

UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY FEATURES:

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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

Financial/political oligarchies wield true power in Ukraine, says leading political scientist

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine, while maintaining its formal democratic structures, is sinking into a quasi-democratic form of governance, in which decisions are increasingly made by financial/political oligarchies controlled by a few.

That is the conclusion by Mykola Tomenko, a leading political scientist and professor at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy on the current situation in Ukraine eight years after this country of 50 million finally thrust off Soviet and Russian domination and declared an independent democratic state.

Mr. Tomenko, who runs the Institute of Politics and is associated with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, both based in Germany, said in an exclusive interview with *The Weekly* that, even though Ukraine has successfully established the most important democratic institutions, including a political party system, free elections, a revised Constitution and a system of laws, the decision-making process in government increasingly is done in undemocratic ways.

In evaluating where Ukraine has traveled economically and politically for the last eight years and what lies ahead, Mr. Tomenko, was critical of both of Ukraine's first two presidents, but particularly negative in his assessment of Mr. Kuchma's last five years in office.

"If you look at the speeches of candidate Kuchma in 1994 and his program as a candidate today, they are very similar," explained the 34-year-old Mr. Tomenko. "The issues that were presented then as key have not been resolved."

Mr. Tomenko took President Kuchma to task for not finding solutions to matters that concerned the Ukrainian citizenry even as he took office, including the growing presence of corruption among government officials and the illegal transfer of millions of dollars to foreign banks, as well as a national debt and foreign borrowing that have slowly gotten out of hand.

Most of the criticism Mr. Tomenko leveled at President Kuchma was for being at the country's helm as Ukrainian business and political leaders have slowly turned Ukraine into what he called "oligarchic clan capitalism."

The basic mechanism of a liberal economic model have been established in Ukraine, said Mr. Tomenko. Yet, Ukraine cannot be called a capitalistic society, said the political scientist. Today, only an ideological aberration of capitalism exists – one that is dominated by non-governmental monopolies controlled by clans.

"It is a synthesis of businesses and politi-

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EIGHT YEARS AGO



Scene of a mass demonstration at the foot of the Lenin monument in October Revolution Square in Kyiv on August 23, 1991, the day before the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR proclaimed Ukraine's independence. Three days later the site was renamed Independence Square. Source: Photo essay by Tania D'Avignon/The Ukrainian Weekly Archives.

Slave laborers from Ukraine authorize filing of class action suit against German corporations

KYIV – The Ukrainian Union of Prisoners/Victims of Nazi Persecution and the Ukrainian Association of the Anti-Fascist Resistance, have authorized the filing of a class action lawsuit in Federal Court in New York, Eastern District, against a number of German corporations that during World War II forcibly seized hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian citizens and utilized them as forced/slave laborers.

The number of former forced/slave laborers still alive in Ukraine is nearly 300,000.

The lawsuit describes the immense destruction inflicted on Ukraine and the Ukrainian people in the years of German occupation. During their reign of terror, the German Fascists burned and completely destroyed 714 cities and towns, as well as over 28,000 villages, leaving more than 10 million Ukrainian citizens – a quarter of the Ukrainian population – homeless. The German invaders also destroyed and burned 60,000 industrial establishments, 200,000 commercial buildings, as well as 32,000 educational institutions. According to expert statistics, the monetary value of the total damage to the Ukrainian economy exceeded 285 bil-

lion rubles (the currency of that period).

In order to satisfy the German war machine's demand for human labor, the Nazis forcibly seized more than 2.4 million Ukrainian workers, transported them against their will from Ukraine to Germany, and forced them to work as slave laborers under inhuman conditions in concentration camps and various hard labor camps.

The class action complaint describes how one of the plaintiffs, Mr. Guminsky, who presently resides in Kyiv, was forcibly taken from his native village of Vrublevka, Zhytomyr region, at the age of 17. For three days he traveled in a freight train designed for cattle, without any food or water. He was brought to the city of Gugenau and placed in a hard labor camp called Rottenfeld. Every morning, he was awakened at 3 a.m. and forced to march for three to four kilometers to the designated work location under the escort of the SS guards and ferocious dogs.

He was forced to work at the German factory of Daimler-Benz, which produced heavy-duty trucks for the German war machine. His working day lasted for 16

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Election Commission chair cites possible adverse effects of Supreme Court's rulings

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's Central Election Commission chairman said on August 18 that court rulings in the last week that forced it to register presidential candidates it had originally rejected could lead to the October elections being ruled invalid.

Mykola Riabets, the beleaguered CEC chairman, has gone on the offensive as he fights to maintain the commission's authority over the presidential elections, while resisting calls for his resignation from several of the newly registered candidates.

He said that, by forcing the CEC to register six candidates that it had earlier decided had not met minimum requirements, the Supreme Court had established a legally questionable field of candidates.

"After the elections, which we know only one candidate can win, all the other candidates could file lawsuits stating that the circumstances of the outcome were

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New media phenomenon: street television

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

KYIV – Ukraine has seen the advent of a new form of information technology: street television.

The August 6 issue of the newspaper Fakty described the new phenomenon as follows.

“On a busy street, in a courtyard, or simply on a city square, [technicians] unfold a screen measuring two by three meters and install a television camera to project its ‘picture’ onto the screen. There are also loudspeakers nearby, allowing [people] (including those in neighboring buildings) to listen to what is said by participants in an open discussion. A man with the microphone essentially speaks to everybody standing nearby, and at the same time, can see himself on the screen. Naturally, there is also a moderator on an improvised rostrum. He asks questions and often speaks on his own behalf.

“However, all this does not resemble an ordinary interview or a well-directed show. On street television everything takes place in real time, the moderator provides impromptu answers to all ques-

tions and makes comments on participants’ statements. As a rule, such meetings continue for three to four hours; they begin at dusk in order to make the footage visible on the screen. ... Sundry topics are discussed: Why is there no gasoline? What will [Ukrainian] peacekeepers do in Kosovo? Does Ukraine need health care reform? Will Kuchma be re-elected?”

Fakty described the phenomenon of street television as a “people’s Internet,” noting that movable rostrums with cameras and screens have been seen on the streets of Kyiv, Lviv and Dnipropetrovsk, as well as in Crimea. Persons involved in the street television initiative told Fakty they are going to become a “full-fledged business structure on the political and information market.”

Currently, they are taking advantage of the presidential election campaign for the purpose of self-publicity, as well as to promote “direct democracy.” They have not disclosed the source of their funding. Fakty suggested that street television has a “pro-presidential orientation,” but did not elaborate on the issue.

ANALYSIS

Responding to anti-Semitism in Russia

by Paul Goble

RFE/RL Newsline

In the wake of two attacks on Moscow synagogues, a prominent Russian Jewish organization has decried the increasing incidence of such activities as well as what it said are the reasons behind that rise.

In a statement released on July 27, the Russian Jewish Congress (RJC) said that the mounting number of attacks on Jewish institutions now represents “a threat to all Russian citizens regardless of their nationality” and argued that such crimes “should not remain unpunished.”

The organization blamed the increase on chauvinistic appeals by some Russian politicians, the indifference of many ordinary Russian citizens to such attacks, and the inability or unwillingness of the government to identify and punish those responsible.

The Russian Jewish Congress issued the appeal after a July 12 attack on the Moscow Choral synagogue left Leopold Kaimovskii, the executive director of Moscow’s Jewish Arts Center, badly wounded and after reports earlier this week that a bomb had been planted near another Moscow synagogue.

The RJC argued that “such incidents cease to be something extraordinary and are committed with the connivance of those who are in charge of the formation of our society’s moral climate.” It provided three explanations for this increase, which comes after a period in which many Russian Jews felt anti-Semitism in the country had been declining.

First, the RJC put the blame on the increasing number of political figures who have with impunity issued anti-Semitic statements as part of their effort to win popular support. It noted that “there is nothing strange in the escalation of such violence when members of the Federation Council and State Duma deputies make chauvinistic statements,” particularly when they escape censure for such statements.

Second, the RJC criticized the indifference of many Russians to what is taking place. All too many Russian citizens, the group indicated, have failed to react at all

to such outrages against Jewish groups, an indifference that sometimes extends to attacks on other national minorities.

This Russian indifference, the RJC noted, has prompted Jews and other minorities to “raise the question of whether it is possible to live on Russian territory” and, in the absence of domestic support, to issue “appeals to the international community” as the only means of defense.

And third, the RJC denounced what it said is the “impotence of the Russian authorities” in the face of such acts, an impotence that reflects either their inability or their unwillingness to bring those responsible to justice. The failure of the Russian government to do so, the RJC noted, has only emboldened those responsible for such behavior.

To counter these factors, the RJC called on Russian leaders to denounce racists and anti-Semites “no matter how high their posts are.” It demanded that the Russian people recognize the danger to themselves of anti-Semitic actions left unpunished. And it called on the authorities to work harder to identify and convict those guilty of such crimes.

But it is a measure of the difficulties Jews in Russia now face that this organization has directed its appeal to foreign governments and human rights activists as well, virtually inviting both to put pressure on Moscow to change its current approach.

Several Jewish groups and human rights organizations in the United States and other Western countries recently have begun campaigns to attract attention to what many people had assumed was no longer a major problem in post-Soviet Russia.

The appeal of the Russian Jewish Congress from Moscow is likely to give additional impetus to these Western efforts. And its identification of the sources of the new tide of anti-Semitic violence in Russia is likely to lead ever more people to consider not only why anti-Semitism has re-emerged, but also the ways in which it can be combated.

To the extent that this does happen, this appeal may mark a turning point in Russian social development. To the extent that it does not, the appeal may come to be viewed as a barometer of how bad things now are and how much worse they could become.

NEWSBRIEFS

Budget for independence is set aside

KYIV – An August 10 Cabinet of Ministers decree sets aside 866,700 hrv for celebrations of the eighth anniversary of Ukraine’s independence. A sum of 356,200 hrv is for a concert at the Ukraina Palace of Culture; 79,490 hrv for a reception; and 430,990 hrv for regional delegations. A total of 435,736 hrv will come from the Ministry of Culture and 430,995 hrv will be from the Cabinet reserve. (Eastern Economist)

Marchuk: president’s rivals blocked

KYIV – Yevhen Marchuk, former prime minister and a presidential candidate, has accused the government of blocking his and other candidates’ presidential campaigns to ensure President Leonid Kuchma’s re-election, the Associated Press reported on August 16. “Persons in the public service, who are paid by the state ... are being used in Kuchma’s election campaign,” Mr. Marchuk noted. He said police disrupted his meeting with voters in Luhansk on August 14 by citing a bomb threat and ordering all present out of the building. According to Mr. Marchuk, the event was a “provocation” staged by the authorities to prevent him from meeting with voters. (RFE/RL Newsline)

President vetoes bill on immunity

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma has refused to sign a bill amending the law on the status of local council deputies. The changes, approved by the Parliament on July 15, stipulated that local deputies cannot be detained or arrested “without approval by corresponding local councils until a verdict of guilty has been declared by court,” the Eastern Economic Daily reported on August 16. Mr. Kuchma argued that the Constitution grants legal immunity only to parliamentary deputies, judges and the president, and does not mention local council deputies. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Last candidate joins presidential race

KYIV – Ukraine’s Supreme Court has ordered the Central Election Commission to register Yurii Karmazin, leader of the Party of the Fatherland’s Defenders, as a presidential candidate, the Eastern Economic Daily reported on August 16. The commission previously refused registration to Mr. Karmazin, recognizing as valid only about 849,000 signatures out of the 1.7 million he had submitted. Mr. Karmazin will be the 15th and last presidential hopeful to be registered. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine looks for more Western money

KYIV – A government delegation headed by Vice Prime Minister Serhii Tyhypko left for Washington on August 15 for two days of talks with the International Monetary Fund, the Eastern European Daily reported. The main goal of the visit is to discuss the disbursement of an IMF loan tranche to Ukraine. It is thought that Mr. Tyhypko may agree with the World Bank on the date for releasing a \$100 million tranche under the so-called Financial Sector Adjustment Loan program. Meanwhile, the Ukrainian hryvnia has stabilized and returned below the government exchange limit of 4.6 to \$1. On August 13, the hryvnia was trading at \$4.54 to \$1. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Miners continue protests over wages

DONETSK – The Independent Miners’ Trade Union has threatened to suspend coal supplies to consumers beginning in September and to stage a large-scale protest unless the government reduces its wage debt to coal miners, the Associated Press reported on August 13. More than 2,000 miners are on strike in the Donetsk region, while hundreds of miners’ wives and children continue to demonstrate in Luhansk. First Vice Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh met with the protesters last week. According to the Independent Miners’ Trade Union, however, “miners’ hopes for a positive resolution of their problems have not been fulfilled.” The government owes the miners more than 2 billion hrv (\$435 million U.S.) in back wages, including 145 million hrv for 1999, according to trade union leaders. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Turkmenistan may sue Ukraine

ASHGABAT – Turkmenistan’s Foreign Affairs Ministry released a statement on August 12 warning that it will take Ukraine to an international arbitration court if it fails to pay its debts for this year’s supplies of Turkmen natural gas soon, ITAR-TASS reported. As of that date, Ukraine had paid for only some 10 percent of the 8.76 billion cubic meters of gas supplies between January 1 and May 21, when gas transports were suspended. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rewards for those who saved lives

LVIV – The Israel’s ambassador to Ukraine, Anna Azari, was present at an awards ceremony to honor those who saved Jewish lives during World War II. Ambassadorial advisor Zeev Ben-Ar’e said

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VOX POPULI: Ukrainian American youths speak out about independence

On the cusp of the eighth anniversary of Ukrainian independence, *The Ukrainian Weekly* delves into the essential questions of how young Ukrainian Americans assume their roles in the diaspora and how they feel about Ukraine's independence. Taisa and Olenka Welhasch, summer interns at *The Weekly*, conducted interviews with their peers.

The Welhasch sisters note: "Our survey was by no means scientific or even demographically diverse, we simply tried to contact as many young Ukrainians as we could. Finding people to interview was more difficult than you'd guess because many of our friends are touring Ukraine with a Plast camp called 'Stezhky Kultury.' (See story on page 10.) "To those of you who ARE home, we say thank you for your enthusiastic responses."

Following are the responses elicited from a group of respondents between the ages of 17 and 28.

Markian Rybak, 23, Milburn, N.J.: We were shocked at the announcement of Ukrainian independence. All we ever learned about was the old history. I never expected it to be free. It's great that Ukraine is a free country, striving to be a democratic nation. [Mr. Rybak said he was particularly impressed by Ukraine's Constitution, which he studied in a Ukrainian history course at Rutgers.] One of the first things Ukraine did after gaining independence was to write an 'open arms' Constitution. That's encouraging. It ensures equal rights to everyone born in Ukraine – all races and all creeds.

Genia Olesnicky, 18, Florham Park, N.J.: When I visited Ukraine, I found their "independence" to be almost opposite of the freedom we have in America. Their independence seemed more symbolic, because it's not actually executed. They're independent politically, not economically. For example, even though people have an education, they can't get a job or afford to pay to further their education. Ukraine is supposedly free, but it's not as apparent as our freedom. Ukrainians' rights are still very constrained. There's a lot yet to be done in Ukraine and for us to help them.

I can't consider myself a full-fledged American. I'm very proud to be Ukrainian American and happy that Ukraine was able to regain its independence. Our culture is so rich that many Ukrainians are very patriotic. Lviv is one of the most beautiful cities I have ever seen and, if I make a lot of money when I'm older, I would love to live there.

Natalka Olesnicky, 21, Florham Park, N.J.: I'm really worried about Ukraine right now, after being there [last summer]. I think a lot of people have a direction they want to follow with their life, but they're still really scared. It will take an extremely long time for Ukraine to move on and truly gain its independence.

I'd never been to Ukraine during Communism, and seeing sniper towers surrounded by barbed wire in the middle of a sunflower field really scared me.

Taras Ferencevych, 24, Jersey City, N.J.: I'm glad that Ukraine does have its independence. As far as personal responsibility to Ukraine, I think it's important to me as a member of the diaspora because it's given me so much and the reason it exists in the first place was to help Ukraine gain its independence. I personally try to do it through Plast education. I try to teach them [the plastuny] that it's not as bad as they've heard – the mafia and criminals running the government, no national pride.

I try to introduce them to people who are the complete opposite, who work hard

and volunteer their time to make it a little better of a place. [Mr. Ferencevych was camp director of Plast's Tabir Starshoho Yunatstva, ("Supercamp"). He observed that Volodymyr Fedorak, a Plast member who came from Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast to be a leader at this summer's camp, was exactly such a person.] He [Mr. Fedorak] was optimistic. He realizes that it [change] won't happen overnight. It will take a lot of work to define a whole new national identity for Ukraine.

Oleh Wolansky, 17, New Providence, N.J.: I'm very proud of Ukrainian culture. It's really good that communism [in Ukraine] has been stopped, but I haven't been there. In the future I'd like to go over and help in schools, developing art programs, maybe. I've thought about establishing a school of philosophy, presenting new perspectives and styles of teaching in the universities.

Peter Kindrachuk, 21, Allentown, Pa.: I think it goes both ways. Now that it's independent, I feel less responsibility, I mean, we don't speak Uke at home as much anymore. I feel like I don't have to try as hard because it's free. In a way, I feel responsible to go back and work and do something for Ukraine with what I've learned, now that it's a free country.

Lila Naydan, 19, State College, Pa.: I had the opportunity to go to Ukraine this spring to visit my father [Michael Naydan, who was a Fulbright scholar and professor] and learn more about the political situation and culture. I probably wouldn't have traveled there if Ukraine had not been free. I found travel to Ukraine to be very interesting, and I realized how different Ukrainian culture is from Ukrainian American culture. I found people to be very nationalistic and was excited to find that Ukraine has a very distinct culture.

Even though I've been exposed to Ukrainian culture at home, through my parents and grandparents, I didn't fully understand what life in contemporary Ukraine was really like. I studied the history and learned the literature, but didn't fully connect with the situation in Ukraine today. I definitely feel that the diaspora has a responsibility to Ukraine in the forms of education and business. [Lila added that she aspires to be active in this cooperation between Ukraine and the diaspora, but is not yet sure how.]

Maya Milanytch, 22, South Orange, N.J.: Ukraine's independence opened the door to traveling there for me. I was able to participate in two archeological digs, meet my family for the first time, and most recently, work in a program that concentrated on helping Ukrainian students apply to colleges in America. I believe that we have an obligation to promote as much interaction as possible between the U.S. and Ukraine.

Recently, I read an article that listed the countries that are most likely to be overthrown, and Ukraine was one of them. It was very disturbing to consider this possibility, and if Ukraine were to be overthrown, I'd feel a strong personal responsibility to get involved politically.

Ksenia Salewycz, 28, Clifton, N.J.: The independence of Ukraine has offered us the opportunity to implement concrete humanitarian programs. I have worked for the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund since 1992, and CCRF is an example of the diaspora seizing that opportunity pro-actively. I have worked with people in Ukraine not only on a personal level, but also with government institutions and bureaucracy, and a lot has changed in the past seven years. This year's Independence Day is very different from the one we celebrated in 1991, it's



Peter Kindrachuk



Ksenia Salewycz

Olenka (left) and Taisa Welhasch collaborating at *The Ukrainian Weekly*.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

U.S. anti-dumping duties are dropped

KYIV – Ukraine won a legal action against the United States over re-negotiating an anti-dumping duty of 104.18 percent for Ukrainian ferrosilicon supplies to the U.S., Oleh Riabokon, a director of Magister & Co., a law firm, reported on August 12. He said that all such duties, introduced in the U.S. in the beginning of 1990s on Ukrainian ferrosilicon sold on the US market, will now be canceled. (Eastern Economist)

Ukraine's foreign trade decreases

KYIV – The State Statistics Committee on August 12 reported that Ukraine's foreign trade from January through June fell to \$10.8 billion (U.S.), down 24.6 percent when compared with the same period last year. Foreign investment in the first six months of 1999 totaled \$265 million, down 48.8 percent from the same period in 1998. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Bank offers 10-year homeowner loans

KYIV – Pravex Bank has become the first domestic bank to begin issue loans for the purchase of residential space. A total of 10 million hryv has been allocated towards the new program. Loans are given at 30 percent per year and the buyer must give a down payment of at least a third of the dwelling's price. The rest of the required sum will be given by the bank. The term of the loans is 10 years. (Eastern Economist)

Products for children seen as unprofitable

KYIV – Children's food and other articles are unprofitable for domestic manufacturers, said Valentyna Shevchenko, president of Ukraina Ditiam, a charity fund, on August 12. She said the domestic market was 85 percent filled with cheap and low-quality foreign products. Before 1990, 40 percent of light industry output was for children, and manufacturers received state subsidies. (Eastern Economist)

Finance Ministry pays ING Barings

KYIV – The Ministry of Finance has paid a 20 percent share of the \$155 million (U.S.) ING Barings loan, thereby complying with the agreement reached with the Dutch bank on July 15. The remainder of the loan will be financed by placing DM-denominated

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Ukrainian Heritage Foundation awards \$20,000 in grants

POLAND, Ohio – The Ukrainian Heritage Foundation has announced the awarding of grants totaling approximately \$20,000 to nine organizations in the United States and Canada. The grants will assist in funding projects intended to promote Ukrainian culture to large numbers of people, which has been the mission of the foundation since its founding in 1983.

The recipients of the grants are:

- The Ukrainian Cultural Institute of North Dakota – to publish and distribute the history of “Schedryk” (Carol of the Bells);
- The Ukrainian Federation of Canada in Toronto – to have a professional provide training on archiving old and rare materials;
- Friends of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus – to develop and distribute a video overview of the chorus and its history to schools, libraries and music schools.
- The Ukrainian Heritage Studies Center of Manor Junior College – to assist in computerizing its 5,000-volume library and make it available online for searches and Internet access;

- The New York School of Bandura, New York – to publish a new English-language bandura manual and a video supplement;

- The Oklahoma Friends of Ukraine in Oklahoma City – to develop a special exhibit on Ukraine to be displayed at various museums; and

- The Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of St. Josaphat in Parma, Ohio – to develop and distribute videos that would document Ukrainian Christmas and Easter family traditions.

A special gift was given to the Ukrainian Dancers of Miami on the occasion of their 50th anniversary and in memory of one of its founders, Taras Maksymowich, and his tremendous contributions to the Ukrainian Heritage Foundation.

These grants have depleted the Ukrainian Heritage Foundation's existing assets, and the organization will be dissolved before the end of this year. Over the past 16 years the foundation has worked to promote Ukrainian culture through the production of its “Hopak” video as well its support of other organizations' efforts to do the same.

Shevchenko foundation supports Ukrainian multimedia center

EDMONTON – The University of Alberta Faculty Club was the setting for a festive lunch as Andriy Hladyshyevsky, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko, presented a check for \$3,000 to the university's Ukrainian Center for Multimedia, Interactive Learning and Digital Publishing.

On hand to receive the grant was the center's director, Oleh S. Ilnytskyj. He was joined by Kenneth Norrie, dean of arts; Donald Bruce, chair of the department of modern languages and cultural studies (MLCS), which houses the center; Bohdan Medwidsky, chief organizer of Ukrainian folklore endowments at the University of Alberta; and Natalia Pylypiuk, the Ukrainian language coordinator in MLCS.

The grant from the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko will help the Multimedia Center purchase the latest authoring tools for creating computer-assisted instructional materials for Ukrainian language courses. The center is devoted to the development of interactive programs on CD-ROM and for the Internet. A number of prototypes are currently used at the University of Alberta. The center is working to convert these programs into products that students of Ukrainian can use anywhere.

Prof. Ilnytskyj explained that a full-scale implementation of multimedia in Ukrainian courses at the University of Alberta is a complex and long-term project. He said he anticipates the first programs to be in use in language courses before the end of the year 2000. The ultimate goal is to turn the Ukrainian language and literature program in the department of modern languages and cultural studies into the premier site for the delivery of Ukrainian courses in digital form.

“We recognize that the future of all levels of education is increasingly distance learning and digital delivery,” said Prof. Ilnytskyj. “To this end, we aim to develop the expert-

ise and ability to make Ukrainian subjects available to anyone in the world. Our goal is have our courses continuously accessible for reference, self-study and self-testing either through the Internet or on CD-ROM.”

The department of modern languages and cultural studies has the largest Ukrainian undergraduate enrollments in North America. With the blessing of both the former and present dean of arts, MLCS last year inaugurated the Ukrainian Center for Multimedia, Interactive Learning and Digital Publishing.

“Our resources at the moment are modest,” admitted Prof. Ilnytskyj, “but recently we've found understanding and support from several organizations and individuals. This has given impetus to our work. The support of Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko has both practical and symbolic meaning. It will allow us to complete a current project and it proves that the Ukrainian community in Canada recognizes the importance of the new technologies and media for Ukrainian education.”

The center is now completing two computer programs. One allows students to study and review Ukrainian vocabulary in context. Another is a grammar review module with automated feedback. In the near future the center will also publish an interactive CD-ROM of more than 500 conjugated Ukrainian verbs. Work has also begun on a multimedia “Ukrainian Phrase Book for Tourists and Business Travelers.”

For more information on the Ukrainian Center for Multimedia, Interactive Learning and Digital Publishing visit <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/~ukraina/Homepage.html>

Correspondence may be addressed to: University of Alberta, Ukrainian Center for Multimedia, Interactive Learning and Digital Publishing, Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, 200 Arts Building Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E6.



Gathered at the University of Alberta are: (from left) Kenneth Norrie, dean of arts; Donald Bruce, chair of the department of modern languages and cultural studies; Oleh S. Ilnytskyj, director of the Ukrainian Center for Multimedia, Interactive Learning and Digital Publishing; Andriy Hladyshyevsky, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko; Natalia Pylypiuk, the Ukrainian language coordinator in MLCS; and Bohdan Medwidsky, chief organizer of Ukrainian folklore endowments at the university.

UOC-U.S.A. Metropolitan Council confers at annual meeting

The news release below was issued by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – The Ukrainian Cultural Center in the Metropolia Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., was the site of the annual meeting of the Metropolitan Council of the Church on July 15-17. The Metropolitan Council is the board of trustees of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., and the annual meeting is conducted to approve a budget and plan programs for the succeeding fiscal year, as well as to examine the state of Church life and current programs.

The annual meeting was opened by the prime hierarch of the Church, Metropolitan Constantine, who offered the membership his view of Church life, outlining the accomplishments of the Council of Bishops, the Consistory, and Church organizations and institutions, setting the tone for the Metropolitan Council's obligation to plan for the coming year.

An extremely important project discussed by the council was the new museum and permanent memorial for the Genocidal Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine. Final approval was given for the inauguration of a major capital fund-raising program to ensure the construction of this complex as an annex to the current administration building in the South Bound Brook/Somerset headquarters complex of the UOC.

Requests will be issued to all survivors of the famine from the Ukrainian community throughout the world to make audio and video recordings of their memories of the famine and to contribute physical evidence such as photographs or documents to the museum for possible inclusion and permanent display as part of the memorial.

In conjunction with the construction of this new museum, the current space occupied by the Church's museum beneath St. Andrew Memorial Church will be converted into a mausoleum surrounding the crypt of Patriarch Mstyslav I. The space immediately encompassing the patriarch's crypt will become a permanent museum devoted to the lives of all the hierarchs who have served the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. including the patriarch, Metropolitan John Theodorovich, Metropolitan Andrew Kuschak, Archbishop Bohdan Spilka, Archbishop Volodymyr Maletz, Archbishop Mark Hundiak, Bishop Joseph Zuk, Bishop Alexander Novitskyj and Bishop Paisiy Iwaschuk. Funds netted from the sale of spaces in the mausoleum will be earmarked for construction of the museum/memorial and for its maintenance.

Also of great significance is the Metropolitan Council action giving its complete support to the executive branch of Church administration, the Consistory, in its efforts to restore discipline and order in church life and to eradicate the concept of congregationalism, which is foreign to Ukrainian Orthodox ecclesiastical structure. The principle that the Church is one – the Body of Christ – and although “Sobornopravna” or Sobor-governed, it remains a hierarchal Church in accordance with the Holy Canons of Orthodoxy as clearly delineated in the UOC Constitution.

The Metropolitan Council also devoted significant time to the question of Church unity in Ukraine and the desired and needed actions of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Such positive actions are essential to the resolution of many outstanding issues in the process of unification and recognition by world Orthodoxy of a truly autocephalous Ukrainian Orthodox Church for Ukraine, free of any influence or control by the Church of Moscow.

The last two Sobors of the UOC overwhelmingly renewed and then reaffirmed the ancient and profound relationship between the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which began prior to 988 when St. Volodymyr the Great baptized the Ukrainian nation.

This unique relationship, which all 20th century patriarchs of Constantinople have reaffirmed, and

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THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

UNA Executive Committee holds quarterly meeting

by **Martha Lysko**
UNA National Secretary

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Executive Committee of the Ukrainian National Association met on Saturday, August 7, here at the UNA Corporate Headquarters. In attendance at the quarterly meeting were: Ulana Diachuk, president; Stefko Kuropas, first vice-president; the Rev. Myron Stasiw, director for Canada; Anya Dydyk-Petrenko, second-vice president; Stefan Kaczaraj, treasurer; Martha Lysko, national secretary; and William J. Pastuszek, chairman of the Auditing Committee.

The meeting was chaired by Mrs. Diachuk. After the opening remarks, the Executive Committee honored the memory of Walter J. Korchynsky, UNA advisor, with a moment of silence. Mr. Korchynsky passed away on July 26, after a brief illness.

At the meeting the executives delivered reports for the first half of 1999. Primary topics of discussion were: the reduction in the UNA's deficit, the need to increase subscribers to UNA publications, and the need to increase UNA income through more insurance sales.

The following information was reported at the meeting.

- The UNA reduced net losses for the first six months by \$439,989.

- The UNA has prepared a new rate book with lower insurance premiums. The rates will officially go into effect in September.

- The New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance completed its triennial examination of the UNA and will issue a report on the financial condition of UNA.

- Soyuzivka has had a successful summer camp season this year.

- The UNA is readying its computer and other systems to be Y2K compliant. All UNA members can be assured that come January 2000 the UNA will be prepared to conduct business as usual.

- Due to the death of Mr. Korchynsky, who was on the board of directors of Ukrainian National Urban Renewal Corp., the Executive Committee nominated UNA

Advisor Eugene Oscislowski to serve on the board.

- The UNA once again reviewed its investment policy and will continue to seek advice on any changes in the future

- The entire first floor of the UNA Corporate Headquarters building at 2200 Route 10 is fully rented.

- The UNA received a \$5,000 donation from attorney Arthur Belendiuk.

- This summer the UNA is continuing its English Teachers for Ukraine Program; there are 16 participants this year.

- The Executive Committee voted to donate this year's net profit from the sale of UNA Christmas cards to benefit Soyuzivka's cultural and educational programs.

- The UNA Executive Committee approved the rental of rooms at the senior citizens' home at Soyuzivka to any Ukrainian regardless of membership in the UNA. Non-members will be charged a higher percentage rate than what UNA members are paying.

- Svoboda continues to gain subscribers and to reduce its operating deficit.

At the meeting the Executive Committee also discussed proposed changes to the UNA By-Laws. President Diachuk invited UNA Advisor Taras Szmaga Jr., an attorney, to address the meeting.

In accordance with a vote at the last UNA Convention, the UNA is to hold a referendum via mail of delegates to the 34th Convention (convened in May 1998) on establishing an 11-member board of directors to replace the UNA's current governing bodies. If the referendum approves it, delegates to the 35th UNA Convention in the year 2002 will vote to elect the UNA leadership in accordance with the new corporate structure.

Mr. Szmaga tried to present to the Executive Committee a proposal of these changes and to guide the committee on how best to proceed in implementing the mandate of the convention. The proposed referendum has to be prepared and adopted by the General Assembly at its next annual meeting on December 3-5 at Soyuzivka.

DISPATCH FROM SOYUZIVKA: Teachers, Club Suzy-Q'ers, dancers take over resort

by **Tanya Singura**

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The annual seminar for teachers of schools of Ukrainian studies, took place on July 25-August 8 here at Soyuzivka, thanks to the sponsorship of the resort's owner, the Ukrainian National Association.

Twelve teachers were here for two weeks studying for their exams in Ukrainian literature, history, culture and other courses to expand their knowledge in order to continue teaching Saturday schools across the U.S. and Canada. The program is monitored by the Educational Council that functions under the aegis of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. The head of the program is Dr. Eugene Fedorenko; Stefania Kwasovska is the administrative director. Profs. Anatolii Pohribnyi of Ukraine, George Gajeckyj, Ihor Huryn, Orest Pavliw and Yasia Tsiovch were the teachers for the teachers.

On Saturday night, August 7, the Veselka hall was once again full for the Ukrainian Family ensemble, directed by Oksana Lykhovyd. The ensemble performed a variety of Ukrainian folk and period pieces, interspersing its group singing with solo performances of poetry and song. Afterwards, the Luna band kept everyone dancing on the Veselka patio.

Sunday, August 8, brought the return of Roma Pryma Bohachevsky's popular Ukrainian Folk Dance Workshop to Soyuzivka. Over 60 dancers checked in and headed to their

camp to unpack, meet up with old and new friends, and get ready to dance away the next two weeks.

Club Suzy-Q return returned on August 7-13 for its 16th year at Soyuzivka, and enthusiastic participants kept busy with various activities and tours in the area.

Soyuzivka got a bit of rain on Tuesday, August 10, but not enough to make a real difference for our water situation. However, it did force our "drive-in" movie night to move indoors. The next day another brief rainstorm delayed Hutsul Night and the wet ground caused our dancers to cancel their outdoor show. However, John A. Flis waved his manager's "bulava" and chased the clouds away, so dinner continued outside as usual.

On Thursday evening it was Ukrainian Karaoke time again. Let's admit that most of the participants were employees of Soyuzivka and their performances, well ... that's why they are not part of a Saturday evening concert. Another fun evening at "The Q."

Friday, August 13, finally brought substantial rain to the area. Odesa Nights, seafood buffet was served outside before the rains. But later the Vidlunnia band had to move inside the Veselka hall for the "zabava." Midnight Bigus – Suzy-Q's home-grown rock band – made a return appearance in the Trembita Lounge. The bands kept everyone dancing and singing along into the wee hours of the morning.

Another week is over and it's closer to Labor Day – the official end of the summer season at the UNA resort.

Tanya Singura is activities director at Soyuzivka.

NEXT WEEK: a report on the annual selection of Miss Soyuzivka.

TO BRANCH OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE UNA IN CANADA:

At the end of July, announcements were sent to 323 holders of insurance policies issued in Canada from October 1994 through December 1998 on the basis of new insurance certificates. The announcement informed these policyholders that the UNA had submitted the transfer of these policies to the Canadian company Maritime Life Assurance Co. for approval of the insurance authorities in Canada. Because these policies did not yield the expected profits, the UNA General Assembly decided that their sale should be discontinued. Without the necessary technical support, the UNA cannot administer these policies on its own.

The UNA has about 3,000 members in Canada who are policyholders with UNA certificates. There will be no change in their status. They continue to be members in their branches and are to continue paying dues to the secretaries of their branches, as they have done to date.

Ulana Diachuk
President

ANNOUNCEMENT

Members of the Ukrainian National Association who are 79 years or older and are still paying premiums on their insurance with UNA are entitled to a fraternal benefit. The UNA will pay the annual premiums for policies issued in classes 1, 5, 6, 21, 51, 26, or 56. This payment is automatic and members do not need to do anything. Any member who has insurance in any other class is not entitled to this benefit. All members 79 years and over who have dividend options other than cash must continue to pay their insurance premiums. With Dividend option 2 or 4 (accumulation of interest on the dividend or additional paid-up insurance), the UNA will pay their dividend option but not the premium. Members may cancel their dividend option if they wish to have the UNA pay their premiums. Please contact the UNA Home Office or your branch secretary.

The Executive Committee

Weekly editor speaks in NYC



Yaroslav Kulynych

The New York District Committee of the Ukrainian National Association recently sponsored a talk by Roma Hadzewycz, editor-in-chief of The Ukrainian Weekly, at the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Speaking before a full house on Sunday afternoon, May 23, Ms. Hadzewycz addressed the topic "The Ukrainian American Press: Do We Need It?" She underlined that "the press is key to the survival of our diaspora, of our Ukrainian American community – especially now that we are more scattered than ever." Ms. Hadzewycz added, "The Ukrainian press can be and should be the network that keeps us all in touch." Barbara Bachynsky, district chair, introduced the guest speaker and moderated the program. Ms. Hadzewycz's presentation was very well received, with many questions and comments from the audience. Above the editor-in-chief (second from right) is seen with a group of community members in attendance.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Mixed emotions

For the past seven years the tone of our annual Ukrainian Independence Day editorial has come to us naturally. Our editorials of the first few years, reflecting the general mood in our community, focused on the amazing turns of history, the joy of independence and the concern for survival. Our fifth anniversary editorial was still filled with elation, the sixth with hope and couched optimism – both focused on foreign policy success and some internal success, such as the Constitution. By the seventh year our editorial was written in a tone of concern with some trepidation, and this year we find ourselves to be more than a bit mixed in our emotions: there's a bit of sadness, a bit of anger, some disgust, lots of exasperation and frustration, and a sense of pragmatic reality: eight years really isn't very much time to have turned this ship formerly called Soviet Ukraine around.

There remains much reason for hope and optimism, not the least of which is that the anniversary of independence has assumed almost a conventional character, both in the diaspora and in Ukraine. In fact, the Independence Day celebrations have become a standard expenditure in Ukraine's budget – this year the Cabinet of Ministers allocated 866,700 hrv for celebration events in Kyiv.

Ukraine still gets high ratings for its foreign policy positions and responsible approach to national and international military and security issues. However, it is very distressing that an elected and appointed leadership in Ukraine seems either unwilling or unable to get a grip on the corruption that pervades almost all aspects of civic and economic life – corruption that prevents successful economic development, eats away at public morale and stymies individual freedom.

At its core, corruption is the inappropriate and abusive use of power for personal gain – mostly money and more power. And instead of power being used to guide, lead, develop, elevate, establish, respond, give, create – power in Ukraine is being used to control, take, intimidate, scare, abuse, disrespect. When an average individual uses power to abuse other people, we call them crooks. When elected and appointed officials do it, we're nicer about the name-calling. Instead of crooks, we call them corrupt. But so what. Our hearts are heavy.

Whether you call them creepy crooks or corrupt officials, in Ukraine, many, too many, are squandering opportunities, not rising to the occasion, abusing their authority and not taking their responsibility seriously – on the republic level, the oblast level, the city level.

The sad thing is that many people in Ukraine really don't expect more. Deep and pervasive cynicism is returning. After a few years of hope, they feel as though it's more of the same old, same old. Rather than assuming that governments serve at the public will as a guarantors of rights and as guardians of the public good, they simply expect that government will be abusive, disrespectful and controlling. Paternalistic promises to take care of people ring hollow and go unfulfilled, yet attempts at individual empowerment are suppressed.

So people sink in a sort of muck of neither here nor there.

Among the few tools which the public can use to fight against this stagnation is the upcoming election. The tradition of free elections and the option to throw the bums (or bum) out is still fragile in Ukraine, and still susceptible to great abuse. Yet Ukrainians have eagerly embraced the process of elections and, in the few years of independence, elections in Ukraine are a highlight of the country's nascent post-Soviet civic culture. Despite the numerous predictions that Leonid Kuchma is a shoo-in, these elections are still wide open. Honest elections force change, and we can only hope that the Ukrainian electorate will once again understand that through the power of the vote, they give power to elected officials. And just as they give, they can also take away.

August
24
1991

Turning the pages back...

In "The Ukrainian Resurgence," a new book covering the modern political history of Ukraine, author Bohdan Nahaylo offers a fascinating account of 1991's failed coup in Moscow and developments in Ukraine that led to the declaration of the country's independence eight years ago on August 24.

The putsch that began on August 19 collapsed merely two days later. National democratic members of Ukrainian SSR's Parliament demanded that an extraordinary session be convened on Saturday, August 24, to assess the political situation of Ukraine in the aftermath of the failed coup.

Mr. Nahaylo notes that Parliament Chairman Leonid Kravchuk, who had waffled during the crisis, knew "full well that the parliamentary opposition [the democrats] would be after his blood and that his political future was at stake."

The author goes on to report on Mr. Kravchuk's performance:

"Kravchuk defended himself by maintaining that in very dangerous and unpredictable conditions, with the military on alert and the picture of what was happening in Moscow remaining unclear, he and his colleagues in the Presidium, which were themselves divided, 'did everything in order that a state of emergency not be introduced [in Ukraine], that people were not crushed, that there were no victims and that innocent blood was not spilt'. ...

"Kravchuk claimed that [the putschists' representative Gen. Valentin] Varennikov had called on the Ukrainian leaders to support the GKChP [the Russian acronym for the State Committee on the State Emergency in the USSR] and to consider imposing a state of emergency in western Ukraine and Kyiv. The general had threatened the use of military force in the event of their failing to support the putschists. In a telephone call made to Kravchuk during the meeting, the chief of the KGB, [Vladimir] Kriuchkov, had reinforced this ultimatum. The head of the Ukrainian Parliament said he had responded by declaring that the GKChP was unconstitutional and that Ukraine would continue to abide by its own laws and Constitution and to uphold its sovereignty. ...

"The Ukrainian leader emphasized that the attempted coup had revealed the limited

(Continued on page 12)

Rough draft

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv

Is it the medium or the message?

In the United States the buzz that we have been hearing in the press about the 2000 presidential elections is about money, and how George "Double-ya" Bush has most of it. Of course, money matters in Ukraine as well, but for the leading candidates, and especially for the re-election team of President Leonid Kuchma, winning the October presidential elections comes down to political control, Soviet-style.

Historically, candidates in the U.S. who manage to put together a solid grassroots organization and a strong media campaign have had a good shot at winning. In Ukraine there are those who are trying to run their campaigns in the Western mode.

But, as with most things in Ukraine, a country helplessly dangling between its Soviet past and its Western inclinations, democratic electoral traditions are being twisted by old Soviet practices, and that means attempts to control every facet of the election process.

Leading the pack in early political polls is President Kuchma, whose ratings have dramatically risen since he began his campaign. He is considered to have a strong campaign team in place along with superb media connections.

Some Westerners may draw a historical parallel to the political machinations of Tamany Hall or the campaign tactics employed by Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, but the strategies employed by the Kuchma campaign team most obviously recall the Soviet philosophy that everything must be controlled from the center, a practice that most Ukrainian political leaders remember first-hand.

The Kuchma administration, which many simply consider to be a huge brokering and underwriting organization for the financial clans and oligarchies that increasingly have dominated this country since independence, has long realized that it can tweak and nudge popular opinion by controlling the mass media, at times in a heavy-handed and blatant manner. That, after all, is what the Soviet propaganda machine did so well before glasnost and the Internet era caused its collapse.

The Kuchma campaign team's television strategy, which has been nurtured for years, is not a series of slick ads to promote the president, but an effort to dominate or maintain influence over major newspapers and television networks.

Not surprisingly, Ukrainian Television News, the government channel's news program, has increasingly focused on the president and less on other politicians, particularly those who are considered a threat to Mr. Kuchma's re-election ambitions.

Stories on Mr. Kuchma's day lead the evening news – sometimes three and four in succession. Rarely are the other candidates mentioned, if at all.

Some here say it is only a matter of time before the weather forecast will come replete with Mr. Kuchma's face superimposed on the sun.

Even the Western-owned and well-watched Studio 1+1 television station, which stubbornly maintains that it is independent of political influence, has to some degree caved into presidential pressure.

Several months ago the station began airing a Sunday evening news program called "EpiCenter," in which journalists grill popular political figures.

People connected to Studio 1+1 say that

the program was instituted as a bone thrown to the Kuchma administration to keep the administration's claws off the station's back. Will Mr. Kuchma ever agree to participate in an "EpiCenter program" and risk the open onslaught of possibly embarrassing question from frothing journalists? Hardly, is the common viewpoint. Instead, other politicians are subjected to grueling questions. However, since most of them get very little coverage on television, they agree to be grilled just to get some airtime.

The program's moderator does not hide the fact that he has a soft spot for the Kuchma administration. In a July 8 story in the Kyiv Post he explained the degree of his allegiance to Mr. Kuchma.

"I won't work against the president, that is 100 percent certain. But I won't collaborate with him either," explained Viacheslav Pikhovshek.

In the print media, newspaper editors regularly buckle to demands put to them by Kuchma campaign workers to run positive articles on the government's accomplishments. Any fool knows that a professional future could be at stake. There are precedents aplenty.

Some tactics of the Kuchma government – for example, the closure of several leading newspapers that stridently criticized certain officials – have been almost as overt as those used by its Soviet cousins in an earlier time. The result: today many journalists and most newspapers are timid in their criticism of the government.

In the western Ukraine city of Ternopil, privately owned newspapers extol the accomplishments of the incumbent and give little coverage of other presidential contenders. Not surprisingly, observers in the city say President Kuchma is slowly gaining more and more support there.

It is possible that this government doesn't even consider the open spaces of the Internet outside its bounds. There have been reports in the Ukrainian and Russian press that the Security Service of Ukraine is ready to force Internet providers to utilize a black box that will allow the law enforcement agency to monitor communications on the information superhighway.

To be fair, Mr. Kuchma is not the only presidential aspirant that has developed his own version of a political media campaign.

Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko, known for his desire for "Slavic unity" and the ability to twist a phrase à la Yogi Berra, has said that his political team will keep tabs on what was written about him, and that appropriate actions will be taken after he wins.

Even as the other candidates set their sights on Mr. Kuchma and his policies, it is hardly a stretch to expect that the sitting president, with all the political control he has at his disposal, will get to keep his office for five more years.

It should come as no surprise when the Ukrainian electorate, told for more than seven decades what to think and for whom to vote, passively heeds the message that the mass media – which Mr. Kuchma is persuasively, if unethically and maybe even illegally influencing – has presented.

The victory, however, may give his pro-left and Communist opponents, whom much of the electorate again supports in protest against President Kuchma's inability to raise the country from its economic slumber, pause to ponder: Is it the medium or the message that counts in this country?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kudos for coverage of Joint Conferences

Dear Editor:

I want to add my voice to that of Roman Wolchuk in extending kudos to you for your excellent coverage of the Synergy conference in Washington. Your extensive and thoughtful reporting in two separate issues of *The Weekly* (July 4 and 11) underscored the significance of the conference and the potential it has of reenergizing the Ukrainian diaspora. Many conference participants with whom I spoke felt a heightened sense of shared goals. The feeling that the conference enhanced communication between our many professional, financial, cultural, political and social organizations raised expectations that it may lead to new and more fruitful directions for the

Ukrainian American community in the future. Many expressed a strong conviction that we should hold such meetings every three or four years.

Congratulations also must go to the Synergy conference organizers: first to Dr. Roman Goy for his courage, perseverance and hard work in pursuing an idea that was most promising but also potentially disastrous financially. I would also like to commend all the organizations sponsoring the conference for offering so many diverse and interesting panels. The Washington Group deserves praise for the major role it played in the success of the conference and for selflessly shortening its own program to leave time for others.

Ihor Gawdiak
Washington

The writer is president of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council.

Conferences' results must be evaluated

Dear Editor:

On June 23-27, more than 900 people attended the Joint Conference of Ukrainian American Organizations. The main theme of these conferences was to indicate to our communities that we need a change in the character of our activities, that we have common objectives and that our organizations can work together when there are clearly defined goals. However, the event was also planned to establish our presence in the center of the political life of this country, i.e., Washington.

The Joint Conferences' accomplishments were of great importance to our community in America, because new ideas and approaches were evident in every stage of the deliberations, as participants discussed what steps to take to improve all aspects of political, cultural and economic life in our communities.

Moreover, the conferences also gave ideas on how to proceed to rebuild and strengthen our ranks under the leadership of our younger generations. The mission and agenda of the Joint Conferences, which was attended by major organizations, require constant review if their cumulative results can affect the continuous growth of our influence on political life in America.

Of course, the major role in promulgating the ideas and plans articulated at the Joint Conferences belongs to our Ukrainian press. Unfortunately, besides *The Ukrainian Weekly*, which gave wide coverage to the event, other newspapers reduced their coverage to brief news reports.

Therefore, for the benefit of our community and Ukraine, the results of Joint Conferences should be discussed and evaluated on a continuous basis if we wish to see our organizational life is revitalized in the year 2000 and beyond.

Joseph Trush
Union, N.J.

FOR THE RECORD: UWC writes to President Kuchma

Following is the full text of the Ukrainian World Congress' August 3 open letter to President Leonid Kuchma. (The text was translated by The Ukrainian Weekly.)

Right Honorable Leonid Kuchma
President of Ukraine

Esteemed President:

Ukrainian periodicals have recently carried information about your decrees and directives concerning your administration's nationalities' policy and education, which have caused considerable anxiety in the Ukrainian diaspora.

The diaspora considers itself an indivisible part of the Ukrainian people and has, since the very first day of independence, provided assistance to efforts that strengthen the Ukrainian state by various means and within the limits of its resources.

We are concerned about your directive of June 14 to the Minister of Education, V. Zaichuk, which affords prospective students of post-secondary institutions the opportunity to write entrance exams in the Russian language. We believe that your directive will provide for the reactivation of

Russian-language institutions at various levels, and for the expenditure of state funds for the Russification of Ukraine in the future.

Consequently, we believe that such a directive undermines the status of the Ukrainian language as the official language of state, since it will be possible to seek the highest academic degrees available in Ukraine without the knowledge of Ukrainian.

In addition, we were disturbed by your draft decree of June 1999 concerning the cultural-educational needs of Ukrainian citizens of Russian background, which provided for the creation of a center dedicated to the study of the functioning of the Russian language in educational facilities in Ukraine, the introduction of special radio and television broadcasts for Russians, the establishment of an all-Ukrainian scientific, popular and literary journal on Russian culture, and the opening of a bookstore for Russian-language materials in Kyiv.

Most of these measures are, to our minds, entirely unnecessary. At present, the Russian language "functions" much better than the official state lan-

(Continued on page 8)

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



The noblest triumph

Although Natalia Vitrenko, Marxism's latest poster-girl, has recently dropped to second place in the most recent presidential poll in Ukraine, she remains a formidable force. She calls herself a "true Marxist" and like other candidates of the left – Oleksander Tkachenko, Oleksander Moroz and Petro Symonenko – she is committed to Ukraine's Soviet traditions.

Leonid Kuchma may be still leading in the polls, but leftist ideas dominate. Realizing this, Mr. Kuchma continues to list leftward toward the Stalinist past by clamping down on the press and nudging Ukraine towards a kissy-kissy relationship with Russia. As the political landscape heats up, Ukraine's real needs are being neglected.

The people of Ukraine will remain in bondage until the government meets two significant milestones as it slouches towards a democratic market economy: the establishment of the rule of law and the sanctification of private property. Although the importance of legal contracts in a market economy has been given lip service by some Western advisors, private ownership is rarely mentioned as a precondition for individual liberty.

The importance of individual property rights is reviewed by Tom Bethell in "The Noblest Triumph: Property and Prosperity Through the Ages," an engrossing analysis of the symbiotic relationship between private ownership and liberty. Put simply, no private property, no freedom.

Part of the reason that Western advisors, especially Americans, remain skittish about the concept of private property in developing nations is their schooling. "In economics, best-selling textbooks by Paul Samuelson and others either skirted questions of ownership or relegated them to a paragraph under the rubric 'capitalist ideology,'" writes Mr. Bethell. "Since World War II, almost all such texts have argued that a more rapid growth could be attained with state ownership than with private property," he notes. Robert Solow, a Nobel laureate in economics, believed that "private property is theft" and that "the institution of private property has to keep proving itself." For Harvard professor John Rawls, private property can lead to economic inequalities that are undeserved and call for "redress."

A somewhat simplified way to divide historical thinking regarding property is to divide it between two opposing views of human nature: the "future perfect" romantics who believe human nature can be substantially changed and avarice erased; and the "present imperfect" realists who argue that despite great technological changes human nature has remained essentially the same for centuries.

The father of future perfect thought in the West is Plato, who described an ideal society in "The Republic." In his perfect world, property would be communal.

For Plato and other utopians, human perfectibility could be achieved through mass education, a concept popularized during the Enlightenment. John Locke believed man was a "tabula rasa" when born and could be molded by the learning environment. "Education can be anything" declared Claude Helvetius, a French philosophe. It was 18th century French thought, especially the ideas of Jean Jacques Rousseau, that spawned the Jacobins, bloody revolutionaries who planned to create a new society by forcibly destroying all vestiges of the old. Thousands of innocent lives were sacrificed

to this ideal before the Jacobins self-destructed.

Although not as bloody, Americans have also had their share of utopian failures. Both the Jamestown and Plymouth colonies, initially established on the principle of common ownership, did not begin to prosper until private ownership was introduced. Communes later emerged in Bishop Hill, Ill., Oneida, N.Y., and Amana, Iowa. The most infamous of American communes was Indiana's New Harmony colony, established by British millionaire Robert Owen in 1824. He believed that marriage, religion and private property represented the "trinity of evil" that prevented humanity from experiencing sublime bliss on earth. All of the communes eventually disbanded, some after causing much pain and uncertainty to their inhabitants. Interestingly, the Oneida and Amana colonies eventually became free-enterprise zones that today produce flatware and electric household items, respectively.

Although it lasted for only three years, Karl Marx was impressed by Robert Owen's Indiana experiment, especially his perception of private property. Vladimir Lenin managed to eradicate two of Robert Owen's three "evils" and even took a stab at eliminating formal marriage. The formation of Homo Sovieticus became the goal of all Soviet institutions, beginning with the schools. Millions of innocent lives were lost before the great Soviet experiment was relegated to the trash heap of history.

Among past imperfect thinkers one finds Aristotle, Plato's pupil ("what is common to the greater number gets the least amount of care"), Edmund Burke ("the power of perpetuating our property tends the most to the perpetuation of society itself"), 18th century economist Adam Smith (property that is earned is "the most sacred and inviolable"), Abraham Lincoln ("I take it that it is best for all to leave each man to acquire property as fast as he can") and such Nobel prize economists as Friedrich von Hayek ("when it becomes dominated by a collectivist creed, democracy will inevitably destroy itself") and Milton Friedman ("you cannot have a free society without private property").

John Stuart Mill, an 18th century economist summarized the sanctity of private property by quoting writer Arthur Young: "Give a man the secure possession of a bleak rock and he will turn it into a garden; give him a nine-year lease of a garden and he will convert it into a desert." It is a universal truth that people will not exert themselves when they cannot reap the benefits of their individual labors.

"Private property," writes Mr. Bethell, empowers people because it "builds a domain of autonomy around individuals, permitting them to aspire to something more than obedience. Because they can secure the fruits of efforts, they can make long-range plans."

This is exactly what Ms. Vitrenko and her Neanderthal colleagues in the Ukrainian Parliament fear the most. Securing property rights means more power to the people, the end of a slave mentality, and the disappearance of the parasitic Soviet way. Unless these miscreants are swept out of office, Ukraine will continue to be ruled by opportunism, lies and thuggery.

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PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



On Ukrainian independence

It's eight years since the Soviet Union collapsed and Ukraine declared independence. Since then, nearly all the newly independent countries have been engaged in some kind of conflict. Russia, having lost its war with Chechnya in spectacular fashion, is at it again in the Caucasus, this time fighting Islamic guerrillas in Daghestan. Violence is tearing at the fabric of Georgian society; President Eduard Shevardnadze is a perennial target of political assassins. Armenia and Azerbaijan have never stopped fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh. In Uzbekistan authorities have banned political parties and are sentencing people to death for political bombings in the capital city of Tashkent. In Tajikistan the government has been in armed conflict with the United Tajik Opposition (UTO) for the past five years. Belarus, under its bizarre dictator Ayaksandr Lukashenka, is both a tragedy and an international laughing stock. Virtually the only formerly Soviet-occupied countries with no armed conflict or political repression are the Baltic states and Ukraine.

That's not what everyone expected. Three years ago in September, Forbes Magazine published a highly offensive article, "Tinderbox," that compared Ukraine to Yugoslavia and hyped a self-styled militia leader and lunatic as if he were characteristic of the whole country. "The world hasn't seen the last of ethnic turmoil in Eastern Europe," Forbes warned. "Keep your eye on Ukraine." Since then, Ukraine has been an island of stability and if anything, the world is keeping its eye on Russia.

In its eight years of independence, Ukraine, under two presidents, has proven to be a responsible force in international affairs. In its very first years as an independent country, Ukraine made an immeasurable contribution to American and international security by choosing to divest itself of thousands of nuclear warheads. (I hope Congress keeps this in mind as it considers the foreign assistance bill this fall.) During the recent crisis in Kosovo, Ukraine resisted pressure from Russia and aligned itself with NATO against Slobodan Milosevic's ethnic cleansing. Elsewhere in the former Yugoslavia, Ukraine has been helping to keep the peace in Bosnia for more than two years now. In fact, the use of military force in Ukraine has been exclusively peaceful – most recently this past summer when Ukrainian warships participated in NATO maneuvers on the Black Sea and at the Yavoriv training center in Lviv where 17 NATO and observer nations took part in the Peaceshield '99 NATO-sponsored war games.

New York Mayor Ed Koch used to greet people with a cheerful, "How am I doing?" That's a reasonable question, and one that many people constantly apply to Ukraine. The country, of course, is large and complex, and the absence of political violence is certainly not the only standard by which we measure its status. So how's Ukraine doing? By any normal standard, the answer is "terrible." The economy is a mess, the environment is a disaster, health care is poor, the state still controls most major business, including the vital agricultural sector, and the general mood is one of pessimism and gloom.

Ukraine, though, is not a normal country where normal standards apply. This is a place where God was banned for 75 years and people worshipped a mummy laid out in a Moscow mausoleum. This was a land

where people didn't trust anyone – even children were taught to inform on their parents and teachers. Within living memory, Ukraine was a killing field where the Communists murdered millions of peasants, artists and professionals. Millions more died in the bitter struggle with the Nazis. Those who survived the Great Famine, the Great Terror and the war lived in fear of the biggest police bureaucracy in history. From the top down, everyone survived by suppressing any instinct toward creative thinking or entrepreneurial initiative. People even stopped using the letter "g" when the authorities ordered them to do so.

When the Soviet Union finally collapsed in August 1991, Ukrainians of all ethnic backgrounds voted almost unanimously for independence. Unfortunately, the expectation that an era of prosperity would promptly ensue has been cruelly frustrated. The habits and attitudes forced on society by the Communists continue to prevail. If the country's doing terribly, there are plenty of reasons why, based on its history and the mindset inherited from the Soviet era.

Soon after Independence Day celebrations in August, Ukraine will hold its third presidential election. Since 1991, the country has conducted a smooth transition from one presidential administration to another and peacefully replaced its Parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, following free elections that international observers certified as democratic and fair. In eight years of independence, Ukraine has proved it can sustain its sovereignty, conduct peaceful and democratic elections and play a responsible role in international affairs. Not a bad record for a country that many predicted would erupt in ethnic turmoil and Yugoslav-style conflict.

Unfortunately, people can't eat independence or take democracy to the bank. Democracy and stability provide the basis for progress and prosperity, but tough choices still have to be made and a lot of hard work still confronts the citizens of Ukraine. Regardless, I hope Ukrainians and Ukraine's friends in the West appreciate the value of what has been achieved and keep things in perspective.

Ukraine is doing far better than Yugoslavia (Forbes Magazine please take note) and is playing a much more responsible role internationally than its giant neighbors to the north and east. It's apparent that the Clinton administration, the State Department, many members of Congress, NATO, the International Monetary Fund and other key players in the world recognize Ukraine's strategic role and have taken notice of its leaders' efforts to maintain the country's security, stability and international standing. On the other hand, it's no secret that critical decisions are not being made. That is why the country that is doing so well in some respects is failing in the economic sphere.

Taking all these factors into account, how's Ukraine doing? Compared to the United States and the European Union, the country is light years behind. Compared to Russia and other countries that once were part of the Soviet Union, Ukraine is a model of civic responsibility. Compared to where the country was two and three generations ago, things have never been this good. It all depends on your perspective. Ukraine has come a long way. It has a long way to go.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UCCLA leader rejects allegation

Dear Editor:

John Granatstein is quite right in stating that the Victoria Cross won by the Ukrainian Canadian, Filip Konowal, does not belong only to our community, but belongs to all Canadians, those of Ukrainian heritage included, who do have a right to expect our nation's military treasures to be well cared for in the Canadian War Museum (August 1). Obviously, Mr. Konowal's VC wasn't.

As for Mr. Granatstein's assertion that the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association is engaged in "straight out blackmail" to get the museum to install

an exhibit dealing with the internment operations, his allegation is utterly ludicrous, to say nothing of intemperate. We have always said that we would much prefer to have a permanent exhibit dealing with Canada's first national internment operations in Banff National Park or in the Canadian Museum of Civilization, although I do note that the Ottawa Citizen recently editorialized in favor of an internment exhibit at the Canadian War Museum.

Obviously Mr. Granatstein is out of step with public opinion.

Lubomyr Luciuk, Ph.D.
Kingston, Ontario

The writer is director of research for the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

Where are those tens of thousands?

Dear Editor:

I was glad to learn that Sergey Chikakov is reading The Ukrainian Weekly, and I do hope that he is an active member of our community. I would like to differ on several points made in his letter to the editor (August 15).

The community, or "hromada," in the United States does not have a "huge blind spot" regarding the newly arrived. Ukrainian communities have opened their homes and hearts to the new wave. However, many (not all) newly arrived expect to be given everything, and when they do get it, they leave. We managed to get 30 people jobs in the Chicago area, yet not one of newly arrived is active in the community.

Start a dialogue? Great, let's get started. But, many (not all) are not interested in a dialogue or becoming involved in the community. In Chicago, some would come to the meetings, find out there were

no giveaways and then leave.

I resent Mr. Chikakov's exhortation "don't look down your noses at recent arrivals," and I am angry about the comment that we stay in the safety of our homes and "love Ukraine vicariously." These are counterproductive comments that show Mr. Chikakov is not familiar with the history of Ukrainian Americans. He should read the history of Ukrainian immigration by Dr. Myron Kuropas.

The Ukrainian American community had high hopes for the newly arrived from Ukraine. Everyone believed that a fresh infusion of Ukrainian blood would galvanize the communities to higher levels of activity. Alas, this didn't happen to any large degree. There are exceptions, but we do not see "tens of thousands" of new activists.

Mr. Chikakov, I suggest or rather challenge you to start a dialogue with the newly arrived. Ask your friends: the question "Why?" It's easy to blame others, but look at yourselves, first.

Roman G. Golash
Palatine, Ill.

UWC writes...

(Continued from page 7)

guage. Radio and television stations in Ukraine broadcast more material in a more interesting fashion in the Russian language than in the official state language, and general interest bookstores in Kyiv carry far more Russian-language titles than Ukrainian-language titles.

It is not clear to us why non-state universities, whose independence is guaranteed in the Constitution of Ukraine, should be the subject of a state decree.

Ukrainian is enshrined as the official language in the Constitution of Ukraine. Unfortunately, since the Constitution was adopted, the government has been inactive in the area of Ukrainization. As a result, the Russification of the country has not been held in check, but has accelerated, in part due to the constant and practically undecipherable accusations levelled by state representatives of the Russian Federation about the allegedly unsatisfactory conditions faced by the Russian minority in Ukraine.

We are particularly distressed by the aggressive chauvinism of the Russian Federation's representatives, including President Boris Yeltsin, and the inexplicable meekness of their counterparts in Ukraine's government. It seems Ukraine's officials are incapable of standing their ground in the face of Russia's groundless accusations.

Ukrainian officials have shown a complete lack of confidence in defending the interests of the Ukrainian minority in

Russia, where not a single Ukrainian school or church are permitted to function, despite the fact that over 10 million Ukrainians live in that country.

We believe that you, Mr. President, will give due consideration to the important matter of the Ukrainian language and culture. We agree with your declaration in Kharkiv, in which you denounced as inadmissible any forcible Ukrainization, and yet we expect that you will agree this cannot mean that the 300-year process of Russification should continue in an independent Ukraine.

Of course, the president of Ukraine should not be an enemy of the Russian language. However, the president should be, in the first instance, an active defender of the Ukrainian language and culture.

Therefore, we applaud your declaration made in Crimea, in which you underscored your conviction that Ukraine will have one, single official language — Ukrainian. Our language and culture, annihilated over the centuries and pressured by Russification, require active protection and policies that might spur their renaissance, and not merely declarations.

We call on you, Mr. President, to be the Mazepa of the 21st century. Let us build Ukraine not only in form but also in content. This entreaty comes to you from the long-suffering but invincible Ukrainian people in Ukraine and in the diaspora.

Respectfully,

For the UWC
Askold Lozynskyj, President
Viktor Pedenko, General Secretary

NEWS AND VIEWS: Three generations of hard work

by Ihor Lysyj

AUSTIN, Texas – It was only two short years ago that former students of the Ukrainian Gymnasium in Berchtesgaden celebrated the 50th anniversary of its first graduating class at a reunion at Soyuzivka. Now, two years later, they are coming back to Soyuzivka on November 6-7, to celebrate its last graduating class of 1949 and to close a chapter of our school history.

Just three short years – 1946-1949 – in Berchtesgaden, plus one year prior in Karlsfeld Gymnasium have left a profound mark on the rest of our lives. Lifelong friendships were established and relationships not unlike that of extended family became common.

The year of the graduating class of 1949, was grim and foreboding for displaced persons (DPs) scattered across refugee camps in West Germany. The Iron Curtain was well in place and the darkness of communism was spreading like a pestilence over the landscape of Eastern Europe.

It was also a year of profound changes in the life of DP camps in Germany. The lingering hope of early and imminent collapse of the Communist despotism, and the hope for return to a free and liberated homeland become just a distant and impossible dream. It took almost half a century for this dream to come true. By then, it was too late for our parents. Too many have found their final resting place in South Bound Brook, N.J., and other cemeteries scattered across North America and Europe.

The grim reality of life for DPs in 1949 was that there would be no return home but instead a resettlement and an uncertain future in distant and unknown lands of Australia and North and South America. With DP camps being closed one after the other, relocation across the Atlantic and the Pacific was at its peak. It was not migration to the promised land in search of the "American Dream" of material possessions, but an unhappy migration of exiles struggling to survive. With a shrinking teaching staff and a dwindling student body, our school was on its last legs of existence in 1949.

Now, 50 years later one reads with great pride and satisfaction about the professional, social, cultural and political accomplishments of the present-day Ukrainian diaspora in North America and around the world. Recent issues of *The Ukrainian Weekly* describe in glowing terms the accomplishments of Ukrainian American educators, physicians, lawyers, scientists and engineers, librarians, journalists, architects and others – all united in influential professional Ukrainian American organizations.

The societal and political power of the Ukrainian diaspora was clearly demonstrated during the recent super-charged five-day meeting billed as the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations and related gala events in Washington. Considering the fact that Ukrainian Americans constitute a relatively small percentage of this country's population, its social, professional and political influence is indeed remarkable.

Then and now – 1949 and 1999. From the grimness of DP barracks and long lines in soup kitchens for a daily ration of pea soup, to the splendor of the Benjamin Franklin Room on the top floor of the State Department building, to the halls of Congress and a lavish reception at the Embassy of independent Ukraine. Yes, we have come a long way over the past 50 years.

Yet, there is a little secret and an explanation behind this remarkable success story that might not be apparent from a superficial reading of newspaper accounts. The

recent gala event in Washington is not just a success story of a suddenly emerging group of 30-somethings, but is a product of the long and sustained effort of at least three generations. It is a legacy of hard work, sacrifices and hardships overcome by the generation of our parents, our own generation, and the generation of our children.

To put the success story of the Ukrainian diaspora in North America into historical perspective one must go back to the time of the graduating class of 1949 and their parents. Most arrived at the port of New York essentially penniless. Some were given \$1 at the port of entry and a free railroad ticket to a designated location, where they were met by their sponsors – for the most part they also were penniless refugees from the same DP camps who arrived here a few months earlier and took the trouble to care for their compatriots arriving after them. There were no 18-acre estates with five swimming pools waiting for our parents in San Francisco (as is the case with a recent prominent immigrant arriving from a financially struggling Ukraine).

Some of our parents and their children started their lives in a new land by picking cotton in the snake-infested swamps of Louisiana or cleaning office buildings in New York City at night, while others were cutting forests in Manitoba or building railroads in Australia's Outback. This was considered appropriate work for immigrants. Considering the fact that many of these immigrants were highly educated and prominent in their native lands, it was a hard beginning.

Yet they coped stoically, without complaints or welfare benefits, working hard and doing menial jobs while building the foundations of prosperity that we all enjoy today and concentrating their meager resources on educating their children.

They did not feel poor, isolated or disadvantaged. Having lost all their material possessions more than once in their lives, they put all their faith in education, or, as my father used to say, "the wealth that nobody can take away from you." They were almost obsessive in insisting on education and development of intellectual skills in their children.

This prevailing attitude of our parents was carried over to a significant degree into successive generations. The result is a continuum of a highly educated population, a subgroup of Ukrainian Americans that today is a highly visible in many centers of intellectual excellence across the country as well as in the halls of power in Washington.

It is no surprise that the majority of Ukrainian American success stories, as reported in *The Ukrainian Weekly*, are in the fields of intellectual and professional endeavors, such as education, medicine, law, science, engineering and the arts, rather than in the field of commerce or business. The statistics provided in an earlier (1997) article about our school in *The Ukrainian Weekly* indicate that of the 84 percent of students who entered schools of higher education, 75 percent chose intellectual and professional fields, while only 19 percent elected to study business and commerce.

The Ukrainian American organizations and individuals meeting recently in and around Washington represent an intellectual powerhouse. This intellectual powerhouse has a profound and positive effect on many aspects of the social and political fabric of life in America today – a strength disproportionate to the numerical strength of the Ukrainian American population.

But it should always be remembered that it took three generations of hard work, sacrifices and dedication to achieve this success. That success story dates back to the days of the graduating class of 1949.



A group of students of the Ukrainian Gymnasium in Berchtesgaden circa 1949. First row (from left): Oleksij Chevchenko, Volodymyr Dmytrijuk, Bohdan Bobynskyi; second row: Leonid Petrenko, Wasyl Kalynowych; third row: Ihor Lysyj, Yuriy Oliynyk. Source: "Commemorative Book of Ukrainian Gymnasium in Berchtesgaden" (1997).

Slave laborers...

(Continued from page 1)

hours. Every mishap brought on a beating by the guards with clubs. There were only two meager meals served to the slave laborers per day: soup made of water and rutabaga in the morning, and a piece of bread at night. There were no days off. Mr. Guminsky received no pay for his slave labor.

Plaintiff Matrena Rashina, presently living in Kharkiv, was forcibly taken from her native village of Bishkin, Ukraine, to Bathausburg, Germany, at the age of 16. She was forced into slave labor at the factory of the German corporation BASF, where every day she had to load heavy white metal strips onto wagons. She received very small portions of food and was severely beaten for every mishap; sometimes she was beaten for no reason at all.

Plaintiff Raisa Sevastyanova presently resides in Symferopol. She was born in Crimea, Ukraine, in 1925, into a Jewish family. Her real name is Raisa Goldshlyak. When the war started, her neighbors took her to a small Ukrainian village and obtained Russian identification papers for her in the name of Valentina Rymanova in order to save her from the Nazis. In 1942 Ms. Sevastyanova was forcibly taken by the Nazis and brought to Berlin, and then transferred to Vienna.

She was placed as a slave laborer in the factory of the German corporation Siemens. The labor camp where she worked was surrounded by a double wall of barbed wire and was guarded at all times by SS guards and vicious dogs. She was awakened at 4 a.m. every morning, given a piece of bread with 20 grams of margarine, and then marched to work under military convoy. Every working day lasted for 12 hours,

without any breaks, during which she stood at all times. She was forced to work even when she was very sick and received almost no compensation for her labor.

Other plaintiffs worked in similar inhuman conditions: Ivan Shuvalov worked for the German corporation Opel; Alexander Boyko worked for the German corporation Mann; Nikolay Godun worked for Volkswagen; Fedor Lirskiy worked for Krupp.

The complaint further alleges that the defendant corporations conspired with the Nazi regime to profit from the use of forced/slave labor and, since these acts were crimes against humanity, no statute of limitations should apply. The plaintiffs are seeking compensation from these and other German corporations for the economic, physical and moral damage that they and all other forced/slave laborers of Ukraine were caused to suffer.

The class action lawsuit was filed on behalf of the plaintiffs by three legal firms:

- Pyotr S. Rabinovich of Pyotr S. Rabinovich PA, 475 Fifth Ave., Suite 602, New York, NY 10017; telephone, (212) 679-5880; fax, (212) 679-7958;

- Myroslaw Smorodsky of Smorodsky & Stawnychy, 75 Union Ave., P.O. Box 1705, Rutherford, NJ 07070; telephone, (201) 939-1999; fax, (201) 507-3970; and

- Danylo Kourdelchouk and Oleksandr Storozhuk of Ukriniurkollegiia – Ukrainian Bar Association for Foreign Affairs, 2-A Zoloti Vorota St., Kyiv, Ukraine, 252034; telephone, (38-044) 246-53-91; fax, (38-044) 229-85-22.

The press release above was issued by: D. Demidov, president of the Ukrainian Union of Prisoners/Victims of Nazi persecution; and V. A. Kachanovsky, President of the Ukrainian Association of the Anti-fascist Resistance.

Ukrainian American Plast youths on "Ridna Mandrivka" to Ukraine

by Marta Kolomayets

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV/LVIV – Although this was the first trip to Ukraine for many of the college-aged Ukrainian American Plast members who participated in the "Ridna Mandrivka/Stezhky Kultury" trip to the homeland of their grandparents and parents this summer, it definitely will not be their last.

"This is the stuff I read about in Uke school, but it has really come to life for me here," said Michelle Poliwka, 20, from Chicago, as she prepared to take a photograph of the domes of St. Andrew's Church from the deck of the Akademik Hlushkov, docked at the Dnipro River Port in Kyiv.

As the 59 young adults from all over the United States and one Canadian, together with seven trip guides, boarded the passenger ship in Kyiv on August 2 to sail down the Dnipro, little did they know what an effect this odyssey through Kaniv, Kremenchuk, the villages in Zaporizhia and Kherson oblasts, Sevastopol and Odesa would have on their lives.

Even more vivid memories lay in store for them as they disembarked in Odesa, taking the train to Lviv, followed by bus tours of Ternopil, Kamianets Podilskyi, Chernivtsi, the Carpathian Mountains, Yaremche and Uzhhorod, before they headed for Budapest, Prague, and back home to the United States on August 22.

This trip, organized by the Pershi Stezhi Plast Women's Sorority in conjunction with Scope Travel of Maplewood, N.J., is the fourth such venture for the sorority since the summer Ukrainian independence was proclaimed in 1991; to date it is the largest and most varied, with participants age 17-27 from all over the U.S. traveling through 20 cities and villages during this three-week sojourn.

"It's just impossible to see everything Ukraine has to offer in the span of three weeks," remarked Alexa Vena, already making plans for a return trip next year. "Not only am I seeing Ukraine with people my age, I am seeing them with the people I spent many summers with at camp," she added, referring to her many Plast experiences over the years.

"I grew up in Myrtle Beach, S.C., and every year I waited for the summer so I could join my Plast friends. I've always had American friends, but my Ukrainian friends are my sisters for life," explained Lydia Kryzaniwsky.



Yuriy Borodin

Deputy Chief of Mission David Hess and Foreign Commercial Service Attaché Andrew Bihun with Ukrainian American Plast members at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv. In front of the Embassy on August 2, the scouts, who had just begun their 21-day journey through Ukraine, sang "Hory, Hory," a Plast song authored by Mr. Bihun, as well as the U.S. national anthem.

"You can read about this place and hear about it, but living this experience is irreplaceable," commented Ksenia Hankewych, 20, a student of biology at De Paul University in Chicago, who kept a journal of her experiences in Ukraine throughout the trip. She, like many of her Plast friends, was not only interested in the rich history of Ukraine, but also intrigued by how her relatives in Kyiv, Lviv and Ternopil live.

"Many of my friends at DePaul call me an ethnic and I am proud of it. I know my roots and I know where I come from," she said. "This trip has really been an eye-opening experience," she underlined.

That sentiment was heard from many of the "Plastuny," and it is perhaps for this reason they decided to call their camp "Novymy Ochyma" (Through New Eyes). And, each one of them saw something distinct that will bring them back in years to come.

Danylo Melnyk, 20, a student of

physics at Loyola University in Chicago, had met his Ukrainian relatives earlier, when they visited the United States, but he was curious to see how they make ends meet in Ukraine. "It was an awesome experience," he added, as he wrote down his address for a handful of Plastuny in Lviv, who were urging him to come back next year for one of the myriad camps that Plast in Ukraine holds every summer.

"We had 60 camps for all ages – including 'novaky,' 'novachky,' 'yunaky' and 'yunachky,' as well as 'starshi plastuny'," explained Andrii Harmatii, the head of the National Plast Command of Ukraine, which is based in Lviv. During a bonfire hosted by the Lviv starshi plastuny (young adult Plast members) on Saturday evening, August 14, he told the scouts from the United States about the specialized camps in Ukraine this summer that included cycling, hiking, arts and crafts, as well as the traditional

"Lisova Shkola," "Shkola Bulavnykh" and "Zolota Bulava" camps for Plast leaders and counselors.

"You haven't really done a Plast camp until you have survived one of ours," he joked with the U.S. scouts, who were eager to get to know about Plast in Ukraine which, according to Mr. Harmatii, has close to 9,000 registered members. Mr. Harmatii also explained the difficulties Plast is having with the International Scouting Bureau in Geneva as it tries to register itself as scouting organization representing Ukraine.

Their 21-day tour through Ukraine left different memories for different Plastuny: Some were inspired by the majestic churches of Kyiv, the Baroque and Rococo styles that they had always read about in history books; others cried when they approached the monument in Kaniv of Taras Shevchenko, Ukraine's

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Ukrainian American youths...

(Continued from page 3)

changed in a positive way.

Now is the time to be the strongest because the euphoria is over. The diaspora is wobbling on its feet because they're disgusted with the negatives rather than focusing on the positive. In 20 years we'll have to take responsibility for that. It's advantageous for everyone to assess what their childhood was like, where they came from and how they fit into the picture with Ukraine. This is the time we can't lose faith in Ukraine.

We must stay positive and do whatever we can either by volunteering, supporting other groups, or simply by talking about Ukraine to non-Ukrainians. By getting involved this way, we'll increase the professionalism of the community.

I'd like to commend Roman Goy for organizing the Joint Conferences [of Ukrainian American Organizations]. It was the first time all Ukrainian organizations were invited and or present. It was a wonderful opportunity to work together.

Adrianna Melnyk, 24, New York: We in the diaspora watched with elation as a distant Ukraine became independent in 1991. We now realize that declaring independence was the easy part: various events in the past eight years have served as an oftentimes painful reminder of the daunting task that nation-building can be.

On the eve of the eighth anniversary of Ukrainian independence, it is more critical than ever that the Ukrainian diaspora not only show its solidarity with the people of Ukraine as they continue their national search for identity, but also that we recognize this as a time to redefine for ourselves our role and future as part of a Ukrainian American community.

Xenia Piaseckyj, 27, Jersey City, N.J.: Ukrainian independence has had a direct influence on my life, on my career. At the Ukrainian Broadcasting Network we were able to freely pass along information about Ukraine in America, as best as we could from the U.S. Independence allowed my peers, my colleagues and me to work there [at UBN] in a seemingly

unfettered environment. This was a novelty eight years ago.

Ivan Stokotelnj, 21, Irvington, N.J.: Although it doesn't immediately affect my life, the fact that Ukraine has been independent for eight years shows how it isn't just a temporary thing. The diaspora should start taking an active role, i.e., visiting Ukraine, working there, keeping close ties with family in Ukraine – or they shouldn't call themselves Ukrainian.

Taisa Welhasch, 19, Berkeley Heights, N.J.: I'm not sure that I was able to fully appreciate Ukraine's independence eight years ago – at least not to the extent of my parents' and grandparents' level. Possibly because I was too young and because I really never had a doubt in my mind that Ukraine would gain its independence in my lifetime.

As far back as I could remember, I was always exposed to my parents' aspirations for a free Ukraine. I figured that after all those rallies and hunger strikes, protests, benefits and even parties at "Vuiko" [Roman] Kupchinsky's house, that Ukraine was bound to be independent after such pas-

sionate efforts. My father even worked for 17 years for an organization named Prolog, dedicated to help Ukraine gain independence. Thank God for our parents' relentless perseverance. I plan to involve myself in the Ukrainian diaspora and helping Ukraine by traveling there and possibly even working there. It's a very exciting concept for me, an aspiring geography major.

Olenka Welhasch, 20, Berkeley Heights, N.J.: My life was created around the dream of an independent Ukraine. My parents met at a hunger strike to free Valentyn Moroz, and my responsibility to Ukraine is an aspect of my life that was always very obvious.

I feel that we must get involved in our Ukrainian community, whether it is here or in Ukraine, or both, and dedicate our time out of respect and appreciation for those of us who are still suffering from Ukraine's unfortunate history. Our grandparents sacrificed a lot to give us the opportunities we have today. Those opportunities include the knowledge and the freedom to travel to our motherland and to help implement democracy there.

INTERVIEW: U.S. ambassador speaks on developments regarding Ukraine

Ambassador Steven Pifer arrived in Kyiv on January 8, 1998, as the third United States ambassador to Ukraine. Prior to his appointment here, Mr. Pifer served as a special assistant to President Bill Clinton and senior director for Russian, Ukrainian and Eurasian affairs at the National Security Council.

Ambassador Pifer agreed to discuss with *The Ukrainian Weekly* a wide array of issues, including U.S.-Ukraine relations, the upcoming Ukrainian presidential elections, the Ukrainian American diaspora and the new visa application procedures at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv.

The following edited interview was conducted by Roman Woronowycz at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv on July 21. The conclusion will appear in next week's issue.

PART I

What in your opinion, Mr. Ambassador, are the most critical problems that Ukraine must resolve today?

I think that right now the most critical issues are economic. They turn on sufficient economic reforms so that critical mass is achieved. You begin to have the creation of a business and investment climate where you have economic growth, job creation, the ability of companies that are in the open economy to generate greater tax revenues.

I think that's been an area where there has been a great amount of difficulty. There have been a number of reforms, but it has not yet reached the point where the economy has taken off. You see it in the numbers. For example, the United States is the largest foreign direct investor in Ukraine. With about \$2.8 billion in foreign direct investment in Ukraine, there is \$500 million of American investment here.

In Poland, by contrast, which has three-quarters of the population of Ukraine, there is \$6 billion of American investment out of a total of \$30 billion in Poland. Basically 10 times as much in comparison to Ukraine.

One of the tricks, I think, to turning the economy around here is to begin creating an investment climate that is attractive, so that foreign investors say that Ukraine is the place where I can go, where I know that there are transparent rules, where I can make a fair profit, and it's a good place to make my investment decisions.

Everyone here in government speaks of the reforms that are occurring, but is there, in your opinion, constructive implementation of the reform programs in real terms?

You see some of it, but it's happening very, very slowly. So that there has been an increase in investment in Ukraine, but it hasn't been at the sort of pace that the Ukrainian government would like to see, or that we in the American Embassy would like to see, or that the Ukrainian economy would like to see.

At the American Embassy we don't make investment decisions. But what we hear from American investors and other investors is they say there is too much regulation here, the tax system is too complicated, there are problems with corruption, it's difficult to get a contract enforced. Sometimes even when you win a court decision you can't get it enforced.

The problem is that Ukraine is competing with a whole lot of other countries for foreign direct investment. Unfortunately, so far Ukraine is not doing well in that competition.

How does the U.S. government look at all the promises made by the Kuchma administration of political and economic reform? Have there been moments of straightforward verbalization to Ukraine that there has been too much talk, now it's time for action?

What we are trying to do, and we do this in conjunction with the international financial organizations, the IMF and the World Bank, is to push and say these are the sorts of changes we think are necessary to create a business environment and an investment environment that are going to attract investment dollars. That, I really think, is probably one of the single biggest things that we do.

Again, it's getting the conditions right, it's committing to a privatization program that is open and transparent and gets foreign investors saying that, yes, this is a reasonable place to come and invest.

There has been a lot of contact with the Ukrainian government by the American side through the channels of the

Binational Commission, the Gore-Kuchma committees, working with the World Bank and the IMF. These are the sorts of things that have to happen if you are going to create a situation that will bring investment in.

Do you meet often with President Leonid Kuchma?

From time to time.

Could you say quarterly?

I guess I have met with him once every three or four months, either on my own or sometimes [in a] a small group.

Is Ukraine moving on administrative reform at the tempo the U.S. and the West would like to see?

I think the West is always going to say "do more and do it faster." It's a complex question and, invariably, when you are talking about administrative reform – just as economic reforms are difficult because they will evoke usually some short-term economic dislocation – administrative reform, when you start moving around different agencies, is going to have an impact on people. It's not an easy thing to do. But having said that, I think the general feeling remains that it would be useful to have the Ukrainian government structure streamlined, so that there are fewer independent agencies and ministries, so that there are streamlined mechanisms for decision-making.

For example, we hear that on certain decisions of government policy you may need to get the signature of 11 or 12 deputy [vice] ministers. Getting that is difficult, and it gives a lot of people the ability to raise questions or block things. It's an inefficient way of operating.

We've joined very much with the World Bank, which is focused on evaluating administrative reform. This will also produce decisions that will help create the investment and business climate that we want. But also it can reduce the possibility for government interference in the economy because, again, that is one of the problems, the government tends to get involved in the economy in ways that we, looking at a market economy, would think are averse to the long-term development of the economy.

The outgoing chairman of the Agency for International Development has called the U.S. foreign policy budget completely inadequate, meanwhile the U.S. House of Representatives continues to push for reduced foreign policy appropriations. What does that portend for Ukraine? Can it still hope to see about \$200 million annually earmarked for aid to the country in the future?

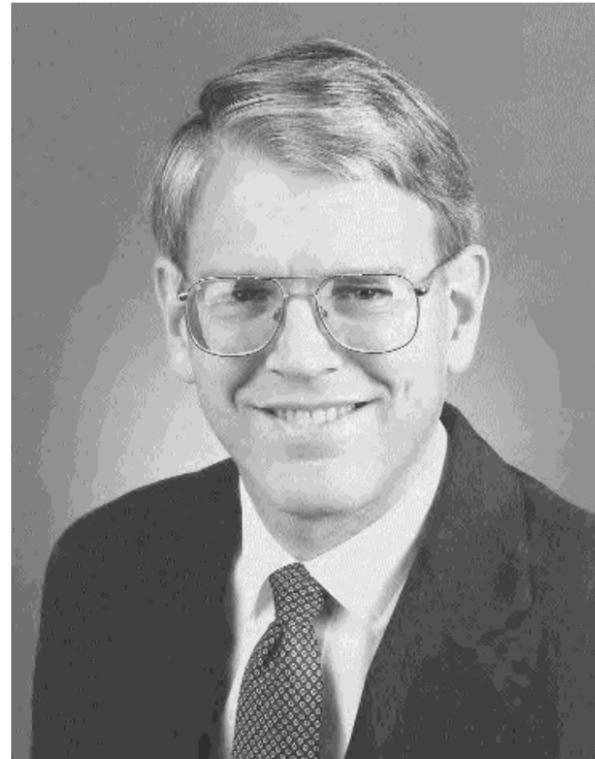
First of all, Ukraine does receive a significant chunk of assistance funding. The portion that you mention is from FREEDOM Support Act funds. In addition, there are funds that flow from other budgets, for example, the Defense Department, which provides funding for the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. So there are a number of programs that are working in Ukraine.

We recognize that there are always going to be budget pressures to reduce dollars. What it does for us is that when we look at these assistance programs we have to continually ask ourselves: "Are we doing the assistance programs that make the most sense, and are we getting the best value per dollar?" It's difficult because, in an economy that's in transition like this one, a lot of things that we're doing is building capacity, is building potential for a market economy, but until you get more pieces into place you're really not going to see results. Results in some ways are several years down the road.

I think that is one of the problems when the budget for Ukraine comes into Congress, because there is a desire to see fast results. I think some of the frustration with Ukraine is that it has not moved more quickly on reform.

The Ukrainian government has predicted economic growth in the year 2000. Other experts say the stagnation will continue. What are U.S. experts forecasting for Ukraine's economy in the near-term future?

I think that at this point it is still a bit early to tell. In 1998, prior to the onset of the Russian financial crisis in August, which then had a knock-off effect here in Ukraine, there actually were some signs that the economy may have been leveling, that production may have bottomed out and that we were beginning to see growth in certain sectors. It was knocked off course by the



Ambassador Steven Pifer

Russian financial crisis.

I think the government hopes to realize growth in the year 2000. My sense is that some of the financial experts, the economic experts and the international financial institutions are a little bit less optimistic and say that there still might be in the year 2000 a period of small decline before it begins to turn around. Again, one of the reasons we continue to push on economic reforms is that we think putting more of those reforms in place could in fact accelerate that bottoming out and then contribute to growth.

Is there one thing in particular that Ukraine could do to spur that process?

A lot of it is going to turn on increasing investment. One thing that will be of real importance in the next year is strategic prioritization. Ukraine, actually, has had pretty good success in the privatization of small and medium enterprises. The bulk of those now are no longer in government hands. But there are still some large enterprises that have not been privatized. And there are some foreign investors who look at things, particularly in the energy sector and some of the energy generation and transmission facilities and Ukrtelecom, there is a lot of interest now in privatizing telecommunications. If they would put some of those up for an open and transparent privatization process, I think Ukraine could [obtain] quite a bit of capital.

Is the Verkhovna Rada to blame, or the government?

I think there is reluctance in both parts. There are some in the Rada that, when you talk of power generation or telecom, say these are the crown jewels, and there is reluctance to give them up. An American investor or a British investor who buys an electric generating plant in Kyiv or Odesa, or wherever, is not going to pack the thing up and take it to the United States. He is going to have an interest in putting capital into that to make it an efficient and productive operation because that's how he is going to make his money.

There still is, and I think that this is a holdover from 70 years of communism, a reluctance to let go. I'd also say that there is a certain reluctance in many parts of the government – it's not just an issue in the Rada but also in the government – where there is a tendency to want to hold on and again maintain government control over the economy, whereas a free market answer would be that the government really has to get out of the way and let the market do what the market does best.

Turning to another topic, have the complaints by the 12 or so of U.S. investors doing business in Ukraine been resolved? In the spring, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, during her appearance before the Congress on certification for further U.S. funding for Ukraine, said only that progress was being made.

Of the ones that we were working on in the context of the certification ... from last February, we have made

(Continued on page 14)

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U. of Manitoba offers nine Ukrainian courses

WINNIPEG – The Center for Ukrainian Canadian Studies at the University of Manitoba is offering nine courses for the academic year 1999-2000. Of these courses, five are full-year (two semesters) and four are half-year courses.

The course offerings cover six areas: language, history, economics, political studies, religion and fine art.

The courses include: "Conversational Ukrainian," "History of Ukraine," "The Economy of Ukraine" (first semester), "Government, Politics and Society in Ukraine," "History of Eastern Christianity," "Major Thinkers in the Eastern Christian Tradition," "History of Byzantine Art I" (first semester), "History of Byzantine Art II" (second semester) and "Central and East European Avant-Garde Art" (second semester).

Most of the courses are held during the daytime, however three ("Conversational Ukrainian," "History of Ukraine" and "Government, Politics and Society in Ukraine") are offered in the evenings.

Most of the courses are offered on the campus of the University of Manitoba at St. Andrew's College or other locations; however, one course ("Conversational Ukrainian") is offered in North End

Winnipeg at the Ukrainian National Home.

Courses may be taken simply for general interest, as options or as components in various departments and faculties. For students interested in specializing in the area, the center offers interdisciplinary programs in Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Studies leading to a bachelor of arts degree with a general major, an advanced major, or a minor in the field.

The Center for Ukrainian Canadian Studies, established in 1981 through an affiliation agreement between St. Andrew's College and the University of Manitoba, provides undergraduates with courses and interdisciplinary programs of study in areas relating to Ukraine and the life of Ukrainians in Canada.

The Center for Ukrainian Canadian Studies at the University of Manitoba is unique in that it alone offers interdisciplinary programs leading to a B.A. in Ukrainian studies. No other Canadian university or other leading centers in North America offer a B.A. in Ukrainian studies.

For further information contact: The Center for Ukrainian Canadian Studies, St. Andrew's College, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2N2; telephone, (204) 474-8906; fax, (204) 474-7624; e-mail, cucs@cc.umanitoba.ca.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

nature of the republic's sovereignty and that new laws would have to be passed, and 'more decisive and concrete steps' taken, to broaden it. Because of what had occurred, it was also necessary to review Ukraine's position with regard to the union treaty. 'Ukraine can only join the kind of union,' he now declared, 'participation in which would exclude the possibility of encroachments by anyone on our state sovereignty'...

Chairman Kravchuk was subjected to intense questioning by national deputies who criticized his behavior during the coup and doubted his version of the unfolding events.

According to Mr. Nahaylo, this is what happened next:

"... On behalf of the opposition, [Dmytro] Pavlychko called on the Parliament not to get carried away by emotions but to concentrate on three critical issues which he and his colleagues believed had to be decided that day, namely, the proclamation of Ukraine's independence, that the Presidium of the Parliament take control over all military units deployed on the republic's territory, and the complete departization of Ukraine's state structures. [Communist leader Stanislav] Hurenko responded by protesting against what he claimed were attempts to turn the session into a 'lynch court'... and appealed to the Parliament not to go along with the democrats' 'dyktat,' which he compared to a virtual coup d'état..."

"... Unlike Hurenko, the leader of the majority, [Oleksander] Moroz, delivered a reasonably constructive and conciliatory speech which also contained a few surprises. He condemned what he described as the putschists' attempt to use the CPSU [Communist Party of the Soviet Union] in carrying out their coup d'état, but also emphasized that he had protested to [Soviet leader Mikhail] Gorbachev as far back as February 1989 that the party was not developing in the direction of democracy and in the spirit of restructuring.

"... He went on to propose that, while asserting Ukraine's 'unchanging course towards independence,' the Parliament should approve, without delay, a number of measures which were essential for bolstering the republic's sovereignty, the most important of which he argued were the creation of a national army and the introduction of a national currency..."

Ihor Yukhnovsky, the leader of the democratic opposition, the National Council, referred to the new situation that had arisen in the wake of the failed coup.

According to Mr. Nayalo:

"... [Yukhnovsky] maintained that: 'In fact, the union no longer exists as a state. The republics are de facto independent states; they should take power fully into their own hands. Russia is doing so.' The question was: 'How are we to do this in Ukraine?'"

"Yukhnovsky argued that it was not enough simply to declare Ukraine's independence without ensuring the triumph of democracy through the 'decommunization' of the republic. Otherwise, the independent but still 'Communist' Ukraine would be hostile to Yeltsin's 'democratic' Russia and would be recognized only by 'Saddam [Hussein] and other dictators.' Yukhnovsky, therefore, made the following proposals, which he said he had prepared himself, thereby suggesting that they had not been cleared in advance with the People's [National] Council: that the Parliament declare Ukraine an independent and democratic state and that this decision be endorsed by a referendum...; that the activity of the Communist Party on Ukraine's territory be stopped, but that all party functionaries who did not support the coup retain their current level of earnings and be found new jobs; that the Presidium of the Parliament resign and a new Presidium be elected; and that all activity promoting 'violence, discord and enmity' be banned in Ukraine..."

The Parliament chairman announced a break after Volodymyr Yavorivsky read a proposed version of the declaration of independence. With the democratic and Communist deputies meeting in separate caucuses, the democratic opposition sent its representatives to appeal to the Communists to support the declaration. "Their arguments ran along the lines that: 'we were all once Communists under Moscow, but now a point of no return has been reached and independence is the only way forward,'" reports Mr. Nahaylo.

Finally, at a little before 6 p.m., the Act of Declaration of the Independence of Ukraine was read and subsequently approved by a vote of 346 for, one against (Albert Korneiev, a Russian deputy from the Donbas) and three abstentions.

Source: Bohdan Nahaylo, "The Ukrainian Resurgence." (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1999).

Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

recipients will also receive humanitarian aid, medicine and a small pension from the International Jewish Committee, and will have the right to freely visit Israel. (RFE/RL Newsline)

CEC amends media campaign rules

KYIV – At its August 6 session the Central Election Commission approved an additional point to regulations adopted on June 18 on using the media for propaganda during the election campaign. The CEC's press service said that, in the earlier version, television and radio companies, both private and state-owned, which held roundtables, debates or live broadcasts of all kinds with the participation of presidential candidates, were forbidden to use funds from the state budget. From now on, funds from local budgets also cannot be used for these television and radio debates. Campaign material featuring presidential candidates cannot be included in news bulletins alone. In the earlier version, other programs were mentioned as well. Special groups to monitor campaign material will not be created on the oblast level, as this function will be left to a special group formed by the CEC. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Incidents show need for delimitation

KYIV – Recent cases of arrests involving both Ukrainian and Russian fishing boats alleged to have been poaching in the Azov Sea make it necessary to delimit the borders of the Azov Sea. That is the view of Leonid Kotliarevskyi, the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Contracts and Legal Department. Speaking on August 10, he said neither territorial waters nor economic zones have been defined between the two countries as negotiations are still in process. Among recent incidents was one in which a Ukrainian fishing boat was seized by Russia on August 5 for using fishing equipment not allowed in the Azov sea. (Eastern Economist)

"Star Wars" arrives in theaters

KYIV – Kyiv moviegoers will be happy to know that Kyiv is the first city in Eastern Europe after Moscow to receive Hollywood's new "Star Wars: Episode 1" movie in theaters. Kyiv cinemas will be showing the blockbuster until at least the beginning of September. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Moroz, Rabinovich countersue

KYIV – Socialistic Party leader Oleksander Moroz intends to sue Vadim Rabinovich, a well-known Israeli businessman, for libel. The presidential candidate announced this on August 12, the day after Mr. Rabinovich sued Tovarysh, the Socialist Party newspaper, for \$15 million (U.S.) for an article that he said "caused commercial and moral harm." Mr. Rabinovich is expected to return to Ukraine after August 21, once his medical treatment in Israel ends. (Eastern Economist)

N-power workers warn of bankruptcy

KYIV – The union representing workers employed by the state-run Enerhoatom nuclear power company issued a statement on August 5 warning that the atomic energy industry is in a critical state. "An unbalanced tax policy has brought highly profitable nuclear power plants to the brink of bankruptcy," the Associated Press quoted the statement as saying. The document also noted that the industry lacks money to pay Russia for nuclear fuel supplies in timely manner, thus casting doubt on the "readiness of some reactors to be operational during the fall-winter season." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Chornobyl Fund abuses detected

KYIV – The Cabinet of Ministers has issued a reprimand to Volodymyr Holosha, vice minister for emergency situations and head of the evacuation area around the Chornobyl nuclear power plant, for "unsatisfactory control over the allocation of the Chornobyl Fund resources." Apparently, in 1998-1999, 4.5 million hrv of fund resources was misused through the fault of the ministries of Finance and Emergency Situations, the State Tax Administration and a number of oblast administrations. The results of the investigation have been handed over to the General Procurator's Office. The Ministry for Emergency Situations has been ordered to rectify the violations by October 1; by September 1 the STA is to check, debtor companies to find out the amount of their debt to Chornobyl Fund – a fund that was based on mandatory payroll deductions. (Eastern Economist)

Back-to school season begins

KYIV – The government is to set aside 20 million hrv to purchase high school textbooks, Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko said on August 12. At present 85 percent of schools are ready for the school year. Mr. Pustovoitenko also demanded that debts to teachers and other educational specialists be repaid before August 31. Arrears stand at 233 million hrv. (Eastern Economist)

Poland: restitution not for U.S. courts

WARSAW – Referring to the property restitution claim against Poland filed by 11 Jews in a New York court in late June, government spokesman Krzysztof Luft said on August 6 that the claimants can recover their property via Polish courts, Reuters reported. Witold Danilowicz, a lawyer representing Poland in the U.S., noted that legal suits against Poland filed by Jewish U.S. citizens seeking to recover their property are outside the jurisdiction of U.S. courts. He argued that those suits should be filed in Poland. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Russians investigate NATO "crimes"

MOSCOW – Nikolai Ryzhkov, former chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Duma commission collecting information on alleged NATO war crimes against Yugoslavia, arrived in Belgrade on August 8. Mr. Ryzhkov told ITAR-TASS that his delegation will collect "materials on the harmful effect of the NATO aggression on the [population] of Yugoslavia and draft a plan for our parliamentary commission [on] sending documents to [the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia]." He added that "we do not want to be guided by ... the cooling or warming of bilateral relations with NATO. ... We are an independent commission. ... Our aim is to establish the truth and to submit the collected materials to the State Duma." Mr. Ryzhkov stressed that "we are not all that satisfied by the objectiveness and impartiality of [the tribunal]." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Moscow OKs bombers-for-gas proposal

MOSCOW – Col.- Gen. Anatolii Kornukov, commander of the Russian air force, told Interfax on August 6 that Moscow has agreed to Kyiv's proposal to repay part of its gas debt to Russia through the delivery of eight TU-160 strategic bombers. Russia puts that debt at \$1.8 billion, while Kyiv claims that it owes only \$1 billion and that commercial structures are responsible for the remainder of the debt. Col.-Gen. Kornukov did not say how much each plane would be considered to be worth. Russia already has six TU-160 planes as well as some 50 TU-95MS long-

range bombers, according to Interfax. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Turkmenistan, Ukraine at odds over gas

KYIV – Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko of Ukraine said on August 6 that an agreement had been reached during talks with Turkmenistan government officials the previous day on resuming supplies of natural gas to Ukraine before the end of this month, Interfax reported. Turkmenistan halted exports to Ukraine in late May. But in Ashgabat, the chairman of Turkmenistan's state gas company, Berdymurat Redjepov, said on the same day that supplies will not be resumed any time soon, because Ukraine has not yet made the required payment in hard currency for 6 billion cubic meters of gas it received between January and late May. Forty percent of that debt was to be paid in hard currency and the remainder in barter goods, not all of which have been supplied. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Russia-Belarus union under way?

MOSCOW – The Belarusian regions of Miensk, Homiel, Vitebsk and Mahileu have been accepted as members of the Central Russia Interregional Association for Economic Cooperation, following a decision taken at a meeting of the association near Moscow, the newspaper Izvestiya reported on July 30. The newspaper comments that from now on Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka can demand that Moscow charge "inter-Russian tariffs" for oil and gas since four regions of his country have become part of "Central Russia." (RFE/RL Newsline)

EBRD pays to improve sarcophagus

KYIV – The European Bank for

Reconstruction and Development has signed an agreement with the Ukrainian state company Enerhoatom on a 111.8 million euro (\$115 million U.S.) grant to improve the leaky concrete encasement surrounding the Chornobyl reactor that was destroyed in 1986. The grant is to be spent on purchasing equipment to monitor safety risks while nuclear fuel is removed from the destroyed reactor. It will also be used for a number of other safety projects due to be completed by 2005. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma: no pledge on Russian language

KYIV – Speaking on the status of the Russian language, President Leonid Kuchma argued that he had never promised to legalize two state languages in Ukraine. According to Mr. Kuchma, Russian should not be treated as a foreign language in Ukraine and Ukrainian should not be introduced forcibly. (Eastern Economist)

Odesa has new military academy

ODESA – A military academy with an emphasis on physical training, foreign languages, computer science and compulsory military subjects has been set up at the Odesa Institute of Land Force. Col. Volodymyr Dodul has been appointed chief of the academy. Seventy-five selected boys who have completed a nine-year school background will begin studies at the academy on September 1. The opening is timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the institute, which initially was a cadet corps for 15-year-olds. The initiative to open such an academy came from the Odesa Oblast Administration and the mayor's office. (Eastern Economist)



With deep sorrow we announce the passing of
beloved husband, father and grandfather

WOLODYMYR HANCHUK

on Friday, August 6, 1999.

Funeral services were held on Monday, August 9, 1999,
at Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Church in Astoria, N.Y.
Interment at Holy Spirit Cemetery in Hamptonburg, N.Y.

In deep sorrow:

wife – Stephanie;
children – Irene, Hilary, Frances, Olha, Walter;
grandchildren – Christina, Gregory, Alexandra, Stephanie, Michael;
two brothers, and family in the United States and Ukraine.

Eternal Memory!

In memory of the deceased, donations may be made for the building of
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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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SUMMER PROGRAMS 1999

Saturday, August 21 UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

8:30 p.m. **CONCERT** – SOYUZIVKA DANCE WORKSHOP RECITAL
Director: ROMA PRYMA BOHACHEVSKY
10:00 p.m. **DANCE** – music provided by TEMPO
EXHIBIT – works of DARIA "DYCIA" HANUSHEVSKY

Sunday, August 22 UNWLA DAY

Saturday, August 28

8:30 p.m. **CONCERT** – Soprano OKSANA CHARUK
Pianist THOMAS HRYNKIV
10:00 p.m. **DANCE** – music provided by NA ZDOROVJA
EXHIBIT – works by TARAS BILTCHUK

Friday, September 3 LABOR DAY WEEKEND

8:30 p.m. **CONCERT** – "VESELI CHEREVYCHKY,"
CHILDREN'S FOLK DANCE BALLET from Lviv, Ukraine.
10:00 p.m. **DANCE** – music provided by LUNA,
"Midnight Bigus" in Trembita Lounge

Saturday, September 4

8:30 p.m. **CONCERT** – Ukrainian Dance Ensemble "VITRETS" (Winnipeg)
Vocal Instrumental Ensemble "VIDLUNYA"
10:00 p.m. **DANCE** – music provided by TEMPO, ZOLOTA BULAVA

Sunday, September 5

2:00 p.m. **CONCERT** – "VESELI CHEREVYCHKY,"
CHILDREN'S FOLK DANCE BALLET from Lviv, Ukraine.
8:30 p.m. **CONCERT** – Vocalist IVAN POPOVYCH
10:00 p.m. **DANCE** – music provided by FATA MORGANA

Every Friday evening, beginning at 10 p.m., on the Veselka patio – music by Vidlunnia

BOOK NOTE: 75th anniversary history of Chornomorska Sitch

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Seventy-five years ago, immigrants dedicated to the defense of Ukraine politically and to athletic competition united in the creation of Chornomorska Sitch. The history of this Ukrainian American sports association now has been chronicled in "Ukrainian Sitch: A History (1924-1999)" by Omelan Twardowsky and Orest Popovych.

The organization's initial objectives were to provide a social group for its members, while preparing them physically, through sports and paramilitary training, for a possible return to Ukraine to defend against foreign occupiers. Over the years, Sitch has continually evolved. During World War II the association provided Ukrainians with financial aid. In the 1970s the organization was exceptionally politically active, particularly in the struggle to free Valentyn Moroz.

The summer of 1970 marked the first year of the Sitch Sports School, an annual four-week summer camp, held at the Ukrainian Fraternal Association's Verkhovyna estate in Glen Spey, N.Y.

Today Sitch plays a leading role in the swimming and tennis championships held at Soyuzivka.

In recent years the club has provided funding to Ukrainian Olympic teams. Sitch funded the 1994 Ukrainian Olympic team's travel to Lillehammer, Norway; it purchased modern gymnastics equipment in 1996; and subsidized Ukraine's bobsledders and the sports media in Kyiv.

The leather-bound hard-cover book contains 416 pages – three-fourths of which present a detailed history in Ukrainian, while the remaining pages offer a thorough summation of Sitch's history in English. Black-and-white photos of past Sitch members and competitors abound with captions in both English and Ukrainian. The book also includes the records of various sport seasons.

A copy can be obtained by sending a \$20 U.S. check or money order (price includes postage) to: U.E.A.U.-Chornomorska Sitch, 680 Sanford Ave., Newark, NJ 07106.

UOC-U.S.A. Metropolitan...

(Continued from page 4)

its further development will be the primary topic of discussion when a delegation from the Metropolitan Council, headed by Metropolitan Constantine, meets with Patriarch Bartholomew in early fall of this year.

The Metropolitan Council expressed its joy at the coming commemorations in Ukraine and throughout the diaspora of the 10th anniversary of the rebirth of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church in Ukraine. The initial action in this rebirth was the proclamation by Ss.

Peter and Paul Parish in Lviv under the spiritual leadership of the Rev. Volodymyr Yarema (now Patriarch Dmitriy) of its return to Ukrainian Orthodoxy under the omophorion of Metropolitan Mstyslav of the UOC of the U.S.A. and diaspora, who was later elected the first patriarch of the UAOC.

During the balance of its annual session, the Metropolitan Council approved the budget of the Consistory for the current fiscal year and the reports of all Church departments, organizations and institutions, as well as plans for programs and events scheduled throughout the year.

U.S. ambassador speaks...

(Continued from page 11)

progress on a couple since February, others have not gone anywhere. We are still trying to work those.

Has U.S. investment been increasing in Ukraine in the last year?

We have a generally climbing trend. There have been some very positive new investments. For example, Cargill has invested about \$45 million into Donetsk and the Donetsk area to build a sunflower seed-processing facility. They started construction at the end of last year. It takes sunflower seed and processes it into oil. It will be up and running in early 2000. It's going to be state-of-the-art and will have a huge capacity.

So there are some companies that are making big investments here. It is not static.

But then Monsanto is leaving, from what I understand.

We have heard that possibility. This has been a problem over the last couple of years, which is that the government provides inputs into the agricultural sector and then makes first claim on the grain that gets produced to pay off those inputs. As a result, for private input suppliers, including a number of American companies, there is very little grain which they can then get to pay off their inputs.

So what's happened at the end of each year is they have ended up with tens of millions of dollars in unpaid debts. The next year those input suppliers provide less credit. That then reduces agricultural yield, so you are on a cycle that unfortunately for the last three years is going downward.

When we talk to American input suppliers, they are not asking for special treatment. What they are saying right now is that by making first call on the grain, the government is paying itself every time for its inputs, but it is only taking a small portion that only covers a fraction of the debts that go to the private suppliers. The private suppliers are responding in a logical way, which is that they are reducing their exposure here by reducing the amount of inputs being given on credit.

Correction

In last week's story about the "Dity Ditiem" troupe now touring the U.S., due to a typographical error the ages of the youths was given as 10 to 11. In fact, the youths range in age from 10 to 16.

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Émigré from Ukraine initiates Ukrainian Food Festival in Sydney

by Marika Halaburda

SYDNEY, Australia – Those who have traveled to Toronto are no doubt familiar with the very popular restaurant Caravan, well-known for its Ukrainian food and cabaret program. Unfortunately, in Sydney we do not have such a restaurant.

However, from July 23 to August 8 the Ukrainian Food Festival was held at the Ibis Hotel at Darling Harbor. Darling Harbor is one of the main tourist attractions in Sydney, and the initiative for the festival came from Oleh Melnychuk, a visiting chef at the Ibis restaurant.

Volodymyr Woytowych, chairman of the Karpaty Ukrainian Credit Union Karpaty and cultural director of the Ukrainian Council of New South Wales, and this writer visited the restaurant on August 1.

The Ukrainian flag was prominently displayed on the mast at the Ibis Hotel flying high over Darling Harbor. Two mannequins dressed in traditional Ukrainian costumes from the Poltava region were displayed in the main foyer of the hotel, greeting visitors who entered the restaurant. Embroidery, banners with the trident and various Ukrainian artifacts also were displayed.

Mr. Melnychuk greeted us at the entrance to the restaurant and escorted us to our table. The view of Darling Harbor by night is dazzling.

Mr. Melnychuk had arrived in Australia from Ternopil, Ukraine. Since

childhood he has been cooking in his mother's kitchen. He completed the Odesa Maritime Culinary School and worked on cruise liners. He has traveled and worked in Spain, France and Canada.

Ten years ago Mr. Melnychuk arrived in Australia. Not knowing English, without employment and a place to stay, he approached the Ukrainian Cultural Club and asked for a job.

"Unfortunately, I was denied a position as there was a Chinese caterer already running the restaurant," said Mr. Melnychuk, "so I managed to obtain a position at the Polish club in Ashfield. What a paradox! I knew that one day I would achieve something in this big city and would show everybody that Ukrainian food is no worse than Russian [food]. Russians, incidentally, have five restaurants in Sydney. Ukrainian cuisine is as good as Italian and Chinese, and I did prove it!"

Mr. Melnychuk obtained a job at the Ibis Hotel, and the management supported his idea of a Ukrainian food festival.

He made arrangements with the well-

known Ukrainian chocolate factory Svitoch, to send a range of its products. The Odesa Wine Company supplied bottles of Golden Duke wine, as well as Grand Duke Vladimir wines that have been awarded 17 top prizes, including nine gold medals at international exhibitions.

Air Ukraine also sponsored the festival. Hopefully the airline will commence flights to Australia next year to coincide with the Olympic Games. Banners of the "Australian Friends of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine" and Karpaty Ukrainian Credit Union were prominently displayed at the restaurant as supporters of the food festival.

The buffet-style arrangement consisted of Ukrainian dishes such as red and green borsch, varenyky with white mushroom sauce, holubtsi, Odesa rice, herrings in light cream and many other delicious treats. Mr. Melnychuk prepared "kvas," a traditional drink made from rye bread; also available was "kefir," a traditional Ukrainian yogurt, made by the Nordic Food Company.

Vibrant entertainment was provided by the Ukrainian Kozaks troupe and the well-known Lastivka bandura ensemble.

Mr. Melnychuk said he is very grateful to the artists and to those who have supported him from the conceptual stages in preparation for the highly successful food festival.

Mr. Melnychuk noted that the restaurant was visited by French, Japanese, German, Philippine, Australian, Polish and Russian tourists, as well as consuls and consular staff from Austria, Germany and France. The Ukrainian consul did not attend.

Mr. Melnychuk explained that Ukraine's Consulate is in Melbourne, some 1,000 kilometers away, a fair distance to travel for dinner. It is clear to everyone that there is a pressing need for a Ukrainian consulate to be based in Sydney, even more so now that the Olympic Games are approaching.

As we left the restaurant Mr. Melnychuk promised that next year's festival will conclude with the Olympics and will be even more successful.

Evangelical Baptists to hold assembly in Pennsylvania

by Alex Harbuziuk

NAPERVILLE, Ill. – The 54th annual assembly of the Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Convention in the U.S.A. will be held September 3-5 in Levittown, Pa.

The main speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Volodymyr M. Matviyiv, vice-president of the All-Ukrainian Union of Associations of Evangelical Christians-Baptists, which represents more than 2,000 churches in Ukraine.

Meetings and other events will be held Friday, September 3, and during the day Saturday, September 4, at the First Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church, 3001 Levittown Parkway, Levittown, Pa. The pastor of the host church is the Rev. Avdiy Chripczuk.

The youth program on Saturday evening and all events on Sunday, September 5, will be held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, Pa.

The assembly will be conducted under the direction of the Rev. Alex Perekrst of Cleveland, who is president of the Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Convention in the U.S.A.

The theme is "Building the Church," which is taken from the text in Matthew 16:18 in the Bible.

Public sessions include the opening program on Friday at 7 p.m.; the youth program on Saturday at 7 p.m.; the worship service on Sunday at 10 a.m.; the ladies' program on Sunday at 2 p.m.; and the closing program on Sunday at 6 p.m.

Further details may be obtained from Pastor Chripczuk, (215) 946-9940 or (215) 945-8794.

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• New York Convention Center's High School
• New York's "New York" Orchestra
• American High School - 1998/99

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY
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Government presents Lukashenka, in Kyiv, calls for Slavic union
by Roman Wrotenyev
Lukashenka, who was elected president of Belarus in 1994, visited Kyiv on August 18. He met with President Kuchma and other officials. Lukashenka called for a "Slavic Union" and said that the Slavic peoples should unite to create a new state. He also mentioned the idea of a "Slavic League" and said that the Slavic peoples should unite to create a new state. He also mentioned the idea of a "Slavic League" and said that the Slavic peoples should unite to create a new state.

With victory in quarterfinals, Kyiv Dynamo ready to go all the way
by Roman Wrotenyev
Kyiv Dynamo, the Ukrainian football club, won the quarterfinals of the UEFA Cup. The team is now ready to go all the way to the final. The team is now ready to go all the way to the final.

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Business in brief

(Continued from page 3)

Eurobonds at 16 percent per year interest due February 2001, to be lead-managed by ING Barings itself. According to Finance Minister Ihor Mitiukov, the 50 million euro loan received from the European Union was partly used to make the cash payment. Meanwhile, Mr. Mitiukov announced on August 3 that the Bank of China has agreed to deposit \$30 million (U.S.) with the National Bank of Ukraine to pay off ING securities. He added that these funds will be used as resources for restructuring the \$163 million (U.S.) debt to ING Bank. (Eastern Economist)

New plans for making nuclear fuel

DNIPRODZERZHYN'SK – The Energy Ministry has announced plans to have the Zirconium factory operate in conjunction with Russia to produce fuel for atomic energy stations. Ukraine had plans to invest \$990 million (U.S.) in a production cycle for nuclear fuel, including \$680 million for uranium extraction and \$111 million for zirconium smelting and rolling. Ukraine plans to create a unified production cycle with Russia and Kazakhstan to create a new type of fuel with a three- to four-year life span. The new fuel is expected to reduce power costs by \$0.003-0.0045 (U.S.) per kilowatt-hour. To assist in nuclear fuel production, the Energy Ministry plans to activate the Eastern Mineral Enrichment Combine, the Prydniprovskiy Chemical Combine, the Dniprodzerzhynsk Smoly factory and non-ferrous metals factories. (Eastern Economist)

Award for quality goes to Brovary

KYIV – The Ukrainian Quality Association announced on July 28 that the Brovary road-building department No. 50 was declared a finalist in the European quality awards in the non-business medium-sized enterprise category. Brovary recently won the third National Quality Competition. This marks the first time a domestic company of any type has made it to the European finals. The winners will be announced at the Forum of the European Fund quality department in Brussels on October 5-9. The European quality awards have been presented annually since 1991. (Eastern Economist)

Ukraine and Tajikistan sign deal on alumina

KYIV – The prime ministers of Ukraine and Tajikistan signed an agreement on the supply of alumina by the Mykolaiv Alumina Plant to the Tajik Aluminum Plant until the year 2013. Under the deal Ukraine will supply 500,000 tons in 1999 and, starting from 2000, 700,000 tons annually. Ukraine has agreed to receive partial payments for the alumina with cotton supplies. The Tajiks have promised to repay their standing debt to the MAP by issuing TAP bills of exchange backed by the Tajik government. According to Ukraine's Ministry for Industrial Policy, the Tajik Alumina Plant presently owes \$61 million (U.S.) to the MAP. (Eastern Economist)

New fungus disease plant remedy is a hit

IVANO-FRANKIVSK – The first Ukrainian remedy for fungus diseases in plants, Cuprosil, is being commercialized at Kalush, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast. Cuprosil was synthesized by experts at the Kalush experimental research plant of the National Academy of Science Chemistry Institute jointly with the scientific and production firm Stim. The agent has undergone tests for toxicological and environmental safety at research centers under the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Environment and Nuclear Safety. The first farms to buy Cuprosil are in Crimea and Odesa Oblast. Experts say Cuprosil is as effective as its well-known Austrian analog, Cuproxite. Foreign companies are negotiating for the agent to be registered and used in their countries. (Eastern Economist)

Cabinet passes resolution on tourism

KYIV – The Cabinet of Ministers passed a resolution on July 21 setting up a state-run joint stock company named Ukraina Turystychna – Tourist Ukraine. One hundred percent of the new company's statutory fund will be made up of shares of JSCs founded on state-run enterprises. Twenty such enterprises were identified, including general agencies for tourism, the Kyiv-based Dnipro hotel complex, Odesa-based Delfin camping, Oranta in Yalta, the Poliana Kazok motel camping, plus the state-held stocks of eight open JSCs, including hotel Kyiv Rus' and the hotel complex Bratislava-Desna. The State Property Fund has been allowed three months to draft the company's charter and proposals on its supervisory council staffing. The resolution determines that 100 percent of its shares will be state-owned until a decision is duly made on their sale. (Eastern Economist)

Over 20,000 Internet subscribers in Kyiv

KYIV – IP Telecom Director Yurii Kuzmenko said on July 14 that "The Internet communication market in Kyiv currently has a capacity of up to 5 million [subscribers]." Presently, Kyiv boasts around 20,000 constant Internet subscribers, said Mr. Kuzmenko. The market is developing quickly, and 20 new providers appeared in Kyiv in 1998. This is partially due to the fact that Internet providers were not previously required to license their activities. Ukrainian Internet companies look forward to the privatization of UkrTeleKom, which they expect will increase the quality of telephone communication system throughout the nation. Mr. Kuzmenko said the privatization of the state communications monopoly, which was recently nixed by the Verkhovna Rada will allow faster and cheaper quality access to the Internet. (Eastern Economist)

Minister says 1999 harvest is on schedule

KYIV – Agro-Industrial Complex Minister Borys Supikhanov in his report to the Verkhovna Rada on July 14, said Ukraine has harvested 2.4 million hectares of grain crops, an increase of 836,000 hectares from last year. The daily average rate of grain harvesting and threshing is 400 hectares, but the ministry is implementing measures to increase this level to 500 hectares. As of July, 14.4 million tons of grain have been threshed. Although grain quality is better this year, grain yield is 0.18 tons per hectare less than last year. This year's weather allowed the harvesting campaign to start simultaneously across Ukraine. Spring frosts and summer heat have destroyed or damaged some 1.7 million hectares, yet the remaining 12.1 million hectares of grain (0.852 million hectares more than last year) have been rescued for harvesting. By July 14, Crimea had gathered crops on over 50 percent of sown areas, and Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk oblasts on 30-40 percent of sown areas, where the yield is roughly the same as last year. On July 12, Western experts had predicted that the halving of plant protection supplies may lead to a 3.5 million ton loss in the output of wheat, sunflower seeds and sugar beets. (Eastern Economist)

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Election Commission...

(Continued from page 1)

compromised by the illegal registration of some," suggested the CEC.

His assertion was rebuffed by National Deputy Oleksander Eliashkevych, head of the Verkhovna Rada's temporary Committee on Free and Fair Elections. Mr. Eliashkevych said the election law does not mention any circumstance under which the presidential elections could be declared invalid.

The current troubles of Mr. Riabets and his CEC began after six of the 15 presidential nominees were turned away by the commission for failing to present 1 million verifiable signatures. The six candidates then appealed to Ukraine's Supreme Court to change the CEC decision.

In all six instances the Supreme Court decided in favor of the nominees, while asserting that the CEC had failed to adhere to portions of the law on presidential elections that states that signed petitions must be reviewed and counted within a five-day period and, if found lacking, the candidates must have an additional two days to come up with the required balance. The law states that each potential candidate should have collected a minimum of 1 million signatures, with 30,000 coming from each of 18 different oblasts, which the CEC said the six nominees failed to do.

The Supreme Court also decided that CEC procedures were not sufficiently spelled out and transparent.

The decision left many in Ukraine stunned, including President Leonid Kuchma, who has inferred that the political allegiances of the Supreme Court judges must be determined and questioned whether the cases were decided politically.

Mr. Riabets answered the Supreme Court charges by stating that it had been physically impossible to count and corroborate the more than 600,000 signatures that had been submitted in the last three days before the July 12 deadline. He said that he had developed figures that showed the CEC realistically had needed at least 10 days or an additional 1,000 workers to do the job.

In addition, Mr. Riabets vehemently denied that the commission had worked in a secretive or closed manner.

"I invited the press and the candidates' representatives to watch the counting and analysis procedure after each time we met," explained Mr. Riabets.

He added a bit later, "I emphasize that not a single candidate had any complaints until after the procedures were completed and the candidates rejected."

Mr. Riabets said he had asked the Procurator General's Office to look into the Supreme Court ruling in the case of the first candidate who was registered on appeal, Vasyi Onopenko, the Ukrainian Social

Democratic Party candidate, and that all the cases would be turned over to Ukraine's chief law enforcement body within the week.

He also said he would request that the collegium of the Supreme Court as a single body review the six cases, which were decided by individual judges.

Mr. Riabets is finding himself under increasing pressure to resign as the newly registered candidates lash out one after another at the manner in which the CEC ruled on their candidacies.

The latest call came from Yurii Karmazin, the last candidate to be registered by order of the Supreme Court, who told reporters minutes after Mr. Riabets had spoken that he would submit a proposal to the Verkhovna Rada, in which he is a national deputy, to dismiss all the members of the Central Election Commission.

"I will push for the members of the CEC to be held responsible for their actions," said Mr. Karmazin, who explained that the heart of the problem with the signature-counting procedure used by the CEC was the old Soviet legacy of registering place of residency ("propysky") with government authorities.

Mr. Karmazin said the practice, which has been outlawed in the Constitution but is still utilized by government officials, was a convenient, although unconstitutional, instrument that the CEC used to reject signatures.

He explained that many of his petition-gatherers gave current addresses, not those they had registered with the government in an earlier time. In many instances, the petitions which they submitted and all the signatures on them were rejected because their address did not correspond to the one that the government had in its records.

Mr. Karmazin also said that, at times, full pages of signatures were rejected because one name on a page was illegible or smeared.

"The members of the CEC went outside the Constitution and gave themselves authority they did not have," he explained.

Should Mr. Karmazin's effort succeed – and that is a distinct possibility because all six candidates are members of the Parliament, cover a relatively broad ideological spectrum and just may be able to find the needed votes – then the elections certainly would be in jeopardy.

The CEC maintains responsibility for all aspects of the election process, from setting precinct and district zones, to establishing television and radio slots for individual candidate presentations, printing ballots and, finally, the counting of the votes.

It would take a minimum of several weeks to find nominees and approve new Central Election Commission members should the current composition be changed, which would force the election date to be postponed.

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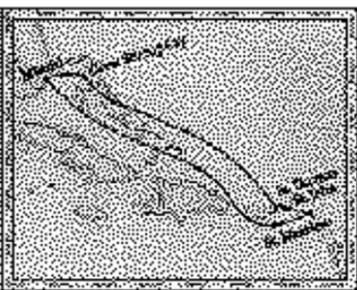
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Financial/political...

(Continued from page 1)

cal parties and government structures that, in fact, today control the situation in Ukraine," explained Mr. Tomenko. It is a system that requires free-market capitalistic notions and structures, but is driven by government favors to a certain limited number of associates, partners and people on the inside.

The Ukrainian oligarchic clans, which can be compared to crime families in the U.S., but with much more access to government power, are not as vicious here as they are in neighboring Russia, believes the political scientist, who said that few of them represent solely Ukrainian interests. He named Russian, Israeli and U.S. businessmen as having strong ties to the Ukrainian clans.

The clans control the banking system, oil and gas distribution in Ukraine, the liquor market and much of agriculture.

Government officials, many of whom directly or via proxy influence the large financial conglomerates, offer various sub-

sidies, including breaks on import and export tariffs, and insider information on privatization tenders. Political parties propose legislation in the Verkhovna Rada that will benefit those oligarchies to which they are tied, while the Cabinet of Ministers forms policy favorable to the strongest ones.

Mr. Tomenko explained that even such a distinguished political personality as former President Leonid Kravchuk made a huge killing in the year after he left office by employing the methods now well-entrenched among the clans.

The ex-president set up a fund to benefit the arts in Ukraine, for which he obtained tax-subsidies and through which he began to import large quantities of cigarettes and liquor into the country at below competitive prices, and later made a financial killing.

He also allowed other companies to channel their goods through his tax-subsidized operation, which brought additional profits, according to Mr. Tomenko.

Today most of those tax loopholes are closed as the government searches for revenue to finance its empty tax coffers, a move that Mr. Tomenko credited the current president for making.

In today's Ukraine the development of oligarchic capitalism has left much of the political process outside the democratic realm, even as democratic institutions increase.

"The more democratic institutions we have, the less they influence the political situation," said Mr. Tomenko. He said that the multi-party system now survives only as a formality and that a complete lack of transparency exists within it.

According to Mr. Tomenko, he situation has slowly been changing since national democratic parties like Rukh held center stage as opposition forces in the early and mid-1990s. Then it was clear what the political options were and how the final decisions were made. The rationale behind decisions was more or less understood.

"Today, in fact, the political field is such that to understand it does not help in understanding how decisions are made in Ukraine," he observed

Mr. Tomenko added that democracy in Ukraine has taken on a "decorative aspect."

Even as he attacked the domestic policies and practices of the first two presidents, and particularly Mr. Kuchma, Mr. Tomenko had high praise for the accomplishments of both men in foreign affairs.

It is in this area that Ukraine has established itself successfully on the international map, believes Mr. Tomenko. Not only has Ukraine succeeded at nation-building, but it has made its mark and has been heard from more than once by the global community - via success in sports and the difficult political compromises that had to be made in establishing formal relations with Russia, including its stands on Crimea and Sevastopol.

He said that the amount of information in the world press on Ukraine, negative or positive, has been good for the country. "First we needed to be noticed, now we must find a place for ourselves [in the international community] and then move to a better position," explained Mr. Tomenko. "Both presidents, Kravchuk and Kuchma, accomplished this in the formal aspect at the least."

And though Mr. Tomenko criticized the way in which the Ukrainian democratic transformation is proceeding and the failure of the various governments to invigorate the economy, the political scientist said that what is now important is that, after going through a lengthy learning curve, Ukraine should finally know how to treat its economic malaise.

"Even though the same economic ills that were evident in 1994 are still here in 1999, the positive aspect is that the prescription for treatment is now obvious to everyone. What is needed is a political leader with the political will who could force the government to take the prescription, turn it into law and implement it," he explained.

Mr. Tomenko also cited the new Constitution and the establishment of a national currency as major accomplishments for the fledgling Ukrainian state. Yet,

he criticized President Kuchma, who issued the decree creating the hryvnia, for shying away from the responsibility because he was worried that the currency might fail.

"Several well-informed sources have told me that the decree was not signed initially by the president, who said that if it did not work out then he could claim that he did not approve it," explained Mr. Tomenko.

As Ukraine prepares for its third presidential elections and the new millennium, Mr. Tomenko believes the state and its people are not threatened in any way by a loss of sovereignty or independence - even if a leftist wins the October elections.

Even most members of the Communist Party of Ukraine believe that the notion of a free and independent Ukraine is fixed, according to Mr. Tomenko.

"An absolute majority understands that Ukraine, its borders, its territories and its economy, is an entity that must move ahead independently. How that should proceed is quite another question," he said.

While Ukraine's failures in its first eight years of existence are glaring, they have served to break down illusions that a democratic, capitalistic society would lead to immediate prosperity. Today society has understood that, although nation-building has moved far along, the economy will take more time.

Ukrainians hold no illusions that their country will move alongside Germany economically any time soon, but they also harbor no misconception that Ukraine could again become part of Russia or the Soviet Union, explained Mr. Tomenko.

Ukrainian society is changing politically, according to studies done by Mr. Tomenko, as it is moving away from an ideological base of either "pro-communists" or "pro-capitalists" to one that thinks in terms of individual candidates and policies, and what they offer.

"Today people are ready to vote for a person who does not reflect their personal political ideology, as long as they can be assured the politician will be professional, moral, honest and responsible," said Mr. Tomenko.

He added that although these presidential elections probably will not reflect that changing mindset, he offered that the 2002 parliamentary elections may bring many surprises.

People should not expect any major changes from the new president, no matter who is elected. That person will not be any more left-oriented than the current president, whose policies Mr. Tomenko described as socialistic paternalism and protectionism. He will most likely be another transitional figure, who at an optimum will know how to administer the economic treatment that Ukraine's economy badly needs.

"His position should be to maximally democratize, to end corruption, so that the government can work more formally, more or less professionally. Then society and the government may finally become closer. Today Ukrainian society does not trust its government at all," Mr. Tomenko stated.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

(Continued from page 20)

suing Ukrainian genealogy. Assistant Roman Velitchko will describe heraldry and coats of arms. Meetings will be held monthly commencing Tuesday, September 24, 7-9 p.m., at the institute, 620 Spadina Ave. For more information or to register call Tony Rocchi, (416) 923-3318.

Monday, September 20

TORONTO: St. Vladimir Institute, 620 Spadina Ave., is offering Ukrainian language classes for the general public interested in Ukrainian as a second language. Level I classes will begin September 20 and will be held on Mondays; Level III classes will be held on Tuesdays. Classes are at 7:15-9:15 p.m. The fee is \$175 for 30 sessions. For more information or to register call (416) 923-3318.

TORONTO: The Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Toronto is holding its annual kick-off meeting at St. George's Golf and Country Club, 1668 Islington Ave., Etobicoke, Ontario, at 6-10 p.m. There is a great opportunity to network; complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be served, cash bar. Admission is \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members. RSVP required. For more information contact the UCPBA office, (416) 925-1256.

Ukrainian American Plast...

(Continued from page 10)

national bard and heard the chords of his "Last Will and Testament" resound into the woods on the banks of the Dnipro.

Still others were fascinated by the show the Zaporizhian Kozaks put on for their American guests near the site of the historic Sich, while in Yalta many filled plastic bottles with Black Sea water to take home as souvenirs.

Some of the girls on the tour scoured record stores in Lviv and Kyiv to bring home the most popular Ukrainian music, while others laid flowers at the grave of songwriter Volodymyr Ivasiuk in Lviv and sang his "Chervona Ruta" at the Lychakiv Cemetery, where he is buried.

Like all kids in their teens and early 20s, they shopped, they sang, they visited discos. And, they went native, asking their peers in Ukraine to show them life in the land of their ancestors.

As they traveled in western Ukraine some of the scouts were joined by their parents and grandparents from America. Mark Chraplyvy's grandfather traveled from the United States to be with him and his brother, Adrian, and to take them to the family village, Pidhaichyky, an hour outside of Lviv to show them the places he lived as a boy.

"That was very much a moving experience," said Mark, 21, a biochemistry major at Rutgers University, "and it truly made an impression on me."

Not only did Ukraine make an impression on these college kids, but they also made an impression on the people they met along their route.

In the villages along the Dnipro, near Kremenchuk, Zaporizhia and Kherson, they sang Ukrainian folk songs, astonish-

ing the villagers selling arts and crafts to tourists. More than once the villagers joined the plastuny, who sang folk songs with vigor and enthusiasm.

As their ship navigated the waters of the Dnipro, the Plastuny from Chicago and Cleveland, New York and New Jersey, Detroit and Washington showed the cruise passengers, including citizens of Russia, Germany and the United States, how a "Kolomyika" is done and how a "Hopak" is handled, as they took to the dance floor and received non-stop rounds of applause.

Some attended political and historical seminars on the ship that were sponsored by a De Paul University group, and took an active part by correcting misinformation about Ukraine and the Soviet Union.

Even in Sevastopol, where nary a word was heard in Ukrainian, the Black Sea Fleet Ensemble changed its program for the Ukrainian American scouts and entertained them with a few Ukrainian songs.

But the Russification of Ukraine had a negative effect on these young adults, who have always been proud of their Ukrainian roots. "The only place I feel like I fit in is Lviv," commented Deanna Burachinsky, 19. "People understand me here; they are friendly and helpful," she added.

Chrystyna Nazarewycz, the director of the 1999 "Stezhky Kultury" program and Taras Silecky, the "bunchuzhnyi" of the camp were impressed with the Plast members on their "Ridna Mandrivka." "They were open-minded, willing to learn, inquisitive," said Ms. Nazarewycz. Mr. Silecky added, "No one forced them to come; they did this trip because they were interested in where their families come from, interested in exploring their roots. They had real Plast spirit."

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Tuesday, August 24

MAPLEWOOD, N.J.: Mayor Gerald Ryan will read and sign a proclamation commemorating the eighth anniversary of Ukraine's independence at the Maplewood Town Hall, Valley Street at 9 a.m. after which flag-raising ceremonies will be held outdoors. The public is invited to participate in this annual event. For further information call Andrew Keybida, (973) 762-2827.

Sunday, August 29

PARMA, Ohio: Members of the Ukrainian Community of Greater Cleveland, under the auspices of the United Ukrainian Organizations of Greater Cleveland, will celebrate the eighth anniversary of Ukraine's independence at 3 p.m. at the church hall of St. Pokrova, 6812 Broadview Road. The main performance in the cultural program will be by young artists, natives of the Chernobyl region who were relocated to the Ukrainian city of Bila Tserkva after the Chernobyl nuclear accident. The artistic group is touring the United States. There is free parking and playground facilities for children; Ukrainian food and pastries will be available. Donation to the event is \$10 for adults, children admitted free. For additional information call (440) 888-4220 or (440) 485-5444.

Thursday, September 9

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America is hosting its next brown bag lunch at 12:30 p.m. The event will take place at the UCCA National Office, 203 Second Ave. (between 12th and 13th streets). The guest speakers will be Yuriy Bohayevskiy, general consul of

Ukraine in New York City, and Askold Lozynskiy, president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and president of the Ukrainians World Congress, who will discuss the topic "Ukraine: Eight Years of Independence – Perspectives on Future Development." Coffee and soda will be provided. To register call the UCCA office, (212) 228-6840 or 228-6841.

Saturday, September 11

CHICAGO: The Inaugural Plast Chicago Open Golf Tournament will be held at Renwood Country Club, Round Lake Beach. This charity event is being sponsored by the Pobratymy Foundation in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Plast in Chicago to benefit the ongoing activities of Plast in the Chicago area. The tournament will feature a \$10,000 hole-in-one challenge, longest drive, closest to the pin and many other surprises. An awards dinner and oldies "zabava" will be held immediately afterwards at the Selfreliance Resort at Round Lake. Admission is \$115 per person. Registration deadline is August 31. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 per foursome is required. For more information, or to register foursomes only, contact Ihor A. Hrynewycz, (312) 829-8146 or hnews@aol.com.

Tuesday, September 14

TORONTO: St. Vladimir Institute introduces a Genealogy Club for those interested in tracing their family tree or finding out more about where their ancestors came from in Ukraine. Tony Rocchi, institute librarian, will acquaint participants with key printed and Internet resources for pur-

(Continued on page 18)

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Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$10 per submission) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Payment must be received prior to publication.

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be no more than 100 words long; all submissions are subject to editing. Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment of \$10 for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, please include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours. Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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