

INSIDE:

- International observers criticize elections — page 3.
- Eye project makes progress in Ukraine — page 7.
- Off the beaten path: Luhansk — page 10.

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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

The Kuchma victory: analysis of a mandate

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — With more than 56 percent of Ukrainians supporting his re-election, President Leonid Kuchma has the mandate, even if a muddled one, to be able to move quickly on economic, administrative and parliamentary reforms, according to experts. However, he will be able to do so only if he can build a centrist majority coalition in the country's Parliament.

During his campaign, Mr. Kuchma emphasized the stability, though not prosperity, he had brought to the country and ran on a platform of continued democratization and economic reforms. His platform was characterized by a central plank that emphasized the threat of a red revanche and a return to a dark Soviet past if he was not re-elected.

Although Mr. Kuchma's first term was shaky, filled with inconsistent policies and stalled reform, along with well-documented allegations of corruption, voters decided that he was better than the alternative.

The president, after his lop-sided, runoff victory against Communist Party candidate Petro Symonenko, said that economic and administrative reforms are at the top of the agenda for his next term.

"We need to speed up the process of reforms a few notches to proceed more quickly," said President Kuchma after preliminary results showed he had won. He said that accelerating reforms would be "the main thing" on which he would concentrate.

The president declined to explain how reforms would be quickened, which members of his administration

(Continued on page 5)

Kuchma re-elected by a landslide

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukrainians gave a resounding rebuke to the return of communism and re-elected President Leonid Kuchma to a second term by a landslide on November 14.

They decided they favored the social stability the Kuchma era has brought, despite an economy deep in the doldrums, over a return to Soviet-era politics and the upheaval it would bring to Ukraine's political system.

President Kuchma beat Communist challenger Petro Symonenko by a healthy 18 percent margin in an election that was closely watched and heavily criticized by international observers. The president took 56.25 percent of the popular vote in unofficial results released by Ukraine's Central Election Commission, while Mr. Symonenko was supported by 37.8 percent of the electorate.

More than 74 percent of eligible voters turned out for the runoff, an increase over the 70 percent that had voted in the first round. They surprised political analysts who had predicted that the turnout would barely reach 60 percent.

While thanking Ukrainians for their support, President Kuchma said on November 15 that the results clearly showed that the electorate had expressed a determined desire to continue to move toward free markets, democracy and Europe.

"It is not important that a majority voted for me but that Ukrainians have chosen to continue on the democratic path of state development and the path of economic reforms," said Mr. Kuchma. "I said all along that the elections were not about the personalities but about the political system."

As they did in the first round — when the president overcame a pack of 12 other candidates by winning more than 36 percent of the vote — the western oblasts paved the way for a Kuchma victory. In both the Ivano-Frankivsk and

(Continued on page 5)



Efrem Lukatsky

President Leonid Kuchma casts his ballot with his grandson Roman on November 14.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS

KYIV — According to the reports from 100 percent of the polling stations, the incumbent, Leonid Kuchma, won 56.25 percent (15.86 million) of the votes of those who came to the polls on November 14 for the presidential runoff; 37.8 percent of the voters, or 10.67 million, cast their ballots for Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko.

A total of 3.44 percent or 970,180, voters did not support any of the candidates, while 2.5 percent of the ballots were invalidated.

In all, 28.21 million votes — 74.88 percent of all registered voters — came to the polls.

The percentage of votes registered for both candidates in each regional district appears below.

Oblast/regional district	Kuchma	Symonenko
Crimea	43.98	51.22
Vinnitsia	33.90	59.20
Volyn	75.44	19.19
Dnipropetrovsk	36.35	38.08
Donetsk	52.90	41.23
Zhytomyr	48.06	45.89
Zakarpattia	84.53	9.66
Zaporizhia	44.83	49.69
Ivano-Frankivsk	92.30	4.48
Kyiv	58.51	34.34
Kirovohrad	40.92	52.58
Luhansk	40.74	53.87
Lviv	91.59	3.15
Mykolaiv	45.90	49.16
Odesa	52.83	40.63
Poltava	35.20	57.66
Rivne	76.52	17.23
Sumy	46.53	43.36
Ternopil	92.17	4.84
Kharkiv	46.64	46.46
Kherson	41.88	52.88
Khmelnytskyi	50.95	41.97
Cherkasy	39.95	52.28
Chernivtsi	73.21	21.43
Chernihiv	37.47	56.27
Kyiv City	64.84	26.09
Sevastopol City	50.17	43.69
Polling stations abroad	79.73	15.21

Laurence Decore, influential Canadian Ukrainian politician, dies

by Andriy Kudla Wynnyckyj

Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO — Laurence Decore, an influential politician on the western Canadian scene for three decades, a man who helped enshrine multiculturalism in Canada's Constitution, died at the Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton on November 6 after a long battle with cancer. He was 59.

Among those paying tribute following his death was Canada's Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, who issued a statement of condolence to the family and a press release. "The people of Alberta have lost an extraordinarily gifted leader," Mr. Chrétien wrote, "a man of vision and perseverance."

Quoted by the Edmonton Journal, Alberta Premier Ralph Klein, a long-standing political rival, said: "Laurence was a man who brought great passion and a keen intellect to all he did in public life, qualities especially apparent during debates in the legislature. Whether we were working as allies or as political foes, I always felt that he served his constituents and his community."

Mr. Decore, also known as Lavrentiy Dikur, was born on June 28, 1940, in Vegreville, Alberta, the son of John Decore, himself a politician and a member of the federal Parliament in 1949-1957, before being appointed superior court judge.

Mr. Decore graduated with a B.A. from the University of Alberta in 1961, returning to earn a bachelor of law degree in 1964. He was called to the Alberta Bar that same year. He became involved in various business ventures, including a hotel in Jasper, Edmonton's QCTV cable television station, and various commercial and industrial development projects,

that soon made him a millionaire.

In 1973 he became the founding chairman of the Alberta Cultural Heritage Council (also the year he was elected Edmonton's Ukrainian Professional and Business Club) and served in that capacity for two years.

After two unsuccessful forays into municipal politics, in 1974 he was elected to Edmonton's City Council as an alderman, and was returned to his post in another ballot in 1976. In the three years after 1977, he served as chairman of the municipality's economic and public affairs committees, as a member of the board of Royal Alexandra Hospital and as the director of the Edmonton Board of Health.

From 1977 to 1981 Mr. Decore was a member of the board of directors of the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies, and in 1979-1981 he was president of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation.

In 1980 Mr. Decore was appointed chairman of the Ottawa-based Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism for a three-year term, joining the vanguard of a nationwide lobbying effort to include language enshrining Canada's multicultural character in Section 27 of the new Constitution, adopted in 1982.

In 1977 he had run for mayor of Edmonton and lost, but in 1983 he ran again and was elected in a landslide — winning the largest plurality ever accorded to a candidate for the post in that city. Later that year Mr. Decore was awarded the Order of Canada for his work on behalf of multiculturalism since the 1970s.

In 1986 Mr. Decore was re-elected as mayor of

(Continued on page 4)

ANALYSIS

EBRD optimistic about overcoming corruption

by Paul Goble
RFE/RL Newsline

PRAGUE – Macroeconomic reforms – such as privatization, price liberalization and making national currencies convertible – are not in themselves sufficient to overcome the corruption now holding back many post-Communist countries, according to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

In its annual report on transition economies released last week, the EBRD argued that such reforms have not had the effects on either relations between the state and the economy or the level of corruption that both that the EBRD and most other advocates of reform had expected.

And it concludes that post-Communist governments must do more to promote fair and transparent laws, strong regulatory agencies, and efficient and effective court systems if they are to bring corruption under control – something the EBRD said few of these countries have been able to do so far.

In short, the solutions to the multifaceted problems of corruption are more often to be found in politics rather than economics.

In the past, the EBRD, like other international lenders, has tended to shy away from discussing corruption in these countries, typically treating it as a transitional problem certain to be cured by the kind of free market reforms it and other Western institutions have advocated.

But as the bank's report acknowledges, the high levels of corruption in these countries and, more important, the real sources of that corruption have prompted the EBRD to change its approach.

The level of corruption in many of these countries is staggering. According to the report, officials in Georgia extract in the form of bribes some 8.1 percent of the annual revenues of companies operating there. In Ukraine, that figure is 6.5 percent, and in the Commonwealth of Independent States as a whole it is 5.7 percent.

By adding to the costs of doing business, bribery keeps many firms from making a profit and thus dooms them to an early end. At the same time, demands for

bribes discourage new investors from both within the countries involved and abroad.

Indeed, the EBRD found that newly formed companies in these countries had to pay almost twice as much of their revenues in bribes as did more established concerns – 5.4 percent, compared with 2.8 percent. Therefore, bribes serve as yet another barrier to the establishment of new businesses.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of this year's EBRD report on transition economies, however, is its focus on what macroeconomic reforms cannot achieve by themselves. The bank noted that most post-communist countries have privatized many firms and reduced direct state intervention in the economy.

But those macroeconomic steps have not necessarily reduced "the overall level of intervention or the informal tax imposed on firms in the form of bribes and time spent dealing with government officials."

Indeed, the EBRD found that state-owned firms and privatized ones of the same size were forced to pay approximately the same percentage in bribes – an indication that privatization has not had the impact on corruption that many had expected.

Sometimes this appears to be because the new owners are the former Communist-era managers, who have a special relationship with government officials. Sometimes it is because the firms or the government agencies with which they must deal have one or another kind of monopoly power, something privatization has done little to change.

Because economic changes alone have failed to overcome corruption, the EBRD argued that these countries must turn to political means instead. Indeed, in releasing the report, the EBRD's president, Horst Koehler, said: "I underline this twice. Weak institutions are the main obstacle to economic growth in a number of transition countries."

But, in contrast to some analysts who have written off any chance for improvement in these societies, the EBRD notes that the fight against corruption can be won by leaders and governments willing to take the political risks involved in breaking with the past and building institutions capable of managing a modern, free market economy.

Gore and Kuchma to meet in Washington on December 8

WASHINGTON – Vice-President Al Gore on November 16 announced he will meet with President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine in Washington on December 8 for a session of the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission.

The commission meeting will mark President Kuchma's first trip to Washington since his re-election as president of Ukraine earlier this month. He is expected to bring the top members of his economic and security teams.

"I am looking forward to meeting with President Kuchma and continuing the work of our commission," Vice-President Gore said. "We have worked together on many issues, including economic reform, trade, non-proliferation, and law enforcement. Now, as President Kuchma prepares to begin a new term as President, I am eager to discuss his plans to accelerate economic reform in Ukraine."

Vice-President Gore and President Kuchma established the U.S.-Ukraine

Binational Commission in September 1996 to strengthen the partnership between the two countries. The commission is made up of committees on foreign policy, security, sustainable economic cooperation, and trade and investment, as well as working groups on energy, the environment, law enforcement, and science and technology.

The last meeting of the commission took place in July 1998 in Kyiv, where the two leaders signed a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, agreed to expand trade in textiles and extended a convention on nuclear safety, among other achievements.

Vice-President Gore also took the occasion of his visit to tour the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, the site of the world's worst nuclear accident. The vice-president later gave a speech at the Chernobyl museum on the dangers of nuclear proliferation, the importance of peace and the power of democracy.

NEWSBRIEFS**Kuchma's victory: diffusing red threat**

KYIV – In campaigning for the run-offs, the presidential campaign team planned for a showdown between the "reformer" Leonid Kuchma and the "red revenge" of orthodox Communist Petro Symonenko. The scenario of the "red threat" was successfully employed in Russia to get Boris Yeltsin re-elected president in June 1996, and this plan worked its magic in Ukraine as well. Not even the backing of six former candidates – Oleksander Moroz, Oleksander Tkachenko, Mykola Haber, Yurii Karmazin and Volodymyr Oliinyk – or the over-age-65-dominated electorate could get Mr. Symonenko elected. The only real threat to Mr. Kuchma's victory was a low voter turnout. Those who were not keen on either candidate stayed home. To preclude this, sports stars and celebrities appeared on television encouraging the public to vote. On run-off day loudspeakers were set up all over the capital near markets and kiosks with messages urging the public to exercise its constitutional right to vote. The incumbent's team ensured a high level of turnout by conducting a massive anti-Communist propaganda campaign. Among the devices used: in Kyiv thousands of young people demonstrated in support of Mr. Kuchma by smashing a symbolic "Berlin Wall" made of foam rubber to demonstrate their antipathy to the return of communism. (Eastern Economist, The New York Times)

Kuchma supporters seek single party

KYIV – The coalition of parties that supported President Leonid Kuchma's re-election have expressed support for the idea of forming a single centrist political party before the 2002 by-elections, the coalition's coordinator, Yevhen Kushnariov, told journalists on November 15. According to Dmytro Tabachnyk, deputy head of the Kuchma campaign staff, the number of rightist and centrist deputies in Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada is sufficient to form a coalition that will counterbalance the leftists. In his opinion, the results of the presidential elections will push the non-aligned deputies to join the coalition. As reiterated by Ivan Kuras, head of Mr. Kuchma's campaign staff, the incumbent has already held consultations with a number of political parties on a new prime minister and members of the future Cabinet. Mr. Kuras did not rule out the possibility that President Kuchma will offer some of the well-known politicians and ministers the option of retaining their posts or taking new posts in the Cabinet. In

accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers must resign after the presidential elections. (Eastern Economist)

Court rejects election complaints

KYIV – The Supreme Court on November 13 rejected complaints by presidential candidates Oleksander Moroz and Yurii Karmazin of violations in the first round of presidential elections on October 31. According to Interfax, the court refused to view the complaints on the grounds that "in accordance with the legislation in force, [they] are not subject to consideration by courts." Ukraine's presidential election law does not provide for the courts to declare a presidential election invalid. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Lukashenka: Ukraine may join union

MIENSK – President Alyaksandr Lukashenka told journalists in the Belarusian capital on November 9 that Ukraine may join the Russia-Belarusian union "within a year" if the union "is realized and begins to develop dynamically." Mr. Lukashenka added that Kazakstan and Uzbekistan also are "looking closely" at developments in the union. Meanwhile, President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine said in the November 10 issue of *Izvestia* that the "Slavic union is nothing more than a political trick, an abstract theoretical construction that has no real basis or historical prospects." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Union treaty to be signed November 26?

MIENSK – Mikhail Myasnikov, head of the Belarusian presidential staff, told Interfax on November 15 that the signing of a treaty establishing the union state of Belarus and Russia will take place in the Kremlin at noon on November 26. According to Mr. Myasnikov, the signing ceremony will be preceded by a face-to-face meeting between Presidents Alyaksandr Lukashenka of Belarus and Boris Yeltsin of Russia, and will be followed by a session of the Higher Council of the Belarusian-Russian Union. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Hryvnia moves outside trading band

KYIV – The hryvnia on November 10 moved outside the government-set exchange corridor of 3.4-4.6 hrv to \$1 (U.S.), the Associated Press reported. The National Bank set its exchange rate at 4.613 hrv to \$1. On the interbank currency exchange, which is seen by experts as a

(Continued on page 12)

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International election observers report voting irregularities, government intrusion

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – International observer groups that monitored Ukraine's presidential election run-off on November 14 severely criticized voting irregularities and government intrusion in the electoral process, but stopped short of declaring the elections tainted.

Two international organizations, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the U.S.-based International Republican Institute and the domestic-based Committee of Voters of Ukraine, said during separate press conferences on November 15 that they had recorded numerous infringements of standard democratic voting practices, as well as blatant violations of Ukraine's elections law.

The observer teams agreed that, contrary to expectations, violations had increased in the two weeks between the first and second rounds of the elections. They cited the continued overt and one-sided media exposure given President Leonid Kuchma and abuses by government officials of their positions in campaigning for the incumbent.

The groups also noted that violations of simple voting procedures, such as family voting by individuals, had increased substantially.

"In our estimation the voting was far from free and democratic," said Charalambos Angourakis, one of the Council of Europe observers.

A report issued by the Council of Europe stated that Ukraine was in breach not only of its OSCE commitments but of its obligations in international law, specifically of the European Human Rights Convention, which Ukraine, as a member of the Council of Europe, has pledged to uphold.

While praising the Ukrainian electorate's "commitment to democracy" – as expressed by the continued high voter turnout in the runoff – the Council of Europe delegation said that, nonetheless, the trust of the people could be destroyed if the state does not begin to adopt a neutral stance in supporting candidates.

Simon Osborn, head of the OSCE international observer team, the largest such group observing the Ukrainian elections, said that, although numerous violations were recorded, it would be impossible to quantitatively determine whether the infringements affected the outcome, chiefly because the margin of victory was so great.

"Given that, we cannot say that it has," said Mr. Osborn.

The report issued by Mr. Osborn, is not, however, shy in extensively criticizing the Ukrainian presidential elections. "State administration and public officials were again observed campaigning for the president and against his challenger and [the OSCE observer team] uncovered clear evidence that this campaign by state institutions was systematic and coordinated across the country," said Mr. Osborn.

All four observer organizations criticized the forced resignations of the state regional heads of the oblasts of Vinnytsia, Poltava and Kirovohrad between the two rounds, which coincided with Mr. Kuchma's failure to win those oblasts. The presidential administration had been blatantly forthright in explaining that the removals were caused by poor performances by the three governors in carrying out their governmental responsibilities, which, as it explained, was evidenced by the electorate's failure to support the incumbent president in the vote.

The Council of Europe said the "voluntariness" of the resignations "defies

belief," while the IRI said "the replacement of the governors contributed to an atmosphere of cynicism and accusations of manipulation."

The OSCE emphasized that election and campaign abuses were coordinated systematically, including a sustained campaign to coerce state employees in medical and educational facilities to vote in favor of the incumbent. It said employees were instructed to urge patients, parents and students to support President Kuchma, and noted that it had verified reports of such activities in 11 oblasts throughout the country.

Former U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, who headed the IRI observer team, said in separate remarks that echoed the OSCE assertions that his organization had heard numerous accounts of parents of schoolchildren being instructed by teachers and school officials to vote for the incumbent while they visited their kids schools during Parents Day. The special day for parents in many places was held on the eve of the election runoff.

Children also were included in campaign tactics. The IRI reported that in some classrooms teachers held composition exercises during which they dictated material to their students about the importance of re-electing the incumbent.

The observer teams also condemned militia participation in the voting process. Mr. Osborn of the OSCE said he had received a copy of an internal document of the Ministry of Internal Affairs that had given instruction to local militia chiefs how to meet with voters and counsel them on their election day choice. He also said OSCE observers had witnessed officers disseminating campaign material and campaigning door to door in favor of the president.

The Committee of Voters of Ukraine, the largest observer organization, which had a force of 16,000 on hand in all the regions of Ukraine on election day, said militia officers had helped people drop their ballots into the proper urns and had been present in some voting places during the vote tabulation.

The committee also described busloads of voters from parts unknown disembarking in villages in Dnipropetrovsk, where they cast their vote and then left.

The Council of Europe questioned the outright validity of many polling results, especially in the western regions of Ukraine, where voter turnout was at times registered as high and higher than 99 percent. Hanne Severinsen, the leader of the Council of Europe delegation, said she had information of voter turnouts that exceeded 100 percent.

The Council of Europe rapporteur said she was appealing to the Ukrainian government to make the needed changes so that similar flagrant violations do not occur in the future. "I believe that democracy is at stake," said Ms. Severinsen.

None of the observer groups has the ability to impose penalties or sanctions. Their reports and observations are merely a tool to inform other democratic nations of the state of affairs in Ukraine and to bring pressure to bear on Ukraine to change its ways, as Ms. Severinsen readily admitted.

However, the Council of Europe report she co-authored ends with the recommendation that any financial support for Ukraine from international organizations should be conditional upon the country passing new election laws, ending campaign abuses by state officials and establishing "a common ground for democracy"

OSCE issues preliminary statement on presidential runoff in Ukraine

KYIV – The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) Election Observation Mission on November 15 issued a preliminary statement on its observations of the second round presidential elections in Ukraine held on November 14.

The statement was endorsed also by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

According to the findings of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission, the conduct of the campaign for the second round of the presidential election in Ukraine was in breach of the election law and the relevant OSCE commitments on democratic elections and showed no improvement over the first round of the election.

State administration and public officials were again observed campaigning for the president and against his challenger. The OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission uncovered clear evidence that this campaign by state institutions was systematic and coordinated across the country.

The electronic and state-owned media comprehensively failed to live up to their legal obligation to provide balanced and unbiased reporting on the candidates and the campaign in their news coverage of the second round.

During the second round of these elections, voting day procedures according to

the law were not followed as closely as they were in the first round. Observers saw instances of more serious violations. Observers in the Lviv Oblast in particular saw voters given several ballot papers and casting more than one vote in a number of rural polling stations visited. They also noted instances of family voting and breaches of the secrecy of the vote.

No final assessment can be reached until the counting and aggregation of votes have been completed and the official results published. The ODIHR Election Observation Mission will continue to follow developments until the election process is completed. The ODIHR Election Observation Mission will issue a final report in December.

This preliminary statement is based on the findings of 26 ODIHR long-term observers and core staff deployed from September 15 and 160 international short-term observers. The international observers included eight members and staff from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, individuals sent from OSCE participating states, members of the diplomatic community in Ukraine, as well as other international organizations present in the country, representing in total 26 participating states.

The PACE delegation was led by Hanne Severinsen (Denmark); the ODIHR Election Observation Mission was headed by Simon Osborn (United Kingdom).

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Companies in FSU lose revenues to bribes

WASHINGTON – In the former Soviet Union, businesses spend about 5.7 percent of their annual revenues to bribe officials, while in Central Europe the figure is only 3.3 percent, according to a joint report by the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The report was based on a survey of 3,000 companies in 20 countries in the former Soviet Union and Central Europe. According to the report, companies in Georgia suffer the most, with 8 percent of their annual revenues being paid out as bribes, while companies in Croatia suffer the least, with only 2 percent paid for bribes. It was also noted that smaller companies tend to have to pay bribes more often. (Eastern Economist)

Automatic telephones on the rise

KYIV – Since the beginning of the year, Ukraine launched a number of automatic telephone stations, with a total volume of 200,000 telephone numbers. Currently, every fifth Ukrainian possesses a telephone, while in developed countries, there are over 50 telephones for each 100 persons, said Chair of the State Communications Committee, Oleh Shevchuk. He added that in 1999, communication service companies of all forms of ownership paid over 1 billion hrv to the state budget. (Eastern Economist)

NBU and Infineon agree on smart card

KYIV – The National Bank of Ukraine and the German company Infineon Technologies AG (previously named Siemens AG Semiconductor) signed a frame agreement for production until 2001 of 2 million chip-modules for the smart-card national mass electronic payment system, announced the director of the NBU's information department, Anatolii Savchenko. The NBU, CreditPromBank (Kyiv), Etalon (Kyiv), MegaBank (Kharkiv), UkrSibBank (Kharkiv), Grant Bank (Kharkiv) and PolikomBank (Chernihiv) will participate in the pilot projects. (Eastern Economist)

Belgians interested in Crimean soda plant

SYMFEROPOL – Solvay, a Belgian chemical company, has announced plans to buy a stake in the Crimean Soda Plant in Krasnoperekopsk. Solvay representatives have visited the plant and invited managers to visit Solvay plants in Bulgaria, Belgian Ambassador Pierre Vaesen told Crimean Premier Serhiy Kunitsyn on September 28. Solvay managers recognized that the Krasnoperekopsk plant is in excellent condition and has good management. Mr. Kunitsyn said the Crimean government would agree to sell the soda plant only on condition that it retains a stake of 50 percent + 1 share. Solvay is currently supplying high-pressure polyethylene to Syzokor Plastics of Symferopol for its polymer gas pipe production. (Eastern Economist)

Kuchma approves Malyshev's export activity

KHARKIV – During his visit to Kharkiv on October 11-12, President Leonid Kuchma agreed to grant the Kharkiv-based Malyshev plant the right to export its

(Continued on page 4)

Winnipeg residents pitch in to help damaged Oseredok

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WINNIPEG – “Bohu diakuvaty” (thank God), “slava Bohu” (Glory to God) – these are the comments voiced by passers-by upon viewing the fire scene at the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center (Oseredok) in Winnipeg.

The November 5 fire at the center had been called in and quickly put out, thereby avoiding extensive damage to the center. A 35-year-old man was arrested at the scene. The suspect, who maintains he is innocent, was released on bail, with his lawyer arguing that he is not fully competent to have planned and executed an arson. The arson investigation is ongoing, and at least one other person is being sought by police and the arson squad.

The blaze could have been much worse than it was. The building's fire alarm went off, and passing police noticed the flames and called in the fire. Thus, the fire was put out before it had time to develop much past the first floor. Additional details about what happened have not been released because of the ongoing investigation.

This writer had the opportunity to see part of the fire scene on the afternoon of November 11, half a day after the building was reopened by the police. The center had been padlocked since the fire, with only investigators permitted access.

The elegant Oseredok Boutique, what was left of it, was black, charred almost beyond recognition, with undulating shelves and melted telephones hardened in sinuous shapes. The adjacent general office had not fared much better; although it was less charred.

The company crew removing all the damaged, burned furnishings was labeling and carrying out the charred photocopier, the office chairs, the display cabinets. There was very little to carry out of the Boutique, however, especially from the front section where the children's area displayed books, music, puzzles, games and art. What was once a beautiful full-length woman's embroidered shirt, purchased by Shelley Greschuk, the center's executive director, in Ukraine this summer specifically for the boutique, hung on a fancy hanger. The hanger appeared to be intact, but draped from it was a somewhat-solidified, nyzynka-embroidered upper sleeve, now in black embroidery instead of the original red, attached to an inch-wide strip of fabric hanging down to what remained of the pidtychka (the embroidered lower hem).

Almost all of the pysanky (Ukrainian Easter eggs) Ms. Greschuk bought in the Carpathian Mountains had been sold quickly this fall. I picked up a few pieces of eggshell with still brilliant designs off the floor near the blackened display cabinet. While some items were intact, and surprisingly undamaged, who knows what remains of the other exquisite objects from this elegant shop, now scooped up into bins and taken away for storage. The boutique's destruction is a very big loss, especially before the very busy Christmas season.

The telephones were again ringing at Oseredok as of November 16. Before then some of the phones that had not melted rang, others did not. The staff could call out on some, but no one could call in. Some lights worked, others did not, and until the electrical system was checked and repaired, no other work could proceed safely.

Linda Kotyk Hunter, president of the board of directors, reported that the clean-up is going extremely well, with many people stopping by with offers of help and donations. She noted that even though insurance covers the basic damages, the institution will welcome and need the financial support of the community to update the

care and preservation of the collections. The actual painstaking work of removing the burned walls and other structures, and cleaning up the site is being done by Winnipeg Building and Decorating Ltd.

Ms. Greschuk pointed out that the owner of the company, Henry Thiessen, has a special interest in Oseredok, because he is a Mennonite born in Ukraine. Ms. Greschuk noted that in the over-40,000-volume library, workers removed the residue from every single book, using special dry sponges. Fire doors on each floor saved the collections from damage.

Ms. Greschuk also said she is gratified by the immense community support of Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians alike, “People are coming in off the street with donations” she exclaimed. Professional conservators and preservationists from the Manitoba Provincial Archives and the Federal Parks Canada Department (which also is responsible for museums) have volunteered their services.

“The Winnipeg community spirit is evident yet again. This disaster shows how strongly people feel about preserving their culture through respecting and maintaining the collections,” Ms. Greschuk stated, adding that she especially wishes to thank the Winnipeg police and fire departments for their great job in quickly putting out the blaze and being so efficient in their work over the past week.

A special account, the Oseredok Collections Fund, No. 5315, with income tax receipts issued (Canadian) has been opened at the North Winnipeg Credit Union Ltd., 544 Selkirk Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 2M9; telephone, (204) 586-8469; fax, (204) 586-4807.

The address of Oseredok is: Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center (Oseredok), 184 Alexander Ave. E., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0L6; telephone, (204) 942-0218, fax, (204) 943-2857.

Laurence Decore...

(Continued from page 1)

Edmonton in another, even larger, landslide and embarked on a reorganization of the municipal administrative system. He abolished Edmonton's Board of Commissioners, which effectively handed more power to the city's elected representatives, and adopted a fiscal program that eliminated the city's debt. For three years running his administration earned excellence awards from the international Government Finance Officers Association.

In the fall of 1988 Mr. Decore used his municipal power base to engineer a caucus review within Alberta's Liberal Party and at



Laurence Decore

Business in brief

(Continued from page 3)

products independently. The plant has almost completed a \$600 million (U.S.) contract on the manufacture of 320 tanks for Pakistan and, following tests next month, will dispatch them to Pakistan. Plant GM Hryhorii Maliuk said he believes that the plant – the main producer of armored vehicles in Ukraine – was unjustly excluded from the list of exporters of such sensitive equipment and will seek to restore its status now that President Kuchma has agreed in principle with this idea. (Eastern Economist)

Malyshev engine offer rejected by Russia

KHARKIV – Russia turned down on October 14 an offer by the Kharkiv-based Malyshev plant to cooperate in producing tank engines for Russian T-90C tanks. The offer was made after Russia's unsuccessful testing of the T-90C with B-84 engines this summer in India, according to Mykhailo Borysiuk, general construction engineer for tank production in Ukraine. Kharkiv's 1000-2000 horsepower 6TD-1 and 6TD-2 engines are ideal for hot desert climates, and economize on both size and weight. (Eastern Economist)

Textile quotas to EU expected to be boosted

KYIV – Ukraine has reached an agreement with the European Union over a 50 to 60 percent increase, possibly as soon as this year, in its annual quota for exporting its main types of textiles to EU markets and a 30 percent increase in other commodities from this group of products, said Ukraine's Foreign Economic Relations Minister Oleksander Sotnykov. According to Mr. Sotnykov, these quotas are expected to be increased by another 50 percent in 2000 and the years 2001-2003 should see an agreement between Ukraine and the EU on free trade in textile products. Mr. Sotnykov also said that Ukraine's textile industry is third after metallurgical and chemical industries in terms of volumes of export. The previous agreement on trade in textiles between Ukraine and the EU covered the period until December 31, but these quotas had already been fulfilled by Ukrainian exporters during the period of March-May. (Eastern Economist)

Ukraine sells Variah carrier to Macao

MYKOLAYIV – Documents were expected to be signed October 23 on the transfer of the uncompleted Variah aircraft carrier to a new owner, the Chong Lot company from Macao. The value of two contracts, its sale and preparations for tugging, totaled \$21.8 million (U.S.). (Eastern Economist)

Economic indicators among best in East

KYIV – The country's economic indicators over the first 10 months of 1999 are among the best in the Commonwealth of Independent States and some Central and Eastern European countries, according to Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko. Arrears in budget and state funds payments totaled about 12 billion hrv, including 8.8 billion hrv to the state budget, 2.4 billion hrv to local budgets, and 1.2 billion hrv to the Pension Fund. Mr. Pustovoitenko said the government is trying to reduce tax pressure on domestic producers, but tax collection remains the biggest problem. (Eastern Economist)

the ensuing convention won the leadership on the first ballot. Then-Premier Don Getty called a snap election the following March, and Mr. Decore's Liberals lost, but he won his Glengarry-Edmonton seat from the New Democratic Party (NDP) incumbent, and led his party “back from the wilderness,” as Mr. Chrétien put it.

As a member of the legislative assembly (MLA) Mr. Decore's relentless attacks on the Conservative government's financial mismanagement lifted the Liberal Party into a lead in the polls in the early 1990s, even as he began the first of his bouts with cancer. In 1990 he overcame an affliction of the colon, and in 1992, returned to the legislature a month after an operation to remove a tumor in his liver.

However, also in 1992, the Alberta Tories chose a new leader, Mr. Klein, who began co-opting Mr. Decore's proposals for fiscal austerity, and in the election of May 1993 the Conservatives were returned to power. Nevertheless, the Mr. Decore led his party to status as Official Opposition, and wiped out the NDP in its Edmonton strongholds. The 32 seats the Liberals won in that election was the highest number won by any opposition party since 1917.

That year Mr. Decore denounced then-federal Tory minister Jean Charest's assertion that the internment of Ukrainian Canadians during and after World War I did not merit commemoration by the Canadian government.

Faced with mounting pressure from his caucus (which had expected to win the 1993 election), Mr. Decore stepped down as Leader of the Opposition in Alberta but stayed on as an MLA. In 1994, according to Edmonton Sun columnist Neil Waugh, Mr. Decore convinced Mr. Klein to adopt

reforms that provided for free votes on private members' bills, an elected speaker and the longest question period in Canada, thus greatly democratizing the legislature.

Mr. Decore retired from politics in 1997, when he declined to stand for re-election. He returned to business, securing an appointment as vice-president of Brokerlink Inc., the second largest insurance brokerage company of its kind in Canada.

He served as chairman of the Canada-Ukraine Business Initiative (CUBI) in 1996-1997, and later as its honorary chairman. In 1996 he was keynote speaker at the congress of the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Association in Montreal, and received the Michael Luchkovich award from the Edmonton Branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

In June of this year, more than 1,600 people gathered at a “Thank you, Laurence Decore” fund-raising gala in support of the University of Alberta's new Noujaim Institute for Pharmaceutical Oncology Research, to which he also dedicated considerable effort in recent years. In October the university conferred an honorary doctorate upon Mr. Decore.

Funeral services were held on November 9 at the St. John Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Edmonton, with interment following at St. Michael's Cemetery.

Mr. Decore is survived by his wife, Anne Marie, academic vice-president of the University of Alberta; daughter, Andrea, a Calgary-based lawyer; and son, Michael, a teacher in British Columbia. Mr. Decore's family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Noujaim Institute at the University of Alberta or the Cross Cancer Institute.



Victor Pobedinsky

Petro Symonenko, Communist Party leader and presidential candidate, votes in the second round of the presidential elections.

The Kuchma victory...

(Continued from page 1)

have said would be outlined in a 100-day plan they are developing for the first months of the president's new term. But, according to Mr. Kuchma's closest aides, the president will attack politically sensitive issues he had avoided as too risky before his huge election victory. They said he finally will implement long-delayed administrative streamlining, overhaul the privatization process and formalize a referendum on parliamentary reform.

Dmytro Tabachnyk, one of the president's campaign chiefs and architect of his election victory, said the mandate handed the president gives him the authority to move forward aggressively.

"I believe that now he will be forceful in making changes in three areas," explained Mr. Tabachnyk, "strengthening the legislative foundation to stimulate reform, proceeding with intensive administrative reform and curtailing the bureaucratic apparatus, and enhancing the climate for strategic investments."

Mr. Tabachnyk said his analysis of the vote shows that Ukrainian voters expressed their strong support for continued integration into European structures and for deepening economic reforms.

During his campaign President Kuchma adopted an idea proposed by regional leaders, who at times have felt impotent in central government affairs, for a bicameral Parliament that would include a Senate consisting of regional representatives.

The president has said the controversial plan should be brought before Ukrainian citizens in a popular referendum. Critics say it will only extend presidential influence over the legislative branch.

The referendum proposal, which needs signatures of support from 3 million Ukrainians in order to move forward, would also include a question on the removal of criminal immunity for national deputies.

A referendum committee organized by regional leaders has already begun the task of collecting the signatures.

Even with the "can do" post-election euphoria that has enveloped Mr. Kuchma and his administration, political analysts believe that first the president must organize a majority centrist coalition in the Verkhovna Rada to have any chance of achieving real reforms.

The president has called the formation of a majority coalition among national deputies a primary political objective for the near term. Were such a coalition to form, Mr. Kuchma has said he would allow it to influence the appointment of the prime minister and the Cabinet.

While explaining that it is unclear whether the president can put together a majority coalition, Mykhailo Pohrebnytskyi, a leading political analyst in Kyiv, said that, if he does succeed, it would be "a monumental stage in the development of a politically responsible government."

"Cooperation between the Verkhovna Rada and government would undoubtedly lead to a gradual betterment in the investment climate and the economy," said Mr. Pohrebnytskyi.

If Mr. Kuchma fails to build a parliamentary majority, then Mr. Pohrebnytskyi believes the president might move to dismiss the Verkhovna Rada although he admitted that to do so would be difficult.

"Then there would be rule by presidential decree, which could look decisive and progressive, but would surely kill the legislative system, which depends upon elected, representative decision-makers," he added.

Another noted political analyst, Mykola Tomenko, said the president must be careful how he approaches the issue of a second chamber for the Parliament. Moving too quickly to a political referendum on a proposed bicameral legislature could further bungle the president's relations with national deputies and cause a continuation of the paralysis that has characterized ties between the legislative and the executive branches during Mr. Kuchma's first term.

"Right now there can't be any serious promise of change. Kuchma must first make a political decision about whether he can afford a serious confrontation with the Verkhovna Rada over the referendum, or whether it is more important to develop a majority coalition and a new government," explained Mr. Tomenko.

Kuchma re-elected...

(Continued from page 1)

Ternopil oblasts more than 92 percent of voters supported the incumbent, while in the Lviv Oblast, only slightly less, 91.59 percent, decided that Mr. Kuchma deserved a second term.

Mr. Symonenko took 10 of Ukraine's 24 oblasts and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. He found most of his support in the central and southernmost regions of Ukraine and a smattering of oblasts in the east. The president's opponent received the most support in the west-central oblast of Vinnytsia where 59 percent of the electorate favored him. He took more than 50 percent of the vote in Crimea and the oblasts of Kirovohrad, Poltava, Kherson, Cherkasy, Chernihiv and Luhansk.

On the regional level, in most cases one or the other candidate won handily. The only real contest was in Kharkiv, where the president edged his Communist opponent by a sliver of .18 percent, winning 46.64 percent to 46.46 percent.

As he conceded defeat Mr. Symonenko, said on November 15 that he was not ready to congratulate Mr. Kuchma on his victory and would wait at least until the official results were in, along with election day reports from his own and international observers. However, he emphasized his firm belief that if the elections had been truly free and fair he would have won.

"In my opinion, all that took place in the first and second rounds only shows that the country has turned into a police state," said Mr. Symonenko. He explained that, rather than a victory for the president, the election was a win for "the system of clans and corruption, which battled fiercely to make sure they stayed in power."

The Communist leader took solace in the fact that more than 10 million voters supported him in the runoff, a substantial increase over the 6 million votes the Communist Party took in the March 1998 Parliament elections, which has left his party optimistic that their support among the electorate continues to grow.

Mr. Symonenko said total responsibility for the country's future now lies with the "centrist and right-centrist political forces."

Mr. Kuchma and his campaign leaders quickly moved to consolidate the electorate and to assure them that the results would not lead to a political split in the country. "Ukrainians are all dear to me. I do not want to divide them into leftists and rightists," said Mr. Kuchma after his victory.

He explained that he understands a large portion of the pro-Symonenko vote was in protest to an economy that has continued to fall, which has left a majority of the population with meager incomes or no jobs.

"I do not think that they voted for the Communist idea, it has been discredited throughout the world," Mr. Kuchma said. "They voted against today's life, especially

the older generation. I understand them and am not offended."

The president admitted that for several years now the notion of economic reforms was more talk than action, but that with his re-election the situation would change.

Ivan Kuras, the head of the president's campaign organization and a former leading member of the Cabinet of Ministers agreed that the vote had given the impetus to reinvigorating reforms.

"This shows that we have a huge mandate to speed up reforms," said Mr. Kuras, explaining that the changes would include a new privatization policy, and the implementation of administrative and possibly even parliamentary reform.

Whether President Kuchma indeed received a mandate to govern will continue to be discussed in the coming weeks. It is widely believed that large segments of both the central and local governments worked hand-in-hand with the president's campaign organization to ensure his re-election.

International observer teams, as well as the president's election opponents in both rounds of voting, have severely criticized the way the elections were run and the way the government intimidated and controlled the media. Observers for the Council of Europe specifically questioned the returns in the western regions of Ukraine. Nonetheless, in its final analysis the Council of Europe demurred from a statement that Ukraine's election's were tainted.

No international or domestic observer organization has claimed that the elections were rigged, or that voting irregularities and unethical campaign tactics had influenced the final outcome – the chief reason being the president's large margin of victory. (See story on page 3.)

Mykola Tomenko, a leading political analyst in Kyiv, agreed that the president had probably gained many supporters through intimidation and influence by government officials, but that, in the final analysis, the voters had simply decided that they favored the security and peace offered by President Kuchma's policies.

He said he had found that many Ukrainians truly believed Mr. Symonenko's policies, which included a return to a centrally planned command economy and reunion with Russia and Belarus, might lead them into a war, and that a return to communism would improve nothing. "They were for a bad peace rather than a big war," said Mr. Tomenko.

Another political analyst, Mykhailo Pohrebnytskyi, relying on pre-election surveys that he had done, said the election results showed that Ukrainians, while rejecting a paternalistic form of government, had also expressed their exhaustion with change and uncertainty.

"I believe they said we are ready to give [Mr. Kuchma] the chance to finally change the situation, but will not give him a guarantee that we will support him for long," said Mr. Pohrebnytskyi.

U.S. statement on presidential elections in Ukraine

Following is the text of the press statement on Ukraine's presidential election delivered on November 15 by James P. Rubin, U.S. Department of State spokesman.

On November 14, 75 percent of the Ukrainian electorate, some 28 million people, turned out to vote in the country's presidential election run-off. The United States congratulates the Ukrainian people on this expression of their commitment to democracy.

According to preliminary results from the Central Election Commission, incumbent President Leonid Kuchma won the election with over 56 percent of the vote. His challenger, Communist Party head Petro Symonenko, finished with roughly

38 percent of the vote. The U.S. government congratulates President Kuchma on his re-election, which is an important endorsement by the Ukrainian people of a policy direction of continued political and economic reform and Western integration. The United States remains committed to assisting Ukraine's transition to democracy and a market economy.

The OSCE's Office of Democratic Initiatives and Human Rights (ODIHR) election observation mission, with the endorsement of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), issued a preliminary assessment of the election November 15. The statement noted that instances of violations of election day procedures were more numerous and serious than in the

first round but, as of November 15, were not reported to have been widespread or systematic. However, the statement criticized breaches of Ukraine's election law and of Ukraine's OSCE commitments citing, in particular, imbalanced media coverage and the coordinated and inappropriate involvement of government officials in both rounds of the election on behalf of the incumbent.

The U.S. government shares this assessment, and calls on Ukrainian authorities to address the problems identified in the statement in future elections. Continued progress on democracy is an essential first step towards advancing Ukraine's goal of deeper integration with Europe and Euro-Atlantic institutions.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The Kuchma mandate

It is not certain whether a majority of Ukrainians wholeheartedly supported a second term for newly re-elected President Leonid Kuchma or whether illegal government intrusion into the election process artificially influenced voting patterns.

We probably will never know whether the results were tainted to the extent that they affected the final outcome. It must be said from the outset that to rig more than 5 million votes – the difference between Mr. Kuchma and Petro Symonenko – is a monumental task even for a government apparatus as large as Ukraine's.

International organizations have given President Kuchma the benefit of the doubt and, although severely critical, have decided that he was chosen by a majority of Ukrainians. However, we do hope the president hears the call of the international community and makes appropriate changes in policy and law to ensure that the next elections are free of the intimidation and censorship that marked the 1999 presidential vote.

Ukrainians have now rejected communism in four general elections; in presidential votes in 1991, 1994 and 1999, and the parliamentary elections of 1998. Even though Communist leaders continue to proclaim that the next election is theirs, the reality is that their political strength is waning as their electorate, the elderly, is dying off.

Now is the time for the president to stop straddling the ideological fence. It is time to accelerate full speed towards a free market economic system, democracy and Europe. The president seems to understand this. He has announced that he is preparing an ambitious 100-day plan to begin his new term with a keenly defined strategy to reinvigorate economic reforms. His campaign team is waxing enthusiastic that real reforms in the marketplace and in the bloated and resistant bureaucracy are forthcoming.

They are even proposing a risky Constitutional change to establish a bicameral Parliament, such is their enthusiasm and optimism. The president and his team think that Ukrainian citizens will support a bicameral national legislature in a popular referendum. They believe the populace is sufficiently disgusted with the current Verkhovna Rada to go along with a major restructuring of the legislative body.

Mr. Kuchma also is convinced that he can stimulate the development of a centrist majority coalition, which he would allow to form the government – a move he believes would get long-stalled reform bills moving.

His is a grandiose plan that inevitably contains many holes and weak points.

For one, it seems to ignore the fact that the president has had major problems getting a consensus even from within his own administration on how to move dynamically on major reform measures such as bureaucratic streamlining. Little to date suggests that the situation has changed sufficiently to be able to proceed today.

Another type of paralysis could hinder the president's second term, as well. The president made untold numbers of promises to bring together the large political coalition that got him re-elected. Today he is beholden to many political partners. He will be pressured to pay political dividends to cronies and cohorts, which in the past has been the source of many of the charges of corruption and the oligarchical tendencies that Ukraine is accused of harboring today.

The hope here is that the president will resist pressure to develop policies based on the narrow-minded interest of the political business elites that will now try to ride the Kuchma wave. He must work for the people and the nation – as he said he intends to.

This is Mr. Kuchma's last term as president (a two-term limit is enshrined in the Constitution) and probably his last election. We believe the president will want to leave a historical legacy of Ukraine's prosperity, peace and stability. That will take determination, a vision, and a resolve to ignore political fleas on the Ukrainian body-politic.

Ukraine's electorate has told President Kuchma that he should continue to hold the reins of power and steer the country in the new millennium. His is the vehicle of change, we hope.

Nov.
18
1995

Turning the pages back...

Four years ago, during the second year of his first term in office, President Leonid Kuchma expressed "cautious optimism" regarding Ukraine's progress along the path of economic reform and underlined that there would be no turning back on market reform policies. Now re-elected to a second term, President Kuchma is facing continuing economic problems. The question is: Will he be able to do better in his second term?

Four years ago, the economic situation was described by Marta Kolomayets, then Kyiv correspondent of The Ukrainian Weekly. She reported the following on Mr. Kuchma's remarks at a November 18, 1995, news conference.

The president underlined: "There is no alternative to our economic reform course, and the transformation of our economy is irreversible." He added that he is more convinced now than ever before that his October 1994 program of radical reform is the only way for Ukraine to move into the future.

However, the Ukrainian leader did express concern over figures cited in a recent public opinion poll, which reported that about 20 percent of Ukraine's population opposes radical reforms and longs for the past. That same poll pointed out that more than 50 percent of the population supports reforms without shock measures. According to Mr. Kuchma, in order to set the citizens of Ukraine at ease, the government would have to present an easily comprehensible program to students, pensioners and all of Ukraine's citizens. "We have to spell it out so that each and every person will be aware of what he can expect and what he will have in one, two, three years," said Mr. Kuchma.

Mr. Kuchma told reporters that inflation in 1995 was 40 times lower than in 1993 and that it will be further reduced in 1996, laying a strong foundation for further market reforms. "But in order to reach a European living standard, we must increase our industrial output four to five times in both light and food industries," said the president. In such industries as transportation, communication and services, production

(Continued on page 7)

NEWS AND VIEWS

Re: Class action lawsuit filed by former forced/slave laborers

Following are frequently asked questions concerning the class action suit filed by Ukrainian forced and slave laborers seeking compensation from German industry. The questions and answers were provided by the attorney Myroslaw Smorodsky of Smorodsky and Stawnychy, one of the firms that filed the suit in U.S. federal court in New York.

What is a class action?

A class action is a legal procedure whereby a single person or a small group may represent a larger group or class of persons sharing a common interest. This procedure is often used when the group of persons is too large for each member of the class to be joined in the lawsuit as a party.

Which class do you represent?

The action was brought on behalf of all Ukrainians who were compelled to perform slave or forced labor for a German company any time from 1933 to 1945.

Who decides whether a class action is proper?

During the course of the lawsuit, the court will decide whether the class action is proper taking into consideration the following: the number of persons involved, whether there are common factual issues, whether the representatives of the class have typical claims, and can the representative adequately represent the interests of the members of the class.

Are Ukrainian forced laborers who migrated to the West after the war included in this class?

Yes, the litigation includes all Ukrainian forced laborers no matter where they reside.

How large is the class?

An estimated 620,000 documented forced labor survivors reside in Ukraine, 280,000 of whom were employed by German industry. The number of forced laborers surviving in the West is unknown. That is why this survey of survivors was initiated.

Who asked you to initiate this class action?

The attorneys for the class, Myroslaw Smorodsky, Pyotr Rabinovich, and Danylo Kourdelchouk of Ukriniurkolegiua, were petitioned by the Ukrainian Union of Prisoners/Victims of Nazi Persecution and the Ukrainian Association of the Antifascist Resistance to start this lawsuit. These organizations represent a substantial portion of the documented forced labor survivors in Ukraine.

Do I have to do anything now be included in the class?

No, however, if you reside outside of Ukraine's borders, we request that you complete the survey prepared by the attorneys for the class. The data collected will help in resolving this lawsuit. When the case is over, by settlement or otherwise, the court will order a hearing after public notice to the entire class to determine whether the proposed settlement or resolution is fair. This notice will be worldwide. Thereafter, depending upon the structure of the settlement, a registration

process will be set up whereby you may submit your claim for payment. Notices about the registration process will be publicized worldwide and all qualifying individuals will have the opportunity to submit a claim at that time.

How do I prove that I was a forced laborer?

The courts realize that in the aftermath of the war and after the passage of over 55 years, the victims have lost many of their valuable papers. In light of this, strict evidence rules may be relaxed substantially. However, it would be very beneficial if you could produce (only when requested – not with your answers to the questionnaire) any papers such as work papers (arbeitskarte), passports, photos, letters etc. and other documentation of your experience as a forced laborer. You should also write down your impressions and memories, such as the names of the companies where you were employed and other details of your experience.

Who will pay the attorneys' fees and how much?

If the class action suit is successful or receives a settlement, courts often award reasonable attorneys' fees to the lawyers. These fees are generally added to the sum awarded, and serve as an incentive to the instituting actions where no single class member could afford to hire a lawyer. The courts take into consideration the amount of time devoted to the case, the novelty of the issues, and the result. Attorneys' fees are never decided or negotiated until the amount that the class is to receive is determined. In this case, we are requesting that the German companies pay the lawyers fees and that these fees not be deducted from the amount awarded to the class, so you will not be required to pay out any part of your individual settlement in order to cover legal fees.

Whom are you suing?

The litigation is against private corporations such as BMW, Volkswagen and others who used forced/slave labor during World War II. These companies have a presence in the United States and therefore are subject to American law and jurisdiction.

Does the class action include farm workers or those forced laborers who worked for private persons or government corporations such as railroads?

No. However, these categories of forced laborers are taken into consideration during the settlement negotiations that are presently pending. The German government has indicated that it will not agree to compensate these forced laborers. However, the Ukrainian negotiators and the representatives of all of the other East European countries have insisted that such laborers be compensated.

Why can't you sue on behalf of farm workers?

In order for the American courts to have jurisdiction, the individuals or individual entities must have a presence in the United States. The owners of the farms where the forced laborers worked are unlikely to have any contact with the United States and, in all probability, are no longer alive.

(Continued on page 14)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Compliments on coverage of UOC

Dear Editor:

I compliment you and your staff – in particular Irene Jarosewich – for a balanced, well-written article in the November 14 issue about Patriarch Filaret's visit to the United States as well as the news story about the UOC/USA vs. Holy Ascension controversy.

The issues raised are of utmost importance to all Ukrainians. We do not need more divisions within our Ukrainian American community; there are enough divisions in Ukraine which we, as a united Ukrainian American entity, must influence and bring to unity.

Freedom of the press is alive and well within the Ukrainian community in America. Let's open up the dialogue on this topic in the public forum as was the case in 1998.

Victor Babanskyj
Watchung, N.J.

A reader's reaction to 'complex answers'

Dear Editor:

My response to the editorial "Complex Answers" (October 10) was anger. The leadership of the Ukrainian National Association has failed its membership dismally by allowing things to slide until solutions further devastate our community.

As policy holders in a fraternal organization, we are not merely clients. We are members and a community. To be viable, a fraternal organization has a two-pronged responsibility. One is building a financial base through insurance policy sales (and possibly other means), and the second is providing membership benefits in the organization for the Ukrainian American community. It is precisely due to these two reasons combined that the UNA grew and prospered.

The publication of two newspapers, one in the Ukrainian language and the other in English, is among the benefits to the community. Each carries an important responsibility and should be treated equally. The Ukrainian Weekly has been a cogent tool in our lobbying efforts outside Ukraine by presenting issues from the Ukrainian perspective. Being non-denominational and politically non-aligned, it is positioned to deal with a

wide range of problems and issues in our community. The second, third and future generations of Ukrainian descendants need The Ukrainian Weekly. There is no other medium like it.

To abrogate The Weekly's capacity, or move towards its extinction, is unforgivable and irresponsible. Existing donations to the publishing fund should be dealt equally, but this is only a temporary solution.

What we see is gross neglect. Mismanagement turns people away and that may be the greatest cause of the UNA's failures. First it was Soyuzivka, now The Weekly and tomorrow the UNA. Americans don't need the UNA. Ukrainian Americans do – individually and organizationally.

Later this year the delegates to the last UNA convention (held in May 1998) are to vote on a corporate structure for the UNA to bring about better accountability. The question of the fraternal face of this institution is essential to our future as the Ukrainian diaspora in America and an ethnic group in the United States.

The Ukrainian American community built the UNA, a fraternal financial institution, to assure the existence of the Ukrainian community outside the borders of Ukraine. In turn, the UNA kept the community together by being responsive to its needs. We, the community and the UNA, have to solve this problem together.

Roma M. Hayda
Easton, Conn.

Disappointed with Wynnyckyj's layoff

Dear Editor:

It is with some hesitation and concern that I am renewing my subscription to The Ukrainian Weekly. I was extremely disappointed and angry that Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj was relieved of his duties and will no longer contribute as a full-time staffer to the newspaper. Mr. Wynnyckyj's journalistic style brought with it objectivity, analysis and wit, which will sorely be missed by this reader.

The newspaper has come a long way and provides excellent coverage of Ukrainian affairs worldwide. My only hope is that you plan to maintain the caliber of journalism which Mr. Kudla Wynnyckyj provided.

Nadia H. Skop, Ph.D.
Toronto

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

must be increased seven times.

"If we cannot guarantee substantial changes in industry in the near future, which means structural reconstruction in our economy, all of our international credits will disappear, like water soaked up by sand," he explained. "We will lose our potential markets and any possibility of being a competitive labor force," he said, adding that, most importantly, Ukraine will suffer and its living standard will continue to decline.

Mr. Kuchma acknowledged problems in the taxation system, and promised to reform this sphere of the economy, which taxes businessmen up to 90 percent on their earnings. Such policies can undermine stability in Ukrainian society, he acknowledged.

"We will never form an authoritative government, nor will we have an effective social policy if we do not learn to collect taxes," said President Kuchma. "To a great degree, the irreversible path of economic reforms will depend on the constitutional principles [embodied in a new Constitution of Ukraine] that form the framework of a new society," said President Kuchma. "It is of the utmost importance that the constitutional process proceed without collision between the executive and legislative branches," noted the president.

"I am convinced that this process can be completed successfully, in a civilized manner with the Parliament, and I do hope for the understanding of the legislative branch in this important matter," he stated.

Source: "Kuchma stresses irreversibility of economic reform's course," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, November 26, 1995 (Vol. LXIII, No. 48).

THE WEEKLY'S READERS RESPOND: Donations support eye project in Ukraine

by Dr. William Selezinka

SAN DIEGO – In December 1998, an appeal was made to readers of The Ukrainian Weekly for donations to purchase a diode laser for treating potentially blinding diseases such as glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, and retinal tears. This laser was to be used in the Ivano-Frankivsk City Eye Hospital. These donations to the Ukrainian Eye Project were matched by a grant from the Lions Clubs International Foundation so that a laser, an ocutome (vitrector), and a cryo machine were purchased to render full service for retinal abnormalities.

Some supplies, delicate eye instruments, special laser lenses, slit lamps (for mounting lasers), syringes, needles, indictable medications, gloves, shoe covers, caps, transformers, and sterilizers were also purchased.

Most sincere thanks go out to all who contributed to make this project a success.

We were also able to get donations of generous amounts of supplies such as intraocular lenses, various eye drops, sutures, local anesthetics and antibiotics. Major contributors were Alcon, Allergan, Bausch & Lomb, Visitec, Storz, American Regent, Ciba, Abbot, Mira, Mentor, Eli Lilly, Ethicon (Johnson & Johnson), Vaneylab, Surgin, Eagle Lab and Pharmacia.

A Ukrainian ophthalmologist, Dr. Oksana Kindrat, came to America to become familiar with the laser. She spent five weeks training at UCSD and five days in San Francisco with Dr. Andrew Iwach who specializes in glaucoma laser procedures.

Eleven physicians from the UCSD, the University of Michigan and St. Louis University rotated to Ukraine for seven to 10 days each, beginning in early July and continuing through September. The physicians were augmented by two operating room nurses/technicians. All except the two operating room personnel traveled at their own expense.

The number of major eye surgeries (congenital cataracts, strabismus, ptosis, dacryocystorhinostomies, decompressions) performed was 111, and 60 laser procedures were done. The posterior vitrector was used in severely diabetic patients, who barely saw light, to improve vision. Of interest were three amniotic membrane tissue grafts to cover the eye after removal of severe lye burn scars. We were fortunate the timing was such that the obstetrics department was able to deliver fresh post-delivery tissue. An eight



An 18-month-old Ukrainian child after surgery for congenital cataracts.

month-old child with a congenital cataract was also operated on.

This writer remained in Ivano-Frankivsk over the entire nine weeks of the mission and found time to screen Chernobyl victims (children) who were suffering from thyroid diseases, including cancer, and leukemia in remission, and arranged for their travel to Ireland. Benefactors from San Diego (Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Currier) and the Chernobyl Children Irish Aid Organization (David Nolan) funded the trip. Special air fares from Ukrainian airlines were negotiated by Harold Bochonko. Mr. Nolan arranged special fares with Aer Lingus. This writer and Mr. Bochonko spent a week in Ireland with the children. Dr. Angela Nikoliuk was the chaperone and also served as translator for the entire two weeks the children were in Ireland. The children were re-evaluated and had various analyses. Medications for an entire year were provided by the Irish organization.

This successful mission has encouraged this writer to attack the glaucoma problem in Ukraine. There is a need for a special automated visual field analyzer for approximately \$24,000. Additional matching funds will be sought from the Lions Clubs International Foundation.

Donations can be made to the California Association to Aid Ukraine (CAAU), a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, located at 4315 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90029.



Staff of the University of California at San Diego in the Ivano-Frankivsk City Eye Hospital: (from left) Drs. Don Kikkawa, William Selezinka, Tommy Korn and Michael Goldbaum, and Tim Mendez.



Dr. Gnoy graduated from Rutgers College with a degree in chemistry in 1990. His academic achievements at Rutgers earned him a full scholarship to the New Jersey Medical School at UMDNJ, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark.

He received a medical degree with honors in 1994, and was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society.

Dr. Gnoy spent the next five years of his post-graduate training at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City, first as an

intern in general surgery, then as resident and chief resident in otolaryngology – head and neck surgery. He trained in the most modern surgical techniques involving the ears, nose, throat, paranasal sinuses, thyroid gland, and head and neck tumor surgery.

Dr. Gnoy has been actively engaged in experimental and clinical research related to various aspects of nasal and sinus surgery. Dr. Gnoy has published extensively in these fields and has presented several papers in the fields of rhinology and head and neck surgery at national meetings.

He is a member of Plast and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America.

Dr. Gnoy and his wife Julie are originally from Northern New Jersey.

Dr. Alexander R. Gnoy M.D. has joined the practice of Robert I. Oberhand, M.D., F.A.C.S and William Drake III, M.D. WESTFIELD EAR NOSE & THROAT SURGICAL ASSOCIATES, P.A.



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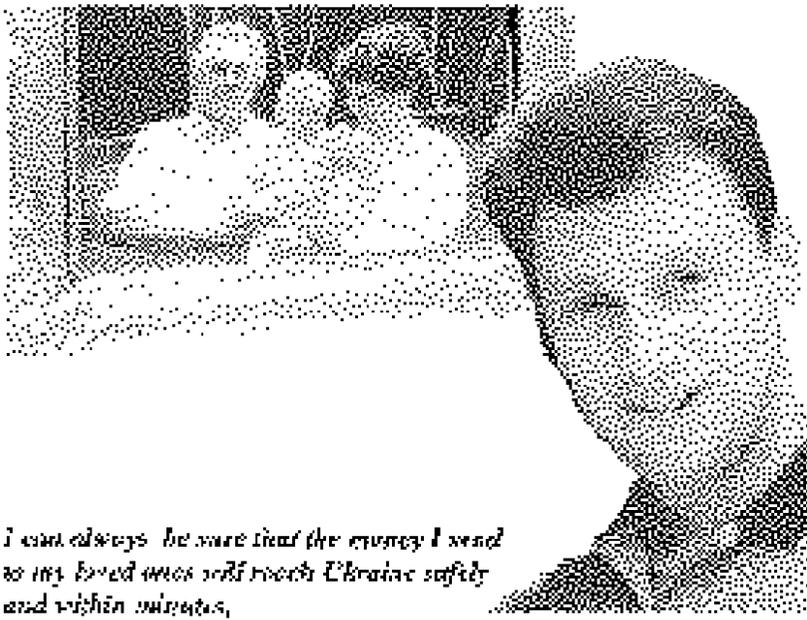
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Exhibit honors artist/scholar Krychevsky

by Marta Baczynsky

NEW YORK – Vasyl Krychevsky, one of Ukraine's outstanding public figures of the 20th century – architect, artist, scholar and educator – will be honored with an exhibition of his paintings and drawings at The Ukrainian Museum. The exhibit will open on December 5 and will be on view through March 12, 2000. The opening reception is scheduled for 2 p.m.

The exhibition, "The Creative Legacy of Vasyl Hryhorovych Krychevsky," will consist of 120 larger and smaller size paintings and drawings, as well as various publications about the artist. The art works on exhibit are from the Krychevsky collection, bequeathed to the museum's Fine Arts Collection by Vadym Pavlovsky.

On the threshold of the new millennium, the museum has deemed it fitting to greet this auspicious passage of time with the celebration of the remarkable accomplishments of a man whose multifaceted talents impacted greatly on Ukrainian cultural development in the first half of the 20th century.

Versatile and dynamic in his creativity, Krychevsky brought innovation to the art of book design, and pioneered a distinct Ukrainian style of architectural expression. He was an artist/painter, and worked in applied arts and interior decorating; he designed theater productions and was an art director for the Ukrainian film industry. Krychevsky was also an educator for over a quarter of a century, and a member of numerous prestigious scholarly and educational institutions.

Mr. Pavlovsky, Krychevsky's biographer, addressed this phenomenal energy and productivity: "How is it possible that one individual could be so prolific in such a wide range of artistic expressions and bring to each one so many innovations, while at the same time, engaged in research and educational work? The answer was simple. Krychevsky was an exceptionally talented individual. He had great abilities and unlimited capabilities, coupled with an unusual gift – he worked swiftly. From the very beginning he followed his own path."

Krychevsky was born in the village of Vorozhba, in the Kharkiv region, on January 13, 1873, the oldest of eight children. He received little formal education, but expanded and enriched his knowledge, working for a draftsman and as the technical assistant to professor and architect Serhii Zagoskin at Kharkiv Technological Institute, while auditing classes in art history and folk art at the Kharkiv University. In 1982 he began his independent career as an architect.

Krychevsky's greatest architectural achievement was the Poltava Zemstvo Building. His design for the building won first prize in an architectural competition in 1903. The design inaugurated a new style by incorporating traditions of Ukrainian folk architecture into modern stone structures, and thus set a trend among young architects in Ukraine. Krychevsky produced several other well-known designs in the novel and now popular "Ukrainian national" style, the foremost among these being the memorial museum in Kaniv, at the tomb of Ukraine's bard, Taras Shevchenko.

Krychevsky is regarded by Ukrainian art critics as the founder of modern Ukrainian book design. He broke with the tradition of "pictorial" book covers, which were the vogue of the early 20th century. In the more than 80 covers and many of entire books (Ukrainska Pisia, 1935) which he designed, Krychevsky produced a new look in the art of Ukrainian book design.

Although influenced by French impressionists, Krychevsky's artistic legacy, which consists of many large and small watercolor and oil paintings, display a very individual path, which the artist followed. Particularly notable are his paintings of Ukrainian land-



Book cover design by Vasyl Krychevsky, Kyiv, 1924. (Vadym Pavlovsky collection, The Ukrainian Museum.)

scapes, including scenes of Crimea. Krychevsky's outstanding technique in capturing the purity of light, his lyrical use of color and the synthesis of regional characteristics create harmonious and peaceful intimacy in each work. Krychevsky's paintings are in numerous museums in Ukraine, as well as in many private collections all over the world.

Krychevsky worked with theater and in the Ukrainian film industry. He was the art director for the Sadovsky Theater, for which he staged plays and operas, and designed the stage scenery and costumes. He was an art consultant and art director for many important film productions, such as "Zvenyhora" (1928) directed by Oleksander Dovzhenko, "Taras Shevchenko" (1926) and "Taras Tryasylo" (1927), among others.

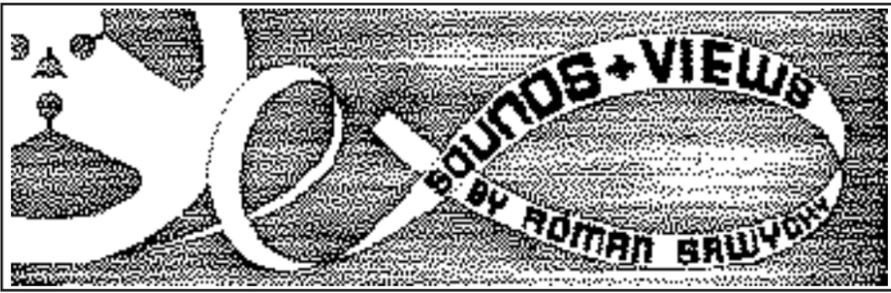
In 1917 Krychevsky was one of the organizers of the Ukrainian State Academy of Arts and its first president, as well as a professor on its staff. In the 1920s he taught at the Kyiv Institute of Plastic Art and the Kyiv Architectural Institute, where he taught painting and ornamental composition. He lectured in other educational and art institutions as well, always projecting the national image of Ukrainian art and architecture. On November 16, 1945, in Augsburg, Germany, the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences (UVAN) was organized, and the new Ukrainian academy-in-exile unanimously elected Krychevsky as an honorary member.

Vasyl Krychevsky died on November 15, 1952, in Caracas, Venezuela, where he lived with his second wife at the home of his daughter Halyna K. Linde.

The exhibition "The Legacy of Vasyl Hryhorovych Krychevsky" continues The Ukrainian Museum's intent to celebrate the role collectors play in the formation of important collections. The museum acknowledges the contribution of Mr. Pavlovsky to the memory of Vasyl Krychevsky, not only through his donation to the fine arts collection of over 300 remarkable works by Krychevsky, but also through his monograph about the artist and scholar.

When Mr. Pavlovsky was a child, his mother married Mr. Krychevsky. Thus, having been raised by this unusually gifted man, Mr. Pavlovsky as a biographer, was able to give a more intimate picture of Krychevsky's achievements, his struggles and triumphs, which the museum has published in part in the exhibition catalogue.

For further information, please contact The Ukrainian Museum, 203 Second Ave., New York, NY 10003; telephone, (212) 228-0110; e-mail, UkrMus@aol.com; website, http://www.brama.com/ukrainian_museum. Hours are Monday-Sunday, 1-5 p.m.



Bandura releases bound to be classics

Shortly after Maestro Oleh Mahlay ascended to the position of music director, his own approach to the repertoire of the Ukrainian Bandura Chorus became apparent in what is the "Kapelia's" latest digital CD, "Ukrainian Steppe," issued in 1997. (The disc was recorded in the historic St. Albertus Church in Detroit on Panasonic SV 3700 D.R. with Neumann KM 100 MP microphones. The selections were edited and mastered by Andriy Birko. The issue was made possible in part by the Chrysler Fund.)

The ancient Kyivan chant "In Thy Kingdom," as arranged by Maestro Mahlay, brings out the characteristic deep basso quality. His other arrangements are equally engaging, at times tastefully understated, at other times exploring the full sound spectrum.

The disc includes such rare entries as the solemn "Prayer of Mercy" by master composer Stanyslav Liudkevych and

"Amazing Grace," written by J. Newton, a former slave trader turned preacher, with the bandura part set by Maestro Mahlay. Such unusual fare lends added interest, shows Maestro Mahlay's idiomatic treatment of the vocal/instrumental components of his art, and his willingness to break new ground.

The piece "The Chumaks," by Ukraine's most noted contemporary female-composer Lesia Dychko was written for the chorus and premieres on this disc. The piece depicts a despairing mother bidding good-bye to her son, a "chumak," or salt trader, leaving for the difficult road ahead of him. In this piece, the centuries-old chumaks are presented by Dychko in a stark and powerful score reflecting the present century, in the language of our time. (The featured is tenor O. Helbig).

Former chorus directors are recalled in the humorous piece "Oy Hop Ty Ny Ny" by D. Pika (1930s) and in two selections by Hryhoriy Kytasty, his exuberant instrumental masterpiece "Song of Tiutiunyk" instrumental masterpiece as well as the disc's centerpiece, the "Echo of the Steppes."

The latter piece brings to life both the Kozak past and Ukraine's national heroes throughout the centuries. The banduras

reverberate en masse in this "seance" conjured up by Ukrainian American descendants of the Zaporozhians. Here the sound effects and eerie strains evoke ghostly images of yore. It is a truly a marvelous piece in its conception and execution.

The traditional epic "Duma about Ukraine" (masterfully sung by M. Farion) ends with a call to arms and a proclamation that freedom is near. This is followed by the lighthearted work "Grandfather Yarema," whose pleasant task it is to keep track of the courtships of his 20 sons of a neighbor's 20 daughters. This full-time job is delightfully "narrated" by soloist Petro Kytasty, nephew of Maestro Kytasty. When the chorus arrived in the United States in 1949, Petro was then the youngest bandurist in the group; today he is one of the original members of the chorus.

The poignant piece, "Song about Mazepa," (lyrics M. Stepanenko; arrangement, V. Mishalow), depicts the illustrious hetman bidding a sad farewell to Ukraine.

The final selections conclude the disc on an upbeat note; they include a Kozak drinking song and the famous "Kolomyika" by A. Hnatyshyn which is creatively crafted, producing an exciting energy not attained in previous recordings by this or any other ensemble. (The soloists in the final selections include M. Newmerzyckyj, T. Pryshliak, R. Kassaraba, J. Cisaruk, A. Soroka, M. Farion - all competent and often impressive.)

All-in-all this is an excellent disc, a fitting addition to the Ukrainian Bandura Chorus tradition of high standards, enhanced by the youthful vigor and sophisticated direction of Maestro Mahlay. With this issue the chorus seems in full control of all vocal registers and technical matters. Without sacrificing harmonic brilliance, the bandurists project much intimacy coupled with clarity of expression. The

ensemble seems on the threshold of something truly big as it enters the 21st century.

The bandurist chorus has a long record of successes: 22 long-playing records, six cassettes and the most recent CDs. In April the ensemble recorded a forthcoming Christmas CD, featuring Ukrainian as well as other carols.

Given the ensemble's output, an annotated list, in addition to a guide to the all its releases, some of which have been re-issued on tape, is needed. Perhaps its possible that the circa 1952 recording of Christmas carols directed by Wolodymyr Bozhyk, or the ensemble's historic 1958 European tour can be made available in improved sound.

After 600 concerts and over 4 million listeners - an estimate based on the Chotus's archives - these cherished icons of sound should reach listeners beyond the Ukrainian audience. Reissued in state-of-the-art editions, the original recordings could well be of international significance as cultural landmarks in the next century.

The Ukrainian Bandura Chorus is not only a highlight in Ukrainian musical life; it was and will remain a force for the preservation of Ukraine's culture.

The chorus's 50th anniversary is being celebrated with a series of performances in the United States. Concerts were and will be held in the following cities: Hamilton, Ontario (November 13), Rochester, N.Y. (November 14), Cleveland (November 20), Detroit (November 21); additional concerts will take place in South Bound Brook, N.J. (December 3), Philadelphia (December 4) and Pittsburgh (December 5).

For information on ordering the "Ukrainian Steppe" CD, write to: Ukrainian Bandura Chorus, P.O. Box 12129, Detroit, MI 48212; or visit <http://brama.com/bandura>, or the ensemble's website, <http://www.bandura.org>.

Correction

In the story about Jewish roots in Ukraine and Moldova (October 24), the family that owns the Second Avenue Deli in New York City was improperly identified. The correct last name is Lebewohl.



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TRAVELOGUE: Luhansk, industrial city off the beaten path

by Susan Enzweiler

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

LUHANSK – Just as many Americans know little about Ukraine, many Ukrainian Americans are unfamiliar with the city of Luhansk (population 504,000 in 1995). Located in eastern Ukraine, not far from the Russian border, Luhansk isn't frequented by Americans as are the cities of western Ukraine or the Black Sea coast.

The city is known primarily for its heavy industry. It is also, however, a community of old, stuccoed cottages interspersed among tall apartment buildings and shady parks set amidst the bustling city center. Its people, despite hard times, treat visitors with warm hospitality and abundant generosity. No matter how humble the home, there is always food and drink, jokes and good stories to be shared.

I first learned about Luhansk in 1991 when I struck up a correspondence with a man named Sergiy Mykolajovich Dodonov. We were matched up as pen pals through an organization called Letters for Peace Inc. Its purpose was to promote mutual understanding and peace by establishing personal contact between citizens of the United States and the Soviet Union. Almost a decade later, Sergiy and I are still writing to each other. I also have visited Luhansk twice, in the early summer of 1997 and in September 1999. I've come to admire its people for their resilience, good humor and generous natures.

Luhansk is located at the confluence of the Luhan and the Vilkhivka rivers. The community grew up around the cannon foundry and ammunitions factory founded by Karl Gascoin in 1795. These works supplied Catherine the Great's Black Sea navy. Gascoin's enterprise was one part of a late 18th century industrial trend to exploit the natural resources of the Donets Basin in eastern Ukraine. Today, a monument outside the Luhansk Regional Museum on

Susan Enzweiler is a historic preservationist in Mobile, Alabama.

Shevchenko Street honors Gascoin as the city's founding father.

This munitions works prospered in the early 19th century, particularly during the Napoleonic Wars of the early 1800s. The workers' population grew as industrial development expanded.

In 1882 the villages of Selyshche and Kamiany Brid combined with other communities to create the city of Luhansk. The county administration moved to this new city that same year. The city's population, buoyed by industrial expansion and governmental activity, increased steadily around the turn of the century. It grew from 20,400 in 1897 to 34,000 in 1904, reaching 68,000 on the eve of World War I.

In 1887, Gascoin's old munitions plant was shut down. Almost 100 years old, the factory could not compete with newer, more efficient facilities. Luhansk, however, remained a governmental and an industrial center in the Donets Basin. It was linked by rail to the Dnipro industrial region and by its rivers to the ports at the Sea of Azov. The Russian government reopened the munitions plant in 1895. The following year a Belgian company founded a steam engine factory. This plant was producing over one-fifth of the Russian Empire's steam engines by 1905.

Luhansk continued its dual roles as an industrial city and administrative center under the Soviet Union. It became the capital of a new oblast in 1938. The city was most significant for its heavy industry, which included machine building plus the building of diesel locomotives, mining and mineral processing equipment, and motor vehicles. Metalwork, a crankshaft factory, a combustion engine parts factory and a tube-rolling mill augmented Luhansk's heavy industry output. The community also manufactured building materials such as bricks, tiles and reinforced concrete. Luhansk's light industry produced textiles, clothing, footwear and numerous food products. Many of these factories have either cut back severely or closed down in recent years.

Luhansk's citizens, out of necessity, have



A Ukrainian family in their apiary, located at their dacha outside Luhansk.

turned to commerce to survive. Some hawk their wares from stalls in one of the city's three markets and others operate small shops. My friend, Sergiy, who once worked at the tube-rolling mill, had a stall for awhile and also worked as a cabbie. Now he and his brother-in-law own an auto parts store on Frunze Street near the city center. They specialize in parts for Italian cars.

Despite his modest prosperity, neither Sergiy nor any of his friends believe that Ukraine's economic situation will improve in the near future. They point to the fact that many workers have not received their wages in months. In late October 1999, for example, the coal miners of the region went on strike in Luhansk's city center for their back pay, despite a heavy snow. It's hard for an honest man to make a living in this country, Sergiy often says.

Between my visits of June 1997 and September 1999, the economy appeared to have improved slightly and then fallen back again. The housing situation illustrates this point. Major renovations and additions had been undertaken, but then abandoned before completion due to lack of funds. This could be seen throughout the old neighborhoods of Luhansk. In another example, the mistress of a mafia member needed some new parts for her Pontiac Grand Am and asked Sergiy to price them for her. He knew how to order the parts and have them shipped from America, but when he told her how much they would cost (around \$700), the deal was canceled. She didn't have the money.

While a sound economy will not guarantee democracy in Ukraine, it would certainly free everyday people to think about government at all levels and perhaps even get involved in bringing about real democratic change. Right now the people of Luhansk do not seem to trust the political process in their country.

When I spoke to some of them about the upcoming elections, most seemed apathetic. Rumors flew about the presidential election being rigged. Americans are used to grousing about their politicians but, in a fledgling democracy such as Ukraine, such apathy and negativity are frightening. How can democracy thrive among a people that have no experience with it, in a country with little history of democratic rule? How can people be expected to care about democracy when they live in unfinished houses and winter is coming?

Most amazing to me, people still vote. Sergiy plans to participate in the election, voting no for all the candidates. I feel envious because I don't have that choice here. It must feel great to tell off one's politicians by voting to keep them all out of office. But, ultimately, where does a "no" vote lead?

Despite their hardships, the citizens of

Luhansk still support and participate in the cultural life of their city. They can choose to attend a performance at one of three theaters, the Luhansk Ukrainian Musical Drama Theater or the puppet theater, both on Oboronna Street, or the Russian Music and Drama Theater on Kotsiubynsky Street. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend a play. I did, however, visit the Ukrainian-language theater and was impressed with the enthusiasm of its young manager.

As groups of noisy school children swirled around us in the lobby, Mykhail Ivanovych Koshovyi talked excitedly. He declared with a proud, but shy, smile that all Ukrainians living abroad should know of the Luhansk Ukrainian Musical Drama Theater. The 59-year-old theater is well-known in Ukraine for its award-winning productions. Mr. Koshovyi, the manager for the last four years, stressed that his company's repertoire consists of musicals, children's plays and avant-garde interpretations of works by famous playwrights like Shakespeare and Sartre, all performed in the Ukrainian language.

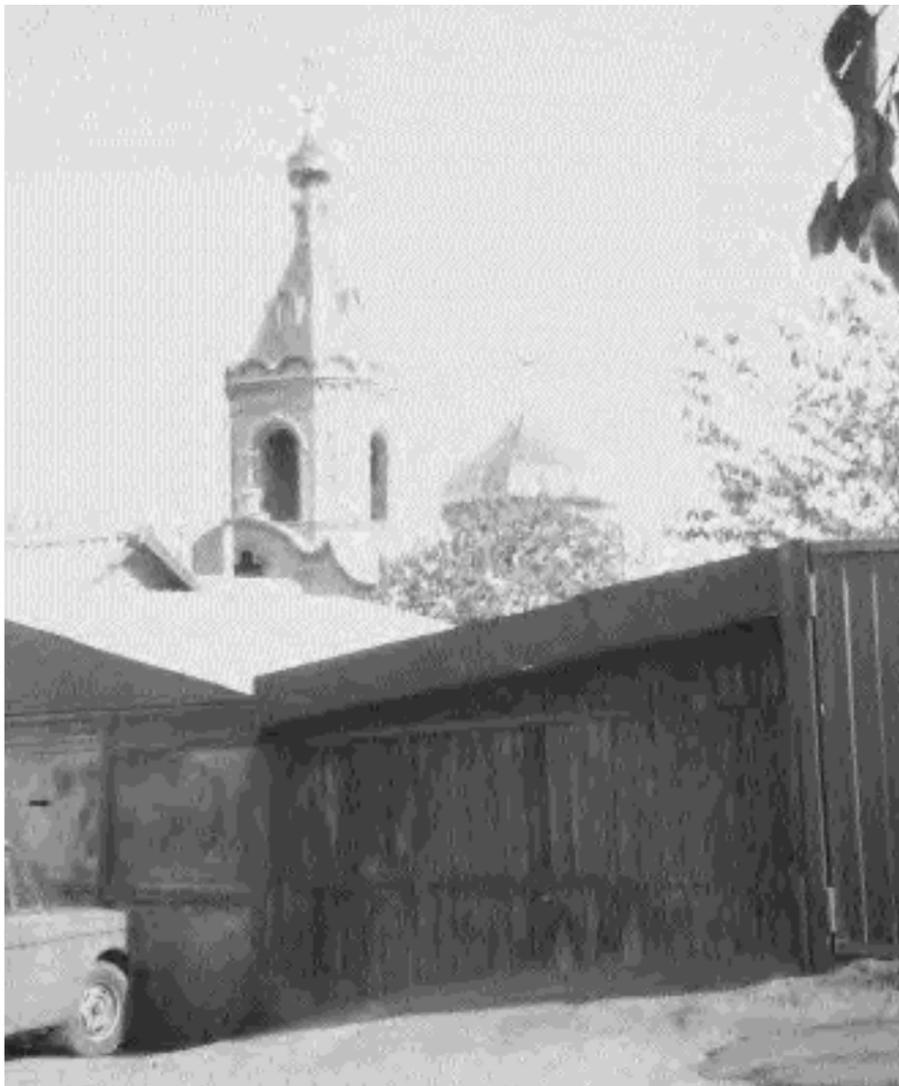
While the plays themselves are untraditional in style, the theater occupies an impressive, classically designed building graced by monumental columns and located on the edge of a park. It was originally constructed as the Culture Palace of Builders and then served as the puppet theater.

Luhansk puppet theater has moved to the city center and is at the corner of Oboronna and Kotsiubynsky streets. Its building is of concrete construction and rather looks like a large box. The starkness of its modern design is offset, however, by whimsical sculptures of storybook characters that adorn both its street elevations.

The Luhansk's Regional Museum is a good place to spend an afternoon. The museum collections begin with the natural history of the Donets Basin and continue with the history of Luhansk. Along the way, one learns about the city's role during the October Revolution and World War II. The region's industrial history is interpreted through several exhibits, including a mock-up of a coal mine. The decorative arts of the region are displayed, too. These include needlework, of course, but also show typical parlors of early 20th century Luhansk families. I was surprised to see an American-made Singer sewing machine in one of the room settings. One of the final exhibits is a table-size model of Luhansk in the future.

Luhansk may lack Kyiv's sophistication or Crimea's romance, but it and its people charm the visitor who spends a little time here. Americans in Ukraine wanting to explore the unbeaten path would do well to visit this city on the eastern border.

I hope to return often as my friendship with Sergiy grows.



A church building, located in Luhansk's city center and belonging to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate, formerly the Russian Orthodox Church, undergoes extensive renovations.

BOOK REVIEW: Architectural masterpieces in the works of Yuri Khymych

"Masterpieces of Ukrainian Architecture in the Artwork of Yuri Khymych," produced by Natalie Jaresko and Ihor Figlus. Kyiv: A-BA-BA-HA-LA-MA-HA Publishing Co., 1999. 208 pp., 100 full-color reproductions, English and Ukrainian texts, price \$40.

by William Green Miller

The prodigious talent of one of the great artists of Ukraine, Yuri Ivanovych Khymych, are now beginning to be seen outside Ukraine. Natalie Jaresko and Ihor Figlus have produced a beautiful collection of Mr. Khymych's Ukrainian paintings in their just-published book "Masterpieces of Ukrainian Architecture in the Artwork of Yuri Khymych."

The Jaresko-Figlus book is a labor of love. They have done a great service by bringing to the attention of readers in the West, as well as in Ukraine, a trove of 100 paintings depicting some of Ukraine's most treasured architecture. Most of the paintings reproduced in this handsomely printed book are of churches and monasteries in the setting of the changing Ukrainian landscape and sky.

The power of Mr. Khymych's painting is fully evident in his favorite subject, a building he has painted hundreds of times, the Cathedral of St. Sophia in Kyiv. But there are no repetitions. Each painting of St. Sophia captures some additional quality, building on all his previous insights in a new fresh way.

A good example is found on page 10, a painting of St. Sophia done almost 30 years ago in 1970, a painting that bursts with the dynamic muscularity of the symbol of Ukrainian strength that has endured centuries of adversity.

Mr. Khymych uses color and form in startling, bold and dramatic ways, often to convey spiritual strength and vitality. Although he is adept in oil, watercolor and other media, Mr. Khymych prefers to paint in gouache. His paintings are usually very large, typically measuring three feet by four feet.

I have had the pleasure on many occasions over four and a half years to look at many hundreds of Mr. Khymych's works as a guest in his apartment near Kyiv University's Botanical Garden, sharing tea, peabread and borscht with Yuri Ivanovych and his wife, Valentyna, and his cats.

As stack after stack representing over 50 years of his work is hauled into the light, it is clear that every possible technique has been used by Mr. Khymych. He is an excellent colorist, having won top honors at the age of 18; he is a trained draftsman, as well as a master painter with remarkable control over his brushes and paints.

William Green Miller was ambassador of the United States to Ukraine in 1993-1998. He is now public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington and is writing a book on Ukraine since independence.

I came to understand that Mr. Khymych wants to give emotional content to the architectural masses before his eyes and that he uses all his painterly skill and instincts about color tones to convey the essence of the particular buildings and churches he obviously delights in, as well as the mountains, trees, rivers and sky he so carefully studies.

One can turn to page 40, to a painting of an autumn scene of the Kyivan Caves Monastery to find an example of the daring use of color, the assured knowledge of architecture and the place these sacred buildings have in the Dnipro landscape.

So many seasonal moods familiar to Ukrainians are captured with uncanny skill by Mr. Khymych's art: the bright spring surrounding the houses and church buildings of the Trinity Monastery at Chernihiv (page 71); the cloudy, rainy setting of Rynok Square in Lviv (page 55); the warm soft tones of late autumn at the Vydubychi Monastery (page 45); the blues and greys of winter at the Lower Lavra (page 45); the browns and greys of late winter at the Transfiguration Church at Putyvl, near Sumy (page 104); and the hot summer air of Crimea above the Clement Tower in Theodosia by the Black Sea (page 197).

As one studies Mr. Khymych's paintings and goes beyond the powerful use of color to define both architectural form and mood, one discovers the careful use of articulated details to make the thick coats of white and green gouache unmistakably St. Sophia's Cathedral. Mr. Khymych's understanding of St. Sophia is unlike any other conception of that great historic church.

It is remarkable that the thousands of paintings of Russia, Ukraine, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the northern region done by Mr. Khymych over his lifetime have as their main subject churches, monuments and landscapes that seem to have an inner spirituality, as well as an almost animate energy. These characteristics are all the more remarkable when it is considered that most of these paintings were done in the period of Soviet rule. There is absolutely nothing "Soviet" about Mr. Khymych's art. There is no relationship whatsoever to so-called "socialist realism" or the other approved schools of Soviet art.

Mr. Khymych, somehow, remained and remains a free spirit. He, somehow, was able to wander all over this captive world, as a free spirit, painting almost every day, delighting in the special light, arranging color to depict the forms of architecture he found important to paint.

In one sense, Mr. Khymych's paintings are divorced from politics. But in other ways, Mr. Khymych's paintings are intensely Ukrainian. For example, the "Independence Day Triptych" painting done by Mr.



Khymych stands as the best, most exuberant expression of that tumultuous joyous day in 1991.

Mr. Khymych paints with a certainty that matches his physical intensity. The artist usually knows what he wants to paint before he begins painting. Once he starts, he works very quickly and does not stop until the painting is done, usually the same day.

Mr. Khymych is a recognized natural talent who has been very well taught by master painters. As a student and now as a professor of painting, he is fully familiar with the work, styles, techniques and means of the great painters of the past and the present. The world of art is his world.

But, most important, he has looked hard at the world that surrounds him and has devoted himself to compelling parts of that reality. A number of his compositions suggest Cezanne-like essays on the effects of light, but despite those effects, beautiful and interesting in themselves, Mr. Khymych's originality is that the essence of the church or landscape rather than the technical effect, is unmistakable and dominant. Even the pink, puffy clouds that surround St. Sophia are part of the reality Kyvians know, just as the thrusting almost muscular white and green buttresses and green domes and gleaming golden crosses are evidences of an animate building that reflects the spirit of Yuri Khymych's Ukraine.

"Masterpieces of Ukrainian Architecture in the Artwork of Yuri Khymych" can be obtained by sending a check or money order for \$40, plus \$3 for shipping and handling per book within the United States, \$4 per book to Canada, and \$5 per book to any other international destination to: Ukraine Today, 746 Sand Creek Drive, Carol Stream, IL 60188.



"Golden Autumn" (Kyivan Caves Monastery), tempera, 1995.



"Indestructible St. Sophia," tempera, 1970.

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Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

more accurate indicator of the currency's real value, about 5 hrv were offered for \$1. Minister of the Economy Vasyl Rohovyi said the previous day that the hryvnia will return to the official exchange band if Leonid Kuchma wins the presidential elections. A victory by Petro Symonenko, he said, would "significantly destabilize the situation on the currency market." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Hryvnia rises after Kuchma victory

KYIV – The Ukrainian currency rose against the U.S. dollar on November 15, following President Leonid Kuchma's triumph in the runoff. Kyiv street traders offered to buy \$1 for 4.9 hrv, down from 5.05 last week. On the interbank currency exchange, \$1 was selling at 4.83- 4.86 hrv on November 15, and traders expect the hryvnia to stabilize at 4.7 to \$1 in two to three days, according to Interfax. "Many so-called presidential candidates have forecast that the national currency will fall after the elections. They should not rejoice. The hryvnia will be stable," President Kuchma said the same day. National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Viktor Yushenko also affirmed that the hryvnia will stabilize, since "the political factor in pressure on the hryvnia exchange [rate] exhausted itself" on the day of the presidential runoff. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma suggests debt rescheduling

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma said on November 15 that Ukraine needs to reschedule foreign debt payments. Kyiv will soon begin negotiations on this issue, he added. As of October 1, Ukraine's foreign debt stood at \$12.9 billion, and the country is due to pay some \$3 billion each year in 2000 and 2001. Mr. Kuchma also told journalists that he does not see any barriers to cooperation with the International Monetary Fund, including the resumption of the IMF's \$2.6 billion loan program for Ukraine. He pledged to accelerate market reforms in the country, saying that by re-electing him, Ukrainians have chosen "a democratic way to build their country based on a market economy," according to Interfax. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Symonenko warns of economic woes

KYIV – Petro Symonenko, leader of the Communist Party and President Leonid Kuchma's rival in the presidential runoff, said on November 15 that the government will soon stop paying wages and pensions, prices will increase, and the hryvnia exchange rate will decline still further. "This will be one of the results of Kuchma's victory in the presidential polls," Mr. Symonenko said. He added that Ukraine "will [begin to] catastrophically lose its economic independence," and he blamed the centrist forces that "unambiguously" supported Mr. Kuchma in the runoff for that possible outcome. Mr. Symonenko noted that official reports on industrial growth in Ukraine this year are a "myth," noting that the World Bank forecast a 4 percent slump in Ukraine's 1999 industrial production. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Wage debts fall in August-September

KYIV – In the two-month period of August-September, wage debts fell by 411 million hrv or 5.8 percent and amounted to 6.78 billion hrv, according to Social Policy Minister Ivan Sakan. The number of workers who receive their wages on time dropped by 1 million persons. The most positive changes took place in state- and budget-subsidized companies, where wage debts have dropped by 390 million hrv and

(Continued on page 13)

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Re: Class action...

(Continued from page 6)

Why don't you sue the German government?

In the American system of justice, governments are immune from suit.

Why did you sue in the United States and not in Germany?

The United States is one of the very few jurisdictions that permits class actions. In most jurisdictions of Europe, only individuals can sue on these types of claims. Because of the large size of the class, it will be virtually impossible to sue on each person's behalf. Ukriniurkolegiua has instituted over 1,000 such cases in the past three years. A class action was determined to be a better alternative.

Are there other similar cases pending in the United States?

Yes. There are approximately 30 such cases on behalf of the other classes of individuals from Eastern European countries such as Poland, the Czech Republic, Belarus, Russia, and various Jewish claims organizations here and in Israel. The first litigation was filed in October 1998. These cases involve not only forced/slave labor, but also bank claims, insurance claims, medical experimentation, as well as aryanization of property. The total number of survivors is estimated to be nearly 2 million.

Recently two cases were dismissed by the courts for lack of jurisdiction. Will these decisions negate or affect your case?

The two cases were dismissed by the courts in New Jersey on jurisdictional grounds and will be appealed by the lawyers involved. Our case is in Brooklyn, N.Y. Needless to say, they are a precedent that may be taken into consideration by the courts in all the litigations nationwide. Ultimately, the Supreme Court of the United States may have to decide this issue. However, negotiations to settle all the cases are ongoing and are anticipated to be completed well before any appeal is heard.

Why did German industry decide to settle these litigations?

The German companies have vigorously denied any legal responsibility for the war atrocities that occurred over 55 years ago. Despite their legal position, the German corporations state that they recognize their moral obligations to compensate in part for the wrongs committed by the Nazi regime. On February 16, German industry announced that it would undertake a voluntary initiative to settle all potential present and future claims that any party could have against the German industry as a result of any alleged actions committed by the German companies in World War II. In essence, German industry demands legal peace so that no further legal actions would be instituted in the future against it anywhere in the world.

Who is participating in these negotiations?

All of the settlement conferences are hosted and moderated by high-level representatives of the governments of Germany and the United States. Presently, the German representative is Otto Graf Lambsdorff; the United States representative during all of the talks is Undersecretary Stuart Eizenstat. Other participants in these conferences are representatives of German industry, the attorneys for the claimants in the various class actions, representatives of Belarus,

the Czech Republic, Israel, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and the Jewish Claims Conference.

Who is participating in these negotiations on behalf of the Ukrainians?

The Ukrainian government delegation is headed by: Igor Lushnikow, chairman, Reconciliation Fund of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

Other members of the government delegation are: Ihor Sharov, Office of the President of Ukraine; Serhiy Borshechsky, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine; Vladimir Litvinov, chairman, International Movement of Former Juvenile Prisoners of Fascism.

Attorneys for the Ukrainian forced labor class: Myroslaw Smorodsky, Esq., of Smorodsky & Stawnychy of New Jersey; Pyotr Rabinovich, Esq., of P. Rabinovich PA of New York; Danylo Kourdelchouk, Esq., of Ukriniurkolegiua, Kyiv, Ukraine; Oleksandr Storozhuk Esq., of Ukriniurkolegiua, Kyiv, Ukraine.

Why are there various categories of forced laborers?

German industry clearly indicates that their obligations do not encompass the forced laborers who were employed by publicly owned entities such as the railroads or who were forcibly employed in the agricultural sector. In order to obtain an all-inclusive resolution, the German industry initiative envisions the participation of the German government, which would create a special fund to compensate these non-industrial workers. Such actions require German parliamentary funding and approval. For this reason, various categories are used for negotiation purposes.

What are the present categories of forced laborers?

For negotiation purposes, the categories are:

- concentration camp, labor camp, death camp inmates and residents of a ghetto;
- deported persons who worked for an industrial establishment;
- persons who work for governmental entities;
- persons who worked for farmers or private persons;
- children under the age of 12 of forced laborers.

How much will be awarded?

The ultimate amount that will be awarded depends upon a variety of factors. These include the size of the class and the amount of categories of laborers that will be covered. German industry has stated that it will pay only for industrial workers. In negotiations the German government has indicated that it will fund the appropriate amount to pay for the other categories of forced workers. As such, the strength of the political will of the German government is a key element. For purposes of negotiation strategy, we will not disclose the amounts being discussed. However, any amount agreed upon must be significant.

Will the heirs of the forced laborers receive any compensation?

Since most of the victims of forced/slave labor are dead and since their heirs are so numerous, meaningful compensation to each is not feasible. The German industry initiative includes plans to develop a "Future Fund" that will give some meaningful assistance to the forced labor heirs through various programs and also initiate permanently funded programs that will have as their goal the prevention of a repetition of the atrocities of World War II.

(Continued on page 16)

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Parma parish celebrates its 75th anniversary



Metropolitan Constantine, Archbishop Antony and Archbishop Vsevolod, clergy and altar servers following the divine liturgy celebrating the 75th anniversary of St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, Ohio.

PARMA, Ohio – St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, the cathedral parish of Metropolitan Constantine, primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., celebrated its 75th anniversary on Saturday and Sunday, October 9-10.

Leading the commemoration were Metropolitan Constantine, Archbishop Antony and Archbishop Vsevolod.

Saturday's commemoration began with a divine liturgy and memorial service for all deceased pastors, wives of the pastors

(pani matky) and parishioners of St. Vladimir's Cathedral. At 4 p.m. a dinner was held for the visiting hierarchs, clergy and board of trustees. Vespers were served at 6 p.m., with responses sung antiphonally by both the English and Ukrainian choirs.

Following vespers, a concert was held at the Cuyahoga Community College Theater. Performing were the 35-member Vesnivka women's choir from Toronto, and the Kashtan School of Ukrainian Dance from Cleveland. The program also

featured "Our Parish History – Our Parish Life," a narrated photographic presentation of the 75-year history of St. Vladimir's.

On Sunday, the culmination of the celebration consisted of a hierarchical divine liturgy, celebrated by Metropolitan Constantine, Archbishop Antony and Archbishop Vsevolod, along with the cathedral and visiting clergy, with responses sung by both cathedral choirs.

A banquet, attended by over 300 people, was held in the parish center after the liturgy.

Re: Class action...

(Continued from page 14)

If I received other compensation for my work as a forced laborer, will that amount be deducted from the amount I may receive as a result of this litigation?

At the present time, the unified position of the plaintiffs in these negotiations is that other payments will not be deducted from the amount received by any member of the class.

I have filled out other forms for similar claims against Germany. How is this action related to those programs?

This action is completely independent of any other actions or programs. In order for us to accurately represent your experience during the war, we only ask that you complete the survey (published in The Weekly on September 19 and available on the Internet at <http://www.smorodsky.com/forcedlabor/survey.html>. Without your input, the collective, wartime suffering of Ukrainians cannot be adequately expressed.

I have already signed a paper with a lawyer who said he would submit a claim on my behalf!

Any effort on the part of any other lawyers claiming to represent you is unrelated to this effort. The form you may have filled out previously will not be included in this survey. You must resubmit the information with this survey in order for your experience to be counted among those being represented by the Ukrainian delegation in this class action lawsuit.

If a settlement is reached, you will need only to fill out the appropriate documentation in accordance with the terms of the settlement – no legal representation will be necessary. Notice of any settlement will be given worldwide.

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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

'International Christmas' features tree from Ukraine



One of the 45 trees at the 19th annual "International Christmas" festival to be held in Phoenix, Ariz., November 29-December 30, the tree representing Ukraine is seen here being decorated by Christine Boyko of Scottsdale and Anna Dvorskiy of Phoenix, members of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America. Ms. Boyko (left) has been active in the festival since its founding in 1981.

UNWLA activist addresses Connecticut meeting

SOUTHPORT, Conn. – Nadia Shmigel, Social Welfare Chair of Ukrainian National Women's League of America spoke on September 26 to the members and guests of the Ukrainian American Club.

She spoke of the aid to the Ukrainian orphans, elderly widows, victims of Chernobyl and, most recently, aid to the flood victims of the Carpathian region of Ukraine. More than 30,000 people were left homeless after the flood, while hundreds of thousands were evacuated. This organization led the campaign to collect and ship essential clothing and bedding for those in need. The Ukrainian National Women's League has also raised funds to provide scholarships for students for higher education.

The hospitality gathering was called in

order to share fellowship and to encourage new membership in a most worthwhile women's organization. The turnout for this meeting was very encouraging. There was lively discussion and a lot of interest in the activities of the organization. The officers of the UNWLA chapter have a serious task to assure new membership and to maintain interest in their organization.

The chapter is planning to hold a food bazaar specifically for the Christmas Eve supper on December 5 at the Holy Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church at 255 Barnum Ave. in Bridgeport, Conn. On January 9, a Christmas Carol Fest will be held for the enjoyment of the members and their families. For more information, contact Roma Hayda at (203) 261-4530 or Helen Balaban at (203) 255-5461.

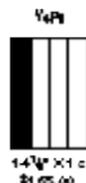
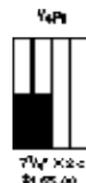


Nadia Shmigel addresses the Ukrainian American Club in Southport, Conn.

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