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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

Balkan crisis in forefront on eve of NATO summit

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Viktor Chernomyrdin, Russia's newly appointed special envoy on the Balkan crisis, met with Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma on April 20, part of a flurry of political activity in Kyiv regarding the Balkan crisis on the eve of the NATO's 50th anniversary summit to be held in Washington.

Unlike Russia, which did not plan to attend the Washington summit as a protest against the bombing of rump Yugoslavia by NATO (at the last minute it was reported that Russia would attend), Ukraine will attend and has indicated it is taking steps to build consensus on a peace initiative.

Mr. Chernomyrdin was appointed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin last week to work toward a resolution to the escalating situation in Yugoslavia. After meeting with President Kuchma, he said the two sides had agreed on all substantive matters.

"I believe and insist that we should be well-informed about the positions of our partners, and I am glad to say that these positions are absolutely identical regarding what we should do," said Mr. Chernomyrdin the day after his meeting with Mr. Kuchma, which lasted until 2 a.m.

President Kuchma was slightly less exuberant about the outcome of his discussions with Mr. Chernomyrdin, although he did call them "highly fruitful."

"I fully understand the position of the Russian side," said Mr. Kuchma, explaining that he agreed any peace proposal must guarantee the territorial integrity of Yugoslavia, as well as grant broad autonomy to the Kosovo region and provide for the withdrawal of Serbian forces from the region.

President Kuchma was to have left for the NATO summit in Washington on April 22 along with an extensive official contingent, including Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk, Defense Minister Oleksander Kuzmuk and National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Viktor Yuschenko.

At a press conference a day before his departure, President Kuchma made it clear that he was not going to celebrate NATO's accomplishments of the last 50 years.

"I am going to work on serious matters that concern Ukraine," said President Kuchma. In addition to attending several official ceremonies in conjunction with the NATO anniversary, the president is scheduled to meet with International Monetary Fund and World Bank officials, as well as with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

President Kuchma indicated that Ukraine's mediation efforts and its peace proposal would be part of the NATO agenda.

The Ukrainian leader also said that, although Ukraine condemns the use of

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Hillary Rodham Clinton honored with CCRF achievement award

by Irene Jarosewich

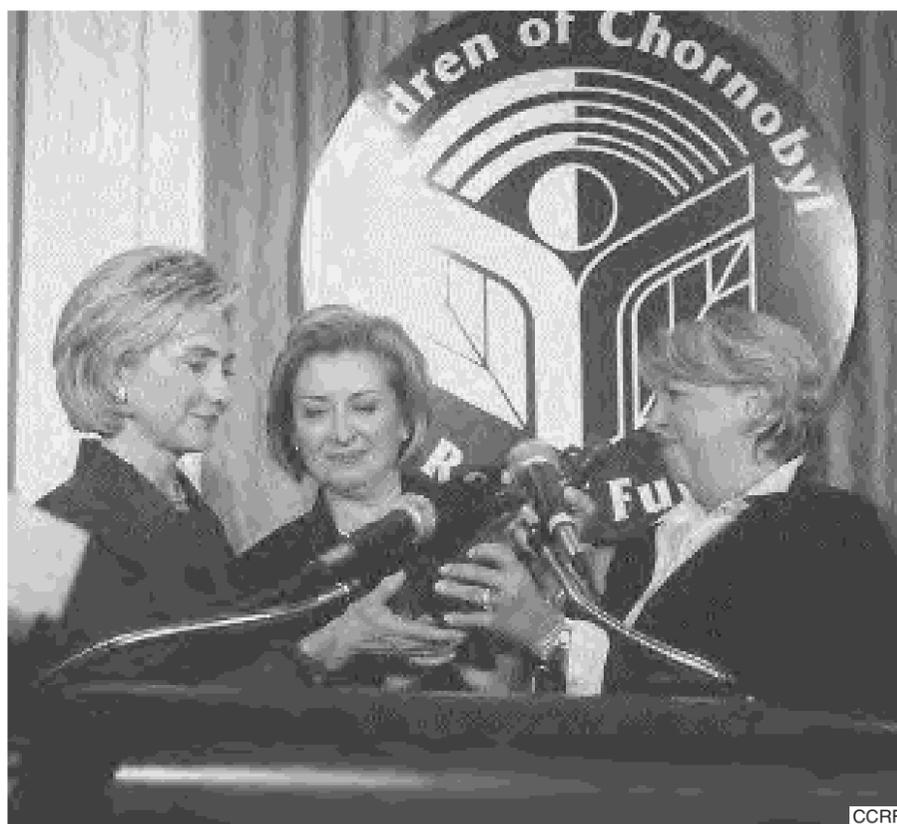
NEW YORK – America's First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton was honored with the Children of Chernobyl's Relief Fund Lifetime Humanitarian Achievement Award on April 19 at The Ukrainian Institute of America for her commitment to improving the health of women and children in Ukraine, as well as around the world.

Referring to a poem by American poet Maya Angelou, titled "A Phenomenal Woman," CCRF's Executive Director Nadia Matkiwsky, introduced the first lady as "a woman who stands on her own achievements, a woman of vision and compassion and intellectual strength – indeed a phenomenal woman." Noting that "a nation without healthy children is a nation without a future," Mrs. Matkiwsky thanked Mrs. Clinton for reaching out to help the stricken children of Ukraine.

Joining Mrs. Matkiwsky to present the award to Mrs. Clinton was Tanya Vena, financial director for the foundation. The first lady was given a 14-inch bronze sculpture of the Berehynia (protectress). The abstract sculpture of a mother holding a child with outstretched arms was designed and cast by an artist in Ukraine.

In his message of thanks to the founda-

(Continued on page 4)



First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton accepts the Lifetime Humanitarian Achievement Award from Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund Executive Director Nadia Matkiwsky (center) and the foundation's financial director, Tanya Vena (right).

Chornobyl 13 years after: money is the major problem

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Although the situation around the Chornobyl nuclear power plant is stable and the radioactive fallout that contaminated an extensive portion of Ukrainian territory and its population has somewhat dissipated, experts are not prepared to say that the threat posed by the incapacitated reactor No. 4 and the radiation it released has gone away.

Thirteen years after the largest nuclear accident in history, the main reason Chornobyl remains a problem for Ukraine and the world is money – more precisely the lack of it.

It is money that is needed to finally shut down the Chornobyl nuclear facility and construct a shelter on the reactor that sent huge radioactive plumes over Ukraine and much of Europe when it exploded on April 26, 1986; to build alternative energy-generating sources for Ukraine, which is heavily dependent on Russian oil; and to finance the treatment and care of thousands of children and adults affected by the tragedy.

While the world awaits the closing of the Chornobyl nuclear complex and the capping of the damaged reactor with a new sarcophagus, Ukraine's officials continue to await additional international financing, even as they maintain that

Ukraine will fulfill all its commitments to the G-7.

They explain, however, that without further financing for the completion of two new nuclear facilities at Rivne and Khmelnytskyi, the remaining nuclear reactor at Chornobyl will not be coming off line anytime soon.

"The Chornobyl nuclear power plant will continue to operate until the G-7 countries meet their commitments to Ukraine," said President Leonid Kuchma on April 21.

He noted that, in addition to providing funding for the completion of a total of six reactors near the cities of Rivne and Khmelnytskyi, the West had also agreed to provide a nuclear waste storage facility in Ukraine.

At a summit in Denver in 1997 the Group of Seven industrialized nations had agreed to provide Ukraine the financing needed to be able to take the Chornobyl nuclear facility off line, and Ukraine had agreed to do so by the year 2000. Today only one of the four nuclear reactors at Chornobyl is still functioning, although Ukraine has threatened to bring a second reactor back on line should no support for Ukraine's precarious energy problems come quickly.

The financing programs, which have come under the auspices of the European Bank for Reconstruction and

Development, have been bogged down by 74 demands put on Ukraine, which include a requirement that Ukraine revamp its energy sector, still heavily government-dominated, and provide evidence that the two new reactors would generate sufficient cash flow to repay the loans.

Ukraine insists that it can still close Chornobyl by the year 2000, but that the onus is on the West to make sure that happens.

At a meeting with President Kuchma, Christian Poncelet, the head of the French Senate, agreed that construction of the Rivne and Khmelnytskyi reactors must be completed. Interfax-Ukraine reported that he promised to discuss the matter with the head of EBRD, Horst Koehler, upon his return to France.

An even more immediate problem for the world and Ukraine is to build a cap onto the protective concrete shelter in which the fourth nuclear reactor is encased. The current sarcophagus, hastily erected by Soviet authorities in the weeks after the explosion, is quickly deteriorating and already showing signs of radioactive leakage.

A donors conference, held in 1997 in New York under the auspices of the United Nations and with U.S. Vice-

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NEWS ANALYSIS: New moves on the Caucasus chessboard

by Paul Goble
RFE/RL Newsline

Several recent developments in the southern Caucasus may fundamentally change power relationships, not only in that region, but also across a much larger portion of the world. Precisely because of that possibility, some of the players both within the region and beyond appear to be positioning themselves to respond with new moves.

On April 17, leaders from the Caucasus and Central Asia marked the opening of a 515-mile pipeline that will carry oil from the Caspian basin to the West. The same day, Ukraine, Georgia and Bulgaria signed a treaty creating a new Black Sea rail ferry route. Both of these moves, which have been widely welcomed in the West, will allow the countries of this region to reach Europe without passing through either Russia or Iran.

Together, these moves on the chessboard of the Caucasus may come to transform the geopolitical environment of both this region and Eurasia as a whole. As one senior Azerbaijani official put it, these steps mean "the world to us," giving Baku "direct access to the West" and thus allowing it to free itself from Russia "after 200 years."

Indeed, if both this pipeline and ferry arrangement work out, Russian leverage over these countries will decline still further. And, as if to underline the decline in Russian power there, approximately 100 soldiers from Georgia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine last week held four-day military maneuvers at Krtsanisi, just east of Tbilisi, Georgia.

While the number of troops involved was small, such a joint exercise highlights the continuing decay of the Russian-backed Commonwealth of Independent States as the chief security organization of the post-Soviet region. And it gives new content to GUAM, an organization that includes Moldova as well as the three countries that took part in the maneuvers.

Indeed, many Russian officials are likely to view the exercise as a direct challenge to Moscow, particularly because it came on the heels of a decision by several CIS states not to continue to participate in the CIS defense agreement. Even more, officials in other countries in this region are certain to

Paul Goble is the publisher of RFE/RL Newsline.

Switzerland to ask U.S. for Lazarenko's extradition

GENEVA – The Swiss judiciary is going to ask the United States for the extradition of Pavlo Lazarenko, Ukraine's former prime minister, investigating attorney Laurent Kasper-Ansermet told reporters in Geneva.

ITAR-TASS reported that Mr. Kasper-Ansermet, who is in charge of the Lazarenko case, last week issued an international warrant for the arrest of Mr. Lazarenko, who is in the custody of U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in San Francisco.

With the warrant issued, Switzerland is in a position to send an extradition request within 40 days. Mr. Kasper-Ansermet visited Mr. Lazarenko in San Francisco on March 22, but Mr. Lazarenko refused to answer questions.

Mr. Lazarenko was detained in Switzerland on December 2, 1998, as he entered that country with a Panamanian passport. He was released from a Geneva prison on December 17 after he posted bail of 4 million francs (\$2.7 million U.S.); the investigation into the case continued.

The international warrant for Mr.

be following this exercise as a test of what may now be possible for them as well.

But precisely because so much is at stake, not only for these countries but for others as well, several states have moved some pieces on this chessboard also. On April 14, Russia and Iran signed an agreement to cooperate in the exploitation of oil and gas resources in the region, a direct response to the new Azerbaijan-Georgian pipeline.

Russian Oil Minister Sergei Generalov and his Iranian counterpart, Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, initialed an accord that will expand the already large degree of cooperation between the two states from which many in the Caspian basin seek to become more independent.

Whether this accord will give the two states more opportunities to counter the new east-west corridor in the southern Caucasus remains to be seen. But on April 14, Moscow took another step designed to defend or even expand its influence there.

In Yerevan to mark Armenia's expanded participation in CIS air defense, Gen. Anatolii Kornukov, the commander of the Russian Federation air force, announced that Moscow will send more fighter jets to its military base in that Caucasus country.

Gen. Kornukov went out of his way to say that this new build-up is in no way a threat to Azerbaijan, with which Armenia has been locked in a dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh for more than a decade. But few in Baku or elsewhere are likely to see this latest Russian move as anything but precisely that.

Indeed, when Moscow recently deployed advanced S-300 missiles and MiG-29 fighters to Armenia, Azerbaijanis from President Heidar Aliiev on down protested that move as inherently destabilizing. They are almost certain to raise their voices again now that Moscow has introduced still more weaponry into Armenia, a country with which the Russian Federation maintains extremely close ties.

Such moves and countermoves serve as a reminder, not only of how complicated this region remains and how much is at stake for how many people, but also of how difficult it is for any of the participants in this geopolitical game to make a move that the other side cannot quickly move to counter. Thus, neither side is likely to be able to move into an endgame anytime soon.

Lazarenko's arrest provides grounds for extending Mr. Lazarenko's custody. He cannot be extradited to Ukraine, where he is charged with major embezzlement during his tenure as prime minister, because there is no extradition accord between the United States and Ukraine. However, Switzerland and Ukraine have such an agreement, and Mr. Lazarenko could be extradited to Switzerland and then handed over to Ukraine, noted ITAR-TASS.

The Lazarenko case was expected to be a topic of discussion during the visit to Kyiv by Swiss Federal Prosecutor Carla del Ponte. RFE/RL Newsline reported that Ukraine's Procurator-General Mykhailo Potebenko and his Swiss counterpart met in Kyiv on April 19 to sign an agreement on fighting organized crime and money-laundering.

"We have prepared this agreement in a fairly short time, thanks to the joint investigation we're already conducting," the Swiss prosecutor commented, referring to the bilateral probe into the financial dealings of former Prime Minister Lazarenko.

NEWSBRIEFS

EBRD stalls on N industry loans

KYIV – The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development has postponed a decision on whether to finance the completion of two nuclear reactors in Ukraine to compensate Kyiv for energy losses following the expected closure of the Chernobyl power plant. EBRD Deputy Chairman Charles Frank said that while the cost of finishing the two reactors, located in Khmelnytskyi and Rivne, meets bank criteria, Ukraine must also meet international nuclear safety requirements and reduce barter payments for electricity before receiving an EBRD loan. Mr. Frank added that other criteria include the "real privatization" of energy distribution firms and the availability of financing from other institutions. (RFE/RL Newsline)

EC to announce nuclear waste tender

KYIV – European Commission Nuclear Safety Department head Norber Justin announced on April 14 that the EC plans to announce a tender for construction of a complex of buildings to handle the nuclear waste that will result from closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. EC officials commented on April 14 that the total cost of construction would be in the region of 38.5 million euros. The money will be taken from the EC budget within the TACIS program. The winners of the tender are expected to be announced next January, while construction is scheduled to be completed by June 2002. Chernobyl was originally scheduled for closure by 2000, but rows over funding for replacement facilities between Ukraine and European organizations have left the process far behind schedule. (Eastern Economist)

Three presidents meet in Vilnius

VILNIUS – Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus hosted his Ukrainian and Polish counterparts, Leonid Kuchma and Aleksander Kwasniewski, for talks on April 15 at the seaside resort of Palanga. The three leaders discussed various issues of regional cooperation and the crisis in Kosovo, and President Kuchma unveiled a proposed peace plan which has been circulated throughout the international community. President Adamkus reaffirmed Lithuania's goal of joining NATO, saying the alliance is an inseparable element of European security, BNS reported. The three presidents also hosted the conference "Regional Integration of Transportation" in Klaipeda the same day. President Kwasniewski called for further

development of the Baltic and Black seas' transport systems, as well as the "Via Baltica" project linking the Baltic states and Poland via a modern highway. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma seeks socially oriented reforms

KYIV – The Ukrainian president told a meeting at the Labor and Social Policy Ministry on April 13 that "the social dimension of the reforms under way must be their dominant feature and the social factor must be regarded as a major ingredient of stabilization and economic growth." Leonid Kuchma criticized the performance of the Cabinet of Ministers in the sphere of social policy, but ruled out any significant Cabinet reshuffles until the presidential elections on October 31. "The people and myself have run out of patience, [but] a reshuffle would serve no good purpose," he said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma fires energy officials

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma on April 16 fired vice ministers of energy Yurii Ulitych and Serhii Kuzmenko for "abuse of authority" and Zinovii Busio, head of the National Commission for Energy Regulation, for "serious negligence" in his work, Ukrainian Television reported. Mr. Kuchma also instructed the energy minister to dismiss directors of two energy companies. President Kuchma made the personnel decisions after reading preliminary findings of an investigation into alleged abuses in the energy sectors. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Investment climate report questioned

KYIV – A Ukrainian delegation – including Finance Minister Ihor Mitiukov and National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Viktor Yushchenko – has told a European Bank for Reconstruction and Development board meeting in London that Ukraine is an attractive place for foreign investors, an RFE/RL correspondent reported on April 18. Several Western business leaders publicly questioned Kyiv's assessments and urged speedier reforms. They said administrative hurdles, foreign exchange restrictions, and an incomplete legal framework make Ukraine difficult and risky for foreign investors. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Deputy chief comments on BSF

KYIV – Deputy Naval Forces Commander Anatolii Pakhliia said on April 13 that "The most pressing issues for the Ukrainian navy to be addressed in planned

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Four senators say State Department reorganization runs counter to U.S. policy

WASHINGTON – In a letter to Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, Sen. William V. Roth Jr. (R-Del.) and three colleagues called on the State Department to restructure its bureaus to reflect the longstanding U.S. objective of creating a “Europe, whole and free.”

The letter criticizes the State Department’s current reorganization plan, which divides responsibilities for interests in Central Europe between the Bureau for European Affairs (EUR) and a proposed Bureau of East European and Eurasian Affairs defined by the geographic boundaries of the former Soviet Union. Sens. Roth, Sam Brownback (R-Kansas), Michael DeWine (R-Ohio) and Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) want responsibilities for Europe centralized in the European bureau.

The four senators wrote:

“The Department of State should centralize the management of U.S. interests in Europe, including those pertaining to Ukraine and Moldova, into one bureau, the EUR Bureau. That would strongly underscore and most effectively support U.S. policy objectives in Europe – particularly the consolidation of an undivided Europe. ...

“It has been nearly a decade since the end of the Cold War and the Soviet Union’s domination of Central Europe, including Ukraine and Moldova. The time is long overdue to move beyond the language and bureaucratic structures that define the former captive nations by their former hegemon. Our national security institutions, particularly our lead diplomatic agency, must be structured in a manner ... that maximizes our institutional ability to ensure that Europe is never again divided.”

The full text of the senators’ letter to Secretary of State Albright follows.

Dear Madam Secretary:

Having reviewed the Department of State’s budget request for FY 2000, we write to express our unequivocal opposition to the division of responsibilities for U.S. interests in Central Europe between the Bureau of European Affairs (EUR) and a proposed Bureau of East European and Eurasian Affairs (EE) covering the “12 newly independent states of the former Soviet Union.” This organizational proposal directly contradicts a cornerstone of U.S. policy, the creation of a “Europe, whole and free.”

According to the budget request, the EE bureau will cover such Central European countries as Ukraine and Moldova, despite the fact that they are distinctly European in geography, history and culture. Their inclusion is not justified according to any criterion other than the fact they were once dominated by the former Soviet Union.

The Department of State should centralize the management of U.S. interests in Europe, including those pertaining to Ukraine and Moldova, into one bureau, the EUR Bureau. That would strongly underscore and most effectively support U.S. policy objectives in Europe – particularly the consolidation of an undivided Europe.

A comparison of the EUR and EE bureaus’ mission statements underscores the importance of centralizing our European interests within EUR. It is quite striking and revealing that the goals and priorities of EUR include objectives that are geopolitical and

visionary, while those articulated for the EE are far more technical in nature and scope. For example, an explicit and laudable EUR objective is the integration of Central European countries into European and Euro-Atlantic institutions. Another priority is to develop a “Euro-Atlantic Partnership for the 21st Century.” In contrast, the mission statement for the EE Bureau is devoid of any such language.

What message would the implementation of this plan for the EUR and EE bureaus send abroad? It would send an unmistakable signal to Russia that the realm of the former Soviet Union falls legitimately within a Russian sphere of interest. It is disturbing to find that the EE Bureau’s “Overview Statement” describes it as responsible for the conduct of relations with “Western Slavic” states of the former Soviet Union, presumably Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. That statement could be interpreted as tacit support for those who advocate the establishment of a Slavic union. (Moreover, one might note that Moldova is not a Slavic country!)

If the EUR Bureau will handle responsibilities for Central European states such as Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia, there is no rationale for it not to encompass Ukraine and Moldova which define themselves as Central European states and participate in Central European regional activities and institutions. By not including these countries in EUR, the Department of State would communicate that the United States rejects their aspirations to be fully part of Europe.

This division of Central Europe within the Department of State not only unnecessarily disperses resources that should be centralized and focused on the effort to build a “Europe, whole and free,” it would also promote a bureaucratic culture contrary to that effort. Policies of organizations are very much a product of their structure and charter. The proposed EE bureau would contribute to a bureaucratic culture that does not regard countries such as Ukraine and Moldova as European. The fact that Russia is by far the largest and geopolitically significant state in the proposed EE Bureau would practically guarantee that all regional issues in its domain would be considered through a primarily Russian optic.

It would be truly ironic to have the Department of State, which played such an important role in the effort against the Soviet Union, among the last institutions to sustain the legacy of division in Europe wrought by that empire.

It has been nearly a decade since the end of the Cold War and the Soviet Union’s domination of Central Europe, including Ukraine and Moldova. The time is long overdue to move beyond language and bureaucratic structures that define former captive nations by their former hegemon. Our national security institutions, particularly our lead diplomatic agency, must be structured in a manner that strongly reflects our support for a “Europe, whole and free,” and that maximizes our institutional ability to ensure that Europe is never again divided.

**Bill Roth
Orrin Hatch
Sam Brownback
Mike DeWine**

Kuchma-Gore economic committee meets

Eastern Economist

KYIV – Another round of the semi-annual Sustainable Economic Cooperation Committee that functions under the aegis of the Kuchma-Gore Commission went ahead in Kyiv on April 14-16.

Talks between the U.S. delegation and top Ukrainian officials, such as First Vice Prime Minister Volodymyr Kuratchenko, National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Viktor Yushenko and Finance Minister Ihor Mitiukov, focused on energy sector reforms and future cooperation with international financial organizations.

Mr. Mitiukov spoke about Ukraine’s

prospects next year. “In 2000, servicing the state debt will cost 12 billion hrv,” he said. Accordingly, the main chunk will go to servicing the foreign debt of \$2.3 billion (U.S.). Therefore, said Mr. Mitiukov, it is important to continue working with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. “Ukraine will even have to ask the IMF to increase its financing,” he concluded.

Other topics on the commission’s agenda included land reform, farm sector restructuring, closing the Chernobyl atomic energy station by 2000, and funds for the Chernobyl shelter and nuclear safety.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Kyiv radio station trademark war finally ends

KYIV – The conflict between Lider TV-Radio broadcasting company and Gala Radio for the right to use the Gala Radio trademark, which has been rumbling on for the last three years, has been resolved in accordance with Ukrainian law, said the presidents of Lider, Hlib Maliutyn, and Gala Radio, Joseph Lemire, at a joint press conference on April 15. Mr. Maliutyn stated that, according to the agreement, he has given up his position as shareholder of Gala Radio and abandoned all claims to the Gala Radio trademark. By way of compensation, Lider has received part of Gala’s property. Gala Radio, set up in 1994 by Mr. Maliutyn, was one of the first commercial radio stations in Ukraine. Foreign investors from the U.S. were invited on condition that they provide financial and informational assistance. “With time, the partners started to talk different languages,” said Mr. Maliutyn, and consequently he broke from Gala to create Lider in 1996. Mr. Maliutyn complained that in the past three years his company and Gala Radio, instead of developing the broadcasting network, have invested a lot of money in lawyers. The conflict has even come to the attention of the Kuchma-Gore Commission. Mr. Maliutyn stated that Lider is currently 100 percent financed by Ukrainian investors. He added, however, that discussions are under way with European companies to further develop Lider’s broadcasting network in the regions, and to create a Lider TV channel. Mr. Lemire stated that foreign capital makes up 30 percent of Gala financing, with U.S. investors pumping around \$1.5 million (U.S.) into the company. (Eastern Economist)

Caspian oil pipeline is officially opened

TBILISI – The Baku-Supsa pipeline to transport Caspian oil to the Black Sea coast was officially opened on April 17 in Georgia. Ukrainian Transport Minister Ivan Dankevych stated that Caspian oil will most probably be transported from the Supsa terminal to European markets via the Odesa oil terminal, and on through the Odesa-Brody pipeline. Mr. Dankevych added that Ukraine is ready to offer its fleet of oil tankers to help with transportation. At the same time it was announced that the Cabinet of Ministers is preparing to discuss a program for increasing domestic oil and gas extraction. According to preliminary projections, in 2000-2001 domestic oil extraction could increase by 350,000 tons, and gas extraction by 2.18 billion cubic meters, said Ihor Bakai, head of NaftoGaz Ukrainy on April 16. He added that if more finances are provided, by 2005 oil and gas extraction may rise to annual levels of 2.5 million tons and 10.5 billion cubic meters, respectively. While in Tbilisi for the pipeline opening ceremony, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze signed a bilateral agreement on economic cooperation for 1999-2008. Both countries’ defense ministers also signed an agreement on military cooperation. (Eastern Economist)

Three-way space JV planned for 2000

KYIV – The presidents of Ukraine, Russia and Kazakstan have given the go-ahead to set up a joint Ukrainian-Russian-Kazak space industry venture aimed at creating a new powerful rocket carrier, said Eduard Kuznetsov, vice-director of the National Space Agency of Ukraine, on April 14. Mr. Kuznetsov said that in late December a Ukrainian delegation will visit the Baikonur space-launch complex in Kazakstan, where they are expected to discuss setting up the JV. It is too early to talk about the division of shares in this JV as everything will depend on how much each of the parties contribute to it, he added. Tokhtar Aubakirov, an aide to the Kazak president, commented from Astana, the capital of Kazakstan, that the Ukrainian-Russian-Kazak joint venture is likely to be launched in 2000. (Eastern Economist)

Sweden’s Scania urges customs review

STOCKHOLM – In a March 24 letter to President Leonid Kuchma, who was then in Sweden on a state visit, Scania managing director Berth Carreman called on the president to change customs legislation to encourage the assembly of trucks in Ukraine. Mr. Carreman explained that Scania is interested in assembling trucks in Ukraine, but that high customs tariffs make assembly unprofitable. “Today, we are ready to assemble 200 high quality truck tractors a year in Ukraine. Ukrainian industry does not produce trucks of this kind. This would mean not only the creation of new jobs and additional investments on our part, but also lower prices for trucks for Ukrainian clients,” added Mr. Carreman. Scania’s proposed customs regime, comprising tax breaks on component import in conjunction with an increase in import tax on completed trucks, was successfully implemented in Poland in 1993. (Eastern Economist)

Hillary Rodham Clinton...

(Continued from page 1)

tion's supporters, CCRF President Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky stated that "there is no gift more precious, yet more difficult to bestow than hope," and that the evening was dedicated to all those who have "given the gift of hope to so many infants, children and parents in Ukraine" – most notably the first lady.

Mrs. Clinton, who has lent considerable support to procure funds and contributions for hospitals and programs focused on healing the consequences of Chornobyl, has visited Ukraine several times and in 1996, during the 10th anniversary of the Chornobyl disaster, hosted an event at the White House to commemorate the tragedy.

CCRF Director of Development Alex Kuzma also noted the hope instilled by Mrs. Clinton during her visits to Ukraine:

"According to doctors in Ukraine, the neonatal respirators and the equipment that the first lady helped provide through her initiative to Kyiv Maternity Hospital No. 2, which was delivered during her visit to Ukraine in May 1995, literally gave new life to medical programs in Ukraine. Furthermore, her direct contact with patients during her visits with the children and the mothers in the hospitals during both her 1995 visit, as well as during her trip in November 1997 had a dramatic effect on the patients and on hospital personnel. Never before had a public figure of international stature taken the time to sit down next to these sick children and their mothers and speak with them directly, with compassion and sincerity.

"In a medical system that functions in a hierarchical method, Mrs. Clinton's direct and simple approach, her willingness to listen to the mothers and her compassion for the sick children had a profound impact. Her visits virtually shifted the paradigm of treatment and set a new model for doctor/patient relations in the hospitals she visited."

Mrs. Clinton, who had agreed many months ago to be in New York for the awards ceremony specifically to coincide with the 13th anniversary of the Chornobyl tragedy, noted that the "CCRF exemplifies the characteristic of Americans – the commitment to help ... the willingness to use our blessings to help others is a reflection of us as Americans and our values." She praised the dedication and commitment of the foundation's staff and volunteers, and the incredible work that has gone into leveraging a

large amount of aid on a relatively small budget. The CCRF serves as an inspiration, noted the first lady, for its Ukrainian partners, who, seeing the commitment of the CCRF, gather new resolve to find creative solutions to difficult problems before them.

Earlier in the evening, guest speakers at the event included film star Alec Baldwin and U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.).

Mr. Baldwin, a dedicated anti-nuclear activist, stated that the explosion at Chornobyl proved that the dangerous consequences of nuclear energy are not the stuff of myth. He somberly cited ever-worsening statistics: rates of thyroid cancer are more than 80 times higher than pre-Chornobyl [in Ukraine and Belarus]; thousands of children now wear the "Chornobyl necklace" – a scar around the base of the neck that indicates surgery to remove damaged thyroid gland; 35,000 clean-up workers, out of approximately 500,000, have died in the past 12 years – most of them men who were between the age of 18 and their mid-30s when they were sent to Chornobyl.

A 30-kilometer "dead zone" has been created around the reactor. More than 160,000 people were permanently resettled. More than 5 million people continue to live in an area that was beneath a heavy cloud of contamination. Radioactive isotopes will continue to contaminate arable soil and drinking water for centuries.

As predicted by specialists in 1986, most of the long-term consequences of nuclear contamination are only now beginning to appear. New studies show high rates of abnormal births to women who were adolescents at the time of the Chornobyl accident, as well as increased rates of miscarriage and hormonal abnormalities. Infant mortality in Ukraine keeps rising and is now three times the European average at 21 per 1,000, with higher rates reported in the areas of contamination.

Hollywood producer Fred Caruso, noted for such films as "The Godfather" and "Casualties of War" was master of ceremonies. He recalled for the audience the first meeting 10 years ago in 1989 between Dr. and Mrs. Matkiwsky and Volodymyr Yavorivsky, head of Rukh's Chornobyl fund. Mr. Yavorivsky had come to the U.S. to seek aid for children suffering from the consequences of Chornobyl's nuclear fallout. Near the end of his visit, not having met with much success, Mr. Yavorivsky was introduced to the Matkiwskys. Immediately the family organized a ship-

(Continued on page 5)



Aleksandr Burakovsky

Olenka Olesnycky of Florham Park, N.J., leads the first lady up the stairs at the Ukrainian Institute of America.



CCRF

Hillary Rodham Clinton and Nadia Matkiwsky.

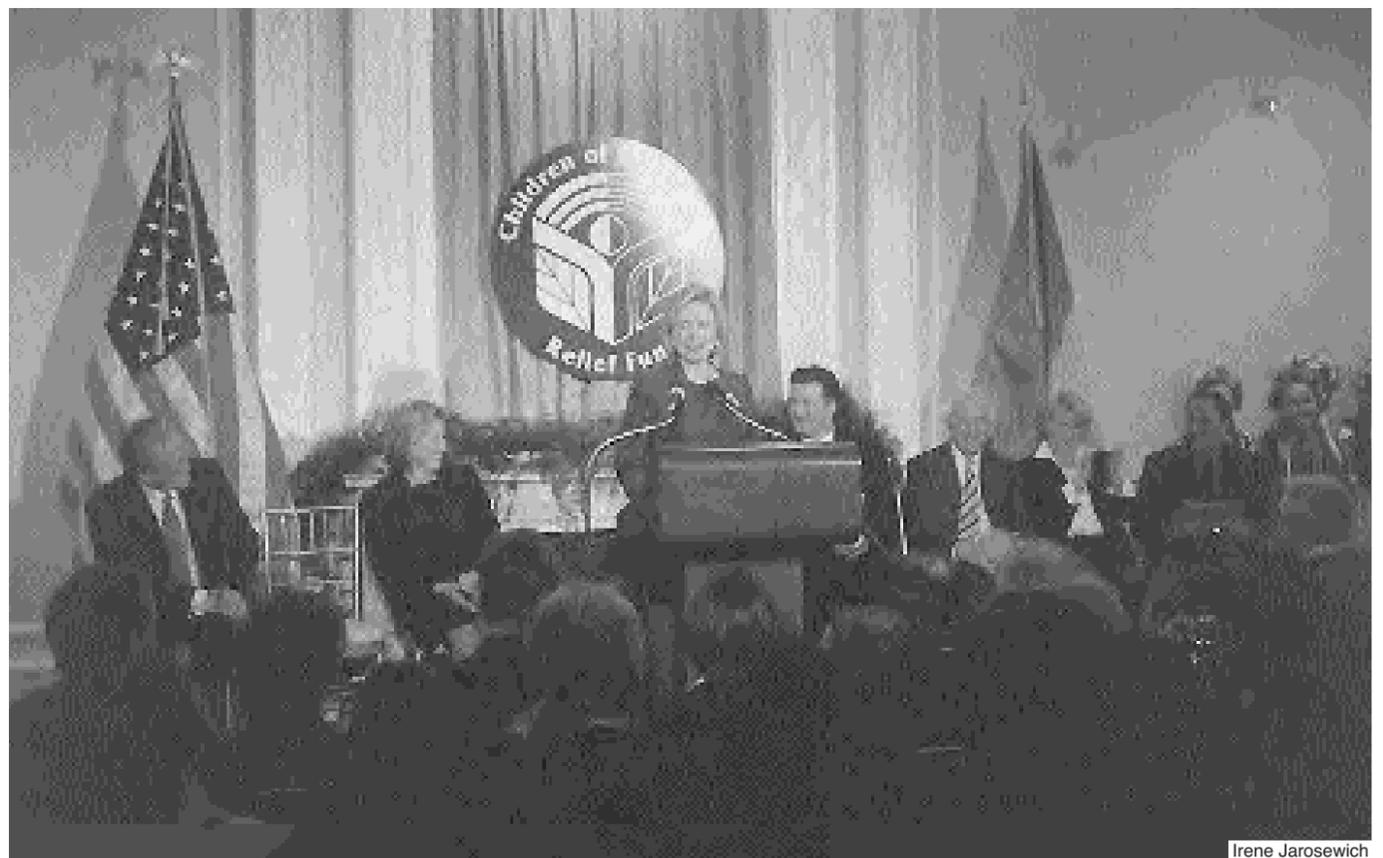
A letter to the first lady from Natalka of Lviv

A letter written to Hillary Rodham Clinton by a then-10-year-old-girl, Natalka, not long after Mrs. Clinton's visit to Lviv in November 1997. Natalka has thyroid cancer. This letter was read aloud at the award ceremony.

Dear First Lady, Mrs. Clinton:

Thank you, gentle lady. Your kind eyes have spoken to our hearts. Your smile has enriched our souls. Your warm words have given us hope. We thank you for helping us. Sometimes I think that nobody cares about us. But when you visited my hospital, you gave me hope and to all the children. I want to thank you on behalf of all the children of Ukraine. And we will pray for you and for your American children that they will never have to experience the black cloud of Chornobyl. God bless you, Mrs. Clinton, God bless America.

– Natalka



Irene Jarosewich

Listening to the first lady's acceptance speech (from left) are: CCRF President Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, Nadia Matkiwsky, Alec Baldwin, Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.), Tanya Vena and Fred Caruso.

Chornobyl...

(Continued from page 1)

President Al Gore and Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma acting as co-chairmen, raised some \$390 million for the shelter facility. Ukraine said at least \$2 billion is needed to properly fix and close the Chornobyl facility, and to resolve many of the social problems associated with the disaster.

Approximately \$150 million already has been spent on the shelter in the form of consultative work and preparation for the construction of the permanent dome around reactor No. 4, according to Oleksander Slavis, press secretary of the Chornobyl Shelter Fund in Ukraine.

The initial phase of construction of the shelter facility is scheduled to begin this summer with work on reinforcement of the major girders that support the roof of the current sarcophagus.

Even though the concerns for a new shelter remain acute and immediate, the most chronic problem for Ukraine is to deal almost singlehandedly with the aftereffects of the Chornobyl explosion, which has forced upon it huge expenditures to clean up the regions that were contaminated and to provide medical care for the thousands of liquidators and residents who today suffer the results of radiation exposure.

According to Volodymyr Kolosha, first vice minister for emergency situations and Chornobyl matters, about 90 percent of the financial burden is borne by Ukraine, which amounts to approximately \$120 million annually from Ukraine's meager coffers.

Today only 600 people – mostly elderly longtime residents – have permission to live in the 30-kilometer Chornobyl zone, which is off limits to the general population. But millions still live on the many thousands of other acres contaminated to a lesser degree in all the northern oblasts of Ukraine.

The people who live in the northern regions suffer twice as many ailments and illnesses as does the rest of Ukraine's population, according to Ukrainian government statistics.

At a press conference marking the 13th anniversary of the Chornobyl tragedy, Mr. Kolosha said that 95 percent of new contamination of citizens comes from food products grown or found in the five oblasts most affected by the radioactive fallout of Chornobyl: Rivne, Volyn, Zhytomyr, Kyiv and Chernihiv.

First Vice Minister of Health Olha Babylova estimated that in the contaminated regions 12 to 18 percent of the dairy products, 20 percent of meat products, 30 percent of wild berries and 50 to 60 percent of mushrooms contain unacceptable levels of radiation.

Most of the contaminated products, if they are processed through government institutions or private firms, are filtered out before they hit the market, according to Ms. Babylova. But, unfortunately for Ukraine, its people still rely heavily on food bazaars, which are much more difficult to regulate.

"What we have a problem controlling is the food consumed or brought to market from private gardens," said Mr. Kolosha. He identified mushrooms, considered a staple in many family diets, as a major problem – especially because a favorite Ukrainian pastime is the picking of wild fungi.

To treat those who ail from Chornobyl-related diseases, Ukraine, as ever, needs money. In 1998, in order to better utilize the financing available, the Ukrainian government initiated reforms of its Chornobyl programs in a three-step process. First, it reorganized the Chornobyl Fund, which had long been considered a den of corruption, and rechanneled value-added taxes to help finance the organization. Then it implemented changes to more effectively allocate and utilize the money available. Finally, it conducted an audit of the list of citizens who receive Chornobyl-related subsidies.



A rare photograph from May 1986 from the personal files of Viacheslav Skvortsov, a film director at Ukrtelevision in 1986, who led the team filming the Chornobyl disaster.

More than 12,500 people were deemed ineligible for subsidies and thrown off the Chornobyl rolls.

But with more than 3.2 million Ukrainians claiming that their health has been affected by Chornobyl, the costs remain astronomical.

The Ministry for Emergency Situations and Chornobyl Matters estimates that more than 4.5 billion hryv are needed for Chornobyl-related aid. The Verkhovna Rada approved just 1.3 billion hryv, or merely 29 percent, in its 1999 budget. In 1998 it could afford to appropriate only 31 percent.

Much of that money goes for the various subsidies that officially recognized Chornobyl victims receive, including free use of public transportation. But the medical health aspect costs even more.

Ms. Babylova said that 526,209 children have been identified as having a high risk of thyroid cancer, while 1,217 of those between birth and 18 years of age at the time of the disaster have been identified as having the cancer. She called the figures alarming in view of the fact that in the pre-Chornobyl time period of 1981-1985 not a single case of thyroid cancer was registered in Ukraine. She also noted that only 11 cases of thyroid cancer have been identified in children born after 1988, after most of the original Chornobyl-related radioactivity had dispersed.

Many Western doctors refuse to recognize much of what Ukraine deems Chornobyl-related illnesses. They say that bad diets and a poor ecology, including much chemical pollution, must also be considered when assessing the reason for the poor state of health of many Ukrainians.

Istvan Turai of the International Atomic Energy Agency said at a press conference on April 22 that the fact remains that only two children have died as a result of Chornobyl-related thyroid cancer and only 12 deaths were caused by radioactive poisoning.

Interfax-Ukraine quoted him as saying the effects of the Chornobyl disaster should no longer be considered life threatening. He added that current research still had not proved that a danger exists from long-term low-level radiation exposure, even though he did admit that new research might one day more conclusively show the dangerous affects.

Research, like that being conducted by

the IAEA, and an extensive 30-year U.S. investigation into the effects of Chornobyl on children and the effects of long-term low-level radiation exposure, as well as a host of other investigations into the affects of the Chornobyl disaster have turned the Chornobyl zone into a huge international laboratory. And that, according to Mr. Kolosha, is probably what the area will be for thousands of years to come.

"The Chornobyl zone will, for the most part, remain an area of scientific research," said Mr. Kolosha.

In its ongoing effort to take care of its affected children and adults, Ukraine has established 11 specialized centers throughout Ukraine to identify and treat the various maladies and diseases that affect Chornobyl victims, which in addition to thyroid cancer include leukemia and disorders of the lungs.

The latest center, a Ukrainian-American effort financed by the U.S. Agency for International Development, will open in Lutsk, Volyn region, on April 26.

Perhaps the biggest blessing for Ukraine,

if such can exist for this country of 50 million beleaguered by its tragic history and unsettled future, is that the Chornobyl zone has not produced any aftershocks in the form of uncontrolled forest fires or extensive flooding, which could produce another major radiation release from irradiated soil and vegetation.

"There truly must be a God, because we have not had any serious natural disasters in the region in 13 years," said Dmytro Mykhailovych, a physician with the Ministry of Health.

But that is not much solace for a government that has to find the money to pay for the programs and research needed to help its Chornobyl-afflicted citizens.

"You can only talk about a serious financial commitment to the aftereffects of the Chornobyl tragedy in terms of funding to close the Chornobyl nuclear site and cap the No. 4 reactor," said Mr. Kolosha.

"To the largest extent, we will have to take care of the social, medical and psychological aftereffects on our own," he said.

Hillary Rodham Clinton...

(Continued from page 4)

ment of medicines and medical supplies, which inadvertently became the beginning of the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund.

The foundation has since sent 1,200 tons of aid – valued at more than \$40 million – delivered via 22 airlifts and eight sea shipments. Two airlifts are planned for the 13th anniversary – departing April 25 for Kyiv and May 4 for Lviv.

Sen. Lautenberg, a staunch supporter of the CCRF since he was first introduced to the organization in 1996, praised the efforts of Mrs. Matkiwsky and the foundation's volunteers, as well as the efforts of Mrs. Clinton, to secure decent health care for children in need. Sen. Lautenberg continues to fight to obtain permanent resident status for Vova Malofienko, a 14-year-old Ukrainian boy who arrived in the United States for leukemia treatment in 1990.

Among the approximately 275 guests were Ukraine's representative to the U.N., Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko, and his wife, Iryna; Ukraine's Consul General in New York, Yuriy Bohaievsky with his wife,

Olya; Ukrainian World Congress President Askold Lozynskyj; Dr. Lina Buteiko, wife of Ukraine's ambassador to the United States; National Council Chair Roma Dyhdalo of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council; Myron Holubiak, president of Roche Laboratories; members of the board of directors of the CCRF, chaired by Orest Dubno; and representatives from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and St. Barnabas Medical System.

Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. offered the benediction and the girls choir Prolisok from the New York City branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) offered several vocal selections, including a deeply touching final selection, "The Children's Prayer."

Among the principal sponsors of the event honoring Mrs. Clinton's achievements in helping the children of Chornobyl were Roche Laboratories, BBDO Advertising, Goldenbarr, Adia and Orest Fedash, as well as many Ukrainian American credit unions, and dozens of small businesses, corporations and individuals.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Compassion and commitment

Compassion and leadership, commitment and courage, hope and resolve, unflinching dedication – these were all words of praise heard at the recent ceremony honoring First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton with the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund's Lifetime Humanitarian Achievement Award. These words of praise, however, were offered both ways. While the foundation thanked the first lady for her commitment and support, she in turn recognized the tremendous effort of the foundation – of its dedicated staff and remarkable volunteers.

"I've seen with my own eyes and heard with my own ears the difference that CCRF's work has made," noted the first lady who has traveled to Ukraine several times. "There has always been a picture of courage and endurance connected with the Ukrainian people," she added, "but what you have achieved through CCRF is absolutely remarkable. You've not only helped to heal bodies, but to lift spirits, and to increase resolve. You are doing an extraordinary job to heal the lingering wounds of Chernobyl – and to persuade, cajole the Ukrainian people that they can withstand this catastrophe and go into the future."

Mrs. Clinton also made another strong point – one that is frequently not understood – that only through humanitarian aid did we in the West begin to understand the consequences of Chernobyl. It is from French and German and Canadian and American doctors and relief workers that the tragic dimensions of the Chernobyl disaster began to be known – and not because governments were forthcoming with information, and not from international atomic regulatory agencies, or from industry experts, or from scientists, all sources from which we should expect information and clarity.

In all the tragedies of the 20th century, young and defenseless children truly are the greatest victims. And of all of this century's tragedies, noted Mrs. Clinton, there is hardly one that posed a greater challenge than the one still posed by Chernobyl. It is a tragedy that will continue for decades. Experts predicted that long-term consequences will only begin to appear 10 years after the tragedy, and most only after 15 to 20 years after the explosion. At 13 years, we are only in the nascent stage of the long-term consequences. Yet, new studies have begun to show the shift away from the short-term health consequences of radiation exposure, such as leukemia and thyroid disorders, to the long-term consequences, such as an increase in cancers, tumors, hormonal and hematological disorders.

"People do not want to think about it. They just want to go on with their lives. They try to block it out, deny it – otherwise they would give in to despair," says Svitlana Kushchenko of Kyiv whose 14-year-old son has a bone tumor on his left knee. "However, how can I not think about it? A young boy with tumors, is this normal? I don't think so. Is it caused by Chernobyl? I don't know. But he was a small boy, playing outside with his grandmother in the days when Chernobyl happened. How do I know?" she asks angrily.

"I've looked into the eyes of young children who knew they were stricken," said the first lady, "and when we see our children and know how fortunate they are to be growing up in America, it strengthens our resolve to help other children less fortunate ... so let us resolve to support those who are in the front lines – like CCRF – in their battle to help the children and to do everything we can to build a caring society, and show the victims of Chernobyl and the people of Ukraine that the world will not forget, that we will stand with them as they continue to fight and struggle against the horror that is Chernobyl."

April
21
1996

Turning the pages back...

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe, a conference titled "Chernobyl: Ten Years After" examined the multifaceted consequences of the world's worst nuclear accident, its effects on public health and the environment, its social and political impact, energy alternatives for Ukraine, and the response from the international community. Sponsored by the Chernobyl Challenge '96 coalition, the commemorative conference was hosted at Yale University by the Council on Russian and East European Studies and the Chopivsky Family Foundation, and at Columbia by The Harriman Institute.

The April 21, 1996, issue of The Ukrainian Weekly reported on the conference's major revelations:

- Dr. Vladislav Torbin of the Ministry of Chernobyl and the Medical Department of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers provided an updated official figure on the number of deaths in Ukraine directly attributable to the Chernobyl accident. Since the meltdown at the nuclear power plant through the end of 1995, 148,000 persons, among them 2,800 liquidators, had died in Ukraine alone.

- Dr. Alexander Sich, a nuclear engineer who lived and worked at the Chernobyl complex for 18 months, reported that the accident management actions taken in the first days after the nuclear disaster were ineffective or were not accomplished as reported by the Soviets. In particular, the helicopters dumping boron, lead, sand and other materials into the reactor core had largely missed their target and the core remained mostly uncovered. In the end, the reaction in the stricken reactor simply ran its course within 10 days, and the active phase of the accident came to an end. Dr. Sich also reported that the amount of radioisotopes released as a result of the accident was at least three times, and possibly four times, the 50 million curies originally reported by Soviet authorities.

- Crusading journalist Alla Yaroshinska of Moscow, who in 1992 uncovered secret protocols of the Kremlin that proved the Soviet leadership knew much more about the severity of the Chernobyl accident than it admitted, said there is no doubt that a "global deception was under way" as the Politburo had made a political decision to take steps to make the consequences of the Chernobyl accident seem less severe. For example, the government made great efforts to get hospitalized people released. The

(Continued on page 15)

FOR THE RECORD

Ukrainian women's federation speaks out on Chernobyl's effects

Statement submitted on March 1 by the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, to the Commission on the Status of Women regarding the agenda item "Women and Health – Chernobyl's Disastrous Effect on Women's Health."

Thirteen years after the greatest technologically induced human disaster of the 20th century, the aftereffects of Chernobyl's nuclear meltdown continue to multiply for millions of children, women and men in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. The ruthless enemy in this case is nuclear radiation – it is invisible, unpredictable and deadly.

The destructive influence of exposure to radiation on the health of women of reproductive age and children has been well-documented by scientists, showing that there is a serious threat of irreversible and continuous deterioration of the genetic pool in this region. Female adolescents and women of reproductive age who reside within areas with long-term exposure to even small doses of radiation have significant shifts in structure of gynecological morbidity. Especially noteworthy is an increased number of internal genital inflammatory diseases, which could be connected with immune system disorders followed by significant changes in menstrual cycles. The rates of sterility and benign tumors have significantly increased in the last years. Of great concern is the health of infants and their mothers: more than 70 percent of pregnant women have obstetric and extra-genital pathology, almost 65 percent of the deliveries are complicated, especially with bleeding, with 70 percent of the infants being born with various disorders.

Birth rates have dropped significantly, leading to a negative population growth in this region. Also, the continuous unfavorable ecological environment in these countries will result in an increase in genetic disorders and cause accumulation of pathologic mutations. There is a statistically significant increase in chromosome aberrations of various types observed in examined groups of children who live in contaminated areas and there is a tendency to continual growth of cytogenetic effect with time. This demonstrates a continuation of the mutagenetic effect of long-term exposure to low intensity radiation. This fact, along with other ecological and economic concerns, has a negative influence on family planning, since many young people now fear having children and facing unspeakable tragedy in the case of biological aberrations. The radiation factor and its consequences hang over them like a "black cloud," producing not only physical, but also severe psychological stress and depression.

The men, women and children of this region reside in what the world regards as a living laboratory, but in fact is a living hell that needs more attention from the world's scientists and medical communities. A great deal of study and research into the effects and consequences of this disaster is still necessary today, just as the surviving population remains in need of immediate help and relief from its suffering.

The [United Nations] General Assembly has called for strengthening international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

The legacy of Chernobyl will remain with us for many generations and continues to deserve serious attention from the global community. Not only must we examine the aftereffects of this disaster, not only must we rally to the aid of the individuals who are most directly harmed by it, but we must also look to the future and see how we can prevent the recurrence of yet another Chernobyl.

The world we live in today requires power for its very existence. Nuclear power may for some appear to be a safe and efficient source of energy, but efficiency at the expense of human lives is too high a price to pay. When governments ignore the cost of "progress" with respect to their population, when there is an almost criminal disregard for human life as in the case of the victims of Chernobyl, then we must search for new solutions and re-examine our responsibility to humanity.

We recognize that women who are the foundation of future generations suffer the greatest long-term effects of radiation poisoning, as well as chemical and industrial waste pollution and, therefore, we respectfully request that the Commission on the Status of Women take specific action to urge governments to place a heavy emphasis on safety when any new technology is developed or old technology is used. Because this is a global threat and not just a local problem, we also request that the governments of the world allocate adequate resources to safeguard the Chernobyl nuclear facility and continue to decontaminate the air, soil and water in that area as much as possible.

The consequences of the Chernobyl disaster must be regarded as a signal to the world that greater consideration must be given to the health effects of the use of nuclear power, feasibility of a repetition of the disaster, and preparedness and responsiveness of governments should the world again witness such a terrible event.

Chernobyl victims are owed money

Eastern Economist

KYIV – During the Verkhovna Rada's weekly session on April 13 dedicated to the work of the government, Emergency Minister Vasyl Durdynets attacked funding for Chernobyl victims. He announced that the direct cost to Ukraine of overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster have exceeded \$11 billion (U.S.) in the past 13 years.

Mr. Durdynets complained that funds were so scarce that what did become available was immediately allocated to high priority categories such as children's homes and medical care for those struck down with illness following the disaster.

He added that while 821 million hrv were required in 1998 to meet the needs of those recuperating from the disaster, only 181 million hrv were provided by the state budget.

National deputies passed a resolution in which the Cabinet's work towards carrying out the program of social assistance for Chernobyl victims was described as unsatisfactory. Deputies called on the Cabinet of Ministers to draw up a monthly schedule of payments on the debt owed Chernobyl victims, which currently totals 763.2 million hrv.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Famine now topic of scholarly attention

Dear Editor:

I noted with interest Victor Rud's critique (April 11) of my article (speech) on the Ukrainian Famine.

I will say at the outset, as I remarked to the organizers of the talk in Calgary, that I have never claimed to be an expert on this subject. It falls within the realm of one of the areas in which I specialize, i.e., Stalinism, but I have not conducted archival work in Kyiv, Moscow, etc., as would be the normal prerequisite, in my field, before delivering lectures.

However, I think Mr. Rud's letter merits a response because he makes several questionable assertions. If I read him correctly, he maintains that because of the tragic nature of the events of 1932-1933, it is misguided, even "pernicious" to get involved in the argument about their causes. If this were the case, historians could safely withdraw their interest from many of the events of this particularly bloody century. In reality, it has almost always proved useful to search for causes.

Mr. Rud asks whether I would require a document signed in triplicate by Stalin. In fact, Stalin signed personally thousands of such documents during the purges, which is why no such debate has arisen over the events later in the decade. In addition, he often committed his views to paper. His letters to Molotov, for example, are a far better indicator of his motives than, say, the memoirs of Khrushchev, written decades after the event and with a desire for self-vindication. Thus, it would not be so far-fetched to seek such a document or evidence of motivation from Stalin's correspondence.

The comparison with the Jewish Holocaust is, in my view, facile. There is an obvious document at hand here, namely Hitler's "Mein Kampf," in which his views and intentions toward the Jews are made quite plain. Anti-Semitism was one of Hitler's main (likely the main) guiding force behind his actions, and such a policy was always overt. By 1944 the Nazi occupants of Eastern Europe had devised ways to kill Jews as quickly and clinically as possible, and Jews were shipped from occupied Europe to death camps in the east. Genocide.

And that brings me to another point. Is Mr. Rud saying that the Soviet authorities were so subtle that they would seek to eliminate national or ethnic groups by starving them to death, en masse? One would have to make the argument here

that his victim was Ukrainians per se, rather than peasants (racial rather than demographic motivations). But is this what he means?

The Stalinist regime rarely showed such forethought, in Ukraine or elsewhere. In the period 1937-1941, NKVD executions were a daily affair. In June 1941, Ukrainian political prisoners were simply massacred by the NKVD prior to the Soviet retreat from Halychyna. When Stalin wanted to remove people, they were executed, in the thousands or – and the case of the Crimean Tatars at the end of the war is a case in point – deported from their native land.

I did not realize that there was a "subliminal message" in my talk, but if there was, it was not even close to Mr. Rud's explanation "for the uninitiated" (Who are they by the way? The Weekly readers who are not as perceptive as Mr. Rud?) that "Ukrainian deaths were the unfortunate, but unintended, by-product of other state activity." State repression, in my view, was the cause of the Famine. It seems to me that as millions died, and Stalin chose to allow this to happen, such slaughter and callousness is in every way as culpable and detestable as a deliberately engineered and premeditated genocide of a group en masse.

Whether Mr. Rud likes it or not, there is currently a scholarly debate on the causes of the Famine that has spilled over the pages of journals such as *Slavic Review* and is manifest at academic conferences. My comments also elicited a lively debate among an audience of Ukrainian Canadians in Calgary, though I would posit that none of them found my remarks to be pernicious. That such debates continue is not and never has been an indicator that the scale or the horror of the Famine is being belittled. Rather it shows that the Famine is, at long last, at the forefront of scholarly attention.

This is not "the wretched persistence of selective morality." It is that perennial but elusive quest of historians: the search for objectivity and truth. Emotionally I am probably as close to Ukrainians as it is possible to be to a group that is not one's own. The consequences of the Famine, like those of Chernobyl, continue to move me personally, as they do Ukrainians worldwide. But I still have to present views that appear to fit the evidence. If this "scholarly detachment" appears unfeeling, then believe me, it isn't.

David R. Marples
Edmonton

The writer is professor of history at the University of Alberta.

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



The strange story of the letter "g"

Prof. Hryhory Golembiowsky emigrated to the United States after World War II. He was an expert on Ukrainian literature, but there was no demand for his expertise, so he got a job in the foundry at the Ford Motor Plant in Cleveland. On Saturday mornings he taught at the Ukrainian-language "Ridna Shkola." Prof. Golembiowsky, I remember, would get really steamed when he told the story of how a group of Ukrainian linguists met in Kharkiv in 1933 and, under the threat of death, voted to eliminate the letter "g" from the Ukrainian alphabet. He was particularly outraged because his own name began with "g." Now, according to the Soviets, he was no longer Golembiowsky, he was Holembyowsky. Well, he wasn't going to let a bunch of Communist Party hacks tell him what letter he could or could not use, and he was not about to change his name.

In Ukraine, of course, it didn't work that way. Whatever the party said, people did. The letter "g" had been a perfectly good letter and people used it all the time. In 1933, though, when the linguists were told to get rid of it, Ukraine was ruled by terror. Well-fed party cadres were going through the countryside, ransacking people's homes to take away their food. In the cities, police were torturing poets because 10 years before they had written about the particular way the sun shone on Ukrainian meadows and how no other country could compare. Composers were made to answer for subversive melodies; playwrights were shot for putting up the wrong kind of stage sets. It was a dangerous time, and every print shop in Ukraine immediately got rid of the letter "g." People, if they knew what was good for them, stopped using the sound. And so, the word "gas" became "has," "gazeta" became "hazeta" and "Golembiowsky" was now "Holembyowsky."

This was a time when Stalin was creating a new "Soviet" identity and ethnic differences were to be erased. The bizarre campaign to eliminate the letter "g" had its internal logic, since its removal from the Ukrainian language was a small, subtle step toward the long-term goal of merging the Ukrainian people with the Russian. It seems like an inconsequential struggle, but people actually lost their lives over that letter.

In the final analysis, the campaign to create a new "Soviet" identity failed. In 1991 most Ukrainians, regardless of their ethnic background, voted overwhelmingly for independence, taking the nation back to where it had been when the Russian Empire collapsed in 1918. In the 73-year process that took Ukrainians from their first declaration of independence to the second, they lost one of the letters of their alphabet. Today, you're unlikely to hear anyone raised in Ukraine use the letter "g", even when they're talking about Graham Green, John Glenn or Al Gore.

This matter about the letter "g" is pretty esoteric, but it's symptomatic of a far larger problem. If Ukrainians lost the ability to use the letter "g," you have to wonder what else they lost. After all, for three generations the Soviets exercised absolute power over every aspect of life – not only in linguistics. The party made war on the family, they outlawed religion, they denied the freedom of assembly. Ask yourself what it does to a society when the police conduct raids because a few people gather in a living room to pray. What happens to civic discourse when a man is sentenced to death for starting an independent political party? When some party hack is allowed to crank up the dials on a nuclear reactor just to see

what happens? Where people obey the authorities, even on a lunatic order to eliminate one of the letters of the alphabet?

Tragically, just as the Soviets were able to coerce people to change their very speech habits, they changed a lot of other things. Take the perverse logic Stalin applied to agriculture. The most successful farmers, he reasoned, were "exploiting" the masses and therefore must be "liquidated as a class." In reality, these "rich kulaks" were simple peasants, people who felt a mystical bond with the land they tilled. In most cases, the land had been in the family for generations. If they were well-off it was because they worked hard and knew how to raise livestock and grow grain. Murdering them by starvation removed precisely those farmers who had been the most productive. In the whole process, Ukraine – and the Soviet Union – lost its wealth-producing agricultural sector. It was replaced with an unwieldy collective farm system. Deprived of the right to own land, people lost age-old work habits and more importantly, their mystical link with the soil was severed. They were no longer "khliboroby" (bread-makers); they were "kolhospynyky" (collective farm workers). In the West, people still think of Ukraine as the "Breadbasket of Europe," but actually the country hasn't exported grain for generations and it's not likely to until the damage done by the Soviets is reversed.

Is that even possible? Soon after Ukraine declared independence, the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine restored the letter "g" to the Ukrainian alphabet. Now children's picture books on the Ukrainian alphabet are coming out with attractive pictures of words that start with "g." The journal *Suchasnist* and others routinely use the once-banned letter. Ukraine is now free and it's okay for people to use the same alphabet their great-grandparents once used. Now Glenn can be Glenn, and Gore can be Gore. It will be interesting to track whether the letter does indeed come back into normal usage.

Does it matter? It's often said that God is in the details; so is the devil. Eliminating the letter "g" was indeed a crime and it's nice that it's been restored, but Ukraine has far bigger issues to address – none more important than agricultural policy. This issue goes to the heart of Ukraine's history, its destiny, its soul. Just as Stalin took away one of the letters of the Ukrainian alphabet, he also took the land away from the people. It took a famine to do it. Stalin's collectivization policy was one of the greatest crimes ever committed and the people of Ukraine continue to suffer from its effects.

The letter "g" has been restored and the language will be richer for it. The country, on the other hand, will remain poor so long as bureaucrats and politicians control the land and the agricultural economy. Until the collective farms are dismantled and the agricultural sector is given back to the people, Ukraine will not be healed. Those of us in the West can offer our opinion and support our own country when they tell Ukraine's leaders that one of the conditions for expanded American and Western assistance is undoing the evil that was perpetrated 66 years ago.

The National Academy of Sciences did its part by restoring the letter "g." Now it's up to the Verkhovna Rada to do the right thing and restore the land to its rightful owners: the people of Ukraine. Let's hope they do so. In the meantime, stay positive, keep the faith and keep using that letter "g."

ACTION ITEM

Canadian Citizens:

To support Bill C-479, introduced by Member of Parliament Sarkis Assadourian, mandating the establishment of an exhibit recognizing crimes against humanity at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Ottawa, thereby supporting the concept of an inclusive museum on genocide, call, write, e-mail your MP and ask him/her to support the bill. If you don't know who your MP is or how to reach the person, call 1-800-463-6868. Follow up with a personal phone call two weeks later.

Call, write, e-mail the Cabinet official responsible for oversight of the CMC, Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage, 15 Eddy St., Hull, Québec, K1A 0M5; telephone, (819) 997-7788; e-mail, CoppsS@parl.gc.ca. Be sure to follow up.

Call, write, e-mail the person in charge of the CMC, Joe Geurts, acting president and CEO, Museum of Civilization, 100 Laurier St., Hull, Québec, J8X 4H2; telephone (819) 776-7116; e-mail, joe.geurts@civilization.ca; and Sylvie Morel, Director General of exhibitions and programs; telephone, (819) 776-8302; e-mail, sylvie.morel@civilization.ca. Follow up, as well.

Call, write or e-mail local newspapers, radio and TV stations. Inform staffers about Bill C-479, explain the need for an inclusive exhibit on genocide and crimes against humanity, and ask for coverage of the issue. Follow up.

In addition, Canadian citizens should add their names to a petition currently circulat-

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Lviv Theological Academy rectors take message to North America

CHICAGO – “The Ukrainian diaspora’s affability and compassion encourages us, Ukrainians in Ukraine, to continue with our mission. These bridges of communication and interaction which have been forged throughout the course of our visit, are very important for us all, especially today, during these trying times of dynamic changes and critical situations,” said the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, vice-rector of the Lviv Theological Academy, during his recent visit to North America.

For more than a month, the rector of the Lviv Theological Academy, the Rev. Dr. Mykhailo Dymyd, and the Rev. Gudziak, traveled throughout North America, visiting various universities, cultural centers and Ukrainian parishes, as well as meeting with numerous bishops, Church dignitaries and representatives of lay organizations. The LTA rectors spread the good news about the Church in Ukraine to cities across the continent, including Washington, New York, Boston, Detroit, Chicago, San Francisco and Toronto.

The Shevchenko Scientific Society welcomed the rectors in New York and Chicago. The Revs. Dymyd and Gudziak presented lectures titled “Ukrainian Christianity in the Third Millennium: Tradition, Vision, Leadership.”

The Rev. Dymyd discussed the activity of the Lviv Theological Academy and the historical context of its founding. He elaborated on the current status of theological studies in post-Soviet Ukraine.

Announcing the recent accreditation of the LTA by the Congregation of Catholic Education in Rome, the Rev. Dymyd stressed the significance this event holds for all Ukrainians: “Ukrainian scholarship, not only in theology, has made a giant step forward thanks in large part to the academy’s accreditation, which truly is a historic event.”

Prof. Vasylyl Markus, editor of the Encyclopedia of the Ukrainian Diaspora, organized the lecture in Chicago. Prof. Markus, commenting on the LTA’s accreditation, said: “Previously, there has been no process to accredit seminaries and theological academies in Ukraine. This [LTA accreditation] could move the Verkhovna Rada to issue legislation. State education policy is definitely moving towards official recognition.”

Mykola Haliv, editor of Patriarchate, hosted the rectors in New York City.

At several stops on the tour the Rev. Gudziak had the opportunity to present his new book, “Crisis and Reform: the Kyivan Metropolitanate, the Patriarchate of Constantinople and the Genesis of the Union of Brest,” notably at Harvard University’s Ukrainian Research Institute and the Library of Congress. This groundbreaking study, published by the HURI, brings to light one of the most widely discussed issues in Ukrainian academic and ecclesial circles, namely, the interpretation of the Union of Brest, established in 1596 between Ukrainian and Belarusian hierarchs and the Holy See.

In Washington the Ukrainian delegation met with James Billington, the Librarian of Congress. Mr. Billington, a Slavic historian, was very forthcoming to his guests and expressed a sincere interest in the city of Lviv and the Lviv Theological Academy. Jurij Dobczansky, a Ukrainian specialist at the Library of Congress, invited the Rev. Gudziak to present his book.

While in Washington, the Rev. Gudziak met with Melanne Verveer, Hillary Clinton’s chief of staff and an American of Ukrainian descent, at the White House. A year ago, Ms. Verveer visited Lviv with the First Lady. She recalled her visit fondly: she was especially touched by the tour of St. George’s Cathedral and meetings with Ukrainians who suffered under the Soviets.

“Our delegation was very warmly received, and we were grateful for Ms. Verveer’s willingness to offer cooperative assistance,” related Bryon Brindel of the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation (UCEF). “Ms. Verveer expressed a sincere interest in the development of Lviv, the mayor’s responsibilities to the people of the city and the activities of the Lviv Theological Academy,” he added.

At various stages of the trip, Prof. Jeffrey Wills, Ilyia Labunka, and Mr. Brindel, all officers of the UCEF, accompanied the rectors of the LTA. The UCEF disseminates information on the needs and activities of the Church in Ukraine to a large and diverse community in America and Canada. The UCEF also works with Ukrainian institutions like the LTA by providing financial assistance, library collections, computers and other teaching materials, and by implementing exchange programs for students and faculty.

The two priests from Ukraine made a tremendous effort to visit as many Ukrainian communities in North America as possible. The Rev. Dymyd reflected: “Our goal was to visit Ukrainians abroad and simply to let them know more about the Lviv Theological Academy.”

The rectors were greatly assisted in their efforts by leaders of the Ukrainian Patriarchal Society, including Wasylyl Kolodchin the society’s president, as well



The Rev. Dr. Mykhailo Dymyd (left), rector of the Lviv Theological Academy, and the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak (right), LTA vice-rector, with Cardinal John O’Connor, archbishop of New York.

as Oksana Berezhnycky (Buffalo, N.Y.), Roma Dyhdalo (Detroit), Roma Hayda (Bridgeport, Conn.), and Alexander Pryshlak (Hartford, Conn.).

“We have grown closer to the diaspora,” commented the Rev. Dymyd. “By visiting Ukrainian parishes, we sensed – and we hope that the diaspora, too, realizes – the

LTA is an institution not only for Ukraine but for Ukrainian communities abroad.”

The Rev. Gudziak, who was ordained in November 1998, was especially grateful for the opportunity to visit his native town of Syracuse, N.Y. He was able to spend

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Irondequoit-Poltava Sister Cities Program in eighth year of activity

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – Since 1991 the Irondequoit-Poltava Sister Cities Program has been actively working to strengthen and promote official and community ties between the two cities.

A variety of educational programs on Ukraine were presented in the Rochester area, including weekly television programs that provide an up-close and personal view of Ukraine. To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Great Famine in Ukraine a commemorative plaque and tree were dedicated on the Irondequoit Town Hall grounds.

Over the past eight years Tamara Denysenko, chair of the Irondequoit-Poltava Sister Cities Committee, along with husband, Walter, and Mirko Pylyshenko often traveled to Poltava to strengthen the relations and to encourage citizens

involvement in the international project between both communities. The first delegation from Poltava visited Irondequoit in 1994 and was ably hosted by one of the initial sister cities board members and Town Supervisor Suzanne Masters.

Under the able leadership of Ludmila Labash of St. Mary Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the Rev. Richard C. Kinsky of the Basilian Fathers, the committee focused on several humanitarian aid projects culminating in two major shipments of medical supplies valued over \$75,000. Other projects included adult and youth pen-pal programs, foster parents relationships, book drives for schools and libraries,

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Members of the Poltava delegation during their visit to the greater Rochester, N.Y., area as part of the Irondequoit-Poltava Sister City Program. Pictured at the 45th anniversary celebration of the Rochester Ukrainian Federal Credit Union (RUFUCU) are (from left): Dr. Myron Kuropas, guest speaker, immigration historian and honorary member of the Ukrainian National Association General Assembly; Mykola Piatak, of the city of Poltava department of public works; Alex Loj, Irondequoit-Poltava Sister Cities Committee member; Lydia Dzus, Irondequoit town clerk and receiver of taxes; Mykhailo Burlakov, second vice-president, Poltava city council; David Chantz, supervisor, town of Irondequoit; Ihor Mykhailiuk, first vice-president and secretary, Poltava city council; Wasylyl Kornylo, president, RUFUCU; and Tamara Denysenko, general manager/CEO RUFUCU and chair, Irondequoit-Poltava Committee.

The Gryphon Trio performs contemporary classics in Toronto

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – The Gryphon Trio – violinist Annalee Patipatanakoon, cellist Roman Borys and pianist Jamie Parker – performed at the Jane Mallet Theatre on March 23, in a concert presented by Music Toronto, the city's notable chamber music society. Called "one of Canada's premier chamber groups" by The Washington Post, The Gryphon Trio was formed in 1993, although Ms. Patipatanakoon and Mr. Borys have worked together since 1985, formerly as part of Trio Lyrika.

Ms. Patipatanakoon, who is on the string faculty of the Royal Conservatory of Music, is a native of Calgary, where she began her music studies. She later studied at the Curtis Institute and Indiana University. Mr. Borys – a member of the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra and a graduate of Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music – completed his music studies at Indiana and Yale universities. Mr. Parker, an assistant professor of piano at the University of Waterloo, studied at the University of British Columbia and the Juilliard School, where he received a master of music degree in 1987 and a doctorate in 1992.

The "Contemporary Classics" program included compositions by Charles Ives and Dmitri Shostakovich. In addition, the ensemble played two pieces by contemporary Canadian composers Gary Kulesha and Marc Sabat. Both composers were present at the concert, and each briefly discussed his work before its performance.

Mr. Kulesha is a native Torontonian whose compositions have been commissioned and performed by noted Canadian

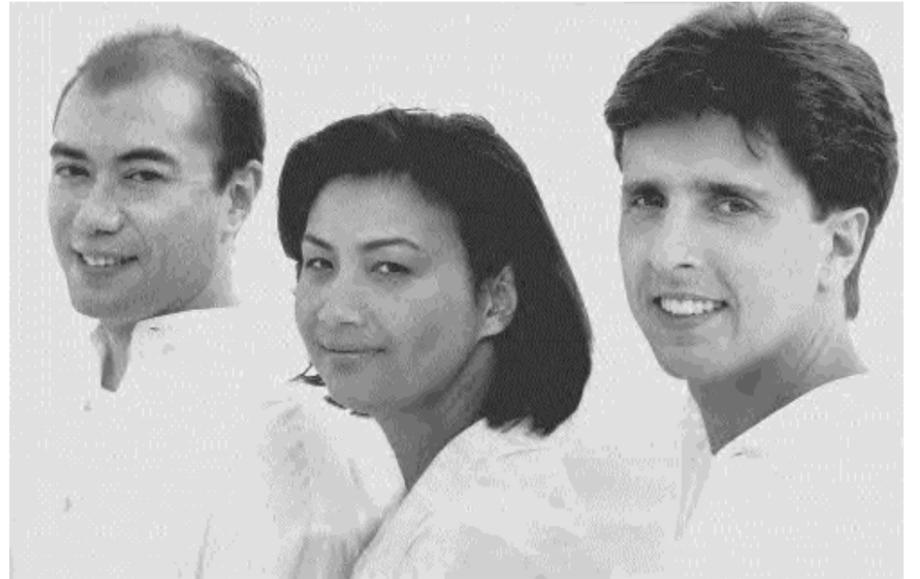
and international orchestras. He is the composer of the opera "Red Emma" (which premiered in 1995), and teaches composition and theory at the University of Toronto, where he also directs the Contemporary Music Ensemble.

As composer-advisor to the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, in January of this year he toured Florida with the orchestra, which performed his work "The Gates of Time." In October 2000 Mr. Kulesha is scheduled to conduct a concert of Canadian music in Lviv.

Mr. Sabat, a composer (and violinist) received his master's degree from the Juilliard School. Currently based in Toronto, he is active as a performer and composer, and is also involved in experimental work in performance and electronic media. He explained that the inspiration for his composition came from a collection of toy violins that he found in a store when he was living in Stuttgart. Mr. Sabat dedicated his composition to his mother, Christine Solonynka-Sabat, the anniversary of whose tragic death last year in Fredericton, New Brunswick, fell on the evening of the concert.

In his review of the concert, Toronto Star music critic John Lehr pointed out that the trio had chosen for its name the gryphon – half lion and half eagle, a symbol of the connection between psychic energy and cosmic force. In summing up the evening's performance, he wrote:

"Charles Ives' Trio for Violin, Cello and Piano ... launched The Gryphon on a taxing musical adventure of extraordinary mental and emotional range. Canadian Gary Kulesha's Trio for Violin, Cello and Piano ... countered the



The Gryphon Trio

American's chaotic exuberance with intensely self-reflective, relentlessly integrating music: three movements based on three closely related themes in continual development. The Gryphon gave it the unremitting mental focus it required."

"Though Canadian Marc Sabat's quiet Trio for Piano, Violin and Cello had none of the manic moments that erupted in the previous works, it required the same sustaining energy. The Gryphon moved through its slowly chiming increments of harmonic change with continuous care and vigilance. The program concluded with Dmitri Shostakovich's Piano Trio No. 2, Op. 67, a piece filled with strangeness, roughness and searing soulfulness characteristic of the Russian composer. The Gryphon's energy did not flag. Roman

Borys's eerie, high harmonics at the beginning of the work, in fact, surpassed the quiet intensity of Sabat's piece. The Gryphon, however, also has a big sound that roared forth in the final movement before it, too, whispered to an end. This talented trio, indeed, makes music worthy of its name."

The Gryphon Trio has toured extensively in Canada and the United States and has performed in Belgium, France, Poland, Germany and Australia. In 1996 Analekta Records released The Gryphon's recording of Haydn Piano Trios, which received critical acclaim and a Juno Award nomination. Analekta recently released the ensemble's second commercial CD, which includes Dvorak's "Dumky," Op. 90, and the Mendelssohn Trio in D minor, Op. 49.

Newsbriefs

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additional BSF treaties are those of mutual debt cancellation and designated use of BSF port infrastructure." Commander Pakhlia added that the additional treaties were currently being worked on. On the health of the fleet, he commented, "Thanks largely to state support and financing, almost half of the 52 ships received from division of the Black Sea Fleet have been repaired and are now operational." Summing up, he added, "we are now faced with only technical issues." (Eastern Economist)

Tarasjuk on Belarus-Russia-Yugoslavia

KYIV – Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasjuk told journalists on April 16 that the creation of a union of Belarus, Russia and Yugoslavia will not provide stability and security to Europe and will not end the crisis in Kosovo. "It would threaten European stability, especially when one of these states has nuclear weapons," Reuters quoted him as saying minutes before Russia's State Duma voted in favor of letting Yugoslavia join the union of Belarus and Russia. (RFE/RL Newline)

Ukraine's economy still falling

KYIV – Ukraine's gross domestic product (GDP) decreased by 4.2 percent in the first quarter of 1999, as compared to the same period last year, the Associated Press reported on April 15, citing Ukrainian Economy Minister Vasyl Rohovyi. Mr. Rohovyi added that Ukraine's positive achievement in January-March was a low inflation rate of 3.5 percent. Meanwhile, the State Gas and Oil Committee has reported that Ukraine's gas and oil production dropped by 1.5 percent and 5 percent, respectively, in the first quarter of 1999. (RFE/RL Newline)

Works by artists from Canada and Ukraine sold at fund-raiser

by Yuri Diakunchak

TORONTO – The parish hall of St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Mississauga, Ontario, was transformed on April 2-4 into a mini art mart. Thirty-six artists from Canada and Ukraine offered their works for sale – works that ranged from icons to pottery, from engravings of kozaks to oil paintings steeped with symbolism.

The art sale was organized by the parents' committee of the Sadochok nursery school, based at the church, as a fund-raiser for school. Some of the participating artists came from as far away as Elliot Lake in northwestern Ontario, Montréal, Lviv and St. Petersburg, Russia. However, most were from the Golden Horseshoe area of southern Ontario.

According to Marichka Hlibovych-Duncan, president of the Sadochok parents committee, the sale has been held annually for more than 10 years. Artists are recruited mostly by word of mouth.

Artists donate 30 percent of each sale to the school. Each artist also donated a work to be raffled. "There's a real variety of work that people haven't seen yet which I find very exciting," said Ms. Hlibovych-Duncan. "There's a painting for all price ranges," she added.

Individual works could be had for as low as \$40 (Canadian), while a few were selling for thousands of dollars. Multi-media artist Oleh Lesiuk, who remembers participating in five of the annual shows, has had generally positive results in previous years.

"I've always managed to sell something. It's a well-organized event, with a nice atmosphere," Mr. Lesiuk said. He tends to bring both lower-priced

items that appeal to a general audience and more expensive works targeted at collectors. "Coming to the opening is great because you can meet other artists, trade ideas, and get feedback from people as to what they are looking for."

Mr. Lesiuk, who is also the acting curator at the Ukrainian Canadian Art Foundation (UCAF) gallery, added that the crowd the "church art mart" draws is different from the one that gathers at the UCAF.

Roman Babej, an insurance adjuster from Etobicoke, a Toronto suburb, recently bought a house and came to buy a painting. He purchased a woodcut by Bohdan Holowacki and noted that he hopes it will be the first of many Holowackis that he'll own, since he likes the artists' style.

Another potential buyer had her eye on Oleh Savytskyi's work. "I love Savytskyi. I love his churches. They look so authentic, and Holowacki's icons are superb," said Hanya Ostapiuk, who teaches at St. Sophia School in Mississauga.

Sales were fast and furious on opening day. Roman Chwyl of Etobicoke said: "I was looking at this artist's work, considering buying one piece and a couple came up and took away all six, leaving me wondering what just happened." The works in question were drawings of Ukrainian women in traditional costume by Nadia Stanovoytova from Lviv.

Mr. Chwyl then switched his attention to the works of Adrian Baranowski. Not yet well-known to the general art buying community, the Lviv-born Mr. Baranowski is sure to attract some attention with his

funkadelic acrylics of Lviv street scenes. Mr. Baranowski has been in Canada for only three years and has participated in one previous group show, at UCAF.

"I have a hard time describing my style. I'm just beginning to experiment," said Mr. Baranowski. Like many immigrants, he had to postpone his creativity in order to secure himself financially. "Before I didn't have time to paint because I had to work to support my family, but now I have more time."

Petro Magdenko, who came from distant Elliot Lake, was not as confident that his acrylics of nature scenes would be as popular as those of Ms. Stanovoytova and others. "I sold a lot of work here last year, but this year my nose tells me there will be no sale," he said.

The most distant traveler had to be Viktor Tsapko from St. Petersburg. He arrived in Canada in December 1998, bringing a number of works with him. On a previous trip to Canada he participated in a group show at the UCAF with three other artists.

Mr. Tsapko said he is drawing inspiration from his surroundings in Canada. "Everything in Canada is interesting through the eyes of a Petersburgier. Native culture is very attractive to me. They have interesting symbolism in their art," he explained. Mr. Tsapko said he hopes to travel to the Rockies to commit the vistas there to canvas. Mr. Tsapko sold a couple of his works during the course of the event.

According to Ms. Hlibovych-Duncan, Sadochok received over \$4,000 on sales of approximately \$14,000 and "we were very happy with the results."

INTERVIEW: Larysa Barabash Temple on Ukraine's preparations for the Olympics

Larysa Barabash Temple, the U.S. representative to the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, played an integral organizational role in Ukraine's successful effort at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games and will be deeply involved in Ukraine's preparations for the Salt Lake City Games in 2002.

The Ukrainian Weekly's Kyiv Press Bureau editor Roman Woronowycz recently met with Ms. Temple in Kyiv to discuss current NOC-Ukraine preparations for the 2000 Olympic Games set for Sydney, Australia.

Ms. Temple also commented on the controversy that has developed among sports enthusiasts in the Ukrainian diaspora regarding the November 1998 signing of an agreement between the state sports committees of Russia and Ukraine to cooperate in the development of their individual Olympic programs.

CONCLUSION

Earlier, you mentioned that with a new president of the NOC there usually comes a new sports structure. Could the election of a new president, any president, hinder preparations now under way for the Sydney Games?

My personal opinion, after spending this last week here, is that the hindrance will be in the absolute breakdown of the financial system. You will have the catching up and the revamping and the "who's going to get the gas monopoly" type of situation. In that changeover will come the difficulty.

I think sports here always has a priority in the mentality of the leadership. They value it, even if they don't necessarily value the people in it. They do value sports. They value it as the prestige of the nation and also as one of the factors that they can provide for the health of the nation. And that's a constant. Good, bad or indifferent, the politician understands the value.

What are the current ties between the Ukrainian Sports Federation of America and Canada (USCAK) and the NOC Ukraine?

Today the ties are very much concentrated on the All-Ukrainian Summer Games that are taking place this year. USCAK is handling all of the logistics of organizing teams from the U.S. to travel here.

It's a wonderful concept because it does not deal with athletics at the highest Olympic and national level. It deals with athletics at every age level and at every level of proficiency. Athletes from the diaspora can come here and compete with their fellow athletes in the games and really enjoy the sports atmosphere.

So USCAK today is handling the organization of that in the U.S. and today that level is the essential level of the relations.

Of course, USCAK has a great interest in what goes on in the NOC, and I hope they will see fit to understand that athletes always deserve support, and politics really doesn't have that much room in sports.

It's always about the athletes. Despite the fact that many negative elements surround [sports], especially big money – big money is a negative element in athletics, not a positive. It's still about the athlete, that's what we remember.

Somehow we have to divide up the politics of it from the fact that Ukraine today still has one of the world's top sports systems and it deserves support at every level.

We can't expect the diaspora to support it financially, but we can certainly expect moral support at every level. These athletes do too much for the prestige of Ukraine, too much for the health of the nation, too much for us to ever disregard their value.

Besides USCAK, what other diaspora support have you had in the past and

would hope to have in the future?

USCAK is the central organization of Ukrainian sports [in North America]. Much strong support also comes from the city organizations of Ukrainian sports.

The ones that I have to absolutely mention is the Ukrainian Sports Club of New York, run by Dr. Ivan Sierant. Tryzub in Philadelphia, with Ihor Czyzowycz, is a very strong sports organization. Chicago has two – they have Levy and they have Kryla – Lions and Wings. Of course, the person there that runs the Olympic organization is Paul Midzikewycz. Cleveland, where Ivan Roskil runs the Olympic organization, and Buffalo where Nick Lefchyk not only operated our entire travel system, but has truly supported a lot of the various things that we have done.

And these are merely the people that I have named.

Of course there is also Canada. Stan Haba in Toronto, Yuri Holowka in Winnipeg. Edmonton has done a tremendous job, as well, supporting various Olympic and international World Cup events.

We can talk about all the cities from which support comes, and from Florida, Texas, California, so it really has been an all-around effort.

[Ukraine's] athletes understand that they are in a unique position because they have a diaspora that totally takes care of them. Suddenly their pride in being Ukrainian rises immensely.

I think in large measure I have to credit Askold Lozynskij, president of the UCCA (Ukrainian Congress Committee of America), who today is president of the Ukrainian World Congress, because of his absolute and stable support for what sport does for Ukraine and his insistence on an integral diaspora program.

There is Ulana Diachuk of the Ukrainian National Association, which has been supportive, and the UACC (the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council), and women's organizations have been supportive.

We have had tremendous support from SUM, where Lida Mykytyn acted as my right hand. Plast has been supportive.

This has been an effort where everyone has been involved.

I also cannot fail to mention the Ukrainian financial institutions, because I realize how much comes from them even if it goes through these various city organizations and USCAK. It has really turned into an extensive system.

The one thing that we have understood from this work is that the value of the work is twofold. It is not just help for Ukraine and the Ukrainian sports system. It has been of equal value to the youth organizations of the diaspora.

You yourself know how many young people came to Atlanta to work on the Olympic Games with the athletes. These were all kids from Plast, SUM and other youth organizations from throughout Canada and the U.S.

The fact that they came and worked with young people from Ukraine who were absolutely on top of the world in terms of their capabilities. The relationships and friendships that developed between them are of lasting value.

The common language spoken by the Ukrainian athletes and all of the Ukrainian kids from the diaspora working with these

athletes at the various training venues had to be Ukrainian. It was the only language they could deal in.

The Ukrainian system is constantly being criticized because the Russian language is, in fact, the prevailing language in sports. But when they do interact with the diaspora at these major international championships and Olympic Games, the common language becomes Ukrainian.

The athletes understand that they are in a unique position because they have a diaspora that totally takes care of them. Suddenly their pride in being Ukrainian rises immensely.

There is a lot of value, in addition to the financial support and the organizational support for the system, and the value is twofold. One of the things that we found the first time that Valerii Borzov traveled around the U.S. prior to the Olympics in Lillehammer was that at very many of the social events that we attended there were young people there who had really separated themselves from the Ukrainian community, but were so attracted by sports and the value of his name in sports.

Suddenly sports has become the vehicle that brings young people back into the community. Today when we talk about securing the Ukrainian community in Canada and the U.S., sports takes on a far more mean-

ingful position than it has in the past.

In Australia is there a diaspora organization in place at least somewhat similar to that which prepared for the Atlanta Games?

Absolutely, they have a very strong organization in place. The chairman there is Roman Desnych. He is headquartered in Sydney. They have a very strong organization built around him. They have developed various training facilities.

When the Olympics in Atlanta were completed, a group of us who had actually worked on the organization sat down and developed a computerized listing of absolutely everything that we had done, how it was handled, all the different federations, how we handled sponsorship negotiations, how we handled facility negotiations, and provided that to Sydney so that they had a starting point.

They've used that and have done an excellent job. Recently people from the NOC here visited Sydney, and they were delighted with the preparations that have been made.

They have far more geographic difficulties than we did. There were far more facilities in proximity to Atlanta that we had access to. Everything in Australia is so far apart. From my professional discussions here I understand that the geographic distances are a problem in Australia, but they are being resolved. The organization in place there is very professional in what they are trying to do for the NOC, including what we did in terms of social facilities and the social things that we planned around the Olympics.

They have to deal within their realm. They understand where they live. I don't know how they stand financially, but I think that they are going to need far more financial help than we had, at least from what I heard from the World Congress.

I think that financial assistance and sponsorship is what they are going to have to deal with in the next year and a half. On the other hand, when they started working with the NOC, it was made quite clear to the NOC that it has to take more responsibility for training and pre-Olympic preparation than it did in Atlanta. In Atlanta they started with nothing, and now they are starting with at least a little bit of experience, even though I can't say that there is extra funding, because that is being cut, but we hope for the best.

As for Ukraine's hopes for the 2000 Olympics, is there another Lilia Podkopayeva (multi-gold medalist in gymnastics) who could emerge?

I hope so. I look at the young gymnasts now coming up and there is a lot of potential. There is one young gymnast, and I forget her name, that is fantastic. There are two young athletes in track that are fabulous. There is a young man, Bilonov, who has taken Bahach's place (in shot put). There is a high jumper who is young and a triple-jumper, after Inessa Kravets, who are apparently incredible.

There is a lot of potential. But potential requires development, potential requires a lot of things.

I spoke with the president of the wrestling federation yesterday. He said they have a lot stronger team than for Atlanta.

Changing subjects, somewhat, could you explain the hullabaloo surrounding the November 1998 agreement between the sports committees of Ukraine and Russia, in which terms are provided for the two countries to cooperate in training and preparations for the Olympics and on sports programs in general.

First of all, there is a great deal of misunderstanding about that. When you look at bilateral agreements, they are absolutely normal events in the development of the socio-economic and political structure of any country.

Ukraine today has bilateral sports agreements with 47 countries. There are 47 different types of agreements. Some of them are between the sports committees or sports ministries of the countries, some are between the NOCs and some are within the framework of a general government bilateral agreement.

This particular agreement is an extension of the bilateral agreement between Ukraine and Russia and functions within that aspect. It is not part of the treaty but an extension.

Basically, if you want to understand its functions it's an extension of the big treaty.

The accusation in the diaspora that it is far more than a bilateral treaty simply are unfounded. It's not true.

Again, there are 47 similar treaties and each has its specifics. The one with Russia is very convenient for Ukraine because, as you know, when the Soviet Union broke up sports education and the entire science of sports development was headquartered in Moscow.

Even though the institutes in Kyiv had some very good personnel, they were left without a great deal of the facilities they required. So they continued the relationship, not just with Moscow but with a whole variety of countries, for the development of the science of sports and athletic development.

One of the things that this particular treaty does, which is a positive, is that it formalizes the academic cooperation, which in sports is very necessary.

In practical terms, the position of the [Ukrainian] sports committee is that, particularly in the aspect of winter sports, our athletes need the winter facilities in Russia.

I find that not to be a persuasive argu-

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Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

The Great No. 99 hangs it up in '99

It was perhaps apt and quite apropos, maybe even a desirable date with destiny, that No. 99 decided to hang 'em up in the year 1999. National Hockey League Commissioner Gary Bettman promptly announced – at Wayne Gretzky's final game, a Rangers' home game against the Pittsburgh Penguins – that No. 99 would never, ever, be worn again by any NHL player.

At age 38, Gretzky has played hockey for 35 years, since the age of 3. Twenty-one of those were as a professional: most notably with the Edmonton Oilers, but also with the Los Angeles Kings, St. Louis Blues (briefly) and, for the past three years, the New York Rangers. During that time he scored 894 career goals, 1,963 assists and 2,857 points, played in 1,487 games in 20 seasons and was on four Stanley Cup-winning teams.

He is the third member of the hallowed hockey trinity that includes two other all-time hockey greats, Gordie Howe and



CP Photo

Wayne Gretzky of the Edmonton Oilers in a 1982 photo.

Bobby Orr.

Yes, Wayne Gretzky (for all those who still doubt his Ukrainian background, he is Ukrainian on his father's side ...) left the ranks of the NHL as of Sunday, April 18. And, the send-off by colleagues, fans, the media and others – including the Canadian prime minister as seen in the message below – was phenomenal, to quote The New York Times: "The Great Goodbye."

For a while, though, it looked to be about 99 percent certain that No. 99 would still be with us beyond '99.

Several months back Wayne Gretzky told The Hockey News: "I see no reason not to (continue playing into the year 2000). I'm having so much more fun this season than last year's (non-playoff season). The team has done such a nice job of acquiring some talent and depth. I'm still finding it really enjoyable coming to the rink." However, these words were spoken several months prior to Gretzky's neck disk protrusion injury, which sidelined him for a dozen or so games.

Hockey's Great One has always had a fascination with numbers – and not just the ones on his back. Favorite numerals include 215, 92, 50 in 39, 802, 1,851 ... and the list goes on. He has forced us to become numerologists of some sorts because no athlete has statistically domi-

nated his game like Gretzky has his beloved game of pucks.

"Hey, my dad just told me this," Gretzky went on to say. "The first goal I ever scored was at 18:51 of the first period, 18:51, can you believe that?"

Oh, yeah!

This number is very significant, of course, because it was his 1,851st point on October 15, 1989, – one more than Gordie Howe had in his NHL career – that made Gretzky the league's career scoring leader. Gretzky's numbers are truly magical, and he sees magic in them.

If Gretzky had played in every game in the current 1998-1999 season (he obviously won't), as he managed to do for the past two seasons, he would have moved into the No. 4 spot in career games played. The number? Why, 1,499, of course.

To take this even further and as an aside: if he had played in all 82 games this year and the season (1999-2000), it would have given him 1,581, second only to Mr. Hockey (Howe). Did we say 1,581? An eerie reconfiguration of 1,851, no?

Coincidence? Not for a guy who has always been "dressed to the nines." And none of his numbers have been more karmic than the ones he wears on his back.

Why should we be surprised? Number 9 has traditionally been a special one in hockey. The pantheon of greats who have worn it include Maurice Richard, Gordie Howe and Bobby Hull. Lest we forget Charlie Conacher, Teeder Kennedy, Johnny (The Ukrainian Chief) Bucyk, Clark Gillies and Lanny McDonald. Today, Anaheim's Paul Kariya is the standard bearer for the game's second-most special number. Gretzky has made No. 99 into its first.

While many players will wear No. 9 as a tribute to one of the greats such as Richard, Hull or Howe, you don't see anyone in the NHL, or just about anywhere else, save kids' hockey, donning No. 99.

Imitation may be the sincerest form of flattery, but no one wants to attract the kind of attention that comes with No. 99. No one understands that better than Gretzky, who was, at first, reluctant to take "a hot-doggish number." As a kid, No. 9 was always Gretzky's number.

"It was," he said, "for Gordie."

But it wasn't his first number in hockey.

"I was 6 and I made the (10-year-old) traveling team (in Brantford)," Gretzky said. "There was this really good player on the team, I think his name was Brian Queley, and he wore No. 9. I took No. 11. I didn't play more than two shifts a game that year. The next year, Brian moved up and I got my No. 9. I wore it all the way through after that."

He wore it when he played lacrosse. And baseball, too, though Gretzky remembers there was a season or two when as a young pitcher he wore No. 1.

Gretzky was a 9 until he joined the Soo Greyhounds as a 16-year-old. No. 9 wasn't available, because it was being worn by Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, native Brian Gualazzi.

"I always wore No. 9," said Gualazzi, now an assistant crown attorney in the Sault. "I didn't wear it because of Howe or Hull or any of those guys. I wore it because I was born on November 9."

And when Gualazzi joined the hometown Hounds as rookie, he couldn't have it. Veteran Tim Coulis was wearing it. When Coulis left, Gualazzi snapped it up

(Continued on page 15)

Coach pledges: "We will start over again"

Dynamo, losing to Bayern 1-0, out of the UEFA Championships

by Andriy Kudla Wynnyckyj

Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO – Kyiv Dynamo Coach Valeriy Lobanovsky's claim that his player could score three goals again in the second leg of the UEFA Champions Cup semifinal proved to be nothing but hubris.

They couldn't even manage one.

On April 21 they lost 1-0 at München (Munich) Bayern's home stadium, and thus were eliminated after an impressive run that saw them improve markedly over last year's campaign and climb as high as fourth in the European club rankings.

The match began auspiciously, with a surprise chance given Oleksander Khatskevych in the first minute. On that play, Bayern netminder and team captain Oliver Kahn almost mishandled the ball. This proved to be the last time he would waver. In fact, Kahn found the form he'd clearly lacked in Kyiv, and almost single-handedly kept the Kyivan side off the scoreboard in the first half.

At the fifth minute, Andriy Shevchenko sprung Belarusian teammate Valiantsin Bialkevich with a deft lay-off, and the midfielder sprinted through the defense for a glorious (but missed) chance. ESPN commentator Mike Hill mused that had the roles been reversed on the play, Dynamo would likely have been celebrating its first marker.

At the 11th minute, Khatskevych was left unmarked and blasted a header towards the top of the goal, but again Kahn was up to the challenge and knocked the ball over the bar.

At the 18th minute, Bayern turned the tide of pressure. Jens Jeremies was found open, but sent a shot too high. At the 22nd, Alexander Zickler set off a shoving match over Kyiv's alleged shirt-pulling, which earned him and Ukrainian defender Oleksander Holovko yellow cards.

Two minutes later, in a portent of what was to come, Mario Basler ran past Dynamo's defense and sent a shot screaming just wide of the right post. At the 34th minute, Basler made a throw in into the middle, Jeremies dribbled through Dynamo's defense, then passed it back out to Basler.

The Bayern midfielder advanced to the penalty area, faked two Kyiv defenders to the grass and, just as the clock ticked onto the 35th minute, let loose a perfect shot that hit high on the left post and went in behind goalkeeper

Oleksander Shovkovskiy.

The Dynamisty mounted a furious counterattack immediately afterwards, but Serhiy Rebrov was robbed at point blank range by the fearless and focused Kahn.

In the second half's first minute, Kyiv once again raced forward, showing off the crisp short passing that has brought it admiration in Europe and into the play-offs, but was turned away by veteran free safety Lothar Matthäus.

At the 51st minute, Vitaliy Kossovskiy was brought down deep in the Bayern zone, and Shevchenko was given a chance to hook another foul shot behind Kahn as he'd done in the home leg. His effort curved just wide. Seven minutes later came another foul opportunity, but this time the superstar striker made an uncharacteristically poor choice and sent the ball right at the protective wall of Bayern players.

From that point on, Munich both clamped down defensively and began to dissolve the Dynamo defense. Basler, who had spent much of the season either injured or grousing at his teammates, set himself apart as the other star of the match.

Basler made repeated runs down the right side. At the 64th minute he fed first-match-equalizer Cristen Jancker with a perfect pass that the winger bicycled over the net. Three minutes later Basler nearly scored again himself, forcing Shovkovskiy to stretch to full length to keep a laser drive out. At the 75th minute, Basler placed a beautiful hooking cross right to Jancker substitute Ali Daei, who headed it fiercely at the Dynamo net, only to be foiled by a miraculous save from the Ukrainian keeper.

At the 80th minute came what proved to be Dynamo's last chance to score. After Matthäus was yellow carded for a dangerous tackle on Rebrov, team captain Oleh Luzhnyi found Shevchenko with a long pass. In wizardly fashion, the striker danced through two Bayern players (one of them Basler), but then let off a mundane shot that Kahn gathered in with relative ease.

In a post-match interview, Coach Lobanovsky said he was proud that his players never stopped pressing. The veteran tactician told Agence France Presse, "We played a strong team. It is not a tragedy to lose against Bayern. We are happy that we got to the semis. We will start over again."

Canadian PM hails Gretzky

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien on April 16 responded to the news of the retirement of the Great One – Wayne Gretzky with the following statement.

I had an opportunity to speak to him yesterday. And though I did my best to dissuade him, it was clear that he was at peace with the decision he was about to make. After years of doing everything that was asked of him and more – on the ice and off – no one can begrudge him the desire to have sometime for himself and his fine young family.

This is truly a bittersweet moment. One of the greatest players ever to play our national game has decided to hang up his skates. No longer will our arenas be energized by his presence and electrified by his performance. No longer will we be able to thrill in anticipation of his next wondrous play.

But we can take heart from the endless, magical memories he has given us. Most of all, we can feel reassured that his example of decency and sportsmanship will continue to inspire generations of young hockey players – and all young Canadians – for years to come.

Aline joins me in wishing Wayne, Janet and the whole Gretzky family all the happiness in the world.

And on behalf of all Canadians, I say: Thanks for the memories.

SPORTSLINE

by Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj

FIGURE SKATING

Judging uproar

During the recent world figure skating championships, held in Helsinki, Finland, on March 22-28, the antics of a judge from Ukraine overshadowed the efforts of its on-ice performers.

The International Skating Union (ISU) agreed to review video footage, taken by the Canadian-based CTV network, that showed Ukraine's arbiter Alfred Korytek, 62, broke the sport's judging rules by making eye contact and exchanging nods with his Russian counterpart, Sviatoslav Babenko, during the free skate of the pairs competition on March 24.

On one occasion, the veteran Ukrainian judge was caught on camera looking towards the Russian's foot, who then tapped it twice.

ISU rules state that judges "must mark independently and while judging, they are not permitted to converse with one another or to indicate errors by action or sound."

During the CTV broadcast, commentator Rod Black expressed outrage that Mr. Korytek "nodded noticeably" to Mr. Babenko after Chinese pair Shen Xue and Zhao Hongbo had struck their final pose (they took the silver). He also mentioned the two judges made eye contact after Poles Dorota Zagorska and Mariusz Siudek finished their routine (they ended up with the bronze), that Mr. Babenko nodded to Mr. Korytek and, while the latter was looking

his direction, tapped his foot.

The offending sequences were replayed on air several times.

Russians Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze were awarded gold medals for the second year in a row despite a fall by Ms. Berezhnaya. When the Chinese competitors skated a clean long program and were given second place, the public at the Hartwall Arena crowd booed the result.

According to a March 26 report carried by the Canadian Press (CP), Hely Abbondati of Finland, the panel referee, was given a copy of the video and will report to the ISU technical committee at its next meeting, which is scheduled for the end of April.

ISU Technical Committee Chair Sally-Anne Stapleford of Britain was quoted by the Toronto-based Globe and Mail daily as saying that "judges are told at every meeting to keep their eyes focused ahead and not even appear to be communicating, because they are in full view of television cameras and the general public."

Ms. Stapleford told CP that the case was novel and could not recall a similar incident. The ISU official said: "It doesn't look good. There does appear to have been some kind of communication. We'll study the (referee's) report and make recommendations if we feel that sanctions are required."

However, she said that no fast-track decision that might affect the outcome of the championship was considered. ISU

President Ottavio Cinquanta also refused to allow for such a review.

Ukraine's skaters

There was no glaring dividend for Ukraine's competitors in the pairs event, as Yulia Obertas and Dmytro Palamarchuk were ensconced in 11th place throughout qualifying, the short program and the free skate.

In the ice dance event, Olena Hrushina and Ruslan Honcharov showed their characteristically consistent top-10 form, placing eighth throughout the competition — the two compulsories, the original dance and the free skate.

Rookies Tetiana Kurkudym and Yury Kocherzhenko were 25th after the original dance and compulsories, and thus did not qualify for the free skate.

Ukraine's ladies also did their level best to keep their country amid the elite of the sport. Olena Liashenko and Yulia Lavrenchuk finished eighth and ninth overall in the world. Ms. Liashenko was fourth in her qualifying group, which included eventual champion Maria Butyrskaya of Russia. Ms. Lavrenchuk held off a challenge from Russian Viktoria Volchkova to maintain her presence in the top 10.

Dmytro Dmytrenko made a bit of a rebound in his flagging career, endeavoring to fill a void left by the injured Vyacheslav Zahorodniuk. Mr. Dmytrenko qualified sixth in his group, struggled to a 12th place in the short program but stayed focused to finish 11th overall. He was just edged out of the top-10 by the surge of novice Australian sensation Anthony Liu. Yevhen Pliuta was ninth in his group, 14th after the short program and finished 15th after the free skate.

Vitaliy Danylchenko, a new arrival on the scene this year, did not manage to quali-

fy for the final skates, and was classed 31st in the world.

HOCKEY

Under-18 Worlds

Ukraine's under-18 juniors are up against it at the world championships that began for their category in Germany on April 8. Playing in Kaufbeuren (site of a post-war Ukrainian displaced persons' camp) the day after the opening ceremonies, they lost to Switzerland 4-1, then dropped a 6-1 game to the Czech Republic on April 10.

Moving to Füssen for a game against the hosts on April 12, Ukraine's fortunes took a turn for the better. The team prevailed 4-0 with a solid performance in net by Vadym Selestevrov.

On April 13, it was back to Kaufbeuren and back to a harsher reality: a 10-2 drubbing at the hands of the Swedes. Sitting next to last in Group A (ahead of the Germans), outscored 8-20, the Ukrainians are likely to face a relegation game in the next round.

Ukrainian right-winger "Alex" Salaschenko appears on the statistical radar as having scored one of the tournament's six short-handed goals. Ironically, Mr. Salaschenko is also by far the championship's most penalized player, with a total of 33 minutes in the sin-bin, on the strength of having been assessed a five-minute major and a 20-minute major to go with his four minor infractions.

In fact, it appears the Ukrainians are a scrappy bunch. Ranked dead last in the tournament in the "fair play" department, they have been assessed 107 minutes in penalties, an average of 31.75 per game.

(Continued on page 18)

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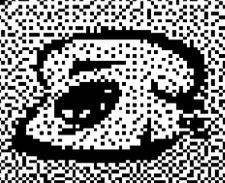


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Balkan crisis in forefront...

(Continued from page 1)

force in the Balkans, he felt compelled to attend to ensure that Ukraine remains part of the international debate.

"I wish Ukraine's voice to be heard worldwide at just such a summit. It will be attended by leaders of the countries that decide the destiny of the world," he noted.

Ukraine continues peace initiative

Ukraine has presented Yugoslavia, NATO and the United Nations Security Council a peace initiative and offered its mediation services and the city of Kyiv as the site of a peace conference.

Thus far, neither side in the Balkan conflict has responded decisively to the initiative. Foreign Affairs Minister Tarasyuk said on April 20 that the country's efforts are continuing.

He explained that the peace plan offered by Ukraine puts emphasis on the neutral and non-aligned aspect of an international peacekeeping force for the Kosovo region and the need to put it into place as soon as possible. He emphasized that any peace effort must be directed either by the U.N. or the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

"President Kuchma's plan concentrates its focus on a special representative of the secretary-general of the United Nations, who should have broad powers in developing the composition of the peacekeeping force," said Mr. Tarasyuk.

The Ukrainian proposal is similar to one that has been proposed by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, which includes the removal of Serb forces from Kosovo, followed by a halt in NATO bombing and the use of an international peacekeeping force while Kosovar Albanians return to their homes and an autonomous region is set up within the Yugoslav state.

Ukraine's proposal calls for Serbian withdrawal and NATO bombing to occur simultaneously.

Ukraine's mediation efforts continued on April 19 with phone conversations among Foreign Affairs Minister Tarasyuk and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, Foreign Ministers Joscha Fischer of Germany and Ihor Ivanov of Russia, and British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook.

Although Mr. Tarasyuk would not disclose the subject of the conversations, except to say that they involved Ukraine's mediation proposal, he did state that Ukraine was also ready to host Ibrahim Rugova, the Kosovar leader now under house arrest in Yugoslavia, who has made controversial statements about the need for a halt to NATO bombing, which some believe have been made under duress.

"We have invited Rugova to appear in Kyiv before the mass media to dispel doubts that what he has said was done without threats or pressure," said Mr. Tarasyuk.

Mr. Tarasyuk also proposed that the three American soldiers captured by Yugoslavia

could be transferred to Ukraine, where they would be held until the conflict is resolved.

Attempt to sever ties with NATO

Even as Ukrainian and Russian government officials were searching for ways to find a peaceful resolution to the Balkan crisis, Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko and the leftist members of the Communist-dominated Parliament doggedly continued their effort to cancel Ukraine's formal relations with NATO.

After having earlier rebuffed a Communist proposal that Ukraine break its ties with NATO and close the NATO office in Kyiv, the national deputies were asked to address a new version of the same resolution on April 20. Six unsuccessful attempts by the Verkhovna Rada chairman to push the vote through did not close the matter.

The next day the parliamentarians returned to find the issue at the top of the daily agenda again, which they again rejected with votes to spare. Mr. Tkachenko said that a reworked version of the proposal would be presented again before the end of the week.

Russia, Ukraine hold separate exercises

As political and diplomatic maneuvering on the Balkan crisis continued in Kyiv, the naval fleets of Ukraine and Russia took part in annual training exercises off Ukraine's Black Sea coast. Although Russian television and some Ukrainian newspapers indicated they were joint maneuvers, Ukraine's Ministry of Defense described the sea exercises as separate.

"Though some members of both the Ukrainian and Russian mass media have stated that they are taking place jointly, they are in fact being held separately. It is merely a coincidence that the timing is the same," said the press spokesman for Ukraine's Ministry of Defense, Dmytro Shkurko.

He explained that only one joint action is planned, a humanitarian emergency rescue of a ship in distress, and that the exercises were never planned as a joint undertaking.

Russia had stated several days after the Balkan crisis began that it was ready to send ships from its Black Sea Fleet into the Adriatic and Mediterranean to monitor the NATO bombing. Only one ship, a reconnaissance cruiser, has left its Sevastopol home port and Russian President Yeltsin said on April 19 that no other Russian military ships would follow it.

Meanwhile, a poll released by the newspaper Den showed that Ukrainian citizens are strongly opposed to the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia. The survey released on April 17 showed that 62 percent are against the NATO action as "open aggression against a sovereign state," while 10 percent support the air strikes "to protect the Kosovar Albanians from genocide."

Twenty-one percent stated that they hadn't formed an opinion and 7 percent said they didn't care.

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- ✦ 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.
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Philadelphia credit union holds 47th annual meeting

by Roman Stelmach

JENKINTOWN, Pa. — The Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union of Philadelphia held its 47th annual meeting on February 28 here at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center.

Ilarij Mazepa, chairman of the board, opened the meeting and then introduced the Rev. Orest Mykhaylyuk, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church, who delivered an invocation.

Mr. Mazepa announced that the board has unanimously agreed to appoint Ivan Kuzemskij and Dr. Wolodymyr Pushkar to the board of directors as honorary members. Mr. Mazepa cited their many years of service and numerous accomplishments at the credit union. Both gentlemen gave brief remarks and were invited to join Mr. Mazepa at the head table.

Mr. Mazepa reported that 1998 was a very good year for the credit union, noting that the credit union's assets reached over \$94.6 million and that current indications are that a positive growth rate is continuing into 1999. He reported that the credit union also received good ratings from the credit union's regulators, the National Credit Union Administration.

Mr. Mazepa announced that the credit union will be merging with two other Ukrainian American credit unions: Trident Credit Union (Philadelphia) and the Scranton Fraternal Federal Credit Union. These mergers will strengthen the credit union's position in downtown Philadelphia and expand the credit union's geographical field of membership to the Ukrainian American community of Scranton.

He also announced that at the recent board of directors meeting, the board elected to reduce the number of board members from nine to seven. He explained that it will be easier to accomplish more with a smaller number and that this will position the credit union for a merger with other credit unions in the near future.

Mr. Mazepa then pointed to the many contributions of the credit union to local Ukrainian organizations stating that "a bigger (Ukrainian American) financial institution is good not only for its members but for the Ukrainian (American) community as well." He concluded his report by thanking the members of the board, the various committees, the staff and the members for their continued support and loyalty. He concluded his remarks with the familiar credit union saying: "Here you know us, and we know you!"

Ihor Chyzowych, treasurer and CEO, reported the details of the credit union's financial activity of 1998. According to Mr. Chyzowych, assets grew 7.9 percent to \$94.6 million, member deposits grew 9.1 percent to \$6.8 million, and loans grew by

19.3 percent to \$41.9 million. He noted that the loan department had issued an unprecedented \$16.6 million in loans and that member deposits also rose to a record level of \$82.1 million.

Mr. Chyzowych attributed these favorable results to extensive promotion within the Ukrainian American community of the greater Philadelphia and surrounding states. He pointed out that the credit union vigorously promoted itself in the Ukrainian Heritage School (Nasha Ridna Shkola), Plast, SUM, the Tryzub Sport Center and other Ukrainian American organizations. Throughout the year, the credit union also informed the membership of various financial services and products via the credit union's newsletters, and advertisements on Ukrainian radio and television programs, as well as in Ukrainian American print media. He attributed the addition of over 400 members to these efforts.

Mr. Chyzowych reported that gross income for 1998 was over \$5.9 million. From this sum, the credit union paid out over \$3.5 million in dividends to its members, and over \$70,000 in insurance premiums on behalf of its members. The total operating expenses for 1998 were \$1.5 million. Net capital reached a level of \$12.4 million — another positive indicator of the credit union's strength and financial soundness.

Mr. Chyzowych also pointed out that for the first time in the credit union's history, a "Thank-you Picnic" was held for the credit union members at the Tryzub Ukrainian American Sports Club in Horsham, Pa. In addition, the credit union, in cooperation with the Ukrainian National Credit Union Association, hosted a technical conference for Ukrainian American credit union management personnel in Valley Forge, Pa.

Representing the Supervisory Committee, Ivan Danylenko provided a brief report stating that the Supervisory Committee had affirmed the growth of the credit union, conducted a review of the credit union, received the audit report from the outside auditor, and attended the monthly board of directors meetings. The Supervisory Committee recommended the elections of not only professional individuals to the board, but individuals who are skilled in the art of appropriate negotiation in their approach to credit union matters.

Mr. Mazepa then opened the floor to questions and/or discussions of the reports.

Dr. Alexander Lushnycky of the Nominating Committee, stated that the committee recommends Mr. Chyzowych for re-election to the board. Maria Kondrat, whose term expired, received a nomination from the floor. Mr. Chyzowych was re-elected to another three-year term by a vote of 170-110. The annual meeting of the credit union was adjourned and the 288 registered members then enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by the St. Ann Sisterhood of St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church.

On March 5, as required by the credit union's statute, the newly elected board met to form a new executive within the board of directors. The outcome is as follows: Zorian Dubenko, chairman of the board; Mary Kolodij, vice-chairperson; Mr. Chyzowych, treasurer; Bohdan Chajkowsky, secretary; Dr. Zenon Babiak, Mr. Mazepa and Eugenia Nowakiwsky, members.

Upon being elected as chairman of the board, Mr. Dubenko thanked the board members for their confidence and stated that "the credit union, with the full cooperation of the board, shall sustain the credit union's success into the new millenium."

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Pro hockey...

(Continued from page 11)

and was wearing it when rookie Gretzky arrived on the scene. The rest of the story has become hockey lore.

Gretzky wore No. 14 in training camp. Greyhound coach Muzz MacPherson suggested he switch to No. 19, which he did to start the 1977-1978 regular season.

"It was a few weeks into the season when Muzz and Angelo (Bumbacco, the Greyhounds' GM) came to me and suggested I wear two nines," Gretzky said. "Phil Esposito was wearing No. 77 at the time, so double-digit numbers were being worn. At first, I said, 'No, that's too hot-doggish.' But they convinced me to wear it."

The Minnesota North Star draftee, who was recruited by Pierre Page for Dalhousie University, remembers it well. "No one ever asked me to give (No. 9) up," Gualazzi said. "Not that I would have. It was no issue. I was a veteran and Wayne was a rookie."

Gualazzi enjoyed his one season with Gretzky - they ended up on the same line in the playoffs - but Gualazzi flourished as a junior player the next season (Gretzky's first in the WHA) when he scored a then-franchise record 75 goals.

After kicking around briefly in the minors, Gualazzi put his efforts into getting a law degree. He moved back home and right into the crown attorney's office. Beyond his hockey-playing days, the No. 9 hasn't held any special significance, though he still wears it when he plays pick-up hockey or with the Greyhound alumni team. "They kept (No. 9) for me," Gualazzi said.

When Gretzky joined the WHA Edmonton Oilers early in 1978-1979, GM-Coach Glen Sather gave him the opportunity to discard No. 99. The late Bill Goldsworthy even offered to give up No. 9 if Gretzky wanted it.

"That was nice of 'Goldie,'" Gretzky said. "And 'Slats' said he was just trying to take the pressure off me. But I told him, 'I don't think it will matter much.' I knew then No. 99 would be my number."

It has become a trademark of sorts. No. 99 figures prominently in the logo for his Toronto restaurant, the address of which was legally petitioned to be changed to 99 Blue Jay Way. The number and Gretzky have become synonymous.

A numerologist could have a field day with Gretzky. Numerology, not unlike astrology, can be manipulated to say just about anything you want. For what it's worth, Gretzky's full name (Wayne Douglas) gives him in numerology what's called a "destiny" number of nine. Nines are generally regarded as multi-talented, compassionate and global.

One wonders what might have unfolded for Gretzky if he hadn't resisted his urge to change numbers after Howe's retirement.

"When Gordie retired there for a while and Gilbert Perreault came on the scene, I was tempted to go back to No. 11," Gretzky said. "I told my dad, 'I should have kept 11.' For kids of my era, No. 11 was a cool number because of Perreault. There have always been numbers more special than others - nine because of Gordie, four because of Beliveau and Orr, and seven because of Espo."

And now 99, because of you know who. When 8-year-old Ty Gretzky and his 6-year-old brother, Trevor, play hockey at Chelsea Piers in New York City, there's no No. 9 to be found on either of their backs. In fact, there's no last name either.

"We put their first names on the back of their sweaters," Gretzky said. "They don't need that kind of pressure. I asked them what numbers they got. Trevor took No. 5 because that's his favorite. Ty got No. 14 because his favorite player is Brendan Shanahan."

Which is as it should be. There's just

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

Politburo's minutes indicate there were 10,000 persons hospitalized in Ukrainian hospitals in the first two weeks after the accident, and the Politburo decided to raise the lifetime permissible dose of radiation by 10-fold, and in some instances 50-fold. Thus, in an instant, she noted, "all these people were deemed to be healthy." Different information was released to the press for internal consumption and for dissemination abroad. "There were different levels of deception" for the internal USSR audience, for the Warsaw Pact states and for the West, she said. The two-day conference also featured opening addresses by Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, and Anatolii Zlenko, the country's ambassador to the United Nations, as well as luncheon speeches by Ivan Kuras, deputy prime minister for humanitarian affairs of Ukraine, and Volodymyr Yavorivskiy, a member of the Ukrainian Parliament who has been intimately involved with the Chernobyl issue since day one.

Ambassador Zlenko provided some sobering statistics regarding the aftermath in Ukraine: 3.5 million persons, nearly one-third of them children, were affected by the disaster; 160,000 were resettled, which means that 50,000 families lost their homes. The ambassador cited a figure of 6,000 dead, but cautioned that the exact figures are unknown.

What is known, however, is that "there will be lasting consequences," Mr. Zlenko stated. For example, 800,000 liquidators, mostly young men sent to "eliminate the consequences of the accident," now face an uncertain future in terms of health. "Chernobyl is not in the past. Chernobyl lives with us today, and it will be with us in the future."

Source: "Yale/Columbia conference examines latest information on Chernobyl's impact" by Roma Hadziewicz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, April 21, 1996, Vol. LXIV, No. 16.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

to be published in *The Ukrainian Weekly* - in the Ukrainian or English language - are accepted by mail, courier, fax, phone or e-mail.

Deadline: Tuesday noon before the newspaper's date of issue. (The Weekly goes to press early Friday mornings.)

Rate: \$7.50 per column-inch.

Information should be addressed to the attention of the Advertising Department and sent to: *The Ukrainian Weekly*, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280 (NB: please do not include post office box if sending via courier), Parsippany, N.J. 07054; fax, (973) 644-9150; telephone, (973) 292-9800, ext. 3040; e-mail, staff@ukrweekly.com.

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Thank you for the donations for the flood victims suffering in Zakarpattia.

The Ukrainian National Foundation on behalf of the flood victims of Zakarpattia thanks all the contributors for the generous donations received to date.

Listed below is a paper where the funds were directed.

CHYTIV... UKRAINE: One of the projects of Caritas-Ukraine in Zakarpattia is to help in repairing of private homes which were severely damaged during the floods. A recent expedition by the Caritas volunteers showed 54 homes in Rokyty region in the Zakarpattia oblast in dire need of repair. The owners of these homes are incapable of doing repairs either because of lack of funds, alone and elderly, physically handicapped. If repairs are not done the owners will become homeless living on the street. Priority will be given to families with many children, elderly living alone and handicapped persons. This repair project will take approximately 3 months to complete at a cost of \$72,000. The Ukrainian National Foundation-USA has assigned \$15,000 to purchase building supplies. Caritas-Ukraine is hoping to receive the remaining funds from other organizations.

CHILDREN OF CHORNOBYL Relief Fund: The Ukrainian National Foundation assigned \$3,000 to the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund for medical supplies, antibiotics and vitamins to be immediately shipped to the Children's Hospital in Mukachevo.

MEC: An American organization MEC has already forwarded much needed medical supplies to hospitals in Mukachevo, Rivne and Kiyiv. The foundation assigned \$3,000 to MEC in support of further medical supplies to be sent to these hospitals.

The Ukrainian National Foundation-USA is continuing its fundraising efforts on behalf of the victims of the floods in Zakarpattia and encourages the readers to join in our fundraising efforts. All donations to the foundation are tax exempt. Please forward your donations to The Ukrainian National Foundation - USA, 2200 Route 10, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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Roman W. Platosh
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Larysa Barabash Temple...

(Continued from page 10)

ment because our athletes pay and use the winter facilities in Russia regardless, so an agreement is not necessary.

But once you start talking about academic cooperation, an agreement is necessary. One of the arguments of the sports committee that I do find persuasive is that, just like the general treaty between Ukraine and Russia, in the treaty between the sports committees of Russia and Ukraine the Russian committee recognizes the Ukrainian sports committee as one of an independent country that is dealt with on a bilateral level, and I do find that to be a persuasive argument for this type of treaty.

I do wish to underline that this is one of 47. This is not a unique treaty.

Now, what came out in the Ukrainian press about joint training simply doesn't reflect the truth of what goes on. Training is never joint in the sense that you put the teams together and train. That simply doesn't happen. Teams train with their specific coaches, trainers and systems, and they don't join with other specific, coaches, trainers and systems for training.

I really tried to look into the elements of what is planned for Crimea for preparation for athletes. My understanding is that there was a very effective training base in Alushta during the Soviet era.

The base and the facilities today are quite deteriorated. There has apparently been an agreement for the past eight years with the Russian stock company Luzhnyky, basically to develop the facility as a joint venture.

They are the ones that own the stadium in Moscow. They are a construction firm. The agreement is that they will, at their cost, develop [the Alushta site] and will become joint owners in the joint venture, which has nothing to do with the training of the team except that this is a large base that will be used by many teams, not only by the

Ukrainian and Russian teams. It will be used by Moldova, Georgia, Belarus, other teams that require training at that altitude and temperature.

You can question a joint venture with a Russian firm, but the only way you question it is if [you are ready] to provide someone else from another country for the joint venture. You can't simply demand from the sports system here that they not accept investment from another country.

Realistically, we know what the financial situation in Russia is today. Investment means real money. It does not mean an agreement that has existed for eight years. Until real money starts coming and buildings begin going up, I mean it's dependent on real money not on political treaties.

So, then, you can say for a fact that there will not be joint training.

There is never going to be joint training. Training is always specific to coaches and teams and athletes. There is never joint training. There may be training in the same place, or the same city. But there is never joint training of teams, there are only competitions between teams.

The sports committee is very specific in recognizing that this is a bilateral treaty between countries. There will be no Ukrainian participation in what has been known as the Eurasian leagues, which was very strongly promoted by Russia and very strongly promoted by [International Olympic Committee Chairman Juan Antonio] Samaranch. There will be no participation by the NOC-Ukraine officially within the CIS Olympic structures, or whatever they are trying to do.

And I did check out the treaty. There is mention of two Olympic movements in the treaty, but there is no specific treaty in terms of Olympic teams because this treaty is between the sports committees.

The value of this treaty to them, according to the Ukrainian sports committee, is the joint cooperation in the academic realm.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

(Continued from page 20)

Ukrainian Catholic Church Auditorium, 6790 Broadview Road, at 4 p.m. Reception to follow. Suggested donation: \$20; seniors and students, \$10. The general public is cordially invited.

Friday, May 7

NEW YORK: Jazz Café, featuring Uki Hrab's Jazz Trio, will perform at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., at 9 p.m. Tickets: \$15, members; \$20, non-members. RSVP by calling the institute, (212) 288-8660.

Saturday, May 8

NEW YORK: Ukrainian Canadian singer Alexis Kochan, in collaboration with New York Bandura Ensemble Artistic Director Julian Kytasty, will conduct an intensive one-day Ukrainian Folk Singing Workshop at St. George Ukrainian Catholic School in New York's East Village at 1-8 p.m., with registration beginning at noon. Fee: \$25. Genres and styles to be covered during the workshop range from pre-Christian ritual songs and ancient chant to folk polyphony from central Ukraine and songs collected by Mr. Kytasty in Ukrainian Kozak villages in the Kuban. Some workshop sessions will divide into separate men's and women's groups to focus on appropriate vocal style and repertoire. Ms. Kochan is known in the U.S. and Canada as one of today's leading interpreters of Ukrainian folk song. Her three recordings on her own Olesia label - "Czarivna," "Paris to Kiev," and "Paris to Kyiv: Variances" - have broken into the mainstream in Canada, and have been played frequently nationwide on CBC radio. For additional information, call (212) 995-2640.

Saturday-Sunday, May 8-9

SILVER SPRING, Md.: The art exhibit "Bas-reliefs by Zenon Holubec" will be presented at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 15100 New Hampshire Ave., on May 8 at 4-7 p.m., and on May 9 at noon-5 p.m. For more information call (202) 333-4383.

Wednesday, May 12

TORONTO: St. Vladimir Institute presents "Gracing Your Roots," a lecture on Ukrainian genealogy by Librarian Tony Rocchi, who will provide key printed and Internet resources on the subject. The lecture will be held at the institute, 620 Spadina Ave., at 7-9 p.m. Fee: \$10. For further information call (416) 923-3318.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday, May 22

CLEVELAND: The Buryverkhy Plast Sorority invites the public to their annual Debutante Ball which will be held at the Cleveland Marriott Hotel Key Center, 127 Public Square. Cocktails are at 7 p.m.; the presentation of debutantes at 7:30 p.m.; followed by dinner/dance at 8 p.m. For additional information call (216) 642-8726.

Sunday-Thursday, June 20-24

KERHONKSON, N.Y.: The 10th reunion of former faculty, students and friends of Regensberg high school will be held at the UNA estate Soyuzivka. For information and to register, contact: Vasyl Luchkiw, 49 Windmill Lane, New City, NY 10959; telephone, (914) 634-9353; fax, (914) 634-5370. For lodging accommodations, call Soyuzivka, (914) 626-5641; fax, (914) 626-4638.

Plast in U.S. to mark 50th anniversary, plans informational meeting with parents

WESTFIELD, N.J. – The Plast Ukrainian Youth Organization this year is celebrating its 50th jubilee in the United States. In the last half century, generations of Ukrainian American youth have benefited from Plast's scouting program aimed at educating conscientious, civic-minded and successful citizens.

In conjunction with this anniversary, Plast is sponsoring an informational meeting for parents who are interested in learning more about the organization on Saturday, May 8, at 4 p.m., at the Ramada Hotel, in East Hanover, N.J. The second meeting of its kind, the session will include panels for discussion on issues that range from membership to summer camps. Leading the discussion will be proposed panelists George Sawicki and Olga Stasiuk of New York, Marta Kuzmowycz of Rhode Island, Nadia Nynka, Vera Popel and Halyna Kutko of New Jersey, and Ihor Mykyta of Massachusetts. All these guest speakers are active members of Plast.

The afternoon is designed to be an informational session as well as an open

forum for parents who would like to engage in an exchange of ideals regarding the current state of Plast and their future role in it.

The topics to be addressed at the meeting include: Plast's programs, ideology and methodology; camps and counselor training workshops; proposed transformation of "Plast-Pryiat" to "Lanka Batkiv" (Parents Union); upcoming 50th anniversary events.

The organizing committee is headed by Zenia Brozyna of Passaic, N.J.; members include Vera Kosovych and Lesia Heimur of the New York Plast branch, Christina Kryzaniwsky, Christine Demidowych, Marta Popovych and Renata Handzy of the Newark-N.J. Plast branch, Christine Chareczko of Pennsylvania and Marta Korduba of Passaic.

The fee for participation in the May 8 meeting is \$20, which includes registration and refreshments. For further information contact the Ramada Hotel, (973) 386-5622.



Plast committee members: (from left) Oksana Korduba, Renata Handzy, Christina Kryzaniwsky, Lesia Heimur and Zenia Brozyna.

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ACTION ITEM

(Continued from page 7)

ing addressed to "the House of Commons of Canada in Parliament Assembled," and aid in the collection of signatures on this petition.

Mail the petition (no postage required in Canada) to your member of Parliament. The text follows:

"We, the undersigned citizens of Canada draw the attention of the House to the following:

"Whereas Canadians from many diverse backgrounds have been affected by crimes against humanity that have taken place in the 20th century;

"And whereas we see the need to support the creation of an exhibition, within the Canadian Museum of Civilization;

"To emphasize the value of recognizing the suffering of all victims of crimes against humanity in this century; and

"To serve as a reminder of man's inhumanity to man and provide lessons that humanity cannot afford to ignore such atrocities,

"Therefore, your petitioners pray and request that Parliament would support Bill C-479, the Recognition of Crimes Against Humanity Act."

– submitted by the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Toronto

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Linking Two Worlds



Sportsline

(Continued from page 12)

Defenseman Yevhen Yemelienenko has sat out 16 minutes (for eight minor infractions) and fellow blue-liners Oleksander Pobedonostsev and Roman Shcherbatiuk checked in for 12 and 10 minutes, respectively (all two-minute minors).

Luckily for head coach Serhiy Lubnin's ulcers, Ukraine's penalty killing is adequate, having dealt effectively with 85 percent of their manpower disadvantages, and even (as mentioned above) scoring a goal while a player down.

Proving that statistics are always good for a shock, Ukraine's powerplay in the tournament, at 16.67 percent, has been more efficient than Russia's or Sweden's.

The team's goaltender, Mr. Selevestrov, 18, is doing a reasonable job, given that he has faced an astronomical average of 41.25 shots per game (165 in total), and has made 145 saves. Unfortunately, since his save percentage (87.88) is below 90, he is not likely to steal games from overwhelmingly superior opposition.

A parting weird fact: all of the Ukrainians shoot left (even the goalie).

Those who wish to follow Ukraine's fate on the world's hockey rinks should consult the International Ice Hockey Federation's website at <http://www.iihf.net>. Coming up: the men's seniors competition that will be held in Lillehammer, Norway, on May 1-16.

BIATHLON

For the record, as the crocuses are joined by tulips and there is nary a snowbank in sight (except in the Rockies, the Prairies and some of the Alps), our winter sport readers will be glad to know that a Ukrainian is world champion in the biathlon, despite the difficulties Ukraine faces in terms of training facilities and the relative brevity of its seasonal freeze.

Olena Zubrilova is actually a double world champion in the sport. During the global cross-country-skiing-and-rifle-shooting meet held February 10-14 in Kontiolahti, Finland, she took gold in the classic and pursuit events.

On February 11, in the 10-kilometer classic event, Ms. Zubrilova was perfect, hitting every target in four rounds of shooting and set a lung-destroying time of 43 minutes 28.1 seconds. Corinne Niograt of France came across the finish line over two minutes later, and Russian Albina Akhatova arrived 3 minutes 13.6 seconds behind. Ukraine's Nagano silver medalist Olena Petrova was fourth, 3:42.1 behind.

In the sprint the next day, Ms. Zubrilova finished fourth (8.3 seconds behind Germany's Martina Zellner), while Ms. Petrova came in 10th (48.9 seconds behind). Nina Lemesh was 16th (1:42 behind).

Ms. Zubrilova's second triumph came in the 10-kilometer pursuit on February 13. She overcame penalties for having missed two targets by setting a blistering pace on the track, and finished with a final time of 32:17.5, a full 1:02 ahead of her nearest rival, Slovakia's Martina Schwarzbacherova. Ms. Zellner was third, another four seconds back. Ms. Petrova finished sixth, 1:43 behind her compatriot, while Nina Lemesh finished 19th, 2:36.4 seconds in arrears.

In the relay, Ukraine performed creditably, but did not take top honors, as it did earlier in the year in Ruhpolding, Germany.

The Germans won the 4 x 7.5-kilometer race in a time of 1 hour, 36 minutes, 56.0 seconds. Ukraine placed fifth, 2:10.9 seconds behind. Ms. Zubrilova was outstanding, posting the day's second best time of 23:39.2 and missed no targets, bested only by Germany's Katrina Appel, who put up a time of 23:05.2. Ms. Petrova also managed a perfect round and a pace of under 25 minutes, but compatriots Ms. Lemesh and Viktoria Rud could not, and this put them behind Norway.

Sportsline is open to Netizens. We can be reached by e-mail: toronto@ukrweekly.com. If you know of the sportish exploits of a Ukrainian athlete, team, coach, or even management type, please let us know. Please provide evidence of any individual's Ukrainian background or history of having played/coached for Ukraine.

Lviv Theological Academy...

(Continued from page 8)

Christmas with his parents and to celebrate divine liturgy at the parish of St. John the Baptist.

"Every parish welcomed us generously," said the Rev. Gudziak. "Today, the only news the diaspora hears from Ukraine is about the dysfunctional political system and socio-economic problems; for this reason, the positive news about the LTA was received everywhere with exultation. We also met with many non-Ukrainians, Church leaders and intellectuals, and discovered a profound sense of understanding among them."

The positive perception of the LTA in the American Roman Catholic community was manifested in meetings with two of the most influential Roman Catholics in the country: Cardinal John O'Connor, archbishop of New York, and Cardinal Francis George, archbishop of Chicago.

Cardinal O'Connor promised to assist the continuing development of the LTA and expressed a genuine desire to visit Lviv.

Cardinal George has for a long time been a keen observer of events in Ukraine, particularly with respect to relations between Catholics and Orthodox. He recently wrote an open letter, informing tens of thousands of Roman Catholics in America about the Church in Ukraine and encouraging the American community to offer its assistance.

Both cardinals serve on the advisory board of the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation.

Besides visiting the diaspora and Roman Catholic communities, the rectors also took the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the life of seminarians in North America. The Revs. Dymyd and Gudziak visited Ukrainian Catholic seminaries in Ottawa and Stamford, Conn. They were able to gain important firsthand knowledge and to compare conditions and curricula with seminaries in Ukraine.

In Ottawa, the two priests were greeted by the Rev. Andriy Chirovsky, director of the Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies. He shared with his guests the challenges he has encountered in establishing and developing the Sheptytsky Institute.

In Stamford, Bishop Basil Losten received the Revs. Dymyd and Gudziak.

For nearly 50 years during the Soviet occupation, Ukraine was completely isolated from the rest of the world. Today, it is imperative to establish specialized programs, academic and cultural, designed to bring Ukrainian students together with Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian communities abroad. The Lviv Theological Academy is helping to create a place for Ukraine in the international community. "We were very pleased with this trip," said the Rev. Dymyd, "and we hope to send more visitors from our academy to America in the future."

For more information contact: Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622-4828, telephone, (773) 235-8462; fax, (773) 235-8464; e-mail, UCEFCHGO@aol.com; website, <http://www.hermes.richmond.edu/ucef>

Irondequoit-Poltava...

(Continued from page 8)

and scholarships to the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

A current joint project with the Rochester Chapter of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, under the leadership of Myron Babiuk, and the Irondequoit Chapter of Rotary International has raised over \$15,000 for much-needed neonatal medical equipment to the Poltava region. A Children of Chernobyl benefit golf tournament will be held in September in conjunction with the project.

An official delegation from Poltava visited the greater Rochester area in October 1998 as official guests of the town of Irondequoit.

Four members of the Poltava Ukraine City Council - Ihor Mykhailiuk, vice-mayor and council secretary; Mykhailo Burlakov, first vice-mayor; Mykola Piatak, public works director; and Viachyaslav Hoffman, vice-president of Poltava Bank spent a busy week meeting with Irondequoit Town Supervisor David Schantz, town council members, Town Clerk/Tax Receiver Lydia Dzus and officers of the local police department.

The Ukrainian delegates and their American hosts had the opportunity to discuss governance, and social and community issues facing their respective municipalities. How to provide better services to constituents within fiscal constraints was a topic of special interest. Town councilman Bill Bastuk, president of International Sister Cities Council of Irondequoit, N.Y., and Alex Loj arranged meetings with officials from the City of Rochester, Town of Webster and the County of Monroe.

During their weeklong visit, the delegation participated in the 45th anniversary celebration of the Rochester Ukrainian Federal Credit Union. The 450 members and guests, and guest speaker Dr. Myron Kuropas, left a deep impression on the Poltava delegation.

Tours of local businesses, including Xerox Manufacturing, organized by Wasyl Kornylko, president of the Rochester Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, gave the Ukrainian officials a new perspective on free enterprise and capitalism. The delegation visited churches and observed the broad spectrum of greater Rochester's Ukrainian American community life and its cultural, social and economic achievements.

They were particularly impressed with the Rochester Ukrainian FCU and the respect and recognition it received from public officials, including Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, Rep. John LaFalce, Rep. Louise Slaughter and New York State Sen. James Alesi, among others. During the anniversary banquet, State Sen. Alesi pledged \$10,000 for the Poltava Sister Cities program. Rep. Slaughter reiterated her support of continued social and economic ties between America and Ukraine. The congresswoman is hoping to arrange an official congressional visit to Ukraine and Poltava.

Community involvement and financial support are very important to promote international understanding through the sister cities program. Request for information on membership and tax-deductible donations are welcome and may be sent to: International Sister Cities Council of Irondequoit, N.Y., Inc., The Irondequoit-Poltava Committee, P.O. Box 17621, Rochester, NY 14617.

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HISTORY-MAKING EVENT

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IN FEBRUARY ON UBN:

NEWS

Good Morning, Ukraine—6 a.m. EST, Mon. to Fri. (repeat at noon)
Morning News—11 a.m., Monday to Friday
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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In memory of Daria Hoydysh

MAY 4 - MAY 29

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Nina Klymowska *screen paintings and drawings*
Olga Maryschuk *prints*
Natalia Pohrebinska *sculpture*
Romana Rainey *watercolors*
Iлона Sochynsky *pastels*
Martha Hirniak Voyevodka *watercolors*

OPENING RECEPTION
Saturday, May 1, 6-8 p.m.

Gallery hours: Tuesday-Friday, 1-6 p.m.
 Saturday and Sunday, 11-6 p.m.

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This exhibition is funded in part by The Daria Hoydysh Endowment for the Arts.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Monday, April 26

NEW YORK: The concert "Remembering Alfred Schnittke," with the Winnepesaukee Chamber Players – Oleh Krysa, Peter Krysa, Rachel Lewis Krysa, Adrienne Somerville and Tatiana Tchekina – and the New York Symphonic Ensemble, under the direction of Mamoru Takahara, and special guests Irina Schnittke and Oleh Krysa will be held at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center, at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$35 and \$25 at Alice Tully Hall Box Office or call CenterCharge, (212) 271-6500. The concert program will feature Mahler's Piano Quartet (Unfinished), and the following works by Schnittke: Piano Quartet after Sketches by Mahler (dedicated to Oleh Krysa); Sonata No. 3 for Violin and Piano (dedicated to Irina Schnittke, U.S. premiere); Piano Trio (dedicated to Irina Schnittke); and Concerto Grosso No. 1 for two Violins, Harpsichord, Prepared Piano and String Orchestra.

Friday, April 30

CHICAGO : Barabolya: A Fun Musical Tour, stops in the Chicago area at 7 p.m. at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 2247 W. Chicago Ave. Barabolya, composed of Ron Cahute and Ihor Baczynskyj, promises fun for the whole family, singing, dancing, lots of laughs, and notes: "You don't have to be Ukrainian to enjoy this concert." Tickets: \$7; kids under age 3, free. Tickets are available at Samopomich and Delta, and at the door. The event is sponsored by the Ukrainian National Association Chicago District Committee. For information call Stefko Kuropas, (847) 923-7458.

Saturday, May 1

NEW YORK: "Art at the Institute" presents the group exhibition "Flowers As Muse," featuring six artists – Nina Klymowska, Olga Maryschuk, Natalia Pohrebinska, Romana Rainey, Iлона Sochynsky (curator) and Martha Hirniak Voyevodka. The opening reception will be held Saturday, May 1, at 6-8 p.m. The exhibit runs May 4-29 at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St. Gallery hours: Tuesday-Friday, 1-6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. For further information call the institute, (212) 288-8660.

NEW YORK: World Music Institute presents "Night Songs from a Neighboring Village: Traditional and New Ukrainian and Jewish Music" featuring Paris to Kyiv vocalist Alexis Kochan and bandura player Julian Kytasty and the Brave Old World ensemble, virtuosi of klezmer music. The concert will be held at Symphony Space, Broadway at 95th Street, at 8:30 p.m. Tickets, at \$26, are available at the Box Office, (212) 864-5400, or by calling (212) 545-7536. Ms. Kochan and Mr. Kytasty will also be featured on WNYC's "New Sounds" radio program, hosted by John Schaefer, which will air on Wednesday, April 28, at 11 p.m.-midnight on 93.9 FM.

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Museum (at 203 Second Ave.) announces the second round of the three-session Bead Stringing Course (gerdany) which will be given on Saturdays, May 1-22 at 2:30-5 p.m. This is a great opportunity to learn the art of making the beautiful beaded necklaces traditionally worn with the Ukrainian folk costume in various regions of Ukraine. Fee: adults, \$30; seniors and students over 16, \$25; children age 12-16, \$10; museum members, 15 percent discount. Instructor: Yaryna Ferencevych. For information and registration call The Ukrainian Museum, (212) 228-0110.

BUFFALO, N.Y.: A 60th anniversary concert for Myroslav Skoryk, one of Ukraine's most prominent composers, with Maestro Skoryk, singer Marianna Vynnytsky and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky will be held at Allen Hall, University of Buffalo, at 7 p.m. The concert program will feature popular songs, jazz and classical works by Maestro Skoryk as well as other composers. Seating is limited; advance tickets (at \$12, adults and \$8, students) are available at the Dnipro Ukrainian Home/Credit Union, by calling, (716) 847-6655. The concert is sponsored by The Buffalo Group.

NEW HAVEN, Conn.: The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund will hold its second annual spring dance at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall, 563 George Street, at 8:30 p.m.-1 a.m. All proceeds will be designated for the purchase of neonatal equipment and various hospital supplies in support of the fund's infant survival programs in Ukraine. Dance music will be provided by Zorepad, a popular six-piece band from the Hartford, Conn., area. The dance will include a buffet and a charity raffle. Tickets for the dance may be obtained from Mary Antonyshyn, (203) 795-6959, for table reservations, contact Rob Chomiak, (203) 799-0716, or Pauline Wolynech, (203) 795-6200. For further information call (203) 407-0261.

Sunday, May 2

ROCHESTER, N.Y.: Composer Myroslav Skoryk's 60th anniversary concert, with Maestro Skoryk, vocalist Marianna Vynnytsky and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky will be held at St. Josaphat School Auditorium, 940 E. Ridge Road, at 3 p.m. Tickets: \$10; students, free. The concert is sponsored by the United Ukrainian American Organizations of Rochester, N.Y.

PARMA, Ohio: Internationally known concert pianist Roman Rudnytsky, professor at the Dana School of Music at Youngstown State University in Ohio, will give a benefit concert for the Fight for Sight Association of Parma. The concert, which will benefit blind children from Ukraine, will be held in the Pokrova

(Continued on page 16)

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; fax (973) 644-9510.