky and Prof. Alexander Motyl of Rutgers University – is a study and analysis of 28 post-communist countries of that region. The third briefer, was E. Wayne Merry, a retired Foreign Service officer and former senior advisor at the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the sponsor of the February 18 briefing.

Mr. Karatnycky noted that the report groups these countries into three categories: seven Central European and Baltic countries are considered "consolidated democracies and market economies"; four – Belarus, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – are grouped as "autocracies and state economies"; and the remaining 17, including Ukraine and most of the for-

mer Soviet states, are seen as "transitional."

The study found a strong correlation between economic reform and growth, and political reform, which, Mr. Karatnycky said, tend to reinforce each other. The average economic growth rate of consolidated market democracies was 4.7 percent; the transitional countries varied widely, but, as a group, they grew 1.9 percent; while the statist autocracies declined by 2.85 percent.

Ukraine and Russia are stagnant economically, Mr. Karatnycky said. While they made some strides in privatizing state industries, bringing their budgets into balance, restraining inflation and adopting some characteristics of a market system, he said, "they failed to create the basis for an entrepreneurial economy, in which small business is the driving engine for growth."

In these and some other cases in which countries have lost their reform momentum, he said, donor countries and organizations need to re-evaluate the effectiveness of their current programs in order to break that deadlock.

But even though some of these programs have not been successful, the money was not wasted, he said. "In the absence of intervention and engagement of the West, the outcomes can be and could have been even more harmful than they have been."

Prof. Motyl, who until recently was associate director of the Harriman Institute at Columbia University and is the author of 10 books on Soviet and post-Soviet pol-

icy and history, underscored the striking differences between the East-Central European and Baltic states, which have done well, and the former Soviet states, which are not doing well.

He attributed the lack of progress in the post-Soviet states to the absence of the historical and cultural legacies of democratic and economic experience – enjoyed by such countries as Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and the Baltic states – and to their Soviet "institutional baggage."

"Seventy years of totalitarian communism destroyed the political elites, destroyed the cultural elites, destroyed the society, destroyed whatever markets existed, destroyed whatever civil society existed, and transformed whatever incipient political classes these countries had into bureaucrats and apparatchiks of the Communist Party," Prof. Motyl said.

The Central-East European countries managed to preserve some of these institutions – like Poland's Catholic Church and its vibrant peasant class, and Hungary's limited private enterprise – and later built on these foundations.

"The suggestion that is often made that Russia should have learned from Poland ... in some ways is fundamentally irrelevant," Prof. Motyl pointed out, "because Poland was not like Russia; Poland was not like Ukraine."

That does not mean that democratic and market reforms cannot be pursued in these countries, he said. "It's just that the policies that are pursued in the former Soviet space, the Soviet bloc should not be a one-size-fits-all kind of policy."

He suggested that local elites should pursue reform policies differently, and U.S. and other Western assistance should be tailored to these different circumstances and adapted, as needed, over time.

The West should also be realistic about what can be achieved in these countries, Prof. Motyl said. It cannot force reform but only "nudge" it along, and over the long-term. But the West dare not isolate these former Soviet countries back into their own "ghetto," he stressed.

Among future challenges, Prof. Motyl noted that volatile mixture of the growth of Russian nationalism and the potential for an authoritarian regime coming into power. As for the other post-Soviet states, he said, they face instability ahead, both from continued stagnation, on the one hand, as well as from any attempts at radical reform.

Another serious challenge is the expan-

sion of the European Union into Central Europe. While positive by itself, he said, "it has the potential of creating another institutional boundary between the East, that is to say, chaotic Russia, Ukraine – corrupt, unstable, and the West – rich, prosperous, stable and functioning quite well."

That, he said, has the potential of not only disrupting the internal workings of these states but also the security and stability of Europe.

Mr. Merry also cautioned against trying to apply a "one-size-fits-all" model for democratic and economic reform. And the model he suggests they should be most cautious about emulating is the American model, because it developed in such an unusual and unique historical environment.

In the development of post-Soviet economies, the local elites emphasized self-interest, "with a heavy emphasis on 'self'," he said, and this was reinforced by Western policies and beliefs that the development of market economies would automatically develop democratic, civil societies. That causal relationship, he said, is false.

Most Western businessmen and investors can handle the economic problems in these countries, he said, and when they have complaints they usually fall into the "rule of law" rubric.

Mr. Merry said that Western policies, which supported the growth of crony capitalism in these countries, not only wasted funds but, more important, resulted in the loss of prestige and authority of Western approaches and reversed the progress of democratic institutions.

He said he expects things will probably get worse before they get better, the present borders will not remain unchanged, and outside forces – Russia and the United States, among them – will try to exert their influence on developments in the region.

The U.S. role, he expects, will not necessarily be benign. "Unfortunately we have tended, as we did in much of the Third World in the post-colonial period, to place a very low emphasis on the development of civil institutions and the rule of law, giving much more attention to our quest for stability and for issues such as security and economic change."

The briefing, coming as it did on the day Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright was to announce her certification decision on assistance to Ukraine, the panel members were asked to comment on that aspect of the U.S.-Ukraine relationship.

Mr. Karatnycky saw the certification process as a laudable way of trying to press the Ukrainian government towards instituting fundamental economic reforms, even though the results have not been as dramatic as the authors of the legislation would have liked them to be.

The process, however, should be viewed in the context of Ukraine's "geopolitical environment," he said, pointing to renewed attempts to form some kind of a Slavic union.

"In a context where there is going to be intense and intensifying pressure on Ukraine to join, first some inter-parliamentary structures, and then some broader political structures leading towards eventual confederation" of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine, he said, "It would seem me to be advisable in this context that we not scale back our relationship and our aid relationship with Ukraine."

Mr. Merry said he views the certification exercise as more psychological and political than economic – to try to get authorities in Kyiv "to stop believing their press notices."

"A failure of U.S. policy towards Ukraine was that we told them that we loved them and how important they were

(Continued on page 5)



Prof. Alexander Motyl (left) of Rutgers University and Adrian Karatnycky of Freedom House during the briefing on Nations in Transit."

Rukh Party in crisis...

(Continued from page 1)

central leadership have to be signed by the party leader to become legitimate. He did not receive them and stated that he was not likely to sign the kind of decisions that oust him from party management.

He also claimed that the central leadership can only make binding decisions if two-thirds of its 55 members are present, while only 30 were present at the February 20 meeting. Mr. Chornovil also said the extraordinary congress of the party planned for February 28 will be illegitimate and the delegates will be invalid because few people in the regions support the opposition. The real congress, he said, will take place on March 7.

"They [opponents of Mr. Chornovil] are simply trying to undermine the party's position before the election and split up the party," said Mr. Chornovil.

The opposition disagreed. "What is happening today is not a split, it's an attempt to get over a split," said Volodymyr Cherniak, a Rukh deputy and a member of

the central leadership.

Both sides said they were going to invite the opponents to their congresses, but that the invitations might not be accepted. Mr. Chornovil said the opposition group consists of three types of people: those who have never shared the party ideology, but just happened to get into the party list and top management structure; those who pursue their business interests regardless of the party interests; and those who are upset with him for not getting a top position in the party.

Many party members believed Mr. Kostenko, who was elected the new leader of Rukh's parliamentary faction, had the best chances among Rukh members to be nominated as a presidential candidate. However, his candidacy was dropped in favor of Hennadii Udovenko, a non-Rukh member who was president of the General Assembly of the United Nations and is a former foreign affairs minister of Ukraine.

Mr. Kostenko said, however, that the opposition group is ready to continue campaigning for Mr. Udovenko, and even invited him to discuss strategy on February 20. Mr. Udovenko chose not to attend.

Mr. Chornovil accused his opposition of accepting money from the president's allies and possibly Yevhen Marchuk, also a potential presidential candidate, to get rid of him. Mr. Chornovil also claims that one of Rukh's members, Oleh Ischenko, said he is ready to take \$1 million of his own money to remove Mr. Chornovil as head of the party. Mr. Ischenko ran for Parliament as head of the management of OLBank and once headed a Ukrainian-Russian oil corporation.

Mr. Chornovil also claims that a lot of money to support his ouster came from the Cabinet of Ministers. "One of the vice prime ministers said that once Mr. Chornovil is not in the faction, he [the vice prime minister] will run on the Rukh Party list in the next election," said Mr. Chornovil. He added that this person recently paid \$40,000 every month to top Rukh opposition members.

Analysts say that these sorts of insults and emotional accusations are a sure sign that the party will split. "When people start using insulting arguments, there are few chances that the split can be avoided," said Mykola Tomenko, director of the Institute of Politics.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Young UNA'ers



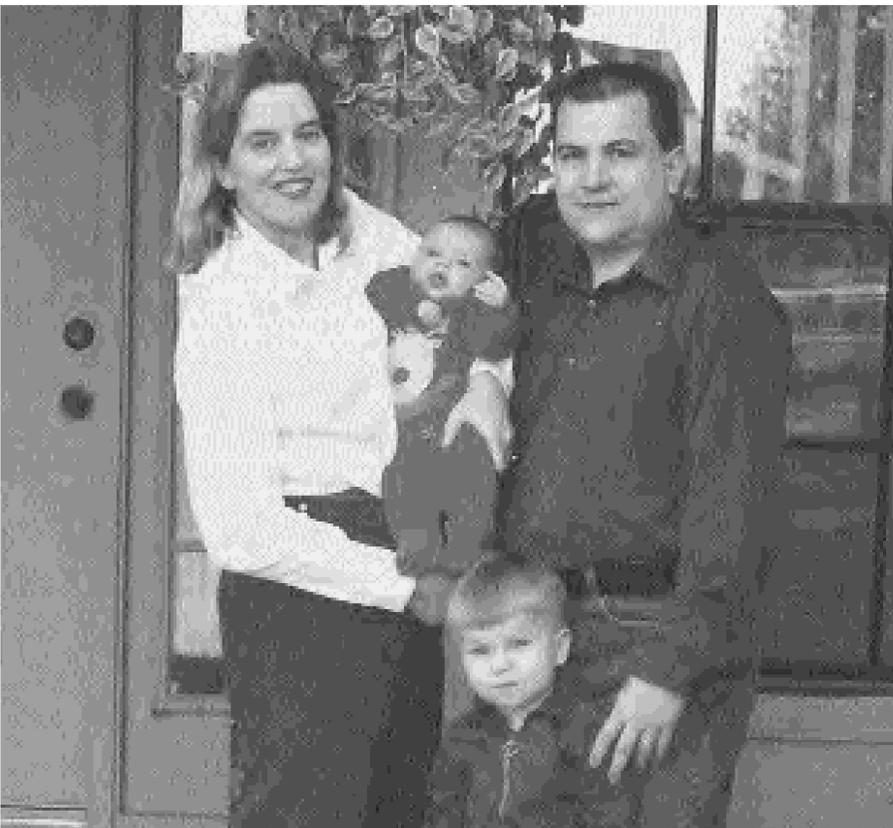
Brandon Paul Hrycak, son of Michael and Rita Hrycak of Piscataway, N.J., is a new member of UNA Branch 234. He was enrolled by his grandparents Dr. Petro and Rea Hrycak.



Four-year-old Kevyn Myroslaw Jaremko, son of Myron and Bonnie Jaremko, is a new member of UNA Branch 76 in New York. He was enrolled by his grandmother Halyna Jaremko.



Marko Charydczak, son of Oksana and Bogdan Charydczak, is a new member of UNA Branch 434 in Montreal. He was enrolled by his parents.



Alexander Gerhard Proisl, son of Kathleen and Andreas Proisl, and brother of Andreas Josef Jr., is a new member of UNA Branch 183 in Detroit. He was enrolled by his grandparents Anna and Andrew Hawrylyszyn.



Three grandchildren, (from left) Michael Boluch Vegnani, Ariele Oksana Boluch-Dickerman and Jack Henry Kennefick were enrolled by their grandfather Myron Boluch into UNA Branch 307. Michael is the son of Anne and Anthony Vegnani of Norwell, Mass; Ariele is the daughter of Kathleen and Andrew Dickerman of Cumberland, R.I.; and Jack is the son of Mary and Peter Kennefick of East Walpole, Mass. The three moms are all daughters of Mr. Boluch of Scituate, Mass.

Analysts report...

(Continued from page 4)

to such an extent that they came to believe that there would be no real sanction for failure to implement serious structural and other reforms," he said.

Mr. Motyl said that there should be no illusions about Ukraine or most of the other former Soviet republic being able to do economically what the United States would like for them to do.

He said he sees the question of certification directly related to the larger issue of whether the United States wants Ukraine to be integrated into global and West European structures and institutions, "or whether we don't want that, and are willing to accept the consequences," mentioning as a possible consequence the "resurgent Slavic union of one kind or other."

"That's the choice facing this country, I think," he added.

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION SENIORS

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at

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Certification: hardly a ringing endorsement

The certification of Ukraine went down to the wire. As of the night of February 18, the date the U.S. secretary of state's report on certification was due to be submitted to Congress, there had been no news. In fact, Washington correspondent Yaro Bihun reported that talks were ongoing through the day between officials in Kyiv and Washington regarding the resolution of investors' disputes. The official announcement came the next morning, just as we were going to press: "Ukraine had made sufficient progress on economic reforms, including the resolution of U.S. investor complaints, to warrant release of all \$195 million in FREEDOM Support Act assistance" for 1999.

The reaction from those in the know in Washington: Whew! It was close. A collective sigh of relief could be heard all the way to here. After all, if certification had not been granted, Ukraine stood to lose up to \$72 million in U.S. foreign aid. And, there was a distinct possibility that Ukraine might not be certified, as its record in terms of economic reform was certainly not stellar, and clearly not without fault.

That is why the call had gone out to Ukrainian American community members via Action Items published in this newspaper (and other media) to contact their senators and representatives and ask them to convey to the secretary of state the importance of certifying Ukraine in terms of supporting Ukraine's transition to a free market economy and recognizing Ukraine's role in stability and peace in Central/Eastern Europe, as well as promoting the strategic interests of the United States. Apparently, the call to action worked. Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, as well as the business community reacted. In the forefront was the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, whose five co-chairs wrote to Madeleine Albright.

On the very day that Secretary Albright was to report on certification, the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe held a briefing on "Nations in Transit." Adrian Karatnycky, president of Freedom House, argued that even though some of the programs to help the NIS have not been successful, "In the absence of intervention and engagement of the West, the outcomes ... could have been even more harmful than they have been." The West should also be realistic about what can be achieved in these countries, added Prof. Alexander Motyl of Rutgers University. It cannot force reform but only "nudge" it along ... but the West dare not isolate these former Soviet countries back into their own "ghetto," where "70 years of totalitarian communism destroyed the political elites, destroyed the cultural elites, destroyed the society, destroyed whatever markets existed, destroyed whatever civil society existed, and transformed whatever incipient political classes these countries had into bureaucrats and apparatchiks of the Communist Party." As regards certification, Mr. Karatnycky emphasized this is directly related to the larger issue of whether the U.S. wants Ukraine to be integrated into global and West European structures, "or whether we don't want that, and are willing to accept the consequences."

Ultimately, arguments for certification appear to have outweighed the potential negative consequences of non-certification. And thus Ukraine was given the go-ahead to receive further U.S. assistance. But, there was a caveat in the official announcement: "This administration and the Congress remain very concerned about the uneven pace of reform and the difficult investment climate in Ukraine. We continue to urge the government of Ukraine to accelerate the market reform process and improve the climate for foreign investors by resolving remaining disputes."

Our hope is that Ukraine's leaders will understand how close they came to losing on the certification issue and will work that much harder to propel reform.

February
26
1939

Turning the pages back...

Among the more complex figures in the Ukrainian Communist movement and early Soviet period was Vlas Chubar, who died 60 years ago on February 26. Both a leader of Ukrainization and yet an opponent of Mykola Khvyliovyi, he

was a defender of Ukraine's interests and yet a collaborator in Stalin's genocidal "war on the villages" that was instrumental in causing the Famine of 1932-1933.

Chubar was born on February 22, 1891, in the town of Fedorivka, about 20 miles south of Yelysavethrad (now Kirovohrad), and at the age of 13 traveled to Zaporizhia (then known as Oleksandrivske) to study at a mechanical technical school. At 17 Chubar joined the Bolshevik Party and, after he graduated in 1911, he drifted from job to job in factories in Kramatorsk, Mariupol then Moscow and Petrograd. When the October Revolution broke out, he was in the tsarist empire's capital, at the center of the action. At first he served as commissar of the chief artillery administration in the city, then in various posts in the Bolshevik bureaucracy in Russia.

In 1919 Chubar returned to Ukraine, and in short order rocketed to the country's top posts. In 1920 he became chairman of the Organizational Bureau for the Reconstruction of the Industry of Ukraine, of the Supreme Council of the National Economy of the Ukrainian SSR, and a full member of the Communist Party (Bolshevik) of Ukraine's Central Committee. In December 1921 he took over as head of the Donets Basin's Central Administration of Coal Industry, and was a supporter of the New Economic Policy.

Chubar was also counted among Joseph Stalin's team of "indigenizers," those opposed to the internationalist "left" in the Party. On July 16, 1923, he was elected to succeed Christian Rakovsky as head of the Council of People's Commissars of the Ukrainian SSR – the head of the republic's government – thus becoming the first ethnic Ukrainian in the post. Within weeks (the decree on Ukrainizing the school system was issued July 27), thanks to the leadership of Chubar and Education Commissar Oleksander Shumskyi, Ukrainization was in full swing. Chubar almost became the first ethnic Ukrainian party secretary in Ukraine, after Emmanuel Kviring (a dogmatic Volga German) was removed for persisting in his opposition to Ukrainization, but this post was reserved for Stalin's direct representative, Lazar Kaganovich, who arrived in April 1925.

Shumskyi backed Chubar for this office, and favored an even more accelerated pace of "indigenizing" the political apparatus and cultural space of the republic. Perhaps to assuage

(Continued on page 13)

An appeal for donations from Orphans' Aid Society

The Orphans' Aid Society for Ukraine has worked for over seven years to aid orphaned children in Ukraine.

The Society presently manages the sponsorship of over 1,000 orphans in Ukraine who live either with their grandparents, distant relatives and sometimes even with strangers.

The state of the Ukrainian economy is deteriorating steadily; a typical middle-aged adult is hard pressed to support his or her children or to help elderly parents. This situation is a long-term problem without any improvement in sight, and has led to a higher than normal suicide rate. Combined with a decreased life expectancy, conditions in Ukraine have left many suffering children without any family support.

Many Ukrainian policemen, military service members, and people in other protective services have lost their lives while performing their duties. Just one example is the Ukrainian soldiers who died performing their U.N. duty to help stabilize war-ravaged Bosnia. Many of these were parents who left children behind.

The consequence of these tragic events and conditions in Ukraine is that the society now has more than 600 applications from newly orphaned children who seek support or some kind of assistance. In addition to being orphans, many are ill, and need help desperately.

For only \$15 per month, sponsors can make a difference, perhaps the most important difference, in a child's life.

Upon choosing a child to sponsor, you will receive the child's picture, address, and information about his or her living conditions. The child is required to write a personal letter to you. Most of the society's sponsors write back to their sponsored children, and many personal relationships have been crafted in this fashion. Translation of letters is available if needed.

The Orphans' Aid Society for Ukraine is a registered charity with the IRS and all donations are tax-deductible. Administrative costs are amazingly low: less than 2 percent of revenues. These costs are kept so low because all society personnel work on a volunteer basis, and most expenses are covered from personal funds, not from donations.

For more information, write or call: Mrs. Mary Jowyk, Orphans' Aid Society, 129 Ridge Road, Douglaston, NY 11363; telephone: (718) 423-4966

Lazarenko seeks...

(Continued from page 1)

bail, and allowed to leave the country, with the stipulation that he return when the court process resumes.

As he did while incarcerated in Switzerland, Mr. Lazarenko has refused to meet with Ukrainian consular officials in the United States. "We ask the Immigration and Naturalization Service for a meeting with him every day," said Mr. Yaremenko. "They confirm that they relay the message to him, but he does not respond," he added.

While Mr. Lazarenko's attorney would not comment on the substance of the four-hour interview between his client and INS officials on Mr. Lazarenko's "credible fear" of returning to Ukraine, it is well known that Mr. Lazarenko has been at odds with President Leonid Kuchma since the Ukrainian leader dismissed him from the post of prime minister in mid-1997, allegedly over his lackadaisical attitude towards corruption in his government and his lack of movement on economic reform.

Since then Mr. Lazarenko has waged political battle with Mr. Kuchma in the press, and the president has, in return, shut down newspapers close to his former political ally.

In a New York Times article from

February 12 Mr. Lazarenko stated that President Kuchma "is out to get him" and that he is suffering political persecution at home. A week later he was in the city where the newspaper is published seeking political asylum.

Recently Mr. Lazarenko had gone so far as to suggest that someone was planning to assassinate him, although he did not identify the persons involved.

Mr. Lazarenko also has said lately that, when he returns to Switzerland for his court date, he will name names and bank accounts of people close to the president who he knows have broken Ukraine's financial laws.

In Ukraine the Hromada Party, which Mr. Lazarenko heads, repeated accusations that the Kuchma administration is engaged in political persecution of their leader and is using the United States law-enforcement system to punish him. In a press release the party also said that Mr. Lazarenko is ready to return home with his family if "Ukrainian authorities could guarantee his and his family's personal security."

Mr. Lazarenko's family preceded him to the United States and is currently living in California. Mr. Mayock said that he was not at liberty to discuss when the Lazarenko family arrived in the United States or their current visa status.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A thank you from Kyiv library

Dear Editor:

I would like to express my profound thanks to all those readers of The Ukrainian Weekly who have contributed over the past year or two to the Ukrainian Library Fund, through Self Reliance Baltimore FCU, A/C No. 51444. The Central Educational Library of the Ministry of Education of Ukraine in Kyiv has already used part of these funds to obtain valuable publications for its collections.

At the time when the Ukrainian state is developing – albeit via a somewhat difficult process – your aid to education and educational libraries in Ukraine is good evidence

of your understanding of the importance of the work carried out by these institutions for the development of our new state.

The Central Educational Library, located in Budynok Vchytelia (Teacher's Building) in Kyiv, provides information support to our educators – present and future – upon whose level of professional knowledge is dependent the upbringing of our young generation, as well as Ukraine's entry into the world information space.

Once again, on behalf of my library staff and all educators in Ukraine, I thank all of you for your generous assistance.

P. I. Rohova
Kyiv

The writer is director of the Central Educational Library of the Ministry of Education of Ukraine.

Sailors from Ukraine thank supporters

Dear Editor:

Thanks from Ukraine for the help and support provided by The Ukrainian Weekly readers during a desperate situation of this past summer.

On September 20, the stranded group of Ukrainian sailors from the 650-foot cargo ship Epta left Houston and returned to Ukraine. They were deported without any of the six months' pay that was owed them for the repairs and maintenance they were hired to do on the Epta. The sailors left Houston disheartened to face the grim realities of the mounting debts that their families had incurred while they were stranded in Houston. The U.S. Marshall's Office had seized the ship and forced the issue into bankruptcy court, and the matter was to go to court in May of 1999.

However, on December 24, a settlement of the case involving the sailors' wages was reached with the other creditors of the ship Epta. A judge's order allowed the distribution of the funds for the sailors' wages (approximately \$76,000) to take place immediately. This amount represents only a portion of their back pay, but it will help them repay the tremendous debts their families had

acquired in order to survive. It is a happy ending to an unpleasant situation that occurred this summer in the Port of Houston.

The Ukrainian sailors want to thank all the organizations and individuals, both Ukrainian and American, in Houston and beyond, who were instrumental in helping them survive under difficult circumstances. The Sailors' Fund, organized by the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Pokrova in Houston, coordinated the collection of money (approximately \$30,000), food, clothing and telephone cards while this situation was being resolved. The Ukrainian American Cultural Club and the Ukrainian National Women's League of Houston also provided valuable help and generous contributions to the Sailors', Fund.

The Ukrainian sailors were abandoned thousands of miles from home by ruthless ship owners and operators. They were left penniless to fend for themselves. To their rescue came many Ukrainian Americans and their organizations. The Ukrainian American community should be proud of the kindness and generous support it provided to solve this problem for these sailors.

Greg and Nadia Buchai
Sugar Land, Texas

Greg Buchai, a Houston financial adviser, and attorney Dennis McElwee negotiated a settlement for the sailors.

Let's gather info on war veterans

Dear Editor:

Before the 20th century ends, the Ukrainian American communities owe one to the many Ukrainian American veterans of World War II. The very significant contributions made by Ukrainian American servicemen and women in various war theaters during World War II is a chapter in Ukrainian history that begs for proper illumination for the nation's general population and for Ukrainian Americans whose families arrived here after the war.

Let the collecting of data begin in 1999; though late, it is not too late to gather valuable information from our veterans and their families who live in all states of the country, in communities large and small.

Ukrainian families of the pre-World War II generations were large and this led to large numbers of Ukrainian Americans having fought and died in the war. Newspapers at times printed photos of four, five, or six family members in service of their country. Community honor rolls posted Gold Stars in sizable numbers by the names of Ukrainian Americans killed in action, noticeably so in mining, industrial, and farming communities where their numbers were proportionately large.

With extensive address files, the

Ukrainian National Association appears best qualified to promote a campaign to gather information. Questionnaires geared to collect military and other pertinent data could be printed in Ukrainian papers requesting returns to a selected address. Such questionnaires might also be circulated by UNA officers, mailed to Ukrainian churches, professional societies, etc. Financial supporters for the analyzing and publishing of findings could evolve after the collection of data.

The Ukrainian American record of accomplishment in World War II might well rate among the best.

Many sturdy Ukrainian American veterans, wherever their residences may be in this vast America, would be pleased to learn that their fellow Ukrainians remember them and appreciate them and their services.

An interesting overview of Ukrainian American participation in World War II appears in a section titled Military Services in the book, "The Ukrainians of Maryland." This section of 12 pages, written by S/Sgt. Stephen Basarab, while showing good general coverage of Ukrainian American military personnel in World War II is but a prelude to what a thorough study would reveal.

Paul Fenchak
Baltimore, Md.

The writer is president of UNA Branch 320.

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



The miracle that is Shevchenko

The summer of 1970 in Ukraine was pretty grim. People were being arrested for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda," books were banned and journals closed down. I was 22 and a year out of college when three buddies and I bought a van in Germany to travel into Ukraine on a camping visa. You knew you were in a totalitarian society the minute you reached the barbed-wire border. A team of militiamen spent hours going through our bags and taking our car apart. The pressure kept up the entire two weeks we were in Ukraine, with most people avoiding us, others following us, and everywhere; "Lenin Lives, Lenin Lived, Lenin Will Always Live!" Give me a break, I thought, but I didn't dare say it out loud.

Obsessively, we looked for signs of Ukraine – the real Ukraine, not the Intourist variety. Sad to say, the real Ukraine was hard to find, unless it was at your relatives' home and there people spoke in guarded voices, as if every word were being recorded. Like I said, it was grim.

On the two-lane highway between Kyiv and Lviv, we stopped at a gas station near Rivne, the only one, it seemed, for a hundred miles in either direction. Politely, we asked to fill it up, check the oil, etc. The three guys running the station were blown away. Who are you, they asked, where are you from, how much do you make, how is it you speak Ukrainian? Finally, one of them asked, "Have you ever heard of Taras Shevchenko?" All four of us replied that, of course, we had. And he began to recite:

"When I die, then bury me in a mound
Amidst the spreading steppes,
In Ukraine, so dear to me..."

It was Shevchenko's "Zapovit" (Testament). He broke off and we continued:

"So the cultivated soil, the spreading fields,
The Dnipro and whirlpools
Will be there for me to see
And I'll hear the mighty river roar."

Well, that was it. Nothing was going to stop these guys from closing the only gas station on the highway so we could drink "50 grams." Hours later, after we'd shared not only vodka – lots of it – but also stories, jokes, poems and laughter, we were back on the road. Ukraine lives, we concluded. Shevchenko is the guiding spirit.

It's now nearly 30 years later and I have a son who's 8 years old. Right now he's busy learning a couple of verses to recite at the annual Cleveland commemoration of Taras Shevchenko's life. I used to do the same thing when I was 8. I'll bet a lot of you reading this article did too. For Ukrainians everywhere, Shevchenko, more than any other person who ever lived, defines Ukraine. You might almost say, he invented modern Ukraine – not by design, but by the drama of his life and the soaring lyricism of his verse: clear, beautiful poetry, inspiring enough to bridge the gap between communism and capitalism during the height of the Cold War.

Every Ukrainian knows the outlines of Shevchenko's biography: he was born a serf (kripak) in a village south of Kyiv in 1814. The village and, therefore, Shevchenko, belonged to Paul Engelhardt. Orphaned before he was a teenager, Shevchenko had to fend for himself, living out in the open for more than a year. Today we'd call him homeless. Finally, his master took him in as

a house boy. When Shevchenko was 17, Engelhardt took him to St. Petersburg, the Russian capital. There, a group of intellectuals and artists was astonished by the intelligent, talented slave and in 1838 bought him his freedom. Shevchenko was 24. They then arranged for him to study at the St. Petersburg Academy of Arts and, without meaning to, changed the course of European history.

In 1838 Ukraine scarcely existed. There was little literature to speak of: an almanac of "Ruthenian" songs and folklore, a satire by Ivan Kotliarevsky, a play or two. That was about it. Most Ukrainians were serfs; most serfs were illiterate. The handful of Ukrainian gentry knew Russian. There was no market for Ukrainian books because there was no readership. The most prominent Ukrainian writing in 1838 was Nicolai Gogol, and he wrote exclusively in Russian. The only ones making money "writing" for a Ukrainian audience were the blind kobzars, the minstrels who wandered the countryside singing about Ukraine's faded past, the long-ago glories of Kozaks, their failed wars of independence and the bloody peasant rebellions against the ruling class.

Those were the stories that fed Shevchenko's imagination as he grew up, and they haunted him once he entered privileged circles in St. Petersburg. And so, instead of pursuing a comfortable career as a society painter, Shevchenko poured his heart out in a torrent of poems based on those same stories. In his magnificent "Kobzar," Shevchenko spun beautiful images of the moon over Babylon, of storm-driven waves rising in mountains on the Dnipro, the sun warming then burning a little shepherd boy's skin. Invariably, he wove an angry analysis of Ukraine's tragic history into his verses.

For an illiterate peasantry, the flowing lines and colorful imagery were electrifying. Peter and Great and Catherine II were "executioners" who crucified Ukraine. The splendor of St. Petersburg was stolen, plundered from the ancient burial mounds the young Shevchenko saw dotting the steppes. The city itself was built on a foundation of Kozak bones. "Bury me, then rise up and beak your chains!" Shevchenko instructed.

This, of course, was powerful stuff and far more than the tsar was willing to tolerate. He ordered Shevchenko's imprisonment and forbid him to write. For another 10 years the former slave lived in exile and in servitude. His health broken, he died in 1861 at the age of 46, a week after the emancipation of the serfs in the Russian Empire.

Two years later, in 1863, sensing a rising tide of nationalism, the tsar banned the Ukrainian language altogether, but the damage was done. People could recite Shevchenko from memory. And, so for the next century and more of Russian and Soviet repression, Shevchenko loomed over every change in Ukraine, holding the political line for the millions of serfs, collective farm workers, political prisoners. If the Soviets put up a giant statue in Kyiv to celebrate the "reunification" of Russia and Ukraine, Shevchenko had a rebuttal ready, with Mother Ukraine herself denouncing the leader who had signed the fatal Pereiaslav treaty:

"Oh Bohdan, Bohdanochku, you foolish son
Had I known I'd have smothered you
in your cradle."

No point in censoring that; it was com-

(Continued on page 9)

BOOK REVIEW

A new memoir by Ukrainian Canadian Kulyk Keefer

"Honey and Ashes: A Story of Family," by Janice Kulyk Keefer; Harper Flamingo, Canada; 338 pp.

by Yuriy Diakunchak

"I grew up with stories that made me realize I came from a place steeped in history," Ukrainian Canadian writer and scholar Janice Kulyk Keefer told an audience at the Ukrainian National Federation's downtown Toronto library recently. She was promoting her latest book, "Honey and Ashes," her first non-fiction book – a memoir that is a direct result of her fascination with the place her family called home.

The narrative begins in 1900 with the birth of her grandfather Tomasz Solowski, progresses through the travails of five generations of her family and ends in the present with the author's 1997 trip to visit her family in Ukraine and Poland. "I write about the story of a family ... but also how the story of a family is intertwined with public history," she said at her UNF appearance.

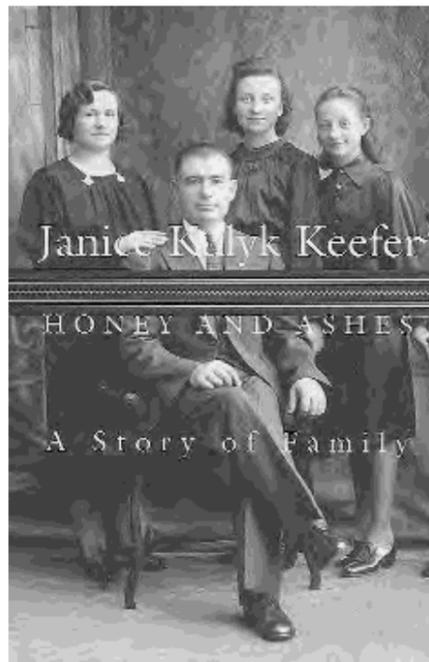
The book is billed by publisher Harper Flamingo as "an immigrant experience common to many Canadians." While this is true, Ms. Kulyk Keefer personalizes this experience with fascinating anecdotes of the daily life of her family, both in Ukraine and later in Canada.

The story that unfolds is one of cruelty and brutality, of the basic unfairness that characterized the lives of the peas-

antry of Halychyna, one of the poorest, most overpopulated regions of Europe. The name of Ms. Kulyk Keefer's ancestral village in western Ukraine is rich in connotation – Staromishchyna, "the Old Place." It suffered not only from inter-ethnic strife between the Poles and Ukrainians, but also from the barbarism inherent in the daily struggle to simply survive. Less than 100 years ago, life in this area of the world was so venal it is barely imaginable.

The author reconstructs a story told by her mother Natalia (née Solowska) of a neighboring boy whose father beat him until the boy's back snapped, leaving him crippled for life. She tells us of the bee-keeping uncle who wouldn't spare even a taste of honey for Natalia and her sister Vira. She describes the deprivations endured by the residents of Staromishchyna caused by two world wars, and the ethnic hatred between Ukrainians and Poles that set cousin against cousin. Staromishchyna was among the many staging grounds for all manner of vicious crimes perpetrated by authoritarian Polish, Nazi and Soviet regimes.

The villagers themselves, caught up in this seemingly endless flow of conflict, commit atrocity upon atrocity against each other. Family ties no longer count.



Only ethnic identification determines on who will set upon whom, although ethnic identity in that world was far from clear cut, as Ms. Kulyk Keefer's own part-Ukrainian, part-Polish family can attest.

The reader experiences the sadness that overcame the author as she researched the book. "I was filled with sorrow that people in such a potentially rich country live with such hardship, that I can barely imagine surviving for one day," she told her audience.

The banality of history's evils is brought home in Ms. Kulyk Keefer's account of her visit to the town in 1997, where she tries to elicit memories of the turbulent past from the inhabitants. A distant relative tells her that Natalia's uncle Vlodko was arrested by the Soviets in 1944, and later died in the gulag. "Why?" asks Ms. Kulyk Keefer. The relative shrugs as if to say "what a stupid question." Why did anyone – Ukrainian, Pole, Jew – have to die in those days? What reason did conquering armies need to victimize the conquered?

And yet in the midst all of this inhumanity, Ms. Kulyk Keefer's immediate family appears to have managed to maintain their basic humanity. Although some were driven from their home by economic necessity and others by history's horrors, they rose above their troubles and forged a successful life in the New World. Unfairness doggedly followed them across the ocean – the family's ethnicity is a drawback in an English world – but thankfully it did not prove to be an insurmountable barrier.

At times her family's nobility seems a bit too perfect. "We keep something back even in the most urgent confession" the author wrote in the introduction to the book. "Every family has its mythology, and every member of the family has different ways of interpreting them," she explained at her talk. Readers are to understand that she is relating history as she has come to understand it.

There is, however, a striking imbalance in "Honey and Ashes." In Ms. Kulyk Keefer's specific references to deaths in the two world wars, on page 77, the author writes that 35,000-50,000 Jews were killed in pogroms in Ukraine in World War I; on page 185 she relates that 60,000-80,000 Polish men, women and children were massacred in Volhynia by Ukrainians in the 1940s. Yet no numbers appear for similar losses of Ukrainian lives, especially since these losses were on an intrinsic part of the

An analysis of economic conditions of Ukrainian peasants in 20th century

"Ukrainian Peasantry in the First Half of the 20th Century: Tragedy and Heroism" by Osy Moroz and Stepan Zlupko; Lviv: Universum Publishers, 1997, 164 pp., (in Ukrainian).

by Dr. Dmytro Bodnarczuk

Using statistics and recently declassified Soviet documents, authors Osy Moroz and Stepan Zlupko analyze the economic conditions of the Ukrainian peasants beginning with 1900 both in the Austro-Hungarian and Russian empires and end their overview in 1947 with the Soviet and Communist Polish repressions in western Ukraine.

The analysis and interpretations of those statistics span two world wars; the famines of 1921-1923, 1932-1933 and 1947; forced collectivization; duplicity of the New Economic Program; Russian and Polish colonization of Ukrainian farming regions; peasant resistance and brutal Soviet and Polish repression of this resistance.

The testimony of the statistics describing the suffering of the Ukrainian peasants becomes painfully unbearable to read. The peasant's emergence and vitality after each atrocity is like the land he tends: there is a springtime for sowing, but not always a time for harvesting, yet hope emerges from under the ruin and the peasant tries again and again to eke out a living for his impoverished family.

From the concluding segment of this book it appears that the authors, besides documenting the peasants' suffering and atrocities, wish to send a message to the "nation-builder" leaders of Ukraine: private ownership and the private initiative of cooperatives are superior to any government-imposed solutions to farming. The peasant social class is indispensable to the survival of Ukraine as a nation and a political state. The destruction of the peasant



class will destroy the soul of Ukraine.

This book is a valuable contribution to the study of the role of the Ukrainian peasant to the survival of Ukraine as a nation. It is recommended reading for scholars, political leaders and particularly for the members of Parliament in Ukraine. This book should be translated into English in order to acquaint a broader base of readers with the tragedy and heroism of the Ukrainian peasantry.

Osy Moroz is a graduate of the New York University School of Commerce with a B.S. in management, and a Ph.D. in eco-

(Continued on page 9)

BOOK NOTES:
U.S. immigration, citizenship guides

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The publisher Next Decade recently released the second edition of its handbook "Citizenship Made Simple: An Easy-to-Read Guide to the U.S. Citizenship Process." This book serves as a sequel to the publisher's earlier release, "Immigration Made Simple," which is still available.

Immigration lawyers Barbara Brooks Kimmel and Alan M. Lubiner wrote the two handbooks, both of which offer basic information about the U.S. immigration and citizenship process.

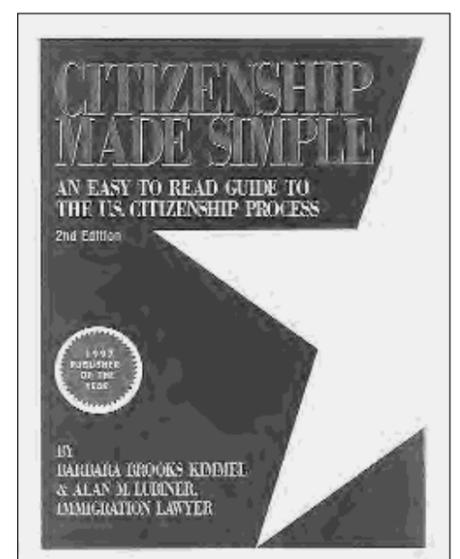
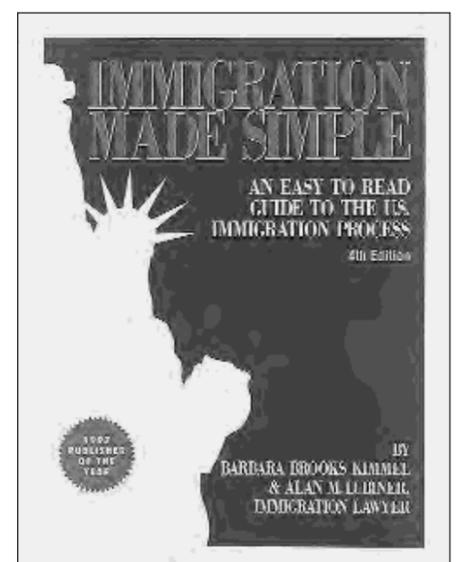
For example, the citizenship handbook includes information on terminology, requirements to become a citizen, the application and testing process, a question and answer section, sample forms and a list of contact addresses.

The immigration handbook provides information about permanent resident alien status, the types of visas the U.S. government issues (more than 25), terminology, application process and methods, appropriate federal and private resources to use for assistance, legal rights and requirements.

Both handbooks, written in simple English, are intended not only for individuals considering citizenship and immigration, but for employers, family members, directors of aid programs that would like a basic and clear explanation of the U.S. government's position and procedures on immigration and citizenship.

Both handbooks may be ordered from: Next Decade; 39 Old Farmstead Road; Chester, NJ 07930-2732; phone/fax: (908) 879-6625; toll-free phone, (800) 595-5440; or e-mail, nextdec@aol.com.

The cost of "Immigration Made Simple" is \$19.95; "Citizenship Made Simple" costs \$16.95. New Jersey residents must pay 6 percent sales tax. Shipping is \$4 for the first book; \$1 for each additional book. Individual orders must be prepaid.



(Continued on page 9)

Saskatoon hosts launch of series on women's voices in literature

SASKATOON – “Women’s Voice in Ukrainian Literature,” a new series of English translations of Ukrainian short stories by Ukrainian women writers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries was launched at the Ukrainian Museum of Canada in Saskatoon in January. The focus of the evening was the first two volumes of this series: “The Spirit of the Times” (Olena Pchilka, 1849-1930, and Nataliya Kobrynska, 1855-1920) and “In the Dark of the Night” (Dnirova Chayka, 1861-1827, and Lyubov Yanovska, 1861-1933).

Marie Kishchuk, museum chairperson, outlined the background of courses in Ukrainian literature in English translation offered at the University of Saskatchewan since 1983. She pointed out that with the publication of this new series Ukrainian literature in English translation may now reach a broader audience.

Roma Franko, the translator of the series, discussed the translation process. Sonia Morris, editor, provided an introduction to the series, biographical information about the four authors, and an overview of the short fiction represented in the first two volumes. Both the translator and editor opted for early retirement from teaching and administrative positions at the University of Saskatchewan in 1996 to devote themselves to the translation project.

An analysis...

(Continued from page 8)

nomics from the Ukrainian Free University. His experience includes business administration at several academic and business institutions in the U.S., and he serves as a consultant to the Department of Science and New Technologies at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. Stepan Zlupko is a professor of economics at the UFU, at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and is chairman of the economics department at the Lviv State University. He has authored over 800 works in the field of economics.

The miracle...

(Continued from page 7)

mitted to memory.

In 1991 when the referendum for independence was on the ballot in Ukraine, 90 percent of the people chose Shevchenko and repudiated the statue and what it stood for.

In the 159 years since Shevchenko first published his “Kobzar,” Ukraine has been through a lot: world wars, forced famine, mass arrests, wholesale deportations, judicial massacres, Russification, censorship,

Kuchma welcomes...

(Continued from page 1)

Serhii Tyhypko, and the head of the National Security and Defense Council, Volodymyr Horbulin.

Nine American companies had previously said they had problems doing business in Ukraine, but Ms. Albright’s report said the Ukrainian government had resolved four cases, those of Freedom Farm International, Pioneer Hi-Bred, Cargill and Ceres Marine Terminals Inc.

Still unresolved are the complaints of Gala Radio, R&J Trading, Perekhid Media, Lviv Grand Hotel and Alliant Kiev. The Kyiv daily Den (Day) reported on February 23 that Alliant Kiev has made a final decision to cancel its business in Ukraine and to leave the country.

But Mr. Litvitsky said the unresolved

Three additional volumes in the series “Women’s Voices in Ukrainian Literature” will be published in 1999 as follows: “But the Lord is Silent” (Olha Kobylanska, 1861-1942, and Yevheniya Yaroshynska, 1868-1904); “From Heart to Heart” (Hrytsko Hryhorenko, 1867-1924, and Lesya Ukrainka, 1871-1913); and “Warm the Children, O Sun,” devoted to stories written about childhood and adolescence by women writers of that period.

During the second half of the program, the Ukrainian Museum of Canada inaugurated the Annie Palynchuk Book Award, 1999, by presenting the first two volumes of this series to Larisa Makuch, an outstanding Grade 12 student in the E.D. Feehan High School Ukrainian Bilingual Program.

Dr. Franko then paid tribute to six members of the Ukrainian community in Saskatoon who died in 1998. Five-volume sets were donated in their memory to the libraries of the following institutions: Helen Maksymiuk – Ukrainian Museum of Canada; Rosalia Sywanyk – Ukraina Museum; Mary Pernarowski – Mohyla Institute; Maria Dorosh – Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Saskatchewan Provincial Council; Anna Rozdilsky – Oseredok/Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre in Winnipeg; Dr. Steven Dershko – Ukrainian National Federation in Toronto. Representatives of these institutions were present to receive the first two volumes, and family members were given a scroll and a personalized tribute as a memento of the occasion.

Five-volume sets were also donated to the Murray Memorial Library and the College of Education Library, University of Saskatchewan, in recognition of the graduate scholarship in Ukrainian studies established by the parents of the editor and translator, Roman and Sonia Stratyckuk.

This highly successful and well-attended book launch ended most enjoyably with a wine and cheese reception, a book-signing session and much animated conversation.

hidden microphones, terror. When you think about it, it’s a miracle that Ukraine exists at all, let alone is independent and now free to steer toward a better future.

The miracle was a long time coming. It began in 1814 with one of the most extraordinary lives in history. March is the month we traditionally remember the miracle of Shevchenko’s life. Why not take out your copy of “Kobzar” and read a few lines? While you’re at it, read Pavlo Zaitsev’s biography of the bard. Help your child memorize a couple of verses. After all, you never know when a few lines of Shevchenko might come in handy.

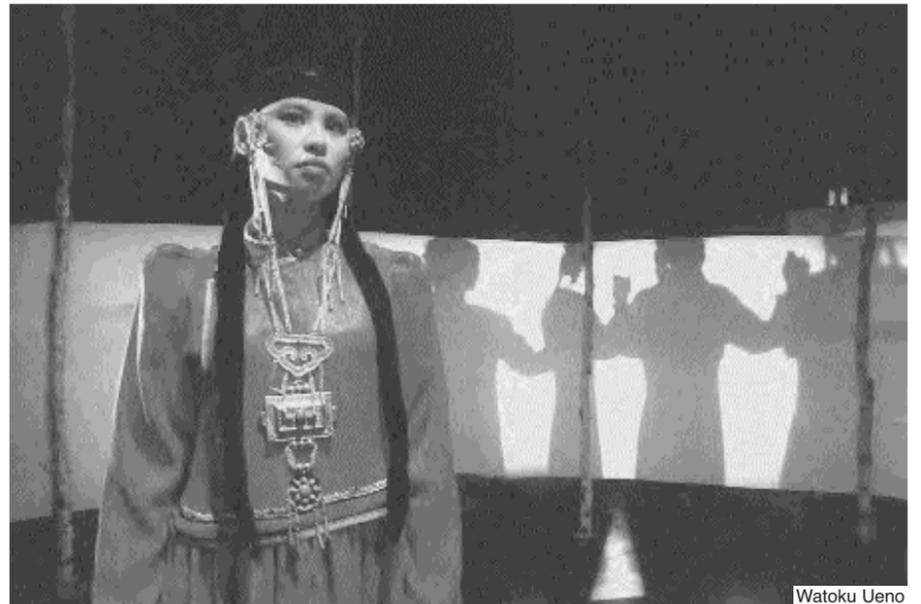
cases are the responsibility of the courts, not of the state.

The reaction of Ukrainian national deputies to the certification was not unexpected. Right-wing deputies remarked that the report would open doors for the Ukrainian government to get loans from international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, while leftists said the West merely aims to protect the Kuchma regime.

“It was a positive event for Ukraine,” said Vyachelsav Chornovil, leader of the Rukh Party.

“This money [\$195 million] cannot resolve Ukraine’s problems, but through it the U.S. aims to protect the existing political regime in the country,” said Natalya Vitrenko, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party.

Production by Yara Arts Group staged jointly with Buryat National Theater



Watoku Ueno

A scene from “Flight of the White Bird,” a new production of the Yara Arts Group.

NEW YORK – “Flight of the White Bird,” a Yara Arts Group production that opens at La MaMa E.T.C. on March 6 and runs through March 21, is being staged jointly with artists from the Buryat National Theater of Siberia.

An all-sung work, it features the music and shaman rituals of the Buryat people who live near Lake Baikal. The highly imagistic and multi-disciplinary work was inspired by a Ukrainian poem, Oleh Lysheha’s “Swan.”

“Flight of the White Bird” depicts an American in Siberia today who finds herself in the footsteps of a 16th century Buryat princess. Their worlds and destinies entwine as a shaman, at the height of his trance, leaves his body and takes flight. Music, movement, dance, chant and song intermingle in a highly stylized form that has become the signature of Yara’s pieces.

The piece features Buryat Mongolian music played live on the morin khor (horse-head fiddle) and the limbe (Mongolian flute) by the Battuvshin, a master musician and throat singer from Mongolia.

“Flight of the White Bird” is based on legends and songs the collaborators collected last year during a research expedition to the Buryat Aginsk Region, where the borders of Siberia, China and Mongolia come together. The area is remote and many elements of traditional Buryat life endure in seeming defiance of modernity. Yara artists and Buryat actors developed “Flight of the White Bird” at the Buryat National Theater in Ulan Ude and performed it there as a work-in-progress to critical acclaim and sold-out houses.

Subsequently, the multi-national company traveled to the Aginsk-Buryat Region and performed it in villages where the folk material that inspired this piece was originally collected. Poor weather and lack of predictable electricity in the region were constant challenges, but audiences exceeded capacity in each village on the tour. Tearful grandmothers and teenagers alike were transfixed as they heard their ancient songs sung by the show’s youthful cast.

This world premiere is directed by Virlana Tkacz, composed by Genji Ito and Buryat composer Erzhen Zhambalov, and designed by Watoku Ueno, with costumes by Luba Kierkosz and movement by Dyane Harvey.

The cast includes Yara ensemble members Tom Lee, Donna Ong and Meredith Wright. The Thunder Dance, which propels the shaman on his flight, is performed by Melanie Anastasia Brown, Yoko Hirayama, Allison Hiroto, Maile Holck, Kathleen Kwan, Jun Kim, Frances C. Lee, Anna Li and Mariko Shibata. The Buryat co-authors, Erzhen Zhambalov, Sayan Zhambalov and

Erdeny Zhaltzanov, are the premiere artists of their generation at the Buryat National Theatre in Ulan Ude.

The multilingual piece is easily accessible to English speaking audiences and has traditional Buryat songs translated into English by Sayan Zhambalov, Ms. Tkacz and Wanda Phipps.

Theater writer Melinda Guttmann attended a work-in-progress version of the piece and in an essay titled “Shamanism, Theater, Healing” referred to the piece as “an exquisite work of art,” noting that “the effects already achieved are moving, beautiful and revelatory of an unknown world both to us and to the Buryats whose spiritual traditions have been buried by a technological, materialist era of dark times...”

“Flight of the White Bird” plays at La MaMa E.T.C., 74A E. Fourth St., Thursday-Saturday, at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets for Friday and Saturday performances are \$20, for Thursday and Sunday performance, \$15. For tickets and more information call (212) 475-7710.

A new memoir...

(Continued from page 8)

lives and even though Ms. Kulyk Keefer provides a bibliography of reference works used in her research for the book.

However, the memoir’s narrative power carries the reader along. The author’s voice floats from past to present, demanding some extra concentration, but this creates a heightened sense of realism and involvement – of being there.

Ms. Kulyk Keefer effectively juxtaposes different people’s reactions to events and perceptions of reality. While her mother tells of a river so strong it could sweep away a team of horses, this river, the Zbruch, which demarcated the border between Soviet Ukraine and Poland in the interwar period, is but a trickling rivulet when the author sees it in 1997. Could it be that her mother’s perception as a child made the river seem larger than it really was? Ms. Kulyk Keefer makes her disappointment plain, yet she subsequently learns that her mother’s account is probably accurate. In the 1950s, grandiose Soviet projects diverted most of the river’s water.

Few memoirs of the period Ms. Kulyk Keefer covers approach the naked brutality of everyday life in backwater Ukraine as does “Honey and Ashes.” Her book is a useful reminder that the “Old Place,” indeed the past in general, is usually not as nice as we like to think.

Ten years of work on behalf of Ukraine: notable highlights

by Bohdan Hawrylyshyn

Council of Advisors

PART II

A Washington dinner

In November 1990, a month after the students' hunger strike, George Soros was lecturing before some 400 people in Washington on his theory of reflexivity. Mr. Soros was regarded at the time as a great financier by philosophers and as an interesting philosopher by financiers. I was invited to the lecture and to a dinner for some 30 people after the lecture.

During the dinner, the U.S. ambassador to China was asked to describe the massacre that had occurred during the students' demonstration on Tiananmen Square in June of that year. He described it in detail. One could almost see the tanks crushing the students.

Somewhat unexpectedly I was asked, immediately afterwards, to analyze the situation in Eastern Europe. I suggested that I would focus on Ukraine and, instead of an orderly analysis, I offered vignettes of a few important milestones in the march of Ukraine towards independence. I described in detail and with still obvious passionate feelings the students' October hunger strike and particularly the fact that no violence took place and that the Parliament capitulated to the students' demands.

The contrast between what had happened in Beijing and what had happened in Kyiv was great and obviously impressed the audience.

The next morning before breakfast, Mr. Soros came to see me at my hotel. He said that if what I had described the previous evening was possible, I could have a few million dollars to try and help firm up the democratic processes in Ukraine. The funds would be forthcoming from the Karl Popper Foundation in Switzerland, financed by a relative of Mr. Soros.

Upon my return to Geneva, I wrote a concept paper, a plan, prepared a budget and discussed it with the board of the Karl Popper Foundation. It was approved without any changes. I set up an office in Geneva to manage the Karl Popper Program for Ukraine.

During the next four years some 40 projects were prepared and implemented, varying in amount from several thousand to several hundred thousand dollars and in nature from an exchange of farmers between Ukraine and Canada, and training of Ukrainian reporters by the Canada Broadcasting Corp., to study visits abroad by Ukrainian parliamentarians. The program operated for a few years in parallel, but quite independently, from the International Renaissance Foundation.

Leonid Kravchuk, then chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, attended the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 1991.

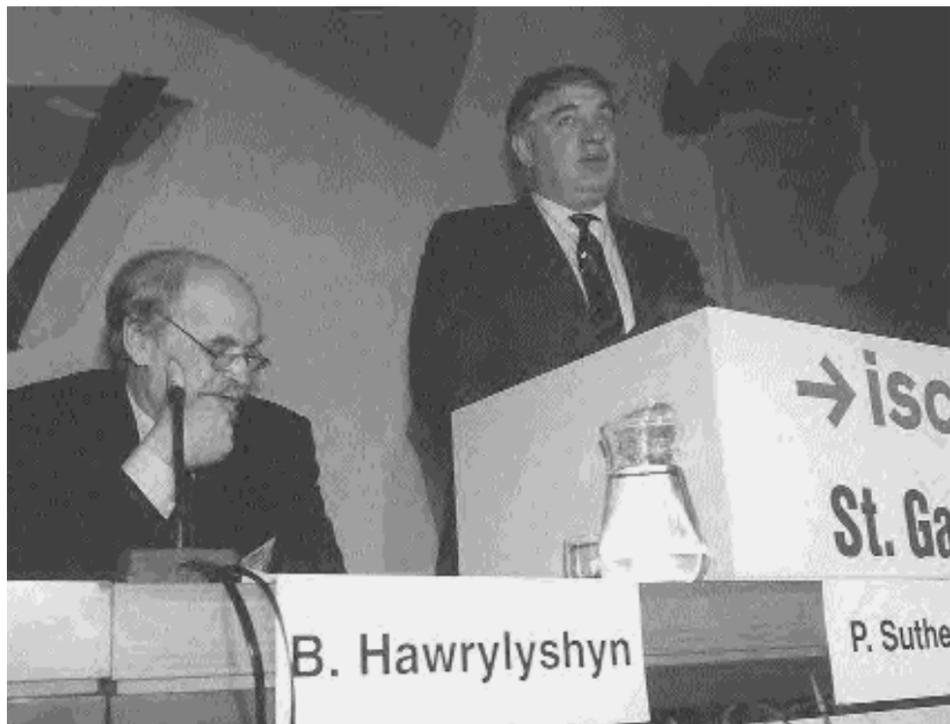
This is an annual weeklong gathering of over 1,500 business and political leaders worldwide held to assess the state of the world and ponder future developments. The symposium was initiated in 1971 by the International Management Institute in Geneva, which I directed, to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

After attending the symposium, Mr. Kravchuk came to our home in Geneva for dinner. After dinner he took me aside and asked if I would become his advisor. I reflected for a minute and told him that I did not think this was a good idea. He asked if this was because I did not want to be an advisor to a Communist, if I was afraid of what people would say about that. I replied that it might be more awkward for him vis-à-vis the Central Committee of the Communist Party to have a person known as a Ukrainian patriot as his advisor. Instead I suggested to create a group of advisors, to be called the Council of Advisors, consisting of well-known personalities from different countries, who would advise the Presidium of the Parliament, in which different political currents were represented, rather than just the chairman. Mr. Kravchuk immediately agreed.

I wrote a paper with a suggested mandate for the council and its *modus operandi*. I then contacted a group of personalities, some of whom I had known for many years before. They were all people with political experience in legislative and executive branches of their respective countries and/or people with international experience and standing.

Somewhat to my surprise, all the people whom I approached accepted immediately. The composition, with a few changes over time, was as follows:

- Prof. Raymond Barre, member of Parliament, former prime minister of France;
- Prof. Kurt H. Biedenkopf, prime minister, State of Saxony;
- Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, counselor, Center for Strategic and International Studies, former U.S. national security advisor;
- Prof. Staffan Burenstam-Linder, member of the European Parliament, former rector, Stockholm School of Economics, chairman of the board Central Bank of Sweden, former minister of foreign trade;
- Dr. Kurt Furgler, former president of the Swiss Confederation, member of the Inter-Action Group (40 former heads of state).
- Dr. Ricardo Diez-Hohleitner, president, Club of Rome.



At the 24th International Management Symposium at the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland, held in June 1994, Sir Peter Sutherland, commissioner of the European Common Market, is at the podium. Bohdan Hawrylyshyn (seated) chairs the symposium.

- Lord Geoffrey Howe, member of the British House of Lords, Queen's Counsel, member of Parliament, former British deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs;

- Marc Lalonde, lawyer, held various portfolios in the Canadian federal government;

- Romano Prodi, professor, former chairman of the Council of Ministers of Italy;

- Roy Romanow, premier, province of Saskatchewan;

- Mr. Soros, financier and philanthropist, chairman of the Soros Foundations/Open Society Institute, U.S.A.; and

- Baroness Shirley Williams, member of the British House of Lords, held several portfolios in the Labor government of the United Kingdom.

On March 12 the Presidium of the Verkhovna Rada made the decision to officially create the council, though we had to add, mostly for cosmetic reasons, the same number of Ukrainians to the council. This was done against the strong objections of some members of the Presidium, who thought that the proposed Ukrainian members did not have any more wisdom or political experience than the members of the Presidium itself. This turned out to be an irrelevant issue, because the Ukrainian part of the council atrophied very quickly.

Most of the foreign members, however, were active, being in fact the first ambassadors of Ukraine – even before Ukraine became independent. They spoke on behalf of Ukraine in various international settings, such as the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. Most of them came for several visits to Ukraine to participate in workshops and to give advice on the organization of various ministries. All of them made important contributions to the Constitution, reacting to proposed laws, supplying information about legislative processes in other countries, relations between legislative, executive and judicial branches, etc.

The council had a secretariat in Kyiv, which produced the Digest of Foreign Press pertaining to Ukraine and an Update on Ukraine, which was disseminated to the council members and to whomever they felt appropriate, organized as well as council members' visits, workshops.

It was, therefore, with a sense of gratitude, but also with much regret that I decided to dissolve the council in March 1998, since under the new Constitution the Presidium of the Parliament no longer existed. More importantly, the apparatus of the president, the Cabinet of Ministers and the Parliament had grown, and many people in these various organs acquired some knowl-

edge of legislative and executive experiences of different countries, and many advisory groups had emerged, from Germany, the United States, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, etc.

The Act of Declaration of Independence

In Kyiv, after the August 19 putsch, a special session of the Parliament was called for Saturday, August 24. One could not help but feel that something of importance would happen. On late Friday evening, August 23, I arranged to take the next flight to Kyiv the following morning. From Boryspil airport I went straight to the Parliament, which was in recess after a bitter debate in the morning about whether to disband the Communist Party first and then declare independence, or to declare independence first.

I joined a few people, gathered around a table in front of the chairman's office, who were putting the final touches on the wording of the Act of Declaration of Independence. A question was suddenly raised as to what we should call the country that was about to be declared independent. An immediate answer came: "Naturally, the Democratic Republic of Ukraine." Just as quickly a retort followed: "There were so many so-called 'Democratic Republics'! Why not simply the Republic of Ukraine?" Then, Mr. Pavlychko, in his passionate fashion, exclaimed: "Why not simply 'Ukraine'?" The agreement was instant. Thus, the name of the country was decided upon by eight people in less than half a minute.

The recess ended. The session was about to start. It was obvious, however, that a number of deputies were missing and the quorum would not be met. Chairman Kravchuk was skillfully delaying putting the Act of Declaration of Independence to a vote, while deputies were slowly coming back into the assembly hall. It was rumored afterwards that a number of Communist deputies had tried to escape through an underground passage, in order not to take part in the vote, but were blocked. The tension in the legislative chamber was palpable.

Finally, the act was put to a vote and, surprisingly, carried almost unanimously. Some of us ran to the windows on the second floor of the Parliament building, opened them up and greeted the mass of people gathered in front of the building. As I looked at those people – delirious with happiness, shouting: "Slava Ukraini!" – I could have jumped out of the window to share their joy.

On Monday, August 26, at 4 p.m., the Presidium of the Parliament met to discuss just one item on the agenda: the Communist Party of Ukraine. Some of the members of the Presidium and a few deputies sitting at



President Leonid Kravchuk consults with his adviser Bohdan Hawrylyshyn in May 1994.

the back of the room as guests demanded the immediate dissolution of the Communist Party and nationalization of all of its assets. Chairman Kravchuk with great calm kept deferring for legal advice, particularly to Attorney General Shishkin, to ensure that whatever would be done would be genuinely legal. After an hour and a half of debate, it emerged that it would be possible to ban the party, to freeze its assets and keep just one account open to pay the salaries of the administrative employees of the party.

Just before putting the proposition to a vote, Chairman Kravchuk asked, with a touch of irony, how many of the members of the Presidium had never been members of the Communist Party. Just one hand went up: it was that of Les Taniuk. All the others, including Mr. Kravchuk, had been members, some had handed in their party membership cards a year earlier, some a few months earlier, some during the previous few days and some probably still had them in their pockets. Curiously though, when the resolution was then put to a vote to disband the Communist Party of Ukraine, it was carried unanimously.

Communists were obviously on the run. A pity that they subsequently were given the chance to regroup. During the subsequent year and a half, the democratic forces, though in minority, could have taken over the power and established a government of people who had never been members of the Communist nomenclatura.

Securing independence

The decision to have a referendum on the question of Ukraine becoming independent and to hold presidential elections at the same time was a wise one, meant to give full legitimacy to independence through the expression of the will of the people. Had the Parliament been satisfied with its own declaration of independence, by now independence would be in a serious jeopardy. The referendum took place smoothly and provided extraordinary positive results.

The official ceremony of proclaiming the independence of Ukraine took place in the Parliament on December 5. It was a very moving experience for me and my wife to watch the ceremony and listen to the Verioivka choir singing "Bozhe Velykyi, Yedynyi." A number of countries recognized the independence of Ukraine in quick succession.

A few days later, a meeting took place in Belarus between Kravchuk, Mikhail Gorbachev and a few leaders of other Soviet republics and the Soviet Union was formally dissolved. The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was created. President Kravchuk, who precipitated the dissolution of the Soviet Union and concurred to the creation of the CIS, saw it, however, as "a divorce procedure" rather than any kind of replacement for the USSR.

Opening some doors

The young Ukrainian state had few contacts and little knowledge of the outside world, of the international institutions. On December 16, 1991, I went to President Kravchuk to suggest that Ukraine should apply for membership in the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. I presented to him draft letters in English and Ukrainian, addressed to the president of the World Bank and the managing director of the IMF, saying that if he would get them typed on his official letterhead and signed, a World Bank consultant, who was going to Washington, would deliver the letters personally. Mr. Kravchuk did not know much about these institutions at the time, but accepted the idea immediately. Letters were delivered as promised and Ukraine was three weeks ahead of Russia in submitting its applications for membership in the above two institutions.

Mr. Kravchuk had attended the Davos Symposium of the World Economic Forum in January 1991, but he was there in his capacity as a chairman of the Parliament of a Soviet republic. Now that he was president of an independent state, it was important for

him to appear in that capacity and speak at a plenary session, rather than take part in some lesser events. This was done at the end of January 1992. Mr. Kravchuk spoke and behaved in a dignified fashion, as befits the president of an important country. He did the same in subsequent similar settings and diplomatic encounters. It was good to be with him in Davos as part of a small Ukrainian delegation, to help arrange some of the meetings with other heads of states and attend official dinners.

There were other international gatherings, though somewhat smaller and less prestigious, where it seemed useful for me to ensure Ukraine's participation. One of these was the Forum de Crans Montana, in the western part of Switzerland, where a number of prime ministers, ministers from various countries and a few hundred business leaders gather for three days. Since I was on the international advisory board of that organization, then headed by the prime minister of France, it was easy enough to get invitations for Vice-Prime Minister Roman Shpek and several vice ministers. Ukraine was present, it could speak for itself directly. The very presence of its representatives prevented whatever negative things the Russian delegation might have been tempted to say about Ukraine.

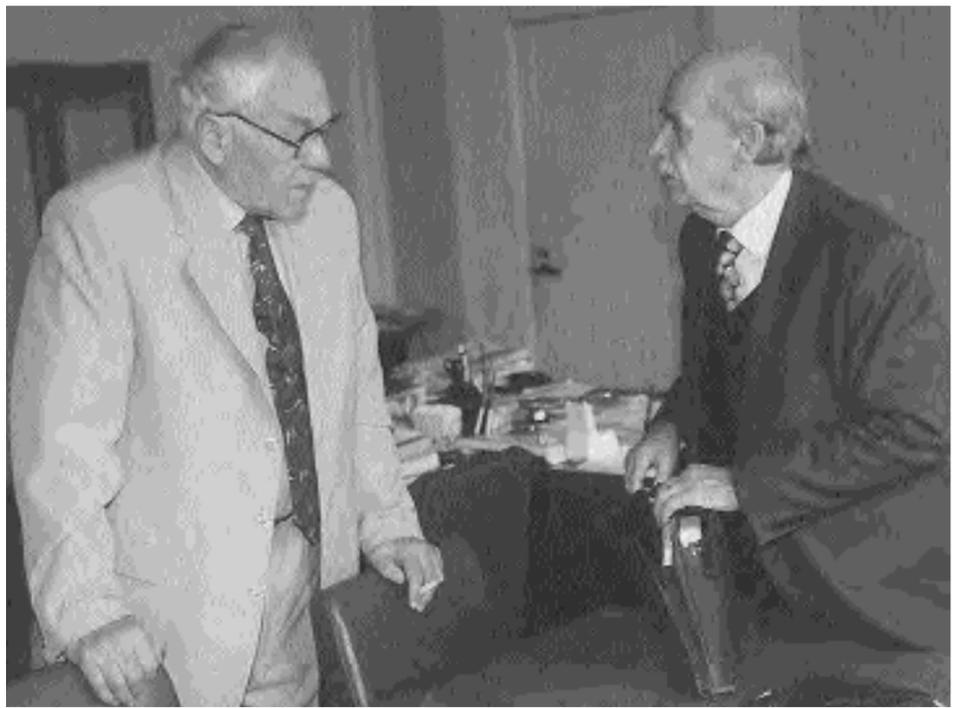
There was yet another annual event in Switzerland, which was unique in its conception: a three-day international management symposium, organized on the grounds of the University of St. Gallen for 500 students and 500 executives from around the world. Students are invited by the executives who participate from their respective countries. The idea is to have a meeting of two generations in response to the students' revolution of 1968. I chaired the event for 24 consecutive years, until 1997. While the symposium is organized by students it attracts world-level speakers.

I was most anxious to get some Ukrainian students involved, but they did not have any corporate sponsors. Because I had chaired so many symposia, I persuaded the organizers to pay each year for five students from Ukraine. They came from Ternopil, Lviv and Kyiv. It is useful for our young Ukrainians to meet with their fellow students and brush shoulders with important personalities from around the world.

The Ukrainian students who attended the May 1993 symposium will certainly remember it. Chancellor Helmut Kohl was one of the main speakers. I introduced him briefly. He stood up, an imposing personality of enormous size and of great political stature; I sat beside him, appearing by comparison utterly insignificant, yet in the chairman's seat. Chancellor Kohl spoke well, with clarity and conviction. The audience listened in rapt attention. Listening also were three other earlier speakers: Dr. Vaclav Klaus, prime minister of the former Czecho-Slovakia; Leszek Balcerowicz, deputy prime minister and the architect of the Polish economic miracle; and the minister of finance from Hungary.

The consummate politician that he is, Chancellor Kohl used the occasion to emphasize that a top priority of German foreign policy was to have friendly relations with Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary and Poland. After very long applause, Mr. Kohl stepped down and sat in the first row, beaming with the self-satisfaction of having done a great job. After the applause died down, I said: "Chancellor Kohl, your speech would have been perfect... had you also mentioned good relations with Ukraine among your policy priorities." The audience, well aware that I was Ukrainian, burst out in laughter. Chancellor Kohl was bewildered.

Nonetheless, I must give the man full credit for his memory and his sense of humor. Two years later he came on an official visit to Ukraine. I was with Ivan Pliushch, then chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, waiting to meet Chancellor Kohl. Chancellor Kohl walked into the room, spotted me, walked up to me, shook my hand before greeting Mr. Pliushch and let out his



The author with Rector Oleksander Ustenko of the Ternopil Academy of National Economy in August 1998.

thundering "ha-ha-ha!" This was yet another occasion on which I saw that truly important personalities, normally treated with great deference, enjoy being dealt with occasionally as ordinary people, particularly when done with some humor.

Back to my region

I love my native village, Koropets, even though we moved from it when I was only 4 years old. It is a big village with some 6,000 inhabitants, located in the valley on both banks of a little river by the same name. When you look down from one of the hills towards the Dnister, you see how it winds majestically as if embracing one river bank and pushing away the other - it's breathless. I am proud of the village, because it was nationally conscious at an early age, very patriotic; it had a disproportionately high number of its people involved in Ukrainian resistance organizations.

I have been visiting my village at least once every year since I returned to Ukraine, praying at my mother's grave, visiting relatives who survived Siberia, feeling happy that one of my nephews is the only doctor in the village and lives in the house that belonged to my great-grandfather. Another nephew graduated from the faculty of law, but has not made a real career since the unspoken rule in the village was that one had to choose between the Communist Party or the family and the village. He chose the latter.

Under Polish rule the village belonged to the region of Ivano-Frankivsk, then called Stanislaviv. I still feel that I belong to that

part of the country, partly because Ivano-Frankivsk is close to the Carpathian Mountains, which have been and remain to me the dearest, most attractive part of Ukraine. Under the Soviet regime the village was re-assigned, with the surrounding territory, to the Ternopil oblast.

Like it or not, I now belong to Ternopil and have assumed this "regional citizenship." In a way I had no choice, because Ternopil laid its claim on me. I was elected president of the Ternopil Academy for National Economy, whose rector is an exceptionally skillful academic administrator and a very enterprising person. I make annual visits to the academy, which is essentially an economics university with 4,000 full-time students and another 6,000 or so part-time or correspondence students. I enjoy lecturing to its alert, patriotic students. I also preside over expeditious meetings of the senate of the academy and delight in the fact that this kind of quality institution exists in my oblast, with a number of well-known graduates, like Viktor Yuschenko, chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine, important people in the presidential administration and other leading figures.

The academy has good contacts and real cooperation with western universities, particularly in Germany, Holland and the United Kingdom. We recently held an international conference on the integration of Ukraine into the European Union, which took place at the academy's branch in Crimea. Three such annual conferences have been conducted thus far on various aspects of integration. In this and some other fields, the academy is ahead of the government.

Kennan Institute announces Kyiv Project

by Olenka Dobczanska

WASHINGTON - The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation has signed an agreement with the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars to help open the Kennan Kyiv Project (KKP), which will be housed in the foundation's Pylyp Orlyk Institute for Democracy in Ukraine.

The opening of the Kennan Kyiv Project office is the first cooperative step in a growing relationship between the institute and the foundation. The organizations hope to collaborate on research projects and conferences, leveraging each other's significant strengths.

The Kennan Institute, an independent research center, is one of several area studies programs at the Woodrow Wilson Center. Its mission is to foster and develop scholarship about Eastern Europe, Russia and Eurasia.

The break-up of the Soviet Union has resulted in greater scholarly and political attention on the non-Russian countries in the

region and the Kennan Kyiv Project reflects this increased interest among scholars and politicians. The small representative office at the Pylyp Orlyk Institute in Kyiv will allow the Kennan Institute administrative staff to more effectively conduct recruitment and orientation activities for its scholarship programs in Ukraine. In addition, it will allow the institute to hold seminars, conferences and other events for its growing pool of Ukrainian alumni.

The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation has cooperated with the Kennan Institute in a number of events including a presentation by Yevhen Kushnariov, former chief of staff of President Leonid Kuchma's administration, who was a featured speaker in the Kennan Institute's noon discussion series, as well as at a foundation seminar.

For more information contact the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation at 733 15th Street NW, Suite 1026, Washington, DC 20005, telephone, (202) 347-4264; fax, (202) 347-4267; e-mail, usuf@usukraine.org

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The secretary of state's...

(Continued from page 3)

further commented: "It is difficult to understate the strategic importance of Ukraine to the United States. Particularly during this critical period of worldwide economic dislocations, we must remain fully engaged in Ukraine."

Community efforts

An argument similar to that used by the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus was presented to Secretary Albright in a letter from the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA). In its appeal to Secretary Albright to provide a positive report to Congress, the UCCA indicated that "funds appropriated to Ukraine for FY 1999 from the United States have, as their main priority, the goal of maintaining support for reform efforts in a broad range of areas. Each of those areas is vitally important in continuing Ukraine's transition to a stable parliamentary democracy with a free-market economy, most notably the enactment of commercial law and the enhancement of law enforcement procedures." The UCCA pointed to the fact that only such fundamental programs and system-wide reforms will enable Ukraine to implement necessary strategies to stabilize its economy, attract foreign investment and proceed with further economic reform efforts.

Mindful of the resonance a positive or negative report would carry, the UCCA cited a critical juncture that lies ahead for Ukraine: the 1999 presidential elections. "Failure to provide a positive report to Congress," wrote UCCA President Askold Lozynskiy, "would signal a weakening of U.S. strategic, political and economic interests in Ukraine in light of growing evidence within the region of a resurgence of Russian imperialism." As Ukraine has adhered to the principles of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, its resolve not to supply turbines to the nuclear reactor facility in Bushehr, Iran, and its forging of closer relations to the West and NATO, the UCCA argued that "it is in the best interest of the United States to provide a positive report to Congress" regarding economic and political reform movement in Ukraine.

Ukrainian American community members' efforts led to private meetings with members of Congress to discuss the certification process, as exemplified by discussions held in Detroit, with the local UCCA branch (headed by Borys Potapenko) and Sen. Spencer Abraham (R-Mich.) and Rep. Joseph Knollenberg (R-Mich.), a member of the House of Representatives Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee.

As a result, Sen. Abraham, an outspoken proponent of U.S.-Ukrainian bilateral relations, penned a letter to Secretary Albright expressing his support for certification. "Although U.S. foreign assistance is contingent upon economic reforms in Ukraine," wrote Sen. Abraham, "I believe that we should remain engaged while these reforms are taking place. It is critical, in my view, that we do more to build our relationship

with Ukraine." The senator also acknowledged the importance of sustained U.S. foreign assistance programs that is "often critical, if not the key to encouraging ongoing economic and political reform" in Ukraine.

In a letter written to Secretary Albright following certification, Rep. Knollenberg thanked the secretary for her efforts to provide a positive report to Congress. The congressman did state that he is concerned about the "obvious need for continuing reform, and it is my hope that you [Secretary Albright] will continue to promote further progress in Ukraine over the coming months, before consideration of the fiscal year 2000 Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill."

Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.), a member of the Senate Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee and longtime supporter of Ukraine, felt compelled to offer his views on certification to Secretary Albright. In his February 12 letter to the secretary of state, Sen. Lautenberg reasserted "how important it is that the United States continue support for Ukraine in order to maintain a strategic relationship and to sustain that country's economic and political reforms."

The senator elaborated on the resolution of U.S. business disputes in Ukraine and referred to Ukraine's progress in economic market-oriented reform. "I am concerned," stated Sen. Lautenberg, "that cutting U.S. assistance to Ukraine would undermine the goal of the legislation, which is to promote economic reforms and to create an environment favorable to U.S. business." It is only through continued support and U.S. engagement, continued Sen. Lautenberg, that true reform will be implemented in Ukraine.

The U.S. business community also offered recommendations to Secretary Albright. The Ukraine-U.S. Business Council forwarded a position paper to Secretary Albright's attention regarding the certification process. The analysis concluded that "there is little doubt that Ukraine met the test of satisfactory economic reform in 1998." The experience of the business council's members in Ukraine provided an appropriate argument for the progress made in resolving various U.S. business disputes. "Cause for investor complaints," wrote the Ukraine-U.S. Business Council, "probably arise more frequently in economies which are transiting from 'Marx to markets' than in more settled economies."

The council's recommendation for a positive report to Congress was based on "the cause of Ukrainian economic and political progress and U.S. long-term strategic, economic and business interests in that country."

Such strong political support from members of Congress and the business community was apparently the result of the efforts of the Ukrainian American community. Through an Action Item in Ukrainian American newspapers and information posted on the Internet, the community was encouraged to write, fax, or call their respective members of Congress to urge them to bring this important matter to the attention of Secretary Albright.

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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Performs at union's year-end banquet

STUDIO CITY, Calif. – Zoryana Keske was the featured performer at the annual year-end banquet of Local 44, Affiliated Property Crafts Persons, of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada, which was held at the Sportsmen's Lodge in Studio City, Calif.

Ms. Keske, who is a member of the local – the union that represents almost 6,000 members in the film industry engaged in construction, property and special effects – chose a Ukrainian dance specifically choreographed for this event to entertain an enthusiastic audience of over 300 people.

A veteran performer of Ukrainian stage and dance, Ms. Keske has appeared at various functions and festivals throughout Calif., as well as Canada and Mexico. Born in Hollywood, Calif., she has always been active in all aspects of the Los Angeles area Ukrainian community.

As a property person in the film and television industry, Ms. Keske has worked on "Melrose Place," "Buffy The Vampire Slayer," "Profiler," "Chicago Hope," "The Practice" and "Starship Troopers," to name a few.

Ms. Keske's father, Walter Keske, is



Zoryana Keske performs a Ukrainian dance.

secretary-treasurer of Local 44. Ms. Keske, along with the rest of her family, is a member of the Ukrainian National Association's John Hodiak Branch 257 of which her mother, Lubomyra, is president.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

his ambition, Chubar was given a spot on the all-union Politburo as a "candidate member" in 1926.

Chubar now had a vested interest in the revived empire, and late that year and in 1927 turned on his colleague Shumskyi and on Khvyliovyi. Ostensibly he feared that the program of cultural independence from Moscow they were advocating would lead to a separation of the Ukrainian SSR from the Soviet Union. He then turned to the economic matters that were of primary interest to him.

In so doing, he remained a staunch defender of local republican interests, and at the 11th congress of the CP(B)U in Kharkiv in June 1930 he called for Ukrainian government control of union enterprises on the republic's territory.

As the murderous collectivizing juggernaut gathered steam in the summer of 1932, Chubar warned, at a party congress in Kharkiv in July, that the methods and pace of the policy were unrealistic and grain requisition requirements were "too ambitious." However, he remained onside, even as the famine began to rage.

The nadir of his collaboration came on December 6, 1932, when he signed the resolution, dictated by Stalin, "on blacklisting villages that maliciously sabotage the collection of grain," which provided for the strangling of rural Ukraine's access to food and the execution or deportation of those who dared to oppose Stalin's collectivizers.

As historian Robert Conquest wrote, "Even those like ... Chubar, who had expressed doubt, or rather certainty that Moscow's policies would lead to disaster, nevertheless enforced them." In the spring of 1933, he wrote to Stalin "for food at least for the starving children." The reply: "No remarks on that question."

In January 1934, Chubar's transfer out of Ukraine began – he was relieved of his posts with the party's Central Committee and positions of responsibility on the economy. In May, he had lost his position as chairman of the Council of Commissars, and transferred to Moscow as deputy chairman of the USSR Council for Labor and Defense. In 1935, Stalin promoted the beaten and demoralized Chubar to full Politburo membership.

Chubar was arrested in 1937 as the purge of the party was reaching its climax. He was either shot or died in prison (exact location unknown) two years later, on February 26, 1939. Chubar was officially rehabilitated in the 1960s.

Sources: "Chubar, Vlas," "Ukrainization," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine, Vols. 1, 5* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1984, 1993); Robert Conquest, "Harvest of Sorrow" (Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 1986).

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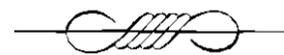
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and GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS**

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Michailo Seredowych, Secretary
Mykola Welych, Treasurer
Dr. Iwan Hvozda, Honorary Chairman**

Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

The Hockey News' top 50 includes No. 20 right-winger Mike Bossy

With Mike Bossy, it was always about magic. First, the wondrous apparition: time and time again, Bossy seemed to materialize, unchecked, in prime scoring position, with the puck on his stick.

Then, of course, came the sleight of hand. "When he shoots," said Al Arbour, Bossy's coach with the New York Islanders for all but one season, "it doesn't even look like he touches the puck."

Poof. Red light. Another goal. Like magic.

Every magician's trick, of course, is fueled by the assumptions. The audience can't see or even feel the slight taper on a deck of cards or the false panel that frees the damsel in distress long before she is cut in half.

Mike Bossy was the first rookie to score 50 goals. Five times he hit the 60 mark, and his nine consecutive 50-goal seasons represent an NHL standard of excellence. Bossy thrived by turning assumptions around. He didn't worry about fear of failure; instead he concentrated on remaining unafraid of succeeding.

"I think the biggest asset of successful people is that they are not afraid of success," Bossy once said. "There are so many people who are afraid of having success for fear of having to repeat their successful ways. It's so easy to see that in people. I'll read quotes in the newspaper, and I can tell people who are afraid to be good."

Bossy, an articulate and thoughtful man, used human nature. He thrived on other players' beliefs that he was tied up, that the penalty was almost over, that the period would play itself out uneventfully. Case in point: in 1980-1981, Bossy seemed destined to fall two goals short of being the first NHL player to tie Maurice "Rocket" Richard's record of 50 goals in 50 games. Then, in a game against the Quebec Nordiques, Bossy scored twice in the last four minutes to earn a piece of Richard's mark. Just like magic!

"A lot of times players look up at the clock and say to themselves, 'Well, it's too late to score,' " explained Bill Torrey, the Islanders' longtime general manager. "It was never, ever, too late for Mike Bossy to score."

The devastating marksman behind the Islanders' four Stanley Cups, Bossy has 85 career playoff goals – the fifth-highest total in playoff history. His .66 goals-per-game average is fourth best. He scored two cup-winning goals, the only player to do so in back-to-back seasons, and won the Conn Smythe Trophy (1982).

A French-Canadian/Ukrainian, Bossy grew up the fifth of 10 children in the Montreal suburb of Laval. It remains one of hockey's mysteries how Bossy lasted so long in the 1977 amateur draft. He tallied a truly phenomenal 308 goals in just 260 Quebec League major junior games with Laval, but Bossy wasn't selected until 15th overall by the Islanders.

Despite his obvious athletic grace, there was little ease about him as a young man.

Sensitive and thin-skinned, he was a regular target of Islander veterans who exploited his fretfulness. "I used to be needled unbelievably and I couldn't take it," Bossy recalled. "Someone would needle me, and right away I'd be in an argument. I bet I was in one every day back then."

He smoked a pack of cigarettes a day for some 10 years, obsessed when he couldn't balance the family checkbook to the penny and often stayed up until dawn, fretting about losing scoring chances. Next time, he vowed, he would welcome success.

Invariably, Bossy did. No one scored more goals during his NHL tenure, and with adulthood, marriage and his own children came an ease and even a willingness to laugh at himself.

These days, after a stint as a radio color commentator, Bossy is a Montreal stockbroker.

Bossy's particular brand of on-ice magic was stilled in 1986. He bent over to catch his breath at training camp, straightened up and felt a sharp pain along the left side of his back. It proved to be the beginning of the end, probably the result of receiving a decade's worth of crosschecks – most of which were illegal.

He went on to play through increasing pain and still managed 38 goals – it was the only season he did not score 50 – but the pain kept him sidelined through the entire 1987-1988 season.

At the tender age of 32 he officially retired. With the suddenness and speed that had been his patented trademark, one of the NHL's all-time premier goal scoring wizards was poof ... gone.

Mike Bossy 1977-1987

Born: January 22, 1957

Montreal, Quebec

Team: New York Islanders

	Regular	Playoffs
Seasons	10	10
Games	752	129
Goals	573	85
Assists	553	75
Points	1,126	160
Penalties	210	38

All-Star: 8 (First-5, Second-3)

Trophies: 5 (Smythe-1, Calder-1, Byng-3)

Stanley Cup Championships: 4

Tkachuk pledges: holdouts are history

As cloudy and dark as things looked, despite all the gloom and doom this past September that made getting a new contract seem almost totally impossible, Keith Tkachuk experienced a premonition that absolutely had to provide a sunny ray of hope on his situation. He happened to be on his favorite golf course, playing 18 holes with the venerable Bobby Orr, of all people, when he somehow miraculously bagged a hole in one.

A few September days later, Tkachuk scored an even bigger prize, agreeing to terms on a renegotiated deal with the

(Continued on page 15)

Notice to publishers and authors

It is The Ukrainian Weekly's policy to run news items and/or reviews of newly published books, booklets and reprints, as well as records and premiere issues of periodicals, only after receipt by the editorial offices of a copy of the material in question.

News items sent without a copy of the new release will not be published.

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Pro hockey...

(Continued from page 14)

Phoenix Coyotes, which included a one-year contract extension worth \$8.3 million in 2000-2001. The left-winger also retained his captaincy, which would have been given to someone else had his hold-out during training camp continued past the start of the current regular season.

"This is a great moment for me," said Tkachuk, whom, sources said, was prepared to sit out this entire hockey year if a deal had not been reached. "This is where I wanted to play all the time."

The Coyotes and Tkachuk's agent, Bob Murray, struck the deal after an eight-hour negotiating session in a Minneapolis hotel room. In addition to the \$8.3 million, Tkachuk also had the existing two years of his contract sweetened from \$2.8 million this year to \$4.1 million, and from \$3 million next year to \$4.3 million.

"In a perfect world we wouldn't have had to deal with this issue," said Coyotes' General Manager Bobby Smith, "but the fact of the matter is the hockey market has escalated wildly to the point where Keith Tkachuk at \$2.8 million would have been vastly underpaid. The argument can be made that even at \$4.1 million, there are players in the league making a lot more than him who are seriously inferior to him."

Capt. Keith gave Coyotes' owner Richard Burke his assurance that he will honor the entire contract, something the owner had made him promise. The Coyotes, meanwhile, agreed to waive the monies Tkachuk was fined during his suspension, but Tkachuk decided to donate the \$162,909 to charity.

UKRAINIAN UTTERINGS: In re-acquiring center Tony Hrkac, the Dallas

Stars ended a strange circle for the veteran centerman. The Stars acquired Hrkac last season to play for their Michigan minor league affiliate in the IHL and then brought him up as a replacement for injured pivots Joe Nieuwendyk and Mike Modano. When both those guys were again healthy, Hrkac was waived and picked up by Edmonton, where he had 19 points in only 36 games. He then was picked up in the off-season by Pittsburgh and the expansion Nashville Predators – neither of whom he played for – before finally ending up back with the Stars ... Neither side was completely satisfied by last summer's arbitration decision in right-winger Dimitri Khristich's case. Khristich got a salary bump from \$1 million to \$1.95 million, but that was still below the \$2.85 million he sought. The Bruins, meanwhile, weren't thrilled at having to pay a half million dollars more than their \$1.4 million offer, but decided against walking away from the judgment, which would have made the Uke an unrestricted free agent ... Devils' left-winger Dave Andreychuk asked for his option papers and is playing out his contract this season at \$2.5 million ... New Jersey GM Lou Lamoriello signed Ukrainian free agent goaltender Mike Buzak to replace veteran Peter Sidorkiewicz as back-up insurance for Martin Brodeur... In the early going defenseman Drake Berehowsky was a frequent scratch after being picked up by Nashville ... Capitals' offender Peter Bondra started wearing an "A" on his sweater during the latter stages of pre-season. It carried over into the start of this regular campaign as well. Bondra remains one of two assistant captains for the Caps ...

(Quotes courtesy of *The Hockey News*' Bruce Bennett and Coyotes' beat writer Bob McManaman.)

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Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

Russian financial crisis to support the hryvnia. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma blasts ministers' performance

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma on February 18 criticized the Cabinet's performance in 1998, saying that "numerous ministers are not good enough in their daily work," Interfax reported. Mr. Kuchma said the Cabinet's erroneous budgetary policies resulted in "dangerous surprises," including the fact that "1998 did not become the first year of real economic growth." The president called the Cabinet of Ministers and National Bank of Ukraine policies of seeking new loans to finance Ukraine's mounting debts and introducing higher interest rates "unprofessional and irresponsible," the Associated Press reported. He also blamed the government for failing to implement his orders and submit new laws to the Verkhovna Rada. According to Mr. Kuchma, of a total of 235 presidential orders, fewer than half have been carried out. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Government outlines economic program

KYIV – The Ukrainian government on February 18 approved the principles for the 1999 Socio-Economic Development Program. This plan comes on the heels of President Leonid Kuchma's scathing criticism of the Cabinet of Ministers on February 18, when he said the lack of economic growth in 1998 was due to government-made mistakes in its budget and structural policy, and called the 1998 foreign and domestic loans situation "a failure." The government expects to limit the hryvnia's devaluation through domestic price growth, and to reduce the National Bank of Ukraine refinancing rate to favor credit growth. The program calls for allocating 16.9 billion hryvnia to capital investment for the economy's various sectors in 1999. Budget investments are expected to reach only 1.1 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP), and 58 percent of incoming investment will be earmarked for construction. The government expects to attract \$750 million (U.S.) in foreign investment. Average salaries are to grow by 10 percent from 1998, reaching 184.10 hryvnia per month. Official unemployment also is expected to increase to 5.95 percent by late 1999, compared to 3.69 percent in 1998. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rabinovich calls for greater Jewish role

COPENHAGEN – The president of the All-Ukrainian Jewish Congress, Vadym Rabinovich, said on February 22 during an address before Danish parliamentarians that "The Jewish community throughout Europe can make a real impact on strengthening democratic processes in Ukraine, into the formation of Jewish society in Ukraine, and into increasing levels of material and social programs in Ukraine." He was speaking at a conference organized by the European Institute for Minorities dedicated to the problems facing Jewish society in Ukraine. Mr. Rabinovich said, "Denmark's Jewish organizations, alongside all Europe's Jewish communities, can and must help Ukraine build a real democracy with a strong and influential Jewish component." (Eastern Economist)

Deputies leave Hromada faction

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko announced on February 18, at the beginning of the Parliament's working day, that National Deputies Volodymyr Nechyporuk and Oleksii Shehovtsev had resigned from the Hromada Party. The move follows the February 17 vote to strip Hromada leader Pavlo Lazarenko of his deputy's immunity. (Eastern Economist)

Communists vote against Lazarenko

KYIV – Four Communist Party members, including party leader Petro Symonenko, who were absent from the Verkhovna Rada during the February 17 session, have asked Rada Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko to add their names to the "for" vote in stripping Pavlo Lazarenko of his deputy's immunity. At that session 310 deputies had voted for Mr. Lazarenko to be deprived of his immunity. (Eastern Economist)

Striking miners moved to attempt suicide

KYIV – Thirty miners of Barakova mine in the Luhansk region who were engaged in an underground strike attempted suicide on February 18 by cutting their wrists. Emergency medical staff were called to the mine and rescued three of the miners, while the rest were treated for minor cuts. The underground strike began on January 30. (Eastern Economist)

Ukrainian foreign minister in Romania

BUCHAREST – Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk ended a three-day visit to Romania on February 20 by visiting areas inhabited by the Ukrainian minority in Maramures County, RFE/RL's Bucharest bureau reported. One day earlier, Mr. Tarasyuk and his Romanian counterpart, Andrei Plesu, told journalists in Bucharest that they had achieved a "significant breakthrough" over outstanding problems related to the 1997 bilateral treaty and are determined to reach a "compromise" without appealing to the International Court of Justice in the Hague. While refusing to elaborate, Mr. Tarasyuk said that "nobody challenges" the status of Serpent's Island as "part of Ukrainian territory." (The treaty also delayed for two years the delimitation of the continental shelf and some border areas.) The two ministers agreed to submit proposals on meeting Romania's demand to set up a "multicultural university" in Chernivtsi. (RFE/RL Newsline)

U.S. citizen gets Ukrainian medal

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma on February 18 signed a decree, awarding U.S. citizen Wolodymyr Wolowodiuk the Ukrainian medal "For Merit," third class. Working among Ukrainian communities in the United States, Mr. Wolowodiuk helped distribute Ukrainian books among youth, including an anthology of 20th century Ukrainian literature titled "Ukrainske Slovo" (Ukrainian Word) in four volumes. He also helped organize the Chervona Ruta national music festival in Ukraine. (Eastern Economist)

Kuchma moves to help religious groups

KYIV – Following a February 22 meeting with heads of religious organizations, President Leonid Kuchma ordered the Cabinet of Ministers to solve the problem of returning to religious organizations property, ecclesiastical objects and theological literature taken from them during the Soviet period. He also ordered the State Property Fund to implement measures protecting all property which had previously belonged to religious communities from being privatized before it can be returned to its former owners. President Kuchma also ordered the State Customs Committee to draw up proposals to simplify the procedure of transferring goods sent from abroad as aid to religious organizations. (Eastern Economist)

NATO membership remains distant

KYIV – "The issue of Ukrainian NATO membership will not be on the agenda for the next 10 years," said the vice secretary of the National Security and Defense Council, Oleksander Razumkov. Speaking on February 8, he stressed that it would cost Ukraine between \$60 billion and \$125 bil-

(Continued on page 17)

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Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 16)

lion (U.S.) to enter NATO. "Ukraine would have to either increase its budget for defense by 10 times or cut down its armed forces to one-third or one-fourth," said Mr. Razumkov. (Eastern Economist)

Tarasjuk: Slavic union dangerous

LONDON – Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasjuk said on February 3 that Ukraine is not interested in any kind of Slavic union with Russia and Belarus, an RFE/RL correspondent reported in London. Mr. Tarasjuk said any attempt to build a country on the basis of ethnicity is doomed to fail, particularly because Russia is a multinational, multiethnic country. He said Kyiv thinks the idea is "very dangerous, and the example of the former Yugoslavia is a warning for all of us." With regard to Chernobyl, Mr. Tarasjuk called on the European Union and G-7 countries to adhere to a 1995 commitment to provide financial aid to help close down the nuclear power station by 2000. He said the EU and G-7's failure to do so "worries us." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Inflation for January down to 1.5 percent

KYIV – State Statistics Committee figures show that inflation for January fell 1.8 percent from December figures to 1.5 percent, the lowest rate since last September. Inflation for 1998 as a whole was 20 percent – double the figures for 1997. The rise was attributed to the effects of the August-October financial crisis, and came after four years of decreasing rates of inflation, which had peaked at 10,000 percent in 1993. (Eastern Economist)

Tkachenko wants to keep death penalty

KYIV – Oleksander Tkachenko said the Ukrainian Parliament will debate a ban on capital punishment in the coming months, even though he is opposed to its abolition, the Associated Press reported on February 3. The Verkhovna Rada chairman argued that too many Ukrainians favor the death penalty, particularly as the trial of Anatolii Onoprienko – accused of killing 52 people – continues. The Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly recently reminded Kyiv of its 1995 commitment to ban the death penalty. President Leonid Kuchma has decreed a moratorium on the practice. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Japanese center opens new premises

KYIV – The new premises of the Japanese Cultural Center were officially opened in Kyiv on January 28. The culture center is located in one of the buildings of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. It offers computer classes, a library and video library, and lecture hall. The center will hold seminars on accounting and financial analysis, development of small and medium-sized business, banking operations and international trade. (Eastern Economist)

Tax cops bring in over 1 billion hrv

KYIV – Tax police chief Viktor Zhvaliuk reported on January 29 that in 1998 his officials collected 1.122 billion hrv – double the total haul for 1997. It identified 21,300 individuals evading taxes, 913 hiding from investigation and 2,700 fictitious firms involved in illegal currency exchange operations. (Eastern Economist)

Farmers in dire need of fuel

KYIV – The government's failure to deliver fuel to Ukrainian farmers means that crops may not be planted and this year's harvest will be threatened, the Ukrainian News agency reported on February 2. Vice Minister of Agriculture Vasyl Shpak said

the government is "lagging behind" and that farms in most regions will begin planting in "two or three weeks." The government pledged to supply some 2.2 million tons of fuel to farmers, but has so far reportedly delivered only 2,750 tons. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Crackdown on illegal alcohol production

KYIV – Ukrainian tax police shut down 24 illegal alcohol plants in January, Interfax reported on January 31. Ukrainian tax police chief Viktor Zhvaliuk said the crackdown is a continuation of a program begun last year, when police uncovered some 200 illicit alcohol production sites. More than 30,000 people have been poisoned by low-quality alcohol since 1997. Officials estimate that nearly 50 percent of cigarettes and one-quarter of alcohol sold in Ukraine is either smuggled or illegally produced. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Illegal immigrants stopped at border

KYIV – Three hundred illegal immigrants were arrested at the Ukrainian border over the weekend of January 30-31. One border guard alone detained 41 citizens from Southeast Asia, and on the night of the January 23-24. Ukrainian and Slovak border guards arrested two groups of illegal immigrants of 26 and 14 persons, respectively. Illegal immigrants were also arrested over the weekend from China, Pakistan and India. Experts have cited Ukraine's increased use as a transit country for illegal immigrants as a threat to better relations with the European Union. (Eastern Economist)

Cabinet reshuffle targets foreign trade

KYIV – The New Year Cabinet reshuffle continued on January 27 with a number of dismissals and appointments. Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Minister Serhii Osyka lost his post after five years in office, with President Leonid Kuchma appointing him to the post of vice minister of the economy. Mr. Kuchma promoted Andrii Honcharuk, the present first vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade, to the vacant ministerial post. Viktor Hladush was dismissed from his post as first vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade. Leonid Rossylnyi was appointed on January 26 as the new vice minister of the economy, having been first dismissed from his position as head of the state-run UkrResoursy JSC. President Kuchma appointed Victor Rzhotkevych as his replacement at UkrResoursy. President Kuchma also dismissed Health Minister Andrii Serdiuk, replacing him with Raisa Bohatyriova, who previously was Mr. Serdiuk's first vice minister. (Eastern Economist)

Rada vice-chair attacks NATO agreements

KYIV – "The agreements signed between Ukraine and NATO are unconstitutional," Verkhovna Rada First Vice-Chairman Adam Martyniuk told U.S. Ambassador Steven Pifer. Mr. Martyniuk noted that the Communist faction would block ratification of all international agreements until the Parliament joined the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States. (Eastern Economist)

New party to join centrist opposition

KYIV – A new political party, Vpered Ukraino (Forward Ukraine) will be created in the near future, said Viktor Musiaka, chairman of the organizing committee on creation of the party on February 1. He stressed that the new structure will be centrist-oriented and will support the freedom of entrepreneurship and creation of a market economy. Vpered Ukraino will oppose the current legislative branch of power, said Mr. Musiaka. (Eastern Economist)



The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus
with deep sorrow announces that on January 15, 1999,
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Evhen "Нюнько" Tytla

unexpectedly and prematurely passed away.
We express our deepest condolences to his wife, Bohdanna,
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Business in brief

(Continued from page 3)

Bulgaria, Cyprus, Russia, Slovenia, Greece and Ukraine. The cable will create a united TV network in the region. At the beginning of June 2000 the system will join the Bulgarian port of Varna with Novorosiisk and Odesa. It is possible to then extend the cable from Europe to Middle Asia and on to the Far East. (Eastern Economist)

UkrTelekom restructuring nearly done

KYIV - "It will be possible to begin the sale of UkrTelekom this year," said Serhii Tyhytko, vice-prime minister of the economy at the EnterEx exhibition, on February 17. "Restructuring works within UkrTelekom are nearing completion, and we expect to sell around 25 percent of the company's shares before 2000," Mr. Tyhytko stated. As for the development of informational technologies in Ukraine, Mr. Tyhytko commented, "there is a shortage of initiatives coming from the Verkhovna Rada and the Cabinet on development of this sector." (Eastern Economist)

Motorola radio JV in the pipeline for '99

KHARKIV - The city's Kommunar plant and U.S.-based Motorola are negotiating to jointly produce duplex phone stations GP-300 and GM-350. According to Kommunar GM Oleksander Asmolov, the project calls for setting up a joint venture to produce thousands of portable radio stations annually mainly to be used by the security service, Internal Affairs Ministry structures and firefighters. The statutory fund of the new JV is expected to be \$5 million U.S. (Eastern Economist)

Kyiv gets new one-stop mobile shop

KYIV - Golden Telecom GSM on January 15 announced the opening of its new retail and customer care center. The new building provides an integrated one-stop approach to serving mobile communications needs in Kyiv. (Eastern Economist)

Steel producers could be hit with anti-dumping sanctions

KYIV - U.S. steel companies have appealed to Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers to impose restrictions on the export of wire rod to the United States from Ukraine, in a move that also included action against Russian, Moldovan, Indonesian and Indian products. The appeal will automatically initiate an anti-dumping investigation, to be conducted by the U.S. Trade Department. The department will submit its results to the U.S. president for inspection within 120 to 150 days from the initial filing of the appeal. The president may then demand the imposition of sanctions, effective within 60 days of receiving the results of the investigation. U.S. steel companies stress that cheaper imported wire rod sales are undercutting their U.S.-made competitors and hitting sales levels. They insist upon either the introduction of quotas for the next four years, or of fixed minimum prices or tariff restrictions on imports from the countries in question. According to Ukraine's State Statistics Committee report, the country's steel producers exported about 79,000 tons of wire rod worth \$20.3 million (U.S.) during the first 11 months of 1998. Meanwhile, in Prague, the Czech Steel Federation has announced plans to start an anti-dumping inquiry against the import of hot-rolled sheets from Ukraine and reinforcing bars and wire rod from Poland. Czech steel producers face a similar inquiry against their exports to Hungary. As of January 1, Hungary's economy ministry imposed annual quotas for the import of long rolled steel from the Czech republic, amounting to 45,000 tons. (Eastern Economist)

Domestic diaper production under way

KYIV - The German-Austrian enterprise NeoKron has begun producing children's diapers at the Zmiyivskyi Paper Plant. The company plans to reach the capacity of 3 million diapers per month and to produce three types of diapers differing in size. The project's payback period is expected to be no more than six years, and it is expected that 50 percent of the products will be sold for export to countries of Eastern and Central Europe. (Eastern Economist)

University to build research lab at Chernobyl

ATLANTA - The University of Georgia plans to build a laboratory near to the Chernobyl nuclear reactor. University officials have signed an agreement to build the lab in order to study the effects of radiation on wildlife and plants near the disabled reactor. (Eastern Economist)



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will hold its annual meeting on

Sunday, March 7, 1999

immediately following the Divine Liturgy at Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church Social Hall.

A video on Ukraine will be shown at 11 a.m. prior to the meeting.

Natalie Miahky, Branch Secretary

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Panorama UTN—10 p.m., Monday to Friday

SPORT

Wednesdays at 8 p.m.—the best examples of sport from Ukraine

THURSDAY NITE THEATER

Productions of the Kyiv Opera and Ballet Theater
"Giselle"—February 25 at 7 p.m.

HISTORY

Historical films Fridays at 7 p.m.

DOCUMENTARY CINEMA

"Zolote Namysto"—10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, visit the historical sites of rural and urban Ukraine

CHILDREN'S SHOWS

Bedtime Story—Daily at 9:15 p.m. and more

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Ukraine vs. Iceland—March 31, 1999

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, March 5

NEW YORK: Yara Arts Group joins artists from the Buryat National Theater of Siberia in the presentation of "Flight of the White Bird," an all-sung work featuring the music and shaman rituals of the Buryat people. The piece will be presented at La MaMa E.T.C., 74 A E. 4th St., on March 5-21; Thursday-Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets: Friday and Saturday performances, \$20; Thursday and Sunday, \$15. For more information and tickets call (212) 475-7710.

MADISON, N.J.: The works of Christina Saj are on exhibit as part of a group exhibition titled "Cross Purposes: Traditional Symbol - Contemporary Visions" at the Korn Gallery at Drew University. The exhibit, which opened February 16, will run through March 19. There will be a reception on March 5 at 6-8 p.m. Ms. Saj will be a featured guest lecturer on March 10 at 7 p.m. Gallery hours: Tuesday-Friday and Sunday, 12:30-4 p.m. or by appointment.

Monday, March 8

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, as part of its seminar series, is holding a lecture by Gene Fishel, foreign affairs analyst, U.S. Department of State, and Mid-Career Fellow, Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, on the topic "Ukraine-Watching at the State Department: An Analyst's Perspective." The lecture will be held in the HURI seminar room, 1583 Massachusetts Ave., at 4-6 p.m.

Friday, March 12

NEWARK: St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School invites parents and children to an Open House/Registration at 12:30-3 p.m. in the school, located at 746 Sandford Avenue. Parents will have the opportunity to learn about the school's academic curriculum, programs and achievements and to tour the facilities. Children will have the opportunity to participate in classroom activities. A separate visit may be scheduled for those who cannot attend the open house. For further information, contact the principal, Sister Chrysostom, at (973) 373-9359 during school hours.

Friday-Sunday, March 12-14

PHILADELPHIA: An exhibition of the paintings of Wanda Terletsky Urban, who began her 25-year painting career at the age of 70, will be held at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 700

Cedar Road, Jenkintown, Pa. The exhibit is sponsored by Chapter 20 of the Gold Cross. Exhibit hours: opening, March 12 at 7:30 p.m. (which will include a brief program and hors d'oeuvres); March 13, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and March 14, noon-5 p.m. For further information, contact Irena Stercho, (610) 664-0868.

Sunday, March 14

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art presents a concert featuring violinist Oleh Krysa in a program of works by Beethoven, Brahms, Debussy, Shtoharenko, Lyatoschynsky, Barkauskas and Paganini. The concert will be held at the institute, 2320 W. Chicago Ave., at 2 p.m.

Monday, March 15

EDMONTON: The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta is holding a lecture by Dr. Volodymyr Kulyk, Institute of Political and Ethnopolitical Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, and John Kolasky Memorial Fellow on "Ukrainian Nationalism in Independent Ukraine" (in Ukrainian). The lecture will be held at 352 Athabasca Hall at 3:30 p.m.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday, March 20

KNOX, Ind.: St. Anthony Ukrainian Orthodox Monastery is holding a one-day Lenten conference titled "Laying a Foundation in Christ," to be held at the Center for Kyiv Patriarchate in the U.S.A., 4275 S. 700 East Road. The conference will begin with divine liturgy at 9 a.m. and will conclude at 4 p.m. Video excerpts of Patriarch Filaret's recent visit to the United States will be shown. All are welcome and there is no charge. For directions or further information call (219) 772-7089, (313) 892-3198, (517) 3722389, or (708) 799-1023; e-mail frtom@colcom.net or visit the monastery's home page at <http://www.monksweb.net/>

Friday-Sunday, April 9-11

SLOATSBURG, N.Y.: Jamboree '99, sponsored by the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate, will be held at St. Mary's Villa, 9 Emmanuel Drive. The weekend provides opportunities for fun and socializing with old friends and making new friends, it also provides some time for reflection on the theme "WWJD - What Would Jesus Do?" The jamboree is for girls in grade 8 to age 21. To register call (914) 753-2840.

PLEASE NOTE PREVIEW REQUIREMENTS:

- Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided free of charge by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community.
- To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information written in Preview format (date, place, type of event, admission, sponsor, etc., in the English language, providing full names of persons and/or organizations mentioned, and listing a contact person for additional information). Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published. Please include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours.
- Text should be double-spaced.
- Preview items must be received one week before desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Listings are published only once (please indicate desired date of publication) and appear at the discretion of the editorial staff and in accordance with available space. Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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