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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

Lviv spruces up for visiting dignitaries

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

LVIV — The nine European presidents who came to Lviv to attend the Summit of Central European Presidents saw a city that had finally restored some of its heralded splendor.

Although the summit caused inconveniences for the residents of Lviv, they were satisfied that their city had hosted the international event held May 14-15.

"Lviv has never looked this beautiful, at least not to those living there today," wrote Vasyl Basiv in a commentary on the summit in the Lviv-based weekly newspaper *Ukrainskyi Shliakh* on May 13.

City officials hope that, in light of the successful summit, the more than 1,000 European bureaucrats and 350 journalists who attended will carry the news of the beauty and friendliness of the city back to their countries, which in turn could generate new business interest and investments in Lviv.

Last year the city invested a great deal of energy and funding into preparations for the meeting. Lviv city authorities spent 13 million hrv (about \$5 million U.S.), along with another 7 million hrv (\$2.5 million) from charitable contributions, to rework the cobblestone roads of Lviv's narrow winding streets, fix long-neglected street lighting, repair and repaint historic buildings, and renovate Ivan Franko Park.

The Lviv National Opera and Ballet Theater, which hadn't been touched in 15 years, received a face-lift. The Palace of Science and Technology was thoroughly renovated, while the Dnister Hotel, which is owned by a joint stock company, remodeled its interior and built 12 three-room presidential suites to accommodate the presidential entourage of Central European leaders.

Individual businessmen added another 20 million hrv (\$13 million) to renovate buildings that sat beside summit venues.

In many ways the process resembled one that took place in Kyiv almost a year ago, when Ukraine's capital spruced up for the convention of governors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The international event spurred Lviv officials to give the city a much-needed make-over after years of neglect.

Lviv, known for its varied architec-

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Central European leaders meet at summit in Lviv



Efrem Lukatsky

At the Central European summit in Lviv: (from left) Presidents Milan Kucan of Slovenia, Roman Herzog of Germany, Arpad Goncz of Hungary, Alexander Kwasniewski of Poland, Emil Constantinescu of Romania, Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine and Thomas Klestil of Austria pass by an honor guard.

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

LVIV — Nine Central European presidents met in Lviv on May 14-15, hoping to boost the prospects of European integration for those countries that stand at the periphery of the continent.

Although dubbed a "summit," the agenda of meetings was loosely structured. The trappings of high office were ever present and security was tight, but except for a single two-hour plenary session, most of the talks were held in relaxed, informal settings.

It was a conference that focused as much on how to avoid alienating European countries that have not yet been allowed to enter Europe's predominant political and economic structures as it did on the Balkan war, Europe's most severe crisis since World War II.

"Enlargement is important to the security of all of Europe," said Austrian President Thomas Klestil in summing up the main achievement of the summit at a press conference. "It is a tragedy that this century is ending as it began. By working for integration we are building a secure Europe."

During two days of meetings, the presidents discussed a wide range of issues, including visa requirements and regulations, border controls and ways to stem the illegal transport of immigrants, contraband and narcotics across borders.

As Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma emphasized, the accent was on how the European integrational processes currently under way affect individual citizens.

"It is precisely the human factor that will finally determine the success of European integration," said Mr. Kuchma, who hosted the event in this historic Ukrainian city of nearly 1 million residents, which is the unofficial capital of western Ukraine.

The Ukrainian president said it was absolutely necessary that the country's

borders with its western neighbors "remain as open and transparent as their borders with the European Union are today."

The talks, which are held annually in a different city of the region, this year centered on how the just-completed enlargement of NATO and the imminent expansion of the European Union will affect the European integration of countries not yet part of one or the other organization. Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary,

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Political parties and public organizations nominate candidates for president of Ukraine

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — In a flurry of activity on May 14, more than a dozen political parties and public organizations named their candidates for Ukraine's presidential elections.

Most of the nominees had been known for weeks. Political parties needed only to await the May 14 date that marked the official launch of the presidential campaigns as spelled out in the election law passed by Ukraine's Parliament earlier this year.

Heading the list of candidates was President Leonid Kuchma, whose name was placed in nomination by several parties

and public organizations, including the National Democratic Party, headed by Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko, the Social Democratic Party (United) and the Liberal Party, as well as a student organization from Dnipropetrovsk.

As had been expected, Mr. Kuchma's nomination by the National Democrats caused a split in the party, with Chairman Anatolii Matvienko and leading party figures Volodymyr Filenko and Oleksander Yemets, along with several other members, announcing they would turn in their party tickets. With Mr. Matvienko's departure, the

(Continued on page 3)

ANALYSIS

Slavs and the myth of Russian friendship

by Taras Hunczak

For the past several weeks various politicians, the mass media and various commentators emphasized the alleged special position that Russia enjoys among the Slavs, particularly those living on the Balkan Peninsula.

CNN showed a multitude of Muscovites near the U.S. Embassy demonstrating on behalf of their "Slav brothers," reminding us of past images of the Russian preoccupation with the "suffering Slav brothers" who were far away, while oppressing those who were in their immediate neighborhood. All one has to do is to look through the pages of history of Poland, and especially Ukraine, to be reminded of the oppression.

That is not to say that the Russian thinkers of the 19th and 20th centuries did not display a real interest in the Slavic question. On the contrary, the question always occupied an important position because Russian thinkers and statesmen felt that Russia could exploit the Slavs for the greater glory of Russia. Thus, for example, the 19th century pro-Slav movement was a self-serving attempt to expand the interests of the Russian Empire with the help of the Slavs, or to use the Slavic population as a source of justification for the Russian policy of expansionism.

The true intention of the Russian interest in the "Slav question" was perhaps best summarized by Count Nikolai Ignatiev, director of the Foreign Ministry's Asiatic department (which included the Balkans) and later Russia's envoy to Constantinople, when he made it clear to those who championed the ideals of Slavic solidarity that Russian support of other Slavs was justified only if it would further Russian political objectives. "All my activities from 1861 to 1877 in Turkey and among the Slavs," wrote Ignatiev, "were inspired by the thoughts ... that Russia alone should rule the Balkan peninsula and the Black Sea."

Similar sentiments were expressed by other leading Russian intellectuals of the 19th century. Ivan Aksakov, for example, admonishing Gen. Michael Cherniaev to not become involved in Serbo-Bulgarian affairs, explained that "the interests of Russia stand above all else, since what is

Dr. Taras Hunczak is professor of history at Rutgers University.

Ukraine comments on missile strike

Following is the full text of the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine released on May 8 at the United Nations by the Permanent Mission of Ukraine.

Ukraine was shocked by the reports about casualties and damage suffered by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Federal of Yugoslavia as a result of NATO missile strikes against Belgrade.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its deepest condolences to the government of the People's Republic of China and to the families of those who have been killed and injured. It hopes that the investigation of the circumstances of this tragic event will be conducted in a thorough and objective way.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine reaffirms its strong belief in the necessity of immediate transfer of the conflict to the political-diplomatic domain and expresses its readiness to further take an active part in the process.

beneficial for Russia also benefits the Serb, the Bulgarian and all of Slavdom." Gen. Cherniaev responded that Aksakov need not be concerned because he expected to advance Russia's political objective. He expected that, after a victorious war against the Turks, "the ministers gradually could be named from Russians. Hostile parties would disappear and one of the Slav states would become de facto a Russian province."

These are but a few examples of the Russian self-serving idealism, or "concern," for the Slavs. One might well ask why the historical fate of the Poles was never an issue for the Russians. Was it because the Poles had a well-developed sense of national identity that excluded Russian domination? Perhaps Jovan Ristic, the foreign minister of Serbia, characterized the problem best when he stated that Russian Slavophiles were in reality "true Russophiles who regarded small Slav peoples as nice morsels to satiate Russian insatiability."

Has anything changed today, particularly when speaking about the position of Russia on the crisis in Kosovo and Serbia, from the reasons for Russian involvement in the Balkans in the previous century? I don't think so. What has changed are the geopolitical circumstances. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, which was a Russian empire under a different name, Russian political leaders were humbled and frustrated. They no longer were central players in global politics. Indeed, even the national republics sought to establish some distance between themselves and Moscow.

Russia's hope lies with those elements in the sovereign republics that have not been able to cleanse themselves of the colonial servitude under which they functioned all their lives. It is with these individuals – in Ukraine the best example is Oleksander Tkachenko, chairman of the Parliament – that the Russians are playing the "Slavic solidarity" card.

Now the hypothetical triad of Russia-Belarus-Ukraine could be expanded as another Slavic nation, Serbia, has appeared on the horizon, seemingly anxious to extend the Kosovo crisis by joining the Slavic union under the imperial Russian double-headed eagle.

Isn't that what the Russians always wanted? The strategy is rather simple. If Serbia retains control over Montenegro and joins some form of union or alliance with Russia, then Russia will have free access to the Mediterranean using the ports of Montenegro. It would no longer be restrained by Turkish control of the Bosphorus. I wonder, is that the real reason for Russia's alleged concern for its unfortunate Slavic brother? As an added bonus, the new reality would bolster Russia's image in the international arena as a formidable power.

One might note that Russia has not displayed any concern for the tragedy of the Albanians of Kosovo, who have been subjected to the criminal process of ethnic cleansing. Could it be because ethnic cleansing is nothing new for Russia? One need only recall that on May 17-18, 1944, Moscow ordered an ethnic cleansing of Crimea as a result of which over 200,000 Tatars were expelled from their homes and deported to various regions of Central Asia. Many of them never returned to their homeland.

In conclusion I would like to suggest that the romantic "pan" myths (pan-Slavism, pan-Germanism, etc.) be relinquished to the trash heap where they really belong. There was never any place for them in the real world.

NEWSBRIEFS

Ukraine's foreign trade shrinks.

KYIV – Ukraine's exports from January through March decreased to \$2.43 billion, down by 11.4 percent from the same period last year, Ukrainian News reported, citing official data. Imports in the first quarter of 1999 fell to \$2.89 billion, down 18.9 percent compared with 1998. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Brzezinski on Baltic states and NATO

COPENHAGEN – Former U.S. National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski told BNS on May 16 that NATO should consider admitting the Baltic states separately and not as a group. "I don't think there is a basis for saying [about] any region of Europe that all of the countries of the region should be taken in or not. I think each country has to qualify on its own merits," said Dr. Brzezinski, who was attending the Baltic Development Forum in Copenhagen. He also argued that it will be easier for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to eventually enter the alliance if they are considered separately. But he was "more doubtful" as to whether they will be ready for membership by 2002. "I think Lithuania might be ready, but I am not sure all three will be," he said. Speaking at RFE/RL headquarters the previous week, Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis had urged NATO to admit the three Baltic states simultaneously. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma says he will seek second term.

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma said at Lviv University on May 13 that he will seek a second term in the October 31 presidential elections. "I simply do not have the moral right to leave in the middle of the road everything that has been done in the last five years in Ukraine. A change of political leader in Ukraine is a change of political course, and I do not have the right to allow that," Reuters quoted him as saying. Mr. Kuchma told the agency that Ukraine has to keep on with reforms. "To convince people of that is my task today, the task of my team and of all those willing to support me," he added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Climber missing on Mount Everest

KYIV – Tragedy has struck the first Ukrainian expedition to conquer Mount Everest. Three Ukrainian climbers – Volodymyr Horbach, Vladyslav Terziul and Vasyl Kopytko – planted the Ukrainian flag on the 8,848-meter peak on May 8. As they descended at 8,600 meters they ran into a snowstorm that dumped 60 centimeters of snow in 20 minutes. Messrs. Terziul and Horbach survived and continued the

descent. Mr. Kopytko disappeared and no trace of him had been found by May 13. The expedition is led by Valentyn Symonenko. (Eastern Economist)

Pustovoitenko elected NDP leader

KYIV – Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko was elected head of the National Democratic Party on May 15. He replaced Anatolii Matvienko, who resigned and quit the party. The same day the party voted to nominate President Leonid Kuchma for re-election. Mr. Matvienko had warned May 14 that by backing the incumbent the party would drive itself into a trap, since Mr. Kuchma had made every effort to prevent the NDP from growing into a strong party. (Eastern Economist)

Marchuk and colleagues leave SDP(U)

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada deputies Yevhen Marchuk, Ihor Pylypchuk and Oleksander Chubatenko have quit the Social Democratic Party (United) faction. The faction issued a statement, saying, "this came as no surprise to anyone, since these deputies did not hide their orientation towards other political goals and linked their personal agendas with other political organizations." (Eastern Economist)

UNHCR addresses Tatar citizenship issue

KYIV – The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) held a briefing on May 13 on the Crimean Tatars' citizenship campaign currently under way on the peninsula. Issues discussed included UNHCR activities in Ukraine, partnership with state authorities and the status of refugees and stateless persons in Ukraine. UNHCR representatives said all problems facing refugees and stateless persons arise from a lack of adequate citizenship granting procedures. Due to efforts by the Cabinet of Ministers and the presidential administration, there is a new simplified procedure for applicants for Ukrainian citizenship, responded presidential administration officials. Some 35,000 Crimean Tatars who had been deported to Central Asia and beyond by Joseph Stalin during World War II are currently seeking to obtain Ukrainian citizenship and are staging protest actions throughout the peninsula. (Eastern Economist)

Mitiukov scolds Rada for tax blunders

KYIV – Finance Minister Ihor Mitiukov told the Verkhovna Rada on May 11 that 24 resolutions on tax privileges and exemptions passed by the Parliament between December 1998 and March 1999 have

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Political parties...

(Continued from page 1)

NDP elected Prime Minister Pustovoitenko as its new leader.

Mr. Matvienko's split with the party that he headed was caused by the successful effort of Kuchma supporters, many of whom have posts in either the presidential administration or the Cabinet, to ramrod the president's nomination through a party that had increasingly expressed concern about Mr. Kuchma's leadership.

Mr. Matvienko and his supporters have held talks on an election coalition and an alternative candidate supported jointly with the Rukh Party of Yuriy Kostenko and with Viktor Pynzenyk's Reforms and Order Party, but so far little evidence exists that the sides will be able to reach agreement.

The two Rukh factions also held their separate party congresses and, as expected, the leaders of the respective parties became their presidential candidates. One Rukh officially nominated its chairman, Hennadii Udovenko, while the other chose Mr. Kostenko.

A Ukrainian court placed a barrier to the nomination of Mr. Kostenko on May 18 when it rejected an appeal from Rukh-Kostenko that the Ministry of Justice had improperly and illegally registered the Udovenko-led Rukh after the single party split in late February. Mr. Kostenko's Rukh may no longer be legally recognized after the court decision, so the party covered its flanks by having political organizations in the Zhytomyr and Rivne oblasts nominate its leader.

On the political left there were no signs that parties had found a common point man to lead them to victory in the presidential elections. Although there had been much buzz that the leftists would try to unite under a single candidate, the weekend party congresses of the Communist Party, the Socialist Party and the Progressive Socialist Party all nominated their party leaders.

Progressive Socialist leader Natalia Vitrenko, who is running head to head with President Kuchma in political surveys, said she would never consider working with the Communist Party of Petro Symonenko, the deputy whom that party nominated.

The Socialist Party also opted not to support a coalition candidate and chose Oleksander Moroz, whom most political analysts had considered Mr. Kuchma's greatest potential threat until he failed to get re-elected as Verkhovna Rada chairman.

Yevhen Marchuk, the former KGB official and ex-prime minister in the Kuchma administration, also found support for a run for the presidency. After losing his political base in the Social Democratic Party (United) to fellow party members Viktor Medvedchuk and Leonid Kravchuk, who decided to go with President Kuchma, Mr. Marchuk found support on Ukraine's political right. He was nominated by a rightist coalition of the Ukrainian Republican Party, the Social-Democratic Union, the Ukrainian Peasant Democratic Party and the Christian People's Union, and received a nod from the State Independence of Ukraine Association.

In other nominations, the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party decided to support Vasyl Onopenko, the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists nominated Ivan Bilas, and the Slavic Party chose Oleksander Bazyluk. The For a Beautiful Ukraine Party chose party leader and businessman Hennadii Balashov as its nominee. The United Family Group nominated Oleksander Rzhavskiy.

With party caucuses out of the way, the candidates will focus on gathering signatures to have their names placed on the presidential election ballot. Each candidate must gather 1 million signatures by July 13, with at least 30,000 each from two-thirds of Ukraine's 26 regions, in order to proceed further in the process that culminates in voting on October 31.

35,000 Crimean Tatars demonstrate in Symferopol

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Nearly 35,000 Crimean Tatars gathered in the Crimean capital city of Symferopol on May 17-18 to mark the 55th anniversary of their forced exodus to Central Asia on the orders of Joseph Stalin.

Picketers carrying signs that read, "Deportation-the Most Horrible Crime" and "We Demand the Right to Live," demanded inclusion into Ukraine's political and economic processes as well as simpler citizenship procedures, teaching of the Crimean Tatar language in their schools and changes in the Crimean Constitution to protect their rights.

They were commemorating the beginning of a nearly 40-year exile, which started on the night of May 17, 1944, when nearly half a million Crimean Tatars were marched to train cars and deported to Uzbekistan on the orders of the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin for what he alleged was their complicity with Nazi Germany.

In the days leading up to the commemoration, some Crimean Tatars had threatened violence if their demands were not met. But after President Leonid Kuchma and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko flew into Symferopol the day of the mass rally to meet with Tatar leaders, the situation was defused.

Interfax-Ukraine reported that President Kuchma agreed to set up an advisory board – the Council of Representatives of the Crimean Tatar People – within the Presidential Administration to hear and resolve Tatar legal problems.

The two sides also agreed to a parliamentary hearing in September that will deal with the economic and political problems of the Crimean Tatars.

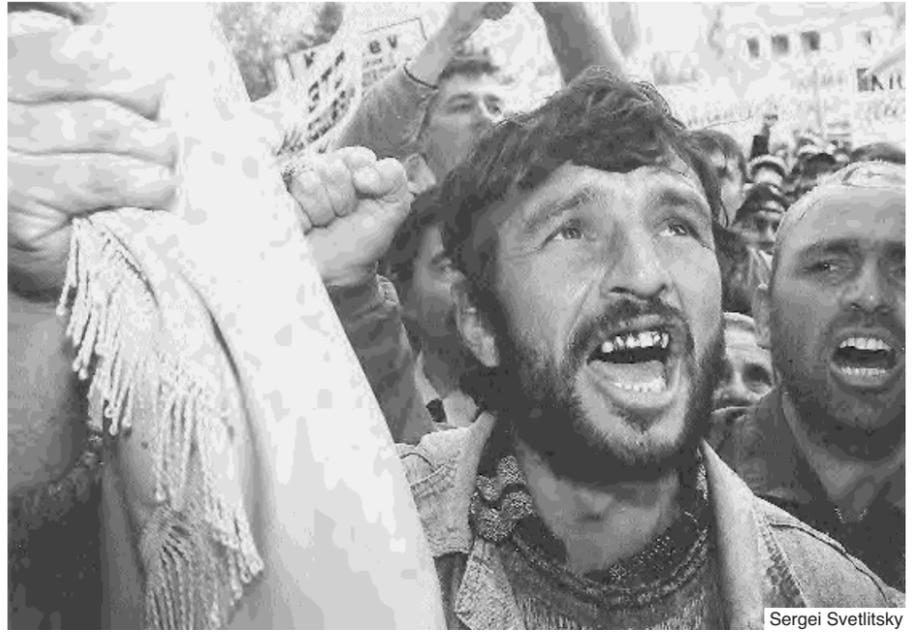
Verkhovna Rada National Deputy Mustafa Jemilev, who leads the Crimean Tatar National Assembly, the Mejlis, said that a key demand of the Tatars was not met, although he admitted that the talks offered hope. "Unfortunately, yesterday's meeting with President Leonid Kuchma did not have the intended result. Although we wanted recognition for the Mejlis as the consultative body of the Crimean Tatar nation under the president, all that was agreed to was a consultative committee to look into the matter," said Mr. Jemilev, according to Kyiv newspaper Den.

The plight of the Crimean Tatars since they began to return to the Crimean peninsula, their ancestral homeland, has been precarious. Originally they had been promised government subsidies to help them build homes and establish new lives. As Ukraine's economy went into a free-fall after independence, the money quickly dried up, leaving many homes and lives partially constructed.

The heavily Russian population of Crimea has put up further roadblocks, seeing the presence of the Tatars as a threat to their own very fragile economic situation. Many Tatars claim that they suffer social and economic discrimination.

Although nearly 271,000 Tatars have returned to the Crimean peninsula, most of them settling around Symferopol and in Bakhchesarai, their historic former capital, they still do not have their own schools, and have encountered barriers while attempting to attain Ukrainian citizenship. Seven years after they began to come home, less than half have obtained Ukrainian citizenship.

In a law passed after the Verkhovna Rada election of March 1998, the process was supposed to have been streamlined. But only 25,000 of the 61,000 newest Tatar immigrants from Uzbekistan, for whom the law is intended, have become Ukrainian citizens.



Sergei Svetlitsky

Crimean Tatars at a rally in Symferopol.

Without citizenship, the Tatars cannot take part in elections, which has left them politically impotent, especially within the Crimean Autonomous Republic. They had several representatives in the Crimean Parliament prior to the March 1998 elections, however, afterwards they were completely frozen out.

In Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada their situation is only slightly better. Two Crimean Tatars are national deputies, but only because the Rukh Party gave Mr. Jemilev and Refat Chubarov a place high on its party list in the voting by party.

Crimean Tatars began massing in Symferopol for the commemoration of the forced mass exodus on May 17. Gathering before the Crimean Autonomous Republic Parliament, they demanded that the Crimean Tatar flag be hoisted atop the government building and that it, along with the Ukrainian and Crimean flags, be set at half-mast during their two-day mourning vigil.

As the protesters pressed their demand, a scuffle took place, during which three Crimean Tatars were severely beaten by local militia, said Mejlis representative Remse Ablaiev. After the brief altercation the demonstration proceeded peacefully.

That day, demonstrators gathered for the unveiling of a monument to the Soviet dissident and war hero Petro Grigorenko, a bust of whom has already been erected in Soviet Square, near the city center. The late Gen. Grigorenko, who was a founder of the Helsinki monitoring groups in Moscow and Kyiv, avidly supported the rights of the Crimean Tatars. The unveiling was attended by Gen. Grigorenko's son, Andriy. Participants took part in a communal prayer session led by Crimean Tatar Mufti Hadzhi Nuriefendi and a representative of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate.

Among the Ukrainian leaders who addressed the Crimean Tatars during their two-day vigil, were Vice Prime Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Valerii Smolii, National Deputy Hennadii Udovenko of the Rukh Party, Mykola Horbal of the Christian Republican Party and Chairman of the Crimean Council of Ministers Serhii Kunitsyn.

While most of the demonstrators dispersed on the evening of May 18, about 120 leaders remained behind and constructed a tent city in which they will live for approximately a week, or until they see that their demands are being considered.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

USAID funding a new clearing depository

KYIV – The U.S. Agency for International Development has provided technical aid worth several million dollars to establish a Ukrainian Clearing Depository. PriceWaterhouseCoopers announced May 13. After winning an international tender, PriceWaterhouseCoopers became the USAID contractor for the project to establish a national depository, clearing and accounting organization for the Ukrainian stock market. This national clearing depository will serve the leading members of the stock market, including domestic and foreign brokers, traders, security officers, banks and enterprise-share issuers, as well as all operating traders. (Eastern Economist)

Russia debt clearing agreement ratified

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on May 14 ratified the Ukrainian-Russian agreement of October 30, 1997, on clearing debts for energy resources and products of fission. Under the agreement, Ukraine's debts of \$119.45 million (U.S.) for fuel it received from Russian oil refineries under inter-government agreements in 1993 and \$130.72 million (U.S.) for oil, petroleum products and other material resources received in 1993-1994 under a contract signed with the Russian state company RosKontract will be cleared in compensation for the fission products Russia extracted from tactical nuclear weapons it received from Ukraine in 1991-1992. The total value of these products is \$450 million (U.S.). The balance of the Russian debt for fission products, \$199.83 million (U.S.), will be cleared against part of Ukraine's debt to the Russian Federation from other transactions. (Eastern Economist)

May freezes hitting agriculture hard

KYIV – The Ministry of Agriculture reported on May 13 that 400,000 hectares of crops had suffered freezing temperatures in early May. Although this amounts to only 1.5 percent of domestic farm land used for crop cultivation, the losses will total 200 million hrv. The hardest hit crops were corn and wheat; due to the frosts, strawberries

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INTERVIEW: President Anna Krawczuk speaks on the UNWLA's activity

by Anisa Handzia Sawyckyj
Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

NEW YORK – Anna Krawczuk's second three-year term as president of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America Inc. ends at the UNWLA's 25th triennial convention, which will take place in Chicago on May 28-31.

For six years she has been, *ex officio*, vice-president of The Ukrainian Museum in New York, vice-president of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations and a member of the Presidium of the Ukrainian World Congress.

Prior to her election in 1993 as UNWLA president, she served as the organization's social welfare chair (1981-1984) and chaired the Scholarship Program (1984-1993). She is a member of UNWLA Branch 86.

She served in the U.S. Army as specialist 3rd class and is a founding member and adjutant of Ukrainian American Veterans Post 30 in Freehold, N.J., and junior vice-commander of the New Jersey State Department of the UAV. She resides with her husband, Bernard, in Holmdel, N.J.

In the interview below Mrs. Krawczuk offers her perspectives on developments in the UNWLA, particularly during the last decade.

How would you describe the activities of UNWLA during your two terms of office as president?

Our goals have been to keep our membership strong and involved, to modernize our administration, while meeting the increased humanitarian, educational and cultural needs of the Ukrainian community in the U.S. and abroad. The greatest challenges have been humanitarian. I am happy to say that our membership can respond quickly and generously to a crisis as it did with aid to the victims of the floods in the Zakarpattia region of Ukraine.

What aid did the UNWLA bring to Zakarpattia, and how did you do it?

When we first heard about the floods in early November, we contacted Soyuz Ukrainok in Kyiv, as well as the president of the Soyuz Ukrainok chapter in Uzhhorod, Dr. Oksana Hanych, who told us that the immediate need was for medicine, household staples and children's clothing. The next day \$5,000 was sent for that purpose from the UNWLA's Social Welfare Fund. We advised our branches of the urgent need for shipment of household goods, clothing and other goods, and for fund-raising to aid the victims.

Our branches sprang into action and packed 1,200 parcels. By January two cargo containers were shipped to Soyuz Ukrainok in Uzhhorod for distribution to victims. Fund-raising by the branches has resulted in

the collection of \$104,715 – most of which was disbursed by the end of April.

What other assistance has the UNWLA given to Ukraine in the years since Ukrainian independence?

We have seen a tremendous expansion of several of our ongoing programs to include Ukraine. For example, the UNWLA's Scholarship/Student Sponsorship Program expanded from sporadic efforts in Ukraine in 1989 to a meteoric growth since 1992. In the period of 1996-1998, out of a total of \$424,800 in scholarships stipends issued worldwide, \$96,964 went to students in Ukraine. In addition, \$51,100 was spent to support 124 seminarians from Ukraine studying in Italy.

In responding to Ukraine's post-Chernobyl health crisis, the UNWLA has helped hundreds of affected children by sponsoring their stays at health centers in Ukraine. In 1994, we raised \$150,000 for an MRI unit for the trauma hospital in Kyiv in a joint project with the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund.

The UNWLA also funded the publication of books on topics of importance to women in Ukraine: the translation into Ukrainian of Martha Bohachevsky-Chomiak's book "Feminists Despite Themselves: Women in the Civic Life of Ukraine 1884-1939" under the title "Bilym po Bilomu," and a book of documents relating the life of Milena Rudnytska, the Ukrainian women's and political activist.

On the issue of trafficking of Ukrainian women, we have protested to the United Nations through our representative in the WFUWO, the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, which has the status of a non-governmental organization (NGO) at the U.N.

I should add that on issues relating to Ukraine we have worked closely not only with Soyuz Ukrainok in Ukraine but also with Ukraine's Ministry for Family and Youth, and with Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S. and the consul general in New York, as well as its U.N. ambassador.

What is the connection between the UNWLA and Soyuz Ukrainok in Ukraine?

There is no legal connection – we are separate entities. Soyuz Ukrainok existed in Ukraine until 1939, when it was banned [by the Soviets] and ceased to function. It was revived in 1991, following Ukraine's declaration of independence.

The UNWLA, on the other hand, was founded in New York in 1925. For seven decades, the UNWLA kept the word "Ukraine" alive in the U.S. and in international women's forums when its "mother organization" was silenced.

Recently we in the UNWLA have been actively supporting women's organizations in Ukraine in their effort to re-establish the National Council of Women, which they finally succeeded in doing in March 1999.

The UNWLA has always been very actively involved in U.S. women's organizations nationally and internationally. Can you describe the extent of that involvement and what has changed in recent years?

Now that Ukraine is independent, we are playing the role of supporters of Ukraine's initiatives, rather than initiators of actions on behalf of Ukraine. That is the main difference. But as an organization, the UNWLA is more active than ever in these groups.

Since 1948, the UNWLA has been an associate member of the International General Federation of Women's Clubs. Since 1952, it has been part of the National Council of Women / U.S.A. It was a historic moment for the UNWLA when Irene

Kurowyckyj, UNWLA vice-president, was elected president of NCW / U.S.A. in 1993-1995.

Today, UNWLA representation continues to be very strong in the NCW. For example, in June 1997, at the triennial convention of the International Council of Women, three out of the 13 delegates from the NCW / U.S.A. were UNWLA members.

I also want to mention the UNWLA's role in the WFUWO, an umbrella group of 24 Ukrainian women's organization in the diaspora, of which the UNWLA was a co-founder in 1948, and through which we have been able to participate in many worthwhile projects. We also are a member-organization of the World Movement of Mothers, another NGO, and of course we can be heard through the International Council of Women.

In recent years, has there been a change in the visibility of the UNWLA in Washington?

Since Ukrainian independence in 1991, our contact with the U.S. government has increased. The UNWLA is now on the list of Ukrainian American organizations invited to the White House or State Department

I think our strength comes from the diversity of our membership, political non-partisanship and religious tolerance. I also think the UNWLA appeals to women's best instincts ...

when Ukrainian issues are under consideration. We've also been invited to attend briefings at USAID and HUD.

What are the areas of the UNWLA's programs in the U.S. that define your organization?

We never lose sight of the UNWLA's goal to serve our communities and to preserve our Ukrainian ethnic identity in the U.S. – our language, culture, traditions – and to transmit them to future generations. Toward this end, we have put a great emphasis on education, starting with the child's earliest years. Today, UNWLA branches sponsor preschools in 14 cities nationwide. Our newest pre-school was recently started by our branch in Atlanta.

Our members continue to support and raise funds for The Ukrainian Museum [in New York] of which the UNWLA was a founder in 1976 and in which it retains a majority voice on the board. They are also justifiably proud of Our Life magazine, the UNWLA's bilingual monthly publication, which has been published continuously since 1944.

The UNWLA's Scholarship/Student Sponsorship Program is now helping students in 17 countries. For its 30 years of service to educating Ukrainian youth worldwide the UNWLA's Scholarship Program received a unique award, one normally given to individuals: the St. Volodymyr Medal from the seventh World Congress of Ukrainians in December 1998.

In the last several years the UNWLA has also addressed such issues as ecology and the family, in its international contests for children and youth in which hundreds of Ukrainian children worldwide participated. The contests resulted in the publication of two books "The Year of the Family 1994" and "Nature and Us" (1998).

The UNWLA's ranks have remained stable and the organization is thriving. How do you account for the UNWLA's longevity and success for some three-quarters of a century?

I think our strength comes from the diversity of our membership, political non-partisanship and religious tolerance. I also think the UNWLA appeals to women's best instincts to educate and nurture the most vulnerable in our communities. It also helps women carry on family cultural traditions.

Our strength also comes from the fact that UNWLA membership is a tradition that is often passed on from mother, and even granddaughter.

I also think the UNWLA survives because it is flexible where it can be. We saw that for some women, especially those who are professionals or young mothers, branch membership was not a viable option, so we invited them to become "members-at-large," whose numbers have gone up from 50 three years ago to 150 today.

Have there been any administrative changes or technological advances at your headquarters in recent years?

At the UNWLA headquarters, we have entered the age of the information superhighway. We are now using e-mail (unwla@worldnet.att.net) to communicate with our branches, with members

and with UNWLA executives traveling abroad. We've created a website: <http://www.Tryzub.com/UNWLA/>, and we also track our office correspondence on computer.

We avail ourselves of the financial planning services of professional financial planners who counsel us on our investment portfolio. Our endowments and funds from wills are growing, and they need to be carefully managed, as required by IRS law governing non-profit, tax-exempt organizations.

What are your projections for UNWLA programs in the years ahead?

I think the member-at-large category will grow. Our ecology chair will take on even greater significance and the modernization of our organization will continue, as our membership becomes more geographically dispersed and requires new modes of communication.

The Ukrainian Museum in New York City is a monumental task that will no doubt preoccupy the UNWLA and the Ukrainian American community in the years ahead. It will be a memorial of the Ukrainian cultural heritage to future generations of Ukrainian Americans in this most international capital of the world.

Another important matter will be a "Soyuzianka Home" [a retirement or assisted-living home for members of the UNWLA]. The UNWLA's social welfare chair has called a feasibility committee to study the question of purchasing or building a "Soyuzianka Home," as specified by the wishes of generous benefactors of the UNWLA. This is a very important and necessary project to be realized in the near future.

Do you have any parting thoughts?

It has been an honor and a privilege for me to serve as UNWLA president for the past six years. I want to take this opportunity to thank the UNWLA membership for their support and trust.



UNWLA President Anna Krawczuk

A Kennedy, of Ukrainian heritage, is running in Ontario provincial elections

by **Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj**
Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO – With voters set to go to the polls on June 3, the Ontario provincial election is marked by an ideological divide.

On one hand, there are the incumbent right-wing populist Progressive Conservatives (PC) led by Mike Harris, and on the other, there's everyone else.

Among the more high-profile and articulate voices on this other side is Gerard Kennedy, the boyish 38-year-old Liberal Party health critic. While his Hyannisport surname is no impediment, Mr. Kennedy proudly considers himself Ukrainian.

"My Ukrainian heritage makes it a pleasure to represent people of my background. It's been an important part of my growing up and now it can be an important part of public service," he said.

His mother, Caroline Shemanski, is a descendant of one of the first Ukrainian families to arrive in Canada in 1891, according to cover-page feature on the activist-turned-parliamentarian that ran in Zdorov magazine's Spring 1999 issue.

His campaign headquarters overlook Bloor Street next to the urban green space

that gives his new riding its name, Parkdale-High Park, and sits just west of the Ukrainian enclave known as the "Selo," or Bloor Street Village.

Among his strongest supporters is Future Bakery and Café entrepreneur Borys Wrzesniewsky, a member of his campaign team who appeared on "Kontakt" television's Saturday afternoon program on May 8 to endorse Mr. Kennedy's candidacy.

Mr. Kennedy was born in The Pas, a remote community in Manitoba's northeast corner near Hudson's Bay. His Scottish father, a lumberworker and businessman, served as the town's mayor and once ran unsuccessfully as a federal Liberal candidate in the Churchill riding.

Mr. Kennedy studied political science and economics at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, and then at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, before returning west to establish the country's first food bank in aid of the poverty-stricken and homeless in the Alberta provincial capital in 1981.

In April 1986 he was asked to serve as the executive director of Toronto's Daily Bread Food Bank (DBFB), and in a 10-year term at the post he gained a reputation as a

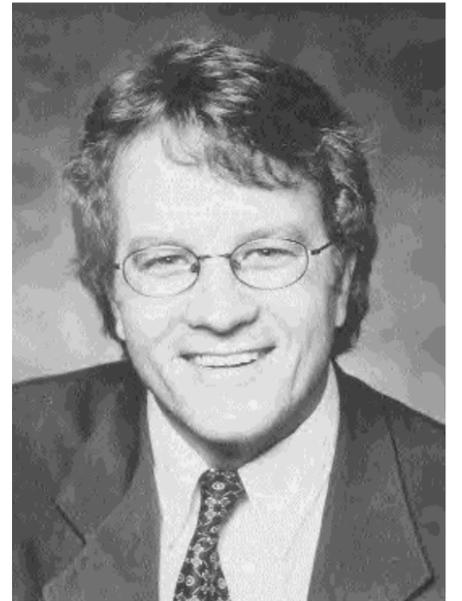
superior organizer, an idealist able to marshal the efforts of thousands of volunteers and a pragmatist who attracted the support of Canada's largest corporations. He also served as the chairman and national spokesman for the Canadian Association of Food Banks.

The business-oriented newspaper Financial Post named him "Honorary Mention CEO of the Year" in 1995.

In May 1996 the activist ran in the provincial by-election in Toronto's York-South Weston riding after former Premier Bob Rae resigned as leader of the New Democratic Party (NDP). He defeated the NDP's Dennis Miller and claimed the riding for the Liberals for the first time since it was established in 1925.

That November, Mr. Kennedy ran for the Liberal leadership and led four ballots before the party's establishment engineered a victory for Ottawa-based Dalton McGuinty on the fifth. Since then, he has served as a member of provincial Parliament (MPP) and the official opposition's health critic.

Recent Tory legislation that reduced the number of provincial parliamentarians (particularly in the cities) forced redistricting



Gerard Kennedy

and prompted Mr. Kennedy to switch to the neighboring Parkdale High Park riding for this year's election.

He is favored to win the seat in an odd

(Continued on page 14)

Central European...

(Continued from page 1)

whose presidents attended the Lviv summit, joined NATO earlier this year and are strong candidates to join the European Union in the near future.

Ukraine has expressed concern that NATO membership for the three countries, which constitute Ukraine's western border, could in effect create a new Iron Curtain, alienating the country from the rest of Europe as it becomes a buffer zone between Russia and the West.

President Kuchma, said he was pleased, however, with the positive dialogue regarding Ukraine and Europe that took place during the summit.

"I believe it is important that my colleagues have supported the entry of Ukraine into European and trans-Atlantic structures and the democratization process that is currently going on in Ukraine," he said.

President Klestil of Austria said during a private meeting with President Kuchma that he would continue to act as a spokesman for Ukraine in European structures and advocate that Ukraine should receive full European Union membership,

according to President Kuchma's press secretary, Oleksander Martynenko.

The Central European leaders agreed that the Schengen Accord, a treaty among many of the countries that belong to the European Union that allows visa-free travel between them, should be reviewed to allow the same benefits to countries such as Bulgaria, Ukraine and Romania. President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland agreed to call a conference of Schengen Accord member-countries to review the matter.

The Polish president also proposed to host a conference in Warsaw on the illegal movement of people, contraband and drugs across international borders.

The Kosovo crisis played a significant part in the discussions, as well, and the nine leaders issued a joint statement on the Balkan war that condemned "ethnic cleansing" and called on Serbia to fulfill the demands of the Rambouillet Agreement. It also recommended that the United Nations be given the key role in resolving the conflict.

"We, the presidents of the Central European countries strongly condemn the systematic terror in Kosovo, cruelties against children, rapes, robberies and

expulsions, which are used as the means of ethnic cleansing," read the first paragraph of the only official statement to come out of the conference.

Presidents Klestil of Austria and Milan Kucan of Slovenia proposed an international conference to be held in Vienna, with participation by the U.N., the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union and the Council of Europe, which would plan the reconstruction of a post-war Yugoslavia and develop a strategy for the Balkans, the southeast corner of Europe that historically has been the most unstable region of Europe.

The proposal was part of the summit's joint statement, which the leaders recommended should become an official United Nations document.

This year the Central European meeting was attended by Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic, Roman Herzog of Germany, Pietr Stoyanov of Bulgaria, Arpad Goncz of Hungary, Emil Constantinescu of Romania, Mr. Klestil of Austria, Mr. Kwasniewski of Poland, Mr. Kucan of Slovenia and President Kuchma. Italy, which also belongs to the Central European club of leaders, chose not to attend because its presidential elections were scheduled just days before the summit.

Although the summit included a formal plenary session on May 14, the leaders did most of their talking in the privacy of the Dnister Hotel, home to all the presidents and their entourages; or on the narrow, cobblestoned streets of Lviv, where the presidents took impromptu leisurely strolls; and during a late dinner at the Lviv National Opera House, where they had attended a 50-minute concert of Ukrainian classical music.

The presidents also visited the Lviv National Museum, the Taras Shevchenko Monument and the Mykhailo Hrushevsky-

(Continued on page 16)



President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine and his German counterpart, Roman Herzog, smile as they greet people before the Dnister Hotel.

OSI opens new case against Demjanjuk

by Stephen Vitvitsky

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The U.S. Department of Justice Office of Special Investigations initiated a new case against John Demjanjuk on May 19, seeking to once again strip him of his U.S. citizenship. News of the new charges against Mr. Demjanjuk was reported by the Associated Press and Reuters.

More than 20 years ago the OSI began proceedings against Mr. Demjanjuk, accusing him of being "Ivan the Terrible" of the Treblinka death camp. After being denaturalized and extradited to Israel for a trial on war crimes and crimes against humanity, Mr. Demjanjuk was convicted, but the conviction was overturned by the Israeli Supreme Court. The OSI now charges that Mr. Demjanjuk was a guard at several other Nazi camps.

The Justice Department's initial mishandling of this matter has been the topic of much criticism. A United States appellate court criticized OSI prosecutors for "reckless" withholding of evidence during the 11-year legal process in the U.S. that could have undermined their allegation that Mr. Demjanjuk was the infamous Nazi war criminal "Ivan the Terrible."

The new 15-page complaint alleges that Mr. Demjanjuk began working for the Nazis at the Trawniki training camp in 1942, where, according to the Office of Special Investigations, Eastern European recruits were prepared to aid the Nazi genocide. The lawsuit further alleges that Mr. Demjanjuk served as an armed guard at the Sobibor death camp, and the Majdanek and Flossenburg concentration camps.

Claiming that Mr. Demjanjuk lied about his wartime activities to obtain a visa to enter the United States in 1952, the Justice Department is appealing the decision of a federal court in February 1998 to reinstate Mr. Demjanjuk's citizenship.

Ed Nishnic, spokesman for Mr. Demjanjuk, stated, "We are deeply saddened by the government's latest filing. Twenty-two years ago the government came after Mr. Demjanjuk with alleged documentary evidence, six survivor eyewitnesses and two SS eyewitnesses – all swearing that he was Ivan the Terrible."

(Continued on page 14)

Wrong number

In the Action Item regarding State Department spokesman James M. Rubin's comments on Ukrainians, an incorrect fax number was listed. The correct number to Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright's office is: (202) 647-5939.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

We can fight

The CBS matter is now behind us. Four and a half years after it all began, petitioners who spoke on behalf of the Ukrainian American community – and by extension for all Ukrainians who felt slandered by “The Ugly Face of Freedom” – have reached a settlement with CBS in accordance with which the network agreed to pay \$328,000 to cover the petitioners’ legal fees, while the petitioners agreed to end their legal challenges resulting from the controversial “60 Minutes” segment.

Among the questions now being asked are: Was it worth it? Did our community do well in this case? Will there be lasting effects from the petitioners’ efforts in this case? The answer to all of the foregoing questions is: yes.

Having been intimately involved with covering this case since day one, we can state with certainty that, unfortunately, the settlement reached was the best we could do given the circumstances, the array of forces on both sides, and the legal protections given the news media in this country. Sure, the community expected more: an apology from CBS, a retraction of the report (possibly a new segment on inter-ethnic relations in Ukraine), promises to do better in the future by consulting with the community and with experts that we might suggest. None of that was forthcoming, however.

That much was clear at the settlement meeting held at CBS headquarters in New York on March 1. The atmosphere was tense, the discussion heated. It appeared that CBS had grudgingly agreed to meet with community representatives. CBS executives, producers and lawyers repeatedly stated that we should “move forward” and “bring this matter to closure.” Even though one exec said “some factual statements (in the broadcast) could have been more accurate” and another admitted “two inaccuracies,” CBS would not budge and urged our community to not dwell on the past.

But the past was what had so deeply wounded our community: the broadcast more than four years earlier of “The Ugly Face.” At the settlement meeting the community pressed its case, underlining that the controversial segment was full of misinformation and rife with distortion, that it presented interviewees’ comments so much out of context that their views were misrepresented and used inflammatory words in translations (e.g., translating the word “Zhyd” as “kike”). Add to that the clever non-denial denial: “Ukrainians, despite the allegations, are not genetically anti-Semitic.” CBS had sacrificed the truth for sensationalism, for TV ratings. Clearly this was lousy journalism.

The result was a standoff.

Ukrainian Americans continue to believe that CBS was irresponsible and that CBS should have righted the wrong inflicted on Ukrainians. CBS continues to stand by its story, while expressing “regret ... that Ukrainian Americans were offended by ... ‘The Ugly Face of Freedom’ and saw it as a generalized condemnation of persons of Ukrainian ancestry,” as that was not its intent.

Intent. That was the key to the lawsuit. Though it could be proved there were many distortions and errors, how could the Ukrainian petitioners really prove that CBS intended to distort the facts, intended to unjustly portray Ukrainians as anti-Semites? Short of having access to internal CBS documentation, that simply was not possible.

Ultimately, the two sides had to agree to disagree.

Nonetheless, CBS heard our community’s voice. And it was heard by other media outlets that were closely watching a crucial case that seriously questioned CBS’s integrity and put its reputation on the line. After all, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia had found in August 1998 that there were serious questions about whether CBS intentionally distorted information in “The Ugly Face,” that CBS “had no policy against news distortion and indeed that management considered some distortion acceptable.”

We have learned from our four and a half years of struggle that we must fight back. We have begun to learn that it is important to develop relationships with the press and that we have to continually present our case.

As a result of our petitioners’ tenacity, the communications community was put on notice that we Ukrainians will not stand by and allow someone to slander us. As Arthur Belendiuk put it: “They know we bite.”

As Bohdan Vitvitsky explained: “We have to take these things more seriously – these attacks on the community and/or its history.” This case, he emphasized, shows “we can fight.”

May
24
1821

Turning the pages back...

Ivan Vernadsky was the first of the three famous scholars who bear that surname; he was the father of Volodymyr the geochemist and grandfather of George the historian.

He was born on May 24, 1821, in Kyiv into an imperial officer’s family (his mother was from the Korolenko line of Ukrainian Kozak nobility). At Kyiv University he studied philosophy and Slavic philology. After graduating with honors, he was offered a stipend to pursue political economy, which he accepted and traveled to Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France and England. He defended his master’s thesis at St. Petersburg University in 1847. After a two-year stint teaching in Kyiv, he entered Moscow University and in 1849 completed a doctoral dissertation on Italian economic theory. Two years later he secured a full professorship and taught political economy.

In 1857 he was called to St. Petersburg to serve as an advisor to the Imperial Ministry of Internal Affairs. That year he also established and edited the newspaper *Ekonomicheskii Ukazatel* (EU), and in 1859, the journal *Ekonomist*. His contributions were marked by a commitment to a laissez-faire approach to economics and liberalism in social issues. For a time, the EU was published at the printing house owned by Panteleimon Kulish. Through Kulish, he met Taras Shevchenko and Kvitka Osnovianenko, as well as the historian Mykhailo Maksymovych.

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A CALL TO ACTION

Let’s Stop the Hunger Committee aims to help the needy in Ukraine

TORONTO – Tens of thousands of people in Ukraine go hungry each day. And the number is growing steadily. This critical food shortage is due to poor economic conditions, recent floods and general poverty. Most negatively affected are children and the elderly.

In 1998, social service groups in Ukraine contacted the Ukrainian Canadian Social Services Inc. (UCSS) of Canada to spearhead a fund-raising campaign in Canada. Over \$70,000 was raised, enabling 12 soup kitchens and 15 food banks to open, or get ready to open in Ukraine.

Now, a newly organized group, known as the Let’s Stop the Hunger Committee, is determined to double the number of soup kitchens and food banks located in Ukraine this year. The committee functions under the auspices of the UCSS.

“It’s such a tragedy that young and old alike in Ukraine are desperate for food. We, residing in such a prosperous country

as Canada, are unaware of how poor and undernourished the people in Ukraine really are,” stated Maria Stebelsky, president of the UCSS of Canada, national headquarters.

“For only \$30 one individual can be fed for an entire month,” she said. “A mere \$1,000 will establish an entire soup kitchen. We are fortunate to have so much, yet others have so little.”

Ms. Stebelsky noted that those fed in the soup kitchens or by food banks are so thankful for the assistance that they offer to do community work as a token of their appreciation.

The Let’s Stop the Hunger campaign will be conducted throughout the month of May. Checks can be made payable to Pomich Ukraini Fund, c/o Let’s Stop the Hunger, National Headquarters, 2445 Bloor St. W., Toronto, Ontario M6S 1P7; tel/fax, (416) 766-5812. Receipts will be issued for donations \$10 or greater; charitable No. 0560912 B/N891743973 RR001.

Minneapolis foundation arranges surgery for Ukraine’s children

by Dr. Michael J. Kozak

MINNEAPOLIS – Highly skilled orthopedic surgical treatment for children from Ukraine – treatment not available for them in their homeland – can be procured here. For this reason, The Children of Ukraine Foundation was established in affiliation with St. Constantine’s Ukrainian Catholic Church, where the Rev. Canon Michael Stelmach serves as pastor.

The foundation pays for transportation to and from Ukraine for the children and their mothers, along with room and board during the course of treatment. To date 12 children received such care. Two children are currently undergoing medical care, and two more will be arriving this summer.

Though medical care is free, living expenses for the children and their mothers are high, and the foundation’s funds are getting low. Physicians donate their expertise, hospitals offer their facilities at no cost, and we, the Ukrainian community, should feel obligated to cover at least the living expenses of these unfortunate children and their mothers. After all, we live in a country that has fostered a strong tradition of helping the needy, and this is also our obligation as Christians.

We appeal to all people of goodwill, to please help these children: their lives are not easy and will not be easy if they do not obtain proper medical care.

Oksana Kuchma, for example, was born with a damaged spinal cord. Her right leg has no strength and only partial sensation. Her left leg has damaged joints. Unable to walk, she moves around on her hands and knees. Most of the time she is wheelchair-bound. She needs four highly skilled surgical procedures to correct her condition.

Marta Khan was born with displaced hips. She has undergone three surgical procedures and her condition has improved. Nonetheless, she needs more treatment.

Donations may be sent to: The Children of Ukraine Foundation, Acct. No. 2233, Ukrainian Credit Union, 301 Main St. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413; or to St. Constantine’s Ukrainian Catholic Church, 515 University Ave. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413.



Marta Khan



Oksana Kuchma

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Some comments on Temple interview

Dear Editor:

In the interview with Larysa Barabash-Temple (April 18 and 25), some of the interviewees' comments on the relationship between our diaspora and Ukraine's sports establishment suffer from glaring omissions, while others call for commentary.

When enumerating diaspora sources of funding for sports in Ukraine and expressing her appreciation to those individuals responsible for the fund-raising, Ms. Barabash-Temple, incredibly, failed to mention one of the biggest (if not the biggest) single contributors: the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK). As far back as 1991, the leadership of USCAK (Myron Stebelsky, president, Omelan Twardowsky, vice-president; Alexander Napora, treasurer) had established the Fund for the Rebirth of Sports in Ukraine, followed by the Olympic Fund, as well as some smaller ad hoc funds. Thanks to the money raised for these funds within the Ukrainian American community, USCAK was able to pay for the international membership fees of 38 Ukrainian sports federations, which enabled Ukraine's athletes to compete abroad. Subsequently, USCAK paid for the round-trip air fare, as well as the per diem and some other expenses of Ukraine's team at the 1994 Winter Olympiad in Lillehammer.

In conjunction with the 1996 Summer Olympiad in Atlanta, USCAK contributed significant funds for the transportation as well as room and board of Ukraine's athletes both for their pre-Olympic acclimatization visit here in 1995 and for the Olympiad proper. It is worth mentioning that when Ukraine's Olympic gymnasts found themselves in desperate need of modern gymnastics equipment in the course of their preparation for the 1996 Olympiad, Ms. Barabash-Temple turned for help to none other than the USCAK President Stebelsky. In response, USCAK immediately purchased the required equipment for Ukraine's soon-to-become gold and silver medalists, and had it shipped to Kyiv (price tag: \$40,557). The combined contributions of USCAK towards the financing of Ukraine's participation in the 1994 and 1996 Olympiads amounted to more than \$166,000. To date, overall USCAK spending in support of sports in Ukraine has exceeded \$300,000.

Ms. Barabash-Temple was too quick to dismiss the legitimate concerns of Ukrainian patriots here and in Ukraine about the November 1998 agreement between the State Committee of Ukraine on Physical Culture and Sports and its Russian counterpart. This agreement does indeed provide for joint instruction and training of Ukrainian and Russian teams, as well as individual athletes in common training camps located in both countries, for the utilization of each other's sports facilities; for the exchange of coaches, trainers, sports scientists and other specialists with the objective of sharing their expertise, for the exchange of scientific-methodological information, specifically by holding joint conferences and seminars devoted to physical culture and sports. Also envisioned are consultations between Ukraine and Russia with respect to international sports.

Anyone familiar with Ukraine's tragic historical experiences cannot treat this type of a joint venture with Russia with the same equanimity as might apply to a bilateral agreement with, say, Italy. Its one certain consequence will be the continued and intensified Russification of sports in Ukraine. As noted by Ms. Barabash-Temple herself, "the Ukrainian system is constantly being criticized because the Russian lan-

guage is, in fact, the prevailing language in sports."

Yes, we've all been embarrassed to hear athletes who represent Ukraine resorting to Russian in their public appearances abroad. Until recently, however, our disappointment was mitigated by the hope and expectation that in an independent Ukraine a gradual Ukrainization of the sports establishment was inevitable. Any such hopes have now been dashed by the November 1998 agreement. It is clear that a joint sports program between Ukraine and Russia, involving not only joint training, but also the sharing of theoretical and pedagogical work, is bound to be conducted in Russian. As a result, within Ukraine's sports establishment the legitimacy of the Russian language in general, and of Russian sports terminology in particular, will now be reinforced – if not enshrined.

One critic of this Ukraine-Russia agreement, writing in a Lviv newspaper, remarked sarcastically that language might be the only area in which Ukrainian athletes could benefit from this joint program with Russia, because many of the Russian-speaking Ukrainian athletes still betray an undesirable Ukrainian accent.

Gallows humor may bring Ukrainians some solace, but it only underscores the gravity of the situation, as the "union" between the sports establishments of Ukraine and Russia is but one unfortunate symptom of a more general malaise threatening the independence of Ukraine.

Dr. Orest Popovych
Newark, N.J.

UNF background and current events

Dear Editor:

Further to the column "Return of the Natives" by Dr. Myron B. Kuropas (January 24): the controversy over the internal struggles for control of one of Canada's largest Ukrainian organizations, the Ukrainian National Federation, has continued for the past 35 years. Because of the Cold War and the fear of splitting or weakening this once powerful and influential organization, the issue was never fully resolved or brought to a head. Dr. Kuropas's article in *The Ukrainian Weekly* finally tells it as it happened.

The Melnykites, led by Mykola Plawiuk, always maintained and continue to maintain, as Ivan Woychshyn stated in his letter to the editor in the *New Pathway* on March 6, that the changes in UNF leadership took place according to democratic procedures approved at national conventions. This may be true, but that was not the whole story as told to me by my former father-in-law, the late Sen. Paul Yuzyk. Allow me to share some of his remarks based on our lengthy discussions and conversations.

Sen. Yuzyk was a second-generation Canadian-born Ukrainian Canadian. Although he was immensely proud of his ethnic roots and heritage, he was an equally proud Canadian patriot. For him Ukrainian Canadians were not immigrants, but equal citizens of a proud new country they had helped build. In his numerous scholarly publications and speeches in the Canadian Senate, Sen. Yuzyk emphasized the many contributions of Ukrainian Canadians in opening Canada's western prairies.

According to Sen. Yuzyk, the UNF was founded in 1932 by Ukrainian Canadian pioneers and their first-generation offspring as a non-denominational Canadian organization that would act as a counter-balance to the then powerful Communist Ukrainian Labor Farmer Temple Association. However, the organization was soon taken over by the Sichova Hromada, an organiza-

tion composed of World War I veterans with a liberal and democratic outlook, who immigrated to Canada in the 1920s. The war years and the Canadian government's total commitment to the war effort, in which Ukrainian Canadians played an important role, mitigated any internal organizational problems.

Beginning in 1947, the third wave of Ukrainian immigrants to Canada began to arrive. They were mainly displaced persons from the refugee camps in Germany, Italy, Belgium and Great Britain. This new wave was young, energetic and fiercely nationalistic, as well as anti-Communist. To them the achievement of a free and independent Ukraine was now the central issue.

As Dr. Kuropas has stated, the OUN (M), or Melnykivtsi faction, gravitated to the already established Ukrainian National Federation. For the newcomers the old immigration appeared soft and lacking initiative, while the Canadian-born generation's strong Canadian loyalty bordered on treason and a betrayal of the national cause.

The whole issue of the direction the UNF would take came to a head in 1960 when the Melnykivtsi decided to go for control. The older membership could be outvoted by sheer numbers, while the Canadian-born posed a greater problem. Some were hounded out of the organization by those who continually pointed to their inadequate knowledge of the Ukrainian language. Ukrainian usage in all organizational operations became *de rigueur*. Rather than fight with and be continually humiliated by the arrogant and articulate newcomers, many of the Canadian-born simply left.

The die-hard Canadians, such as Sen. Yuzyk and others, formed a "Committee for the Rebirth of the UNF" but were purged from the organization at a convention overwhelmingly stacked with Melnykivtsi delegates. This fact has been substantiated by Walter Klymkiw, who now resides in Winnipeg, and in a book recently published by Dr. Mykola Sukhovskiy, "Moji Spomyny" (*My Reminiscences*).

When Mr. Yuzyk was appointed to the Canadian Senate in February 1963, an embarrassed UNF national executive, hastily called a convention in Hamilton and rehabilitated the newly appointed senator.

However, Sen. Yuzyk was never allowed to play any active role in the organization, even up to his untimely death in 1986. A serious blow for him was UNF's 50th anniversary celebration in 1982. Although he was one of the organization's founders and an active member of MUNO (the youth arm of the UNF), he was neither invited to attend nor asked to speak. Instead, the banquet organizing committee invited and paid \$10,000 to Ken Winters, the hero of the Iran hostage crisis, to appear as the main speaker. (Although he received an invitation at the last minute, Sen. Yuzyk did not attend.)

Mr. Woychshyn's statement that "Mr. Plawiuk objectively valued the work of Sen. Yuzyk and that over the long years Sen. Yuzyk worked together with Mr. Plawiuk and that they helped each other in a friendly way in community and political work ..." is sheer nonsense and a blatant misrepresentation. The truth of the matter is that Sen. Yuzyk and Mr. Plawiuk hated each other and never ever found any common ground upon which they could cooperate or agree. According to Sen. Yuzyk, Mr. Plawiuk was a professional political émigré who temporary settled in Canada because he had nowhere else to go. Sen. Yuzyk placed the blame squarely on the Melnykivtsi, and upon Mr. Plawiuk, for destroying a well-established Ukrainian-Canadian organization.

If he were alive today, Sen. Yuzyk would be appalled at the antics of Mr. Plawiuk in Ukraine and the chutzpah of Plawiuk and company in attempting to seize UNF assets

in Canada and use the funds to finance their activities in Ukraine. Yes, Dr. Kuropas was correct in stating that Mr. Plawiuk descended to a new low in hypocrisy when praising the late Sen. Yuzyk who considered him to be "a thorn in his side."

George Duravetz
Winnipeg

News of papal visit prompts dismay

Dear Editor:

Following are my comments regarding the Vatican's announcement about the pope's possible visit to Ukraine. Let me state at the outset that I am a Ukrainian Catholic. Normally, a visit by the pope to Ukraine would be welcome news. However, the issues noted in the announcement, as reported by RFE/RL (February 28), prompt dismay. In view of these issues, perhaps it would be better for everyone if Pope John Paul II just stayed in Rome.

First, the Vatican's recognition of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church–Moscow Patriarchate as (the only) canonical Orthodox Church in Ukraine is highly improper. The Vatican has no right to interfere in the affairs of other Churches; it is best for the Vatican and the pope to attend to the many controversial and unresolved problems within the Roman Catholic Church itself. The issues among the Orthodox Churches must be resolved by them alone, without outside interference.

Second, the Vatican's position unnecessarily and improperly drives another wedge between Ukrainian Orthodox Churches and the Ukrainian Catholic Church. It makes reconciliation between the Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic Churches and, indeed, the faithful that much more difficult.

Also, by taking this position, the Vatican whimsically and unjustifiably submits the Ukrainian Churches and people to Moscow's supremacy, which the Vatican has no right to do. Certainly the Vatican is familiar with the dubious role the Moscow Patriarchate has played throughout history—under the tsarist and communist regimes. The pope, having fought and worked for the liberation of Poland from communism and from control by Moscow should be particularly sensitive to these issues.

Consequently, recognition of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church–Moscow Patriarchate by Vatican authorities is a direct and inexcusable affront to all Ukrainians. The position of the Vatican is even more tragic considering that it did not need to say anything at all.

This "recognition" is a political position that has nothing to do with faith or religion. Apparently the Vatican is ready to seek an accommodation with the Russian Orthodox Church at any cost, including at the expense not only of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, but of all Ukrainian Christians and the Ukrainian nation, even as it is well aware of the huge sacrifices by Ukrainian Catholics for their loyalty to Rome. Again, politics reigns supreme.

Finally, why has the Ukrainian Catholic hierarchy remained silent? Why have they not condemned or at least protested such a grossly improper, unwarranted intrusion by the Vatican in the affairs of our Orthodox brothers? How long will unquestionable, indiscriminate submission and servitude prevail even when matters of faith are not involved and when the survival of Ukrainian Churches, including the Ukrainian Catholic Church itself, is at stake? Is it too much to expect courage and leadership from our Church authorities?

Z.L. Melnyk
Cincinnati

INTERVIEWS: Reaction to settlement between Ukrainian community and CBS

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — Soon after CBS and members of the Ukrainian American community reached a settlement in the case stemming from the "60 Minutes" segment titled "The Ugly Face of Freedom," *The Ukrainian Weekly* Editor-in-Chief Roma Hadzewycz contacted key players in the Ukrainian community's anti-defamation campaign for their reaction.

The newsmagazine's segment, aired on October 23, 1994, had portrayed Ukrainians as genetically anti-Semitic and depicted Ukraine as a newly independent state where anti-Semitism appears to be rampant.

In accordance with the settlement signed on April 21, the network will pay out \$328,000 to cover the Ukrainian American petitioners' legal fees, while the petitioners will cease their lawsuits against CBS pertaining to the controversial segment. The conclusion to this four-and-a-half-year-old case came several weeks after an unprecedented meeting between top executives at CBS and representatives of major Ukrainian American community organizations.

An edited transcript of *The Weekly's* interviews (conducted via telephone) with seven persons involved in combating CBS's misinformation appears below.

The persons interviewed were:

- Arthur Belendiuk, attorney with Smithwick & Belendiuk PC, counsel for petitioner Alexander J. Serafyn and lead counsel for the Ukrainian community in its case against CBS;
- Askold Lozynskyj, an attorney who represented the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America in this case, as well as the UCCA's president;
- Bohdanna Pochoday, counsel for one of the petitioners, Oleg S. Nikolyszyn, who is an attorney of Polish-Ukrainian heritage from Providence R.I., and a member of the Ukrainian American Bar Association;
- Ulana Diachuk, president of the Ukrainian National Association, which took the initiative in reacting to "The Ugly Face of Freedom" by activating its Ukrainian Heritage Defense Committee;
- Alexander J. Serafyn of Troy, Mich., a petitioner against CBS and member of the Ukrainian National Association's General Assembly (initially a UNA advisor, now an auditor);
- William Crispin, attorney with Crispin & Brenner PLLC, co-counsel for the Serafyn petition; and
- Bohdan Vitvitsky, an attorney who is a leading activist in both the Federation of Ukrainian American Business and Professional Associations and the Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons of New York and New Jersey.

ARTHUR BELENDIUK

What can you tell our readers about the settlement meeting that took place on March 1 at CBS?

We as a community, all the people who showed up there looked professional, looked solid. We showed that we were, first, capable of litigating; second, willing to litigate; and third, that we are a community that was united towards this one goal. So CBS I think got a good eyeful that day, and a

good earful. And I think that those executives probably in their entire careers had never been spoken to that way. And I think the Ukrainian community came out and said: Hey, look, how could you have done this? What were you thinking?

I thought that when [CBS news division president Andrew] Heyward said "we stand by our story," for us to get up there and say: Look, you know, this wasn't right and you can't broadcast these kinds of things — I think he wasn't used to and didn't like being spoken to in that manner.

And I think CBS had an impression of us that it was one or two lawyers and a couple of people. What shocked them was that they had so many people come, and not only so many people — but so many people representing different organizations. I think they finally understood that there was a large enough group there that they were aware if we do this again we [the community] would be willing and able to mount an effort like this again.

The ramifications of this case do go beyond CBS. How does it affect other broadcasters? What does an NBC or an ABC looking at this case come away with?

Well, it goes on two levels. On the broader level they saw a citizens' group come in and successfully challenge a network — something that had never happened before and so everyone said: Whoa! Here's a group that can come in and do that, and that got everyone's attention. And in this case it was a Ukrainian citizens' group, so they immediately focused on the fact that it was Ukrainians and that Ukrainians were willing to litigate and to take it to the Court of Appeals.

But not only were they willing to litigate, they could litigate and win. And I think that's going to stay in the networks' corporate memory for at least the next few years. I think we clearly got the attention of all three networks. And I think they understand that Ukrainians are not going to tolerate being slandered.

Again, what the community does with that, that's going to depend on the community. The question is: Now that it's over, where do we go from here? What do you do with this case? And I think a big part of what you do is you build on that and you try to develop your relationships with the press. I mean we have an office in Washington that works with Congress and develops relationships with Congress. We have to do a similar thing with the press.

Why would the other networks really care about the outcome of this case?

We've made a path that other groups can follow. And so they wanted that path to be covered up as much as possible, and then for the FCC to sort of put up additional barriers so citizens' groups can't go in. Networks are not particularly interested in debating whether a story is true or false; their view is that they're providing stories to get people to watch. If they happen to be sensational and they get more people to watch, so much the better. And, if they happen to not be true, well that's just what you do to make money. They're not protectors of the truth, they're sellers of soap and toothpaste.

No matter how they present themselves ...

What they perceived was that now there were going to be citizens' groups that were going to hold them to a standard, however high that standard might be, but that they were going to be held to a standard when presenting the news and they didn't want that.

We felt slandered and abused by it, but the networks just saw it as: Hey, what's the big issue? We did a story and we're going to move on and we'll do a story somewhere else.

I don't want to say it wasn't personal with CBS, because when we went into that [settlement] meeting there was a certain amount of personal animosity towards Ukrainians. You were there; you saw that, too. There were a couple of elements there. They weren't happy with us because here were all these big shots that were meeting with a community group. They didn't like that. They didn't like that this community group had actually beaten them in court. And I think the third element was they didn't like this particular community group. They didn't like the Ukrainians. And I think that came out loud and clear.

So, what will their attitude be now?

They will respect us more. They know we bite.

So I think this got us to the point where they now understand that they just can't pick on Ukrainians, that there are consequences for doing it. Does that mean that they'll never do it? No. But, it's a start. Next time they're going to think about it: if we let them get away with it next time then that'll make it easier to do it again; if we protest again and raise a ruckus again it'll make it harder for them.

Part of what the community has to understand is that this is a PR effort. The community has to be out there presenting its case — both who we are here in the United States as Ukrainians and what Ukraine is about and where Ukraine is heading.

ASKOLD LOZYNKYJ

As a lawyer for the UCCA in this case, what is your reaction to the settlement?

Obviously we're not completely happy, but under the circumstances it's probably the best that could have been expected. I don't think that the monetary amount is significant, I also don't think that the statement is sufficient, but what I believe is good is that CBS essentially believes or is convinced now that the Ukrainian community will react to any future misrepresentations of the Ukrainian position or what's going on in Ukraine. And I think that in the future they will take us much more seriously because of the fact that this matter has been going on for four and a half years and they saw that the community was very intent on showing them they had made an error.

So, under the circumstances and given the fact that this did take place more than four years ago, and it's probably time to move on, I think that this is at least not an embarrassing settlement, but a decent settlement.

You keep saying under the circumstances. Would you care to elaborate?

Well, the circumstances are that CBS is an 800-pound gorilla and the Ukrainian community, though, in my opinion, it is fairly well organized and united on this particular project, does not have the financial wherewithal such that we could have pursued this matter that much further. I think that given the constraints we do have, financial and others, this was the best we could do.

You know the law isn't exactly on our side, given the fact that we were able to pursue this only under the FCC [Federal Communications Commission]; there's no possibility for a class action for slander or defamation. The only possibilities are the FCC, and the FCC is a very difficult route.

That raises another issue. Many people have said: Well, can't we sue for slander? Would you as a lawyer explain why the community as an entity cannot sue for slander?

Because, unfortunately, the law is well settled in the United States, in almost every jurisdiction of the United States, that a class action has to be very carefully defined, very limited. And a class action as wide as Ukrainians is too wide a class to constitute a class for defamation purposes.

So, it's not an easily definable group?

Yes. That's right. For example, if they had said all Ukrainian attorneys are anti-Semites or genetically anti-



Roma Hadzewycz

At a meeting at the UCCA's headquarters held to discuss the Ukrainian community's case against CBS (from left) are: Bohdanna Pochoday, Askold Lozynskyj and Bohdan Vitvitsky.

(Continued on page 9)

Reaction to settlement...

(Continued from page 8)

Semitic, or perhaps if they said all Ukrainian bishops are classically anti-Semitic genetically, the conference of Ukrainian bishops could perhaps have brought a defamation action.

What is your assessment of the CBS settlement letter? Did it go far enough?

Well, the only thing essentially that they did is they recognized the fact, or admitted the fact that they made some errors, but on the other hand they said that other facts could have substituted for the ones they had insisted upon.

The letter talks about regret. We would have liked to see some words of apology from CBS. They regret that we reacted in such a way rather than regretting that they made certain misrepresentations. So it clearly is not satisfactory, but I don't think that anybody gets public apologies from CBS, or at least with very few exceptions.

They refer to their intent in the letter...

Well, actually I don't think they had an agenda against Ukrainians. In my opinion their agenda was to provide a sensational story. And I don't think that they specifically took the Ukrainians and said we're going to do a damaging piece on them. They were aware of constant allegations that there is a relationship, probably not a very good one, between Ukrainians and Jews and they sensationalized it.

As president of the UCCA, are you pleased the UCCA was involved as one of the litigants? Would you have done it all over again?

Oh, of course, because the bottom line is that CBS learned a lesson that they dare not defame the Ukrainian community with impunity. While they're not being punished severely, nevertheless they did have more than four years of litigation and they did have to come up with the settlement.

And while it does not necessarily hurt them very much, I think that in the future they will be very much more circumspect before they put out any pieces or air any segments on the Ukrainian community or on the Ukrainian people that are defamatory.

BOHDANNA POCHODAY

What is your opinion of the settlement of this case?

As a Ukrainian American and as an attorney involved in the case I have a somewhat different analysis and viewpoint of the settlement depending on which hat I wear. As a Ukrainian American, just like the majority of Ukrainian Americans, I was really offended and horrified to see the misrepresentations and distorted facts in the "60 Minutes" segment. As an attorney, I have to analyze the case from a very different perspective.

Certainly as an individual I would have expected from CBS at a very minimum a meeting with our community, with our historians, to get an explanation of how they got their facts and why they aired the facts they used in the program. I expected a public apology in the same medium – that is, on television – apologizing for the facts that they eventually had admitted to some extent were inaccurate. And also I expected a promise they would produce a well-balanced piece in the future on present-day Ukraine and the government's position toward Jews and other minorities.

And I also expected they would do something to make the Ukrainian community whole in light of the negative adverse effects that we as Ukrainian Americans have suffered after millions of people had viewed this program. I can say that they have not met with our historians and to this very day they have not issued a public apology in the same medium. And they certainly have not agreed to do a future program on current-day Ukraine.

And they used the argument of First Amendment freedom and freedom of the press and freedom to produce whatever programs they should desire in the future. I think they're hiding under that argument in order to avoid admitting to the distorted facts that were indeed, in my opinion, present in that 20-minute news segment.

As an attorney I can say that both the CBS and FCC parties have been extremely embarrassed by the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. I think they were quite shocked to find out they were not on the winning end of that particular decision. So to that extent it was a procedural victory for the litigants; also for the Ukrainian community it was very much like David conquering Goliath. CBS did have to outlay, I'm sure, thousands of dollars in funds to defend both the FCC proceedings and the Court of Appeals proceedings. They had hired one of the most respected FCC attorneys in Washington to represent their interests, and that certainly was an indication



Arthur Belendiuk makes a point during a meeting with community leaders. William Crispin looks on.

of how seriously they started to take the case once it approached the appellate level.

They have made certain factual concessions in the settlement agreement itself. On the other hand, I'm quite disappointed because they continue to maintain that they stand by their story and they bolster their position by maintaining that they never intended to imply that Ukrainians are genetically anti-Semitic and that it was all of the Ukrainians who committed atrocities or injustices to the Jewish people. I wish they went on record with those concepts.

I felt that the settlement letter that was provided by Louis Briskman, general counsel to CBS, was an insufficient medium and that they should have taken a step further and aired it on television because the original program was viewed by millions of people. The impact of millions viewing the program was much larger than a limited audience reading in the Ukrainian press the letter that was written by the general counsel.

And who will see that letter ultimately?

To some extent I'm sure that the communications industry is going to be aware; they have been aware of this particular decision on the Court of Appeals level and there has been talk within the communications community. CBS was very much embarrassed because they felt that they could have gotten rid of the Ukrainian American community a long time ago. And I think four and a half years later they are surprised that we still were available to pursue our deep-seated interest and feelings about this program. I think the Ukrainian community should be aware that this is probably the closest we've ever come to protect our interest as a group in cases of news distortion and defamation of our good name. Other groups have not been afraid, nor should we as a Ukrainian American community be afraid or too timid to have our voices heard.

And I hope these CBS proceedings have served to send a clear message to the television and radio programs that we are not an easy group to trample, we will not take it, and David does sometimes win.

ULANA DIACHUK

Since you are a community leader, we are interested in your reaction to the settlement reached with CBS.

To some extent we knew this was forthcoming, but I would say there has to be closure to every subject matter, to every action. And I am not happy because we as a community did not attain what we were trying to get out of this case.

The community supported and our organization, the Ukrainian National Association, spearheaded this drive, first of all, to get an apology from CBS, because we were slandered as genetically anti-Semitic. And that has not been accomplished. What we received was a statement saying, well, we are sorry that you took it the way you took it; that was not meant. It's not an apology per se and I, for one, do not accept it in such a way.

Secondly, they have not admitted any misinformation that was in the segment even though in talking to us [at the settlement meeting] they gave us to understand that some errors did creep into the segment. For us these were major errors. But they would not correct them as journalists are supposed to do if they find that an error was made. In that respect we did not get what we were looking for.

We also have come to the conclusion that whatever CBS had promised us they never kept their word, for example, to have a second segment on Ukraine [a promise made earlier by CBS], that they would ask for advisers for such a segment, or to at least have some contact with the Ukrainian community if there is a segment on Ukraine coming up. Such a segment did not appear, and I doubt that ever in the future they will hold to that promise to seek our professors or advisers. I feel that once this case is off their books they will do as they please, as they have done until now, and there is not much we can expect from them.

On the one hand, we had to close this matter because our community was no longer able to support the legal expenses involved in litigation and we had come to the conclusion that we had to accept a settlement and proceed. On the other hand, I think CBS is going to be more careful about what they are going to present, even though they will probably never ask us to guide them in any way.

How was the UNA involved in this case?

The UNA, through its Ukrainian Heritage Defense Fund, spearheaded this action and provided substantial financial backing for the litigation. The Ukrainian Heritage Defense Committee was reactivated within days after the broadcast had occurred. The executive committee – our vice-president, Nestor Olesnycky, took the lead role – decided to call a meeting of community activists to unite the community around our Heritage Defense Committee.

We continued planning and meeting with other activists and other committees, including the UCCA and the Ukrainian Human Rights Committee based in Philadelphia. As you know, the Ukrainian Heritage Defense Committee also published ads in newspapers and did a lot of PR work by sending press kits and other documents to the most important news media in the United States.

ALEXANDER SERAFYN

As one of the petitioners, would you share your reaction to the settlement?

I feel that we had gone with the case as far as we could. The contents of the settlement, of course, are not to my satisfaction and I don't think to anybody's satisfaction. I wish they [CBS] would have apologized, but, as you know from the [settlement] meeting, they were not moving in that direction at all, and they defended their position.

That settlement meeting, how do you feel the Ukrainian group presented its case?

If we talk about what we have gained – it's that we made a strong presentation at the settlement meeting. Perhaps we focused too much on the past, and not on the future, but this overemphasis may result in CBS remembering our strong opposition and, when it comes to an issue dealing with Ukraine or making a decision to cover something about Ukraine, they will remember the discussion at the meeting and our strong opposition to their bias and hopefully will avoid it by acting differently in the future. Decision-makers who know about this case will be mindful of us in any future decisions.

Let's go back to the beginning of the case, how did

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“With Fire and Sword” depicts Kozak war against Poland

by Yuri Shevchuk

NEW YORK – It would be difficult to cite a relatively recent film about Ukraine, whose characters speak Ukrainian and that has all the essential ingredients of a blockbuster: big names, big budget and big buzz, both national and international.

Such a film has yet to be made in Ukraine. This improbable combination, however, describes a new Polish film “With Fire and Sword” that premiered on March 18 in New York City at the Ziegfeld Theater and is now being shown in the New York metropolitan area and other U.S. cities with large Polish communities.

The film, which depicts the Kozak war led by Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky against Poland, promises to become a major event not only in Poland, but also in Ukraine and among Ukrainians.

“I did not try to add anything to [Henryk] Sienkiewicz, I simply read him very carefully,” noted Jerzy Hoffman, the Polish director of the film which is based on the novel by the same title.

Yet the impression a Ukrainian cinema-goer is left with after viewing Hoffman’s chef-d’oeuvre is exactly the opposite from what the director would have us believe. Those who expect to be treated to a hefty dose of Sienkiewicz’s typical anti-Ukrainian stereotypes that “endear” this Polish author to earlier generations of Ukrainians will most likely be disappointed. Hoffman’s supposedly “faithful reading” of the text is in fact a peculiar interpretation by the director who seems hopelessly divided between his love for the Ukrainophobic Sienkiewicz on the one hand, and his fascination with, and personal connection to, Ukraine on the other.

At a press conference after the first screening of the film in New York, Mr. Hoffman spoke about his personal involvement with Ukraine. His late wife was born in Kyiv, he has many friends in the city and over the decades has visited it on different occasions. The movie not

Yuri Shevchuk is on the editorial staff of the newspaper Svoboda. He is an instructor of the Ukrainian language at the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute. He holds a doctoral degree in German and philology from Kyiv State University and an M.A. in political science from the New School in New York.



M. Manikowski

One of the many raging battle scenes that bring to life the great Kozak war against the Polish Commonwealth led by Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky.

only abounds in things Ukrainian but, unlike its literary progenitor, unabashedly celebrates Ukraine in its many manifestations: language, folk song and dance, costume and the legend of Kozakdom. (In this sense, Ukrainians still have to do themselves the credit done them by Jerzy Hoffman).

It is futile to look for historical accuracy, for real historical figures and events chronicled in “With Fire and Sword.” The movie brings to mind the words attributed to Alexandre Dumas, the French 19th century novelist much admired by generations of Ukrainian readers: “For me, history is but a nail on which I hang my pictures.”

Mr. Hoffman defines his work as the “Polish-Ukrainian version of ‘Gone With the Wind,’ a story of great passions, of human fates thrown into the tragic whirlpool of a civil war.” A young Polish nobleman, Jan Skrzetuski (Michal Zebrowski), traveling to Ukraine to join the court of Prince Jeremi Wisniowiecki (Andrzej Seweryn) meets a beautiful but poor noblewoman, Helena Kurcewiczowna (Izabella Scorupco), and falls in love with her at first sight. Helena, however,

has already been promised as a wife to the Ukrainian nobleman Yurko Bohun (Aleksandr Domogarov) who stops at nothing to make sure that the promise is kept. Helena does not love Bohun, she loves Skrzetuski. The two men lock in a bitter rivalry for Kurcewiczowna’s hand.

In their pursuit of the precious prize they become directly involved in the epic events of the time of the great Kozak war against the Polish Commonwealth led by Khmelnytsky. Skrzetuski fights on the side of the Polish Commonwealth, and Bohun – if only tangentially – on the side of the Kozak rebels.

The film offers a full menu of attributes obligatory for a historical costume drama: jewels, armor and richly embroidered attire, lavish feasts and fierce fights, mounted chases and marching troops, glorious victories and bloody defeats, spectacular scenery and much more that immediately transport the viewers into the carefully created atmosphere of the time, makes them relish the past that never was.

Yet for all declared disengagement of the film from politics, a Ukrainian American viewer, sensitive toward the Polish-Ukrainian past, will most certainly see politics even where it was not intentional by either Mr. Hoffman or Bohdan Stupka, the renowned Ukrainian actor chosen to play Khmelnytsky, perhaps the most politically loaded character in the production.

From its very inception this film project was destined to become controversial, highly controversial, thanks mainly to its politically charged literary source, Sienkiewicz’s novel.

Sienkiewicz, born in 1846, is best known for his vivid historical novels, such as “Quo Vadis?” for which he received the 1905 Nobel Prize in Literature. His popular trilogy “With Fire and Sword” that glorified the Polish struggle for national existence is replete with negative stereotypes of Ukraine and Ukrainians.

Prof. George Grabowicz of Harvard noted: “Sienkiewicz is interesting as a representative of post-Romantic treatment of the subject, which was perhaps the most important for Polish Romanticists. Polish Romanticism begins with interest in Ukraine. For all Polish Romanticists, with the exception of Adam Mickiewicz, this was a very

interesting subject. For them Ukraine was an exotic land from which emanated some enigmatic, mysterious and very powerful energy – Kozakdom.

“For Romanticists it was a source of inspiration and, in terms of psychoanalysis, something the Indians call the ‘shadow.’ Each shadow also has great power and energy. Sienkiewicz demonizes this energy. In his novel it becomes a vision of some dark, unholy energy. His vision is Manichean in nature, i.e., it is an opposition of good and evil. The good is the noblemen’s Poland, the evil is the dark, wild Ukrainian Kozak and peasant element.”

Despite his claims to the contrary, Mr. Hoffman dramatically departs from Sienkiewicz’s depiction of Ukraine. True, some Ukrainians in some scenes, particularly in the Sich, are represented as an unruly and wild mob, about to lynch their own leader. But it is also true that the Kozaks are shown as victorious over the Poles, most of the time. They are not only selfless, brave in battle and fiercely loyal, but also noble. Ukraine finds a whole array of representations in the film: in particular characters – central like Khmelnytsky and Bohun, or peripheral, like the witch Horypyna (Ruslana Pysanka) or the Kozaks; in folk songs and dance; and in breathtaking views of nature. The image of Ukraine is complex and multi-faceted; it cannot be reduced to a single denominator, whether positive or negative.

In Hoffman’s “With Fire and Sword,” Ukraine and Ukrainians are vivid rather than monochromatic; they are multi-dimensional, eliciting more than one feeling of, say, fascination or dislike.

Yurko Bohun, for example, is a symbol of all-consuming love that borders on the murderous. His desire for Kurcewiczowna blinds him to the point of self-destruction. Nothing else seems to matter. His all-encompassing feeling is his one and only motive. Woe to anyone who dares cross his path – Pole or Ukrainian, nobleman or peasant – his anger is terrifying. He gets his head bloodied on many occasions, but it always stays unbowed. There is definitely something of the “shadow” in Bohun – dark and menacing. Yet there is also something breathtaking and beautiful in his refusal to play by the rules.

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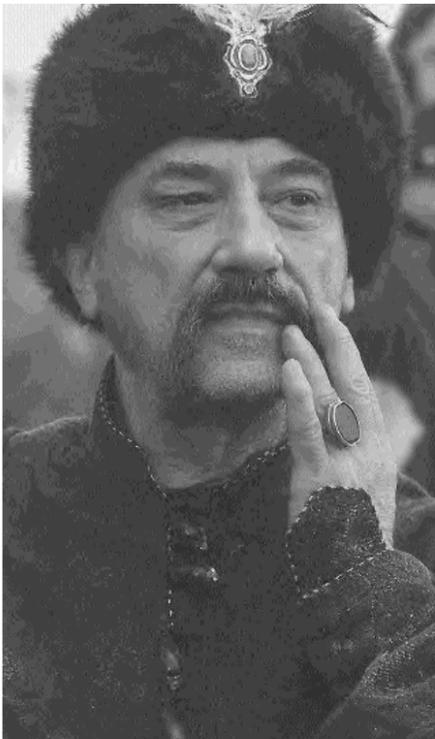
A scene with Aleksandr Domogarov in the role of the Ukrainian nobleman Yurko Bohun and Isabella Scorupco as Helena Kurcewiczowna.

"With Fire and Sword" ...

(Continued from page 10)

Bohun's antithesis is Khmelnytsky. He is a statesman – sly and calculating, resolute and ruthless with the enemy, and ingratiating with an ally. It is emblematic of the film how Mr. Hoffman presents a historical actor so polarizing for the ethnic communities involved. For Ukrainians Khmelnytsky has been a great if tragic person, a metaphor of the almost fulfilled promise of liberty, statehood and national dignity. For Poles he is a traitor motivated by petty vindictiveness; for Jews – a bloodthirsty villain.

"I would be a criminal if I tried to unbury the hatchet of war between Poland and Ukraine," said the Polish director, explaining his philosophy towards making the film. "This would be unconscionable. We all know what the Polish-Ukrainian wars led to. Fortunately, today we are neighbors, two independent nations. On the eve of our entrance to Europe we should think of how to extend each other a friendly hand." And a friendly hand Hoffman does extend. "I had complete artistic license in playing Khmelnytsky," said Mr. Stupka. One can hardly resist the symbolism behind the story of Hoffman's decision to offer the part of Khmelnytsky to Mr. Stupka, perhaps today's most famous Ukrainian actor. Mr. Hoffman met Stupka during com-



Renowned Ukrainian actor Bohdan Stupka in the role of Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky.



The film's director, Jerzy Hoffman.

memorative events in 1991 of the Babyn Yar massacre in Kyiv and several years afterwards telephoned him from Warsaw and offered him the role of the Kozak hetman. "It was quite obvious for me that Kozaks should be played by Ukrainian actors," said Mr. Hoffman. "I had no doubt about that." An invitation to participate in the production was extended also to Ruslana Pysanka, an actress and popular TV personality in Ukraine.

Irrespective of Mr. Hoffman's original intention, "With Fire and Sword" has become the most recent example of Polish-Ukrainian cooperation that promises to benefit Ukrainian cinema simultaneously in a number of aspects – on the level of deeply rooted psychological stereotypes, for example. Generations of Ukrainians have persistently been fed the idea of their inherent cultural inferiority. One of the "packagings" of this idea was that Ukrainian culture is somehow insufficient without Russian culture. This self-perception took deep root in the national psyche. It sometimes takes another nation to reveal the treasures of the oppressed culture. It takes a Jerzy Hoffman to show Ukrainians, and incidentally the rest of the world, what fine actors they have, and Mr. Stupka is just one example. Whether or not "With Fire and Sword" will promote Ukrainian culture and language in Ukraine remains to be seen. But it has already started doing so in Poland and elsewhere where it is being shown.

At the press conference on the occasion of film's first screening in New York, production team members spoke quite openly of their ambitions. The film is going to be promoted for an Oscar nomination in the foreign language category. It is now being shown beyond the selected program at the world's most prestigious film festival at Cannes; Mr. Stupka flew to Cannes to participate in the presentation.

By the standards of today's commercial success, "With Fire and Sword" has more than enough prerequisites to claim recognition beyond Poland. The film boasts the biggest budget in the history of Polish motion pictures – a mind-boggling \$8 million. In Poland it proved a bigger box-office hit than "Titanic." As of today the three-hour movie has been seen by more than 6 million spectators, or almost every fifth Pole. This alone indicates a huge favorable PR campaign for Ukraine and Ukrainian culture in Poland. Mr. Stupka said the film's favorable impact was already visible during his latest visit to Poland when he appeared in the play "Letters of a Madman." Many people came from as far as Warsaw (he performed in the eastern part of the country) just to see the actor who had played Khmelnytsky in this blockbuster.

The other aspect of the film's benefit to Ukrainian cinema is purely pragmatic. The production history of Mr. Hoffman's movie might show the moribund Ukrainian cinema the path of salvation from impending death. For the first time ever a Polish commercial bank provided a loan for production of a film in expectation of its commercial success, and it was rewarded. The film's success in post-Soviet Poland proves that there indeed can be life after state subsidies to culture.

Mr. Stupka, visibly inspired by this spectacular breakthrough, said that all the ingredients for an epic Ukrainian film meant for mass consumption exist: a good production team headed by the director Yuriy Illienko, fine actors and a "fantastic script" about a fascinating man, Ivan Mazepa. However, there is no money. To realize the project a measly

REVIEW: "With Fire and Sword" from the historical perspective

by Dr. Frank Sysyn

NEW YORK – I have just endured three hours of Jerzy Hoffman's film rendition of Henryk Sienkiewicz's famous (or infamous) novel "With Fire and Sword," the first volume of his trilogy. As the biographer of Adam Kysil, a specialist on the Khmelnytsky era, and the editor of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's *History of Ukraine-Rus'*, I admit I am not the average viewer. I also should point out that before the film appeared, I wrote a piece in *Gazeta Wyborcza* with my Lviv colleague Iaroslav Hrytsak outlining how much damage the novel, published in 1883, had done to Polish-Ukrainian relations and voicing concern at what would be the impact of the film.

After having viewed the film, I am much less concerned, though not for the obvious attempts to introduce political correctness in the film. Rather I believe that the modern viewer is so far removed from the taste of Sienkiewicz and that the cinematic sketch so highlights the juvenile aspects of the novel that the film is little likely to shape any world views.

For end-of-the-20th-century Ukrainian and Poles, and still more for their diasporas, it may be worthwhile to recount what all the fuss surrounding this film is about. Sienkiewicz wrote his trilogy in the latter part of the 19th century at a time after the failure of Polish insurrections of 1831 and 1863 had created an atmosphere of despair. He chose another period of great trial for Poland, the middle of the 17th century, to recount in his Walter Scott-like novels. Incorporating pieces of documents just then being published as well as the work of Polish historians, he created a historical epic and a cast of characters that lived on in the minds of generations of Poles. His trilogy imbued patriotism in Polish youth, particularly in the period before the resurrection of the Polish state in 1918, but also during World War II and Communist rule.

Whatever subsequent historians wrote did little to change the potency of Sienkiewicz's image. An attack on the historical accuracy of Sienkiewicz was seen as an attack on Polish nationhood. Thus, when the Polish historian Olgierd Gorka argued in the 1930s that since Polish statehood was now restored it would be advisable to unmask the historical legends and false heroes of Sienkiewicz (above all Jeremi Wisniowiecki-Iarema Vyshnevetsky), he unleashed a storm of controversy in which many eminent Polish historians still defended Sienkiewicz as an authority on Polish history.

In turn, generations of Ukrainians viewed Sienkiewicz as a purveyor of hatred and falsehood. The trilogy deals with the Polish struggle against Swedes, Russians, Tatars and others as well, but only for Polish-Ukrainian relations is Sienkiewicz an apple of discord. The Khmelnytsky uprising, which Hrushevsky described as comparable in significance for the

Ukrainians to the Reformation for the Germans or the French Revolution for all Europe, was a touchstone of Ukrainian identity from the hetman's panegyrist of the 17th century to writers and historians of the 20th.

By refocusing Polish national mythology on this period, Sienkiewicz inevitably put it in conflict with Ukrainian national mythology. Ignoring Polish social and religious oppression of the Ukrainians, Sienkiewicz portrayed the rebels as a primitive riffraff and saw no positive consequences of the great revolt. As the dominant Poles of Galicia in the Austrian period and interwar-Poland rammed Sienkiewicz down the throats of captive Ukrainian students, they in fact inculcated the deepest disdain for the writer.

In Communist Poland the first of two parts of the trilogy – "Pan Wolodjowski" and "The Deluge" (Potop) – appeared as films and now in the age of independent Ukraine and independent Poland, part one of the trilogy, that even Ukrainophobic Communist Poland did not permit, has been filmed. Reflecting the new relations between the peoples and the policy of the director, great care has been taken in casting and text to assuage Ukrainian sensitivities. Bohdan Stupka plays Khmelnytsky and Ruslana Pysanka appears as Horpyna. Much Ukrainian is spoken in the film and Ukrainian music pervades the score, though of standard folkloric rather than an authentic bardic *duma* type. Wisniowiecki emerges as the only figure who analyzes events and situations, even discussing social questions. Barbarity on the Polish side is illustrated.

Yet with all this, many Ukrainians will be troubled by the film. With the exception of Khmelnytsky, the Kozaks emerge as the stereotypical primitives of Polish legend. The film revels in this aspect of the popular uprising rather than the sophisticated Kozak elite of men like Mykhailo Krychevsky and Ivan Vyhovsky who assisted Khmelnytsky in setting up the Kozak Hetmanate. Religious persecution of Orthodoxy is not shown. The answer is simple. These aspects like other political, cultural, religious and national liberating aspects of the revolt are not in Sienkiewicz. But in replacing Sienkiewicz with political correctness and new sensitivities, the director retains the traditional Polish vision of the war as a senseless struggle among brothers.

The final comments at the end of the film on the abolition of the Crimean Khanate (by the way, Crimean Tatars will have much to protest over their depiction), the Zaporozhian Sich, and the commonwealth by Catherine II at the end of the 18th century as the consequence of senseless war. Indeed the passage seems to be echoing Shevchenko. Yet history is never so simple. While bad for the commonwealth, the revolt engendered the Kozak Hetmanate, Ukrainian baroque and the Ukrainian rebirth of the late 17th and early 18th centuries.

While I doubt those not steeped in Sienkiewicz will care much about whether Bohun or Skrzetuski gets the girl (indeed Helena is a cardboard fig-

(Continued on page 18)

Dr. Frank Sysyn is Visiting Peter Jacyk Professor of Ukrainian Studies at Columbia University in New York and director of the Peter Jacyk Center for Historical Research at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies in Edmonton.

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Business in brief

(Continued from page 3)

and grapes are also not expected to be as numerous this year as in previous years. Such freezing cold temperatures in May are have not been recorded for over 50 years. (Eastern Economist)

Order for 500 domestic harvesters in 1999

KYIV - The industrial policy and agro-industrial complex ministries were instructed by the Cabinet of Ministers to produce 250 Lan and 250 Slavutych grain combines in 1999. Fifty harvesters of each model must be ready by June 1. Oblast administrations were instructed to set up in 1999 at least one harvester station equipped with 10 pieces of domestic harvesting and other farm equipment. Production and purchasing of 250 Lans and Slavutyches will be funded from central state capital investment funds that are earmarked for new machinery production and combine purchases. Grain harvesters will be sold to farms on leasing terms. (Eastern Economist)

Modernized rocket launch successful

KYIV - The first successful launch of the updated ICBM SS-18 Dnipro rocket, formerly called Satan and modernized for commercial purposes, was conducted on April 21, said Oleksander Nehoda, director of the National Space Agency of Ukraine. He added that the modernization was conducted by the Russian-Ukrainian JV KosmosTrans, which plans to modernize around 150 Dnipro rockets which, according to arms limitation agreements, are set to be destroyed. Mr. Nehoda stated that during the trial launch that Dnipro carried a British satellite weighing 320 kilograms. He added that the Dnipro is capable of carrying into orbit up to five tons at half the price of any of its competitors. A December Dnipro launch is planned to carry a Ukrainian satellite. Ukraine has conducted a total of 50 launches since independence, and in next five years Ukraine is set to launch another four new rockets. (Eastern Economist)

Dnipro rocket on international market

BRIGHAM CITY, Utah - Thiokol Propulsion, a division of Cordant Technologies Inc., is facilitating discussions between U.S. aerospace firms and KosmosTrans to utilize the Russian-Ukrainian Dnipro rocket in future launches. Thiokol Propulsion initiated business relationships with Ukraine and Russia back in 1993 as part of several threat reduction programs and in an effort to establish relations with the top aerospace companies in the former Soviet Union. Joint work on the Dnipro program began in 1995. (Eastern Economist)

Uzbek, Ukrainian airlines in new alliance

KYIV - In order to improve cooperation in the airline industry, the national carriers of Uzbekistan and Ukraine on April 29 signed an agreement in Tashkent on forming a new "CIS-Alliance" air system, Interfax reported. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kharkiv military plant switches to harvesters

KHARKIV - The state-owned Malyshev Plant, famous for its military technologies, has begun production of Bizon BS-Z 110 harvesters. The production line was established via a contract with the international New Holland corporation for joint manufacture of grain harvester equipment. A representative of the plant stated that production of 13 harvesters is planned before the harvesting season gets under way later this year. Currently only 15 percent of the harvester's components are made in Ukraine, but by 2003 all of the machine's parts are to be manufactured domestically. The planned annual production capacity is 2,000 units. (Eastern Economist)

McDonald's celebrates second birthday

KYIV - McDonald's Ukraine celebrated its second anniversary in Ukraine by introducing the McChicken sandwich on April 29. "During the two-year activity of McDonald's in Ukraine, the company opened 20 restaurants, with over 12 million visitors," said Petro Hnatiuk, public relations director of McDonald's. In 1998, McDonald's invested \$12 million (U.S.) into developing their infrastructure of restaurants, which placed the company in fourth among all foreign investors in Ukraine, said Mr. Hnatiuk. He added that in 1998 the company paid 11 million hrv in taxes - five times more than in 1997. The corporation's strategic priority is support for domestic producers, continued Mr. Hnatiuk. All contractor companies involved in constructing new restaurants are Ukrainian. The company also receives lettuce, cucumbers and milk mixes from Ukrainian suppliers, he added. This year, McDonald's plans to open 15 new restaurants in nine cities. Investment allocated for these purposes totals \$15 million (U.S.). (Eastern Economist)

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

Vernadsky's publications served as the epicenter of the establishment's ruminations over the abolition of serfdom (which came in 1861). He believed that the newly emancipated serfs should be afforded total economic and social freedom and a loosening of the fetters of "obshchiny" (collective communities).

Vernadsky also argued for the economic emancipation of women: he supported allowing them into the labor force and championed their rights to equal pay. He argued for legalization of prostitution whose practitioners, he contended, exercised an important social function and merited humane treatment, medical attention and even effective unions. Vernadsky's periodicals took strong stands against anti-Semitism and the havoc caused in the environment by the rapid pace of industrialization and urbanization.

In 1868 he was forced to leave St. Petersburg because of a heart condition and chose to travel to Kharkiv, where he became director of the State Bank's local branch. Upon his retirement in 1876 he returned to St. Petersburg, where he died on March 27, 1884.

Sources: "Vernadsky, Ivan," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine, Vol. 5* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993); Ivan Koropecykyj, "Ukrainskyi Ekonomist Ivan Vernadskyi," *Journal of Ukrainian Studies, Vol. 9, No. 2* (Winter 1984).

Ukrainian heritage study center inaugurated at U. of Saskatchewan

SASKATOON – The Prairie Center for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage was formally inaugurated during a dinner held at the Faculty Club at the University of Saskatchewan on April 17. The event was attended by 120 guests at the invitation of Dr. John Thompson, president of St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan.

Speaking to the gathering, Dr. Thompson described the effort and negotiations between the university and Ukrainian community of Saskatchewan which led to a partnership and the creation of the Prairie Center, an academic unit within St. Thomas More College. The Center will assess the Ukrainian Canadian experience and provide a learning environment committed to university-based instruction and research, as well as to the development of skills among young graduates who elect work within the community, explained Dr. Thompson.

The discussions that led to the creation of the Prairie Center identified four objectives that collectively define its mandate:

- to engage the public in order to bring about a fuller understanding and appreciation of the national role that Ukrainian Canadians have played;
- to broaden the interest in Ukrainian Canadian heritage by presenting it in a wider national context;
- to assist Ukrainian Canadians, through education and community development, in their ability both to adapt and contribute to Canada's national culture in the 21st century; and
- to bridge and enhance the natural connection between this important community and academia, while promoting the idea of living heritage as a vital and necessary component for its continuing viability and growth.

The inaugural ceremony also offered an opportunity to recognize publicly the commitment of Dr. Stephen and Michelene Worobetz to the Prairie Center as founders. Dr. Worobetz, a former lieutenant governor of Saskatchewan, commented that this was "a dream realized." He expressed his personal confidence that with "the promise of time" the Prairie Center would fulfill its mandate.

Dr. Thompson acknowledged the generosity of the Worobetz family and more generally the support of the Ukrainian Canadian community. "The personal, financial and political support of the community has been extremely gratifying," he

said. "It points to the strong enthusiasm for both the project and the unprecedented university-community alliance upon which the center is based."

Sen. Raynell Andreychuk, a member of the board of honorary patrons, offered her greetings on behalf of the board. Addressing the audience, the Canadian senator highlighted the important role the Prairie Center will play in conveying the historical contribution of Ukrainian Canadians to the national life of the country to a larger portion of the public.

She also emphasized the role the center will play in reinforcing Canadian multiculturalism in the context of responsible citizenship. "The center will enhance our knowledge of a people who helped build a country in which the quality of life is unsurpassed. Their story and their contribution needs to be told both as a model and example of how diversity can work in building a strong national community," she stated.

Walter Podiluk a member of the center's advisory board and a key supporter of the initiative, shared with the audience his sense of the project's importance, characterizing it as "unique" and as an important milestone in the life of the community.

After the reception, Adrian Boyko, an advisory board member and former president of the Saskatchewan Provincial Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, expressed his view that the partnership with the university, which brought together important sectors of the community, is extremely significant. Noting the level of cooperation between the university and the Catholic and Orthodox communities, he stated, "The Prairie Center is an example of how to make effective use of the community's resources. It also represents a model for future possibilities across the country." Mr. Boyko added, "I strongly believe that this will serve as a catalyst in community development. I am hopeful for the future."

During the evening ceremony Dr. Thompson also introduced Dr. Bohdan Kordan, professor of political studies, as the new director of the Prairie Center for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage. In his inaugural remarks, Prof. Kordan spoke briefly about its goals, mandate and activities, and encouraged public support for the initiative.

For further information, please contact Dr. Kordan, (306) 653-5178.

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A Kennedy...

(Continued from page 5)

contest that pits him against Annamarie Castrilli, who recently defected to the PCs from the Liberals, and Irene Atkinson, a Tory candidate in the past who is running for the NDP.

Reasons for politics

In an interview at his headquarters on May 17, Mr. Kennedy told The Weekly he sees politics as public service akin to that performed at the Daily Bread Food Bank,

"I'd like to see a little bit more respect brought into politics, attract people who wouldn't traditionally engage themselves to get involved," the member of parliament said, adding "I think there's a lassitude among people in Ontario that is not yet dangerous, but certainly damaging."

He pointed out that his campaign command center has "no back rooms" and said it was a symbol of how he represents constituents and hopes to govern. He said his experience at food banks taught him to be a "civic translator" for various contending groups and to bring the sense of social responsibility out of people who have become accustomed to act on their self interest.

Not surprisingly, as his party's health critic, Mr. Kennedy is harsh about the Harris government's record on health care, a publicly funded matter of pride for Canadians. On the morning of May 18, at the entrance to Queensway Hospital, he joined four local Liberal candidates in a continued string of appearances outside the province's medical facilities to highlight their plight.

Under the Harris government's austerity measures, several major hospitals in Ontario have been closed or merged, and as a result, thousands of medical and support staff have been laid off.

Funding cuts recently forced the Queensway to shut its emergency ward; it is being "closed down on the inside," Mr. Kennedy said, evidence of the Harris government's ongoing assault on the province's medical service and psychiatric hospitals. The candidate asserted that St. Joseph's Hospital, his riding's principal health care institution, is also buckling under substantial cuts.

Ontario has been rocked by increasingly effective protests from its nurses after years of dramatic downsizing, prompting the government to commit to rehiring about 2,000 province-wide.

On May 18, Mr. Kennedy launched a blistering counter-attack, charging that, based on a reading of a report prepared by the Tory-sponsored Health Services Restructuring Commission, Premier Harris intends to fire over 7,000 nurses if he is re-elected, over and above Health Minister Elizabeth Witmer's election-time conciliatory measures.

PC officials have hotly denied these charges, but offered no assurances about freezing layoffs of nurses.

Mr. Kennedy claimed Mr. Harris failed to properly allocate \$1 billion in transfer payments from the federal government, and that a Liberal administration in the province would see to it that the \$600 million directed elsewhere would be reapplied to health.

Mr. Kennedy said the health care regime is forcing individual doctors to make more and more decisions as to where to direct individual patients for care but increasingly excludes them from opportunities to affect how the system works as a whole because government has entirely usurped this role.

He advocated the creation of Health Quality Councils in which doctors and nurses would participate in evaluating care being provided in a particular area and making recommendations as to how it should be maintained or improved.

Mr. Kennedy claimed the Harris government is pushing the province's system towards privatization. "People who go in

for surgery are being pushed out of hospitals quicker and sicker. You might get some community care, but it will almost always be less than you require.

"At that juncture, suddenly we have a different health care system," Mr. Kennedy explained, "You're not in a doctor's office, you're not in a hospital [since the services of both have been cut back], you're not covered by the Canada Health Act, and you have a choice: go without, or purchase it on your own - that is privatization."

Mr. Kennedy said that in the area of social assistance, institutions such as the Ukrainian Canadian Social Services should receive more direct government funding because of their ability to function in a specific environment.

"There are many elderly people in this riding who have paid taxes throughout their lifetime, who now need home care in their own language, for example, Ukrainian, Polish, Lithuanian," Mr. Kennedy said.

"We have to build what I call social entrepreneurship. We need to attract the same kind of creativity, the same kind of energy and the same kind of resources available in the private sector and delivering some of what government has to do," the candidate urged.

"It's not about throwing money at things," Mr. Kennedy said, "it's about looking around and using the civic infrastructure that's already there properly."

Heritage language instruction

Mr. Kennedy criticized both sides of the education system, the local boards and the Education Ministry, for eliminating instruction in Ukrainian in many of the city's schools. "Mike Harris is responsible because he has taken money away from the boards [Toronto Board of Education and the Toronto Separate (Catholic) School Board], but they have responded by considering heritage language instruction as a frill."

"Heritage language should be a mandated program in the schools, and it shouldn't be something the boards can pull whenever the money gets tight," the MPP said. "It belongs in the school, and it's not something that should be done catch as catch can outside of it."

"On the same basis that we support French as an official language, we should support heritage language programs as a mainstream part of the curriculum where numbers warrant," he added.

"Yes, [the Toronto Board's] hands have been tied by Mr. Harris, yes his funding formula for education is a bad idea and restrictive, but I haven't heard anybody at [any] board make it a great big issue. That advocacy should be there," Mr. Kennedy said.

The candidate explained his view of education: "It should help people become better citizens by sharpening their knowledge and critical thinking, as well as giving them a strong sense of themselves. That can only happen if we pay due respect to people reaching their potential culturally as well as in the more ordinary fashion."

OSI opens new case...

(Continued from page 5)

Twenty-two years later, after a death penalty in Israel, it turned out that the government had committed fraud from the very beginning. We only hope it doesn't take another 22 years to prove the government wrong once again."

Regarding the evidence behind the new lawsuit, Mr. Nishnic said: "The 'new' allegations are nothing new. Most of the information was in the Justice Department's possession as far back as the late 1970s, but did not fit into the OSI's 'Ivan' theory. The other information was considered in Israel and, according to the attorney general in Israel, was not strong enough to warrant such a conviction, and they chose not to proceed with a case."

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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Cited for 10 years of public service

HARWOOD HEIGHTS, Ill. — Andrew Skyba, trustee of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District, was honored on April 7 by the Norwood Park Township Regular Republican Organization for 10 years of public service. Mr. Skyba was re-elected to that post during the April 13 elections. More than 100 persons attended the testimonial dinner at the Suparossa, which also featured candidates running for local office and elected officials.

Mr. Skyba is an active member of the Ukrainian community, most notably the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, as chairman of the Illinois chapter, and the Ukrainian National Association, which he serves as advisor, Chicago district secretary and secretary of Branch 399 (Lions).

Mr. Skyba is active also in the local Ukrainian Independence Day Committee and the Ukrainian-American Chamber of Commerce, is a charter member of the Ukrainian Famine Commission and a member of the Friends of the Ukrainian

Consulate Committee.

He has been a member of the Harwood Heights Youth Commission since 1989, working with projects for residents and their children; has served on the Harwood Heights Plan Commission since 1994; and is a trustee of Local 2081 of the AFSCME union of government employees as well as a member of the union's auditing committee.

Mr. Skyba is a child protection investigator and language specialist with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. He holds a B.A. in criminal justice administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago, earned a certificate from the Graduate Level Lawyers Assistant Program from Roosevelt University, and has done graduate work in sociology and criminology at Western Illinois University.

He has been active as a legislative aide in the State Senate, served as coordinator of local and congressional political campaigns, and acted as liaison for ethnic affairs to the governor's office. Mr. Skyba is a past president of the Jefferson Park Township Young Republicans and a current member of the Norwood Park Township Regular Republican Organization.



Andrij Skyba (right) with John Beniari (left), committeeman of the Regular Republican Organization of Norwood Park, and Michael McAuliffe, state representative of the 14th District.

Inducted as member of honor society

FRACKVILLE, N.J. — Ulana M. Chabon, daughter of Joseph and Andrea Chabon of Frackville, has been inducted into the national engineering honor society, Tau Beta Pi.

Ms. Chabon is a junior at Lehigh University, where she is majoring in chemical engineering. Members elected to this society are ranked in the top eighth of the junior class. They must display leadership in extracurricular activities and in the classroom, highest standards of integrity and breadth of interest both inside and outside of engineering.

Ms. Chabon is also a Presidential Scholar. Upon completion of her senior year, she may continue her education at Lehigh University for an additional 12 months on a full scholarship. She will continue her co-op program with Mobil



Ulana M. Chabon

Technology Corp. in New Jersey during the summer months.

Ms. Chabon is member of Ukrainian National Association Branch 242.

Notes on People is a feature geared toward reporting on the achievements of members of the Ukrainian National Association. All submissions should be concise due to space limitations and must include the person's UNA branch number. Items will be published as soon as possible after their receipt, when space permits.

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Tryzub hosts spring tennis tourney



Winners in Tryzub's spring tennis tournament after the closing ceremonies.

HORSHAM, Pa. - USO Tryzub on May 1-2 hosted its traditional spring tennis tournament, the first of six Ukrainian tennis tournaments planned for this year: four at Soyuzivka and two at Tryzubivka.

The tournament was played in the men's division only in accordance with the modified compass draw format (each player competing in at least three matches). The weather during the weekend was ideal for everything but tennis playing, as strong easterly winds made for very difficult playing conditions.

In the winners' group finals, Steve Sosiak of Colonia, N. J., defeated tournament director George Sawchak in a two-and-a-half hour-match by the score of 6-3, 1-6, 6-3.

Third place went to Jerry Tymkiw, who defeated Ihor Buhaj 6-0, 6-0. The

latter was not able to cope with the windy conditions. Walter Dziwak took one of the consolation trophies by default when Alex Olync could not play the round due to a knee injury. Walter Wolowec prevailed in the other section, defeating Boris Tatunchak 6-1, 6-4. In this group the two semifinal matches were long three-setters. Mr. Tatunchak defeated Bohdan Krawchuk 6-2, 2-6, 6-3, and Mr. Wolowec eliminated George Popel, 4-6, 6-1, 6-3.

During the closing ceremonies trophies were presented to the top three players and to the winners of each consolation section. The next Ukrainian tennis tournament will be Eastern championships of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK), to be held at Soyuzivka during the Fourth of July weekend.

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Dr. Zoreslava Shkiryak-Nyzhnyk from Ukraine
"Health: One of the Fundamental Human Rights"

Stephen B. Nix, Esquire
"Human Rights Pursuant to the Ukrainian Constitution"

Dr. Julian Kulas
"Promoting and Defending Human Rights of American Citizens"

Moderator **Iryna Kurowyckyj**

Place: Westin O'Hare Hotel, 6100 N. River Road, Rosemont, Ill 60018
 Date: Friday, May 28, 1999 Time: 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

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Central European...

(Continued from page 5)

Ivan Franko Homesteads Memorial Museum.

At the national museum the leaders viewed priceless icons and artwork from Ukraine's medieval past. During the ceremony at the Shevchenko monument, located in the city center's Freedom Square, they watched as a military honor guard laid a 20-meter wreath at the foot of the memorial. At the Mykhailo Hrushevsky-Ivan Franko Homesteads Memorial Museum, two adjoining country houses once owned by the two early 20th century Ukrainian writers, the heads of state planted nine apple trees as a symbol of Central European unity.

The event, formally called "The Summit of Central European Presidents," was the fourth official summit of European leaders of former Warsaw Pact nations and the countries neighboring them, but the first on the former territory of the Soviet Union. From 1994 to 1996 two other Central European leadership meetings not carrying the designation "summit" had been held with fewer countries participating.

The idea for an annual summit developed from a meeting in June 1993 of four of the leaders, Messrs. Klestil, Havel, Goncz and Richard Von Weizsacker, who was president of Germany at the time, at the Salzburg Music Festival. The idea was to hold an annual get-together of Central European leaders in a different country of the region in a city known for its cultural and architectural splendor.

Lviv, with its Viennese-influenced architecture and internationally acclaimed opera house, was this year's choice. The city was designated an architectural preserve in the 1970s by the Soviet Union. Last year UNESCO added Lviv to its list of architecturally significant cities of the world.

For Ukraine, the summit was a chance to gain the ear of European leaders. President Kuchma said at the summit's close that he was most pleased the summit had underscored Ukraine's central role in Europe.

"Holding the summit in Lviv will help in building trust towards Ukraine," said President Kuchma.

The summit was also an opportunity for Ukraine to display its western capital, known as the "Pearl of Europe," before the presidents, the more than 1,000 aides and workers who followed them here, and the 350 or so journalists who reported on the summit.

Lviv officials hoped that the city, which had undergone a significant face lift (see sidebar) in the months before the summit, would receive positive publicity, which might eventually bring badly needed international investment.

Czech President Havel, in noting historical and architectural influences, said of Lviv: "It is a typical European city."

President Kuchma, in welcoming his guests at the beginning of the plenary session, strove to underscore the "Europeanness" of the city and the country. "Feel at home here because you are at home. You are in the heart of Europe."

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Reaction to settlement...

(Continued from page 9)
you become involved?

It was within 60 days of the original broadcast. This was when channel 62 in Detroit was for sale and, in consulting with Nestor Olesnycky and Arthur Belendiuk, it was felt there was an opportunity. I became involved through the UNA's Ukrainian Heritage Defense Committee. The case has UNA roots and I, as a UNA'er, was asked whether I would be willing to stand up.

Right from the start, Yarko [Mr. Belendiuk] said the chances of winning were very slim, it's more a public show. We'll let them know that we exist so they just can't do whatever they want without any regard to the Ukrainian community.

I admit I never thought this case would drag on for so long.

Any regrets about getting involved?

No, none at all. I feel satisfied, though we didn't get what we were hoping for. But I think that there will be some benefits for the Ukrainian community, and that will be my reward.

WILLIAM CRISPIN

Please comment on the recent settlement between CBS and Ukrainian community petitioners.

I think it's a good settlement. I think CBS learned that your community had some limits as to what it would endure. And I think it was very important for the community to get the [settlement] meeting to express its strong views. I think it was important to get the letter that CBS issued.

I'll be frank: I don't think that either side got everything they wanted out of the arrangement. But I think it was a good arrangement, and I think it will be a deterrent in the future to other broadcasters looking around to get good ratings.

Do you think the Ukrainian community could have done better?

I don't. I think the standards the FCC had erected and is in the process of continuing to erect make it extremely difficult to try and win these cases.

I think that on the substance we would have proved that many of the things CBS said were false – many, many, many of them. It's a whole other matter to prove intent, simply because you can't infer from the egregiousness of the lie. You have to actually have extrinsic evidence of their intent and that makes it extremely difficult legally to win under those circumstances.

And that was the key to the case: to prove the intent.

Correct. Basically what CBS was trying to get through the commission was the sense that regardless of what was said they basically had a total First Amendment right to broadcast anything they wanted. That was why they took the position they did; that's why they lost in the Court of Appeals – that has not been the commission's policy. And so, basically, there still is left out there this idea that you can't roam around and damage people without at least having the FCC look at it.

And I think CBS is very sensitive about the fact that they got looked at and that the doctrine remains alive. I'll bet they wish they had tried this case differently.

What are the ramifications of the case in the Ukrainian community and beyond?

I think the Ukrainian community will benefit because I think it's less likely that someone else will try to use them as a punching bag for ratings because it's necessary to stand up every once in a while and

cry foul. The community did that and I think the meeting is another way of saying, yeah, that was wrong. So I was very pleased that Art [Mr. Belendiuk] got the meeting; he did a great job getting that meeting.

It's an uphill fight; it's an extremely difficult case – even to win in the Court of Appeals. I really want to say that. And I wasn't involved early on and all of that work he did was impressive. It's a difficult result to obtain.

I think it is a deterrent that will affect other communities in this country if some broadcasting folks decide they want to go after other communities that may be less well off than even the Ukrainian community was and less able to respond to a Goliath, really if you think about it.

And so, yeah, I think people who want something that's fair got a good shake out of this thing.

BOHDAN VITVITSKY

What do you think of the settlement with CBS?

I think it's a mistake to focus just on the settlement. I think it makes much more sense to look at the entire campaign to try to get some justice. So I think one needs to look at the entire four-and-a-half-year period and what that accomplished. I would say that I think the accomplishment was very substantial and I think that the people who fought the fight and tried to get the community some justice served the community very, very well.

The reason I say that is because you have to start with an evaluation of the comparative strengths and resources of the litigants – on the one hand CBS, on the other hand Mr. Serafyn and the others. You're talking about a David versus Goliath kind of situation in terms of the kinds of resources that can be relied upon – given that one side had a fraction of the resources of the other side.

Obviously a lot was accomplished in terms of the opinion issued by the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals as well as simply forcing CBS to acknowledge and take heed of the fact that somebody in the Ukrainian community and the Ukrainian community as a whole was mobilizing in legal opposition to this particular outrage – something which we haven't really done in the past even though the community and various Ukrainian historical figures have on numerous occasions been slandered.

And the fact that this mobilization actually resulted in tangible successes, most importantly the District of Columbia Court of Appeals decision, is a major victory. I view the settlement not as the ultimate resolution of what happened, but simply as the end point of the long campaign.

I think that in light of all of the circumstances, in terms of the various processes that were going on, in terms of the FCC's very broad discretion to try to resolve this

matter and so on, and given the fact that the FCC is obviously much more attuned to the perspectives and point of views and interests of media giants such as CBS than of communities such as the Ukrainian community, I think the settlement made a huge amount of sense at this point.

But, again, I think it's a mistake to ask the question: Is the settlement a victory or not? That's not the right question. The right question is: Did we do well when we look at the entire four-year campaign? And the answer is: very definitely.

What does this portend for the future, the whole picture of the Ukrainian community?

It certainly suggests something that's been obvious to some of us for a very long time, namely, that when such events, such television programs, or books or articles, arise we should try to do something if at all possible. One other issue to emphasize is that as a result of the First Amendment in this country not only are media institutions such as CBS large and powerful with huge financial resources, they are almost immune to attack legally as a result of the protections of the First Amendment.

So that's another reason why what Arthur Belendiuk and the other lawyers who worked so hard on behalf of Mr.

Serafyn and the community deserve such gratitude and praise from us. It's extraordinarily hard to litigate against the media in the United States because of all the protections the media has. The media is not a regular litigant; it's really important to understand that. The options that you have if you want to litigate against the media are very, very circumscribed.

So, in light of all those circumstances, I think the four-and-a-half-year campaign was very, very highly successful. I think what we need to understand is that we have to take these things more seriously, that is to say attacks on the community and/or its history. I think that we've been fairly inept as a community in the ways in which we've been responding to these things in the past. Our inclination has been to think that these attacks will not recur and the sad fact is that they have recurred, repeatedly, because there is a certain mythology that's developed over the decades, if not centuries.

So, this case shows the community it can fight.

We can fight, and we should have started much earlier. Some of these fights can and should be conducted on the legal battlefield, others need to be conducted on the rhetorical battlefield and so on. But obviously it's important to pay attention to these things.

Lviv spruces up...

(Continued from page 1)

tural styles, ranging from colorful neo-classical Viennese to Gothic and Renaissance styles, its cozy cafes, interesting boutiques and artist markets, had been on the decline after World War II, when Soviet rule brought government planning and control and uniformly drab Soviet architecture.

Independence and the turn to a free market did little to change the city's deteriorating appearance, and the lack of money caused by economic malaise actually caused the city center to go into further decline.

The new and improved Lviv pleases many residents, although they have taken a wait-and-see attitude regarding possible future foreign investment.

Oksana Kolinchenko, 52, who lives behind the Dnister Hotel where the presidents stayed, said she was very happy about the work done in preparation for the summit, although she cared less for the three tiers of police barricades she had to get through to get to her apartment. "I haven't seen the city this clean and pretty for years," said Mrs. Kolinchenko, a lifelong Lviv resident. "Let's hope it stays this way and that this city starts to move forward."

Another Lviv resident, Rostyslav Dovbush, 69, sitting on Freedom Square in the heart of Lviv, said he had heard all the promises of a bright future for the city. "As you know, we have heard so many promises through the years, that I don't listen to any of them. When I see that people are work-

ing and receiving their pay, then I will thank Mayor [Vasy]l Kuibida." Nonetheless, he said he was pleased with Lviv's new appearance.

Oksana Nedoviz, 33, explained, while walking with her 4-year-old daughter in Franko Park, that she was very pleased with what city officials had done. "The city has become young again," said Mrs. Nedoviz.

Not all Lvivians were satisfied with the summit and the benefits it has given the city. The Lviv-based newspaper Postup, in a front-page commentary on the first day of the summit, criticized the strict law enforcement procedures that had been enacted and what it perceived as the abrogation of some constitutional rights.

Days before the summit, the homeless were taken off Lviv's city streets and placed in temporary shelters until after the summit. Then, on May 12, the Lviv Oblast administration banned pickets and demonstrations in Lviv for the duration of the summit.

The newspaper also criticized the superficial manner in which many of the buildings in the city center were renovated, where only facades were restored and buildings given a splash of fresh paint.

"Undoubtedly Lviv needs the summit," explained Postup, which is known for its acerbic wit. "But the situation remains dangerous because Lviv, and especially its central part, continues to crumble. Cosmetically-banded facades and balconies may not hold and could topple onto secret service agents who are protecting their presidents."

That, of course, did not happen.

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Attention, Students!

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

The Weekly will be happy to help you publicize them. We will also be glad to print timely news stories about events that have already taken place. Photos also will be accepted.

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B A N Q U E T

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New church to be built in Campbell Hall

CAMPBELL HALL, N.Y. – The Very Rev. Zbigniew Brzezicki, pastor of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Campbell Hall, N.Y., announced that Bishop Basil H. Losten of the Stamford Eparchy has granted permission and given his blessing for the parish to construct a new church.

The church will be erected on property leased from the Holy Spirit Ukrainian

Catholic Cemetery on Sarah Wells Trail in Campbell Hall, N.Y.

Bishop Innocent Lotocky will conduct a groundbreaking ceremony on Sunday, June 13, blessing the land immediately following the divine liturgy commencing at noon on the site.

For more information, or to donate toward the building fund, call the parish office at (914) 496-5506.

REVIEW...

(Continued from page 11)

ure as she is in Sienkiewicz) the film should renew interest in historical events. The battle scenes alone are worth the price of the ticket, above all to see the huliai-horod, a mobile siege tower.

In general, the film will help reform Polish historical consciousness and even implant Ukrainian historical consciousness in Ukraine.

These two peoples are ready to look at their past in a way that Russians are not ready to do with Ukrainians. This is highlighted by the one failure in political correctness, the casting of the Russian actor Aleksandr Domogarov as Bohun. I do not criticize his acting, merely his

political views on the website for the film (in Polish, <http://ogniem-i-mieczem.comart.com.pl/obsada.htm>). When one clicks on his picture one finds him describing his role: "The action takes place in the time of a bloody war, the breaking apart of Ukraine. For you Poles that is history, for me the present. I myself feel what the breaking apart of lands once united means. In 1955 [sic] Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakstan and Russia were divided by borders." He then describes how a visiting friend of his from Kyiv complains about visas and borders.

For some reason, Bohdan Stupka does not get a spot on the cast photos. He might have a different view about the significance of breaking apart for Ukraine, both in the past and the present.

"With Fire and Sword" ...

(Continued from page 11)

\$5 million is needed.

Maybe "With Fire and Sword" will trigger a healthy rivalry in Ukraine. Maybe it will convince a Ukrainian Carnegie or Mellon to rise up to the Polish challenge and put together a budget for a Ukrainian epic picture.

The perception of this film here in the U.S. will most likely be along the long-established lines of division between Anglo-American (that is, Hollywood-type) movies on the one hand, and foreign movies on the other. It is not too far-fetched to predict that the film, for all its ambition and scale, will remain largely unnoticed by the American film-goer. Anticipating this, Mr. Hoffman refused to tailor this three-hour movie to the demands of large-scale U.S. distributors. Launching the film on the American market, he targeted primarily Polish American, and secondly Ukrainian American, viewers of the first generation, those who are able to react emotionally to certain semiotic cues, to certain visual and acoustic paradigms. These viewers will sit through the film as if it were a 10-minute episode and would beg for more.

To many who relate to the material more on the rational than experiential emotive level, the film might very well be a bore, a meaningless sequence of battle-scenes alternating with feasts and singing. For those, tickets to "Elizabeth" or "Shakespeare in Love" would be money much better spent. That the majority of non-American movies have a very limited appeal here is not so much a fault of a particular European film: it is simply a fact of the distinct cultural orientation of the U.S. audience. Several years ago the French film "Tous les Matins du Mond," starring Gerard Depardieu, was the biggest box-office success of the year in France – much bigger than any Hollywood production. Yet, even in New York with its sophisticated audience, it was shown only in two or three small cinemas before it lapsed into the oblivion of selected video rentals. And still there are sure signs of success.

Though the organization of the film's distribution leaves much to be desired, "With Fire and Sword" has already been seen in the New York metropolitan area and Connecticut by an impressive 12,000 film-goers – and that is in the course of just two to three weeks. The film already ran in Chicago. In June the film will be shown in New Jersey and Philadelphia.



Some members of the cast of "With Fire and Sword."

Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

caused losses totaling 4.7 billion hrv (\$1.2 billion) to the budget, UNIAN reported. Mr. Mitiukov added that the absence of a number of badly needed tax laws costs the state budget another 1.5 billion to 2 billion hrv annually. He reminded deputies that in 1996 the Cabinet of Ministers had drafted a package of tax bills, of which only two have so far been passed by the Parliament. The legislature responded by passing a resolution saying the Cabinet's activities with regard to taxation are detrimental to the country's further economic development. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Cabinet raises unemployment benefits

KYIV – The Cabinet of Ministers has increased the size of the monthly benefit paid to the unemployed by the State Unemployment Fund to 25 hrv effective May 1. The same amount, or not more than the average salary, will also be paid to those unemployed involved in professional training or retraining programs. (Eastern Economist)

Vitrenko tops list of presidential hopefuls

KYIV – Natalia Vitrenko, the outspoken chairwoman of the Progressive Socialist Party, tops the list of Ukraine's presidential hopefuls, according to a poll conducted in April by the independent Democratic Initiatives Fund and SOCIS-Gallup. Ms. Vitrenko has 19 percent backing and is followed by President Leonid Kuchma (17 percent), Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz (10 percent), and Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko (8 percent). The poll also showed that 75 percent of Ukrainians intend to vote in the presidential elections in October. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Law on peacekeeping operations signed

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma has signed a law on Ukraine's participation in peacekeeping operations, which was passed by the Verkhovna Rada last month, Interfax reported on May 12. The law allows Ukrainian troops to participate in international actions sanctioned by the U.N. Security Council, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other regional bodies responsible for maintaining peace and security. Under the law, the decision to send Ukrainian troops abroad must be taken by the president and subsequently approved via an appropriate parliamentary bill. The participation of Ukrainian citizens in any peacekeeping contingent will be voluntary. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Self Reliance Association expands its services



Members of the Self Reliance Association of American Ukrainians during a trip to the New York Botanical Garden.

by Irena D'Alessio

NEW YORK – The Self Reliance Association of American Ukrainians (New York Branch) has been expanding its social and recreational services to members of the community.

Every Thursday members gather at 98 Second Ave., the Self Reliance Association's headquarters, to socialize.

As part of ongoing efforts to increase recreational services, the Self Reliance Association sponsored a bus trip to the New York Botanical Garden on May 6. Thirty-five members of the Self Reliance Association boarded a bus in the

Ukrainian Village section of the Lower East Side and one hour later entered a world of spectacular flowers and trees at the Botanical Garden in the Bronx.

This bus trip was the second in a series of several trips scheduled for 1999 for senior members of the Self Reliance Association. It afforded the members an opportunity to spend a day relaxing in one of the most beautiful nature settings in the metropolitan area.

It was a glorious spring day; the garden was alive with a myriad colors and scents of flowering trees, flowers and other plants. In the conservatory, visitors

strolled through the misty tropical rain forests and enjoyed the exotic spring flower displays. In the gardens, many delighted in identifying flowers native to Ukraine, such as poppies and lilacs.

Participants enjoyed a delightful day communing with nature in the companionship of their friends. At the end of the day, refreshments were provided at the Self Reliance center, served by Oleh Lopatynsky.

The trip was organized by Oksana Lopatynsky and Irena D'Alessio, and was funded in part by the New York City Department for the Aging.

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

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

Send new releases and information (where publication may be purchased, cost, etc.) to: The Editor, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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**Zaporozska Sicz
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Orthodox Church Parish Hall
for annual meeting
and election of officers.
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Leon Hardink, Financial Secretary

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, May 28

PARMA HEIGHTS, Ohio: An exhibit of paintings on glass, an old folk tradition revived by recognized artist/craftsman Ivan Skolozdra from Ukraine, opens at the Svitlytsia Art Gallery, 6677 Fernhurst Ave. The opening reception will be held Friday, May 28, at 7-11 p.m.

Friday-Sunday, May 28-30

PITTSBURGH: Ukraine will be represented at the 43rd annual Pittsburgh Folk Festival in music and dance performances. The festival, featuring the presentation of over 40 nationalities' native heritage and traditions, will provide traditional and contemporary entertainment, craft demonstrations and cultural displays as well as an international marketplace. Admission: \$6, adults; \$3, children age 3-12; under 3, free. For more information and schedule of events call (412) 278-1267 or visit the festival committee's website at www.pghfolkfest.org. Festival times: Friday, May 28, 4-11 p.m.; Saturday, May 29, noon-11 p.m.; Sunday, May 30, noon-9 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday, May 29-30

CLEVELAND: The Ukrainian American Sports Club Lviv, in celebration of 50 years of Ukrainian sports in the greater Cleveland area, is hosting the fourth annual Ukrainian soccer tournament for the Great Lakes Cup. The host will be joined by defending cup holder Toronto Ukraine, as well as Detroit Chernyk, Chicago Ukraina, Chicago Kryla, Newark Chornomorska Sitch, New York USC and Philadelphia Tryzub in two divisions, open and over-30, for the two-day event. The tournament play begins at the Pokrova Parish Field on Saturday at 9 a.m. and concludes with final rounds on Sunday at 2-6 p.m. A dance will be held in the parish hall following the finals on Sunday. For information e-mail jek_yck-lviv@excite.com, or visit the website <http://sport.cleveland.com/sport/ukrainianlions>.

Sunday, May 30

OTTAWA, Ont.: The 20th anniversary concert of the Ottawa School of Ukrainian Dance will be held at the Alumni Theater, Carleton University, at 2 p.m. For more information call Kateryna Shepetycka, (613) 692-5243.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday, June 12

DOVER, N.J.: The sixth annual Spartanky Men's Triples Grass Volleyball Tournament will be held in Hedven Park. Prizes will be awarded for first- through third-place finishes. An entry fee of \$15 includes all-you-can-eat barbecue and loads of fun. Non-participants are welcome. To register, contact Zezya Zawadiwsky, (973) 361-8284.

ROBLIN, Manitoba: Students from St. Vladimir's College, a private boarding school and minor seminary, will be touring eastern Canada June 12 - June 23, presenting the traditional cultural programs offered at the school since its founding by Ukrainian missionaries in 1942. The students will showcase traditional Ukrainian sacred music, folk music and dance as part of the school's

annual promotion. The tour dates are as follows: June 12, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan: St. Michael's School, 1695 17th St. W, 7:30 p.m.; June 13, North Battleford, Saskatchewan: Slava Center Seniors Hall, 792 108th St., 7:30 p.m.; June 15, Edmonton: St. Basil's Church Hall, 7007 109th St., 7:30 p.m.; June 16, Kelowna, British Columbia: Okanagan University Theater, 1000 KLO Road, 8 p.m.; June 18, Vancouver, British Columbia: St. Mary's Parish Hall, 550 W. 14th St., 7:30 p.m.; June 19, Victoria, British Columbia: Oak Bay High School, 2151 Cranmore St., 7:30 p.m.; June 22, Calgary, Alberta: St. Stephen's Parish Center, 4903 45th St. SW, 7:30 p.m.; and June 23, Regina, Saskatchewan: St. Basil's Parish Hall, 1747 Toronto St., 7:30 p.m. For more information on the tour, as well as general information regarding the school's high school program, contact St. Vladimir's College, 1-800-377-5926, e-mail info@stvlads.net, or visit the website, <http://www.stvlads.net/>

Monday-Friday, July 12-16

PITTSBURGH: As part of the biennial national convention of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM), an association of Roman Catholic church musicians, there will be an "Eastern Christian/Byzantine" track for the cantors, choir directors, clergy and interested faithful of the Eastern Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches. The track provides sessions in liturgical theology, cantor praxis, a Byzantine "Master Schola," daily Matins, a celebration of Great Vespers with Litija and a closing divine liturgy. The three sessions on "Vespers: Liturgical Theology and Practice" will be taught by the Rev. Dr. Peter Galadza, professor of liturgy at the Sheptytsky Institute for Eastern Christian Studies at the University of St. Paul, Ottawa. For a brochure giving full details of the convention, as well as all fees and hotel information, contact Lisa Tarker at the NPM office, (202) 723-5800, or fax, (202) 723-2262. Please mention interest in the Eastern Christian track to ensure that relevant brochures are sent.

Wednesday-Sunday, July 21-25

NEW BRITAIN, Conn.: The Ukrainian Orthodox League of the U.S.A. is holding its 52nd annual convention, hosted by St. Mary Nativity of the Mother of God Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 54 Winter St. Featured guest speaker on Saturday, July 24, will be Frederica Mathewes-Green, National Public Radio commentator and author of "Facing East: A Pilgrim's Journey into the Mysteries of Orthodoxy." For more information contact Stefan Norton, (860) 666-4800; e-mail, nbvuke@erols.com; or Michelle Bailly, (203) 440-1784, e-mail, tweetyb435@aol.com

Sunday-Saturday, August 1-7

EMLENTON, Pa.: The Central Eparchy of The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. is holding a Teenage Conference, billed as a week of faith, fun and fellowship, for youths age 12-13 to be held at the All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Church Camp. The cost per camper is \$150; counselors, free of charge. For camper and counselor applications contact Charissa S. Martin, (718) 858-7545, or Missy Sheptak, (416) 621-3095.

PLEASE NOTE PREVIEW REQUIREMENTS:

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

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