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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

Ontario UCC official is victim of hate crime

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — The leader of the Ukrainian Canadian Committee's Ontario Provincial Council has become the victim of a hate crime, apparently in response to a letter to the editor he wrote to the Toronto Star denouncing the person or persons who defaced the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Toronto back in June 1999.

Walter Halchuk, president of the Ontario UCC, received hate mail at his home in Sudbury on February 1. Concerned about an invasion of his privacy and a possible threat to the safety of his family, Mr. Halchuk filed an official complaint with the local police. In addition, he contacted the Hate Crimes Unit of the Metropolitan Toronto Police. The case is now in the hands of the Sudbury Police Criminal Division's intelligence section, as well as the Hate Crimes Unit of the Toronto Police.

Mr. Halchuk found what he described as a "poison pen letter," apparently from an individual in the Toronto area. (The letter included a name and address that may or may not be fake). Included was a photocopy of a letter written by Mr. Halchuk as president of the Ontario UCC, published on July 8, 1999, by the Toronto Star. Attached was a personal attack on Mr. Halchuk with a racial slur directed against all Ukrainians: "you sniveling coward: typically Ukrainian."

Mr. Halchuk said, "The police note that this is a calculated jab. This person may not be one for many words, but he may wish to demonstrate that he is not a coward. He seems to have taken very personally my naming of the hate graffiti at the Toronto community center as cowardly."

Engaging in hate propaganda while using Canada Post for the purpose of circulating hate mail is a criminal offense.

In a press release issued by the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Mr. Halchuk commented: "Public office is not without its risks, and freedom of speech is essential in a democracy. What this means is that, on occasion, one does encounter individuals whose views might well be described as repugnant, ill-informed or absurd. Still, I

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Ruling on pre-eminence of Ukrainian language stirs controversy

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — A Ukrainian Constitutional Court ruling that asserts the pre-eminence of the Ukrainian language in the country has brought a series of denunciations from Moscow accusing Ukraine of disregarding minority rights. The Moscow attack comes as Kyiv prepares its first serious effort to promote the state language in its government institutions and schools.

On February 9 Russian's Foreign Affairs Ministry issued a statement in which it expressed concern that "certain forces in Ukraine seem determined to create a phenomenon previously unseen in Europe — to make the native language of the overwhelming majority of the population unacceptable, reduce its status to marginal, and, possibly, even squeeze it out."

The Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry said it could only welcome "Ukraine's effort to develop and support the Ukrainian language if it doesn't restrict human rights or is not done through an administrative deformation of the distinctive cultural and language environment."

The Russian commissioner on human

rights, Oleh Mironov, said the same day that he agreed that Ukraine's Constitutional Court had reduced the legal parameters in which the Russian language can function in Ukraine, which he called "a gross and obvious violation of civilized relations between nations, the limitation of essential rights and freedoms of citizens."

The outcry from Moscow was in reaction to a December 14, 1999, ruling of Ukraine's Constitutional Court issued in response to a petition by 51 national deputies, which requested a clarification of Statute 10 of Ukraine's basic law on the use of the state language in central and

local government bodies, as well as the language of instruction in public schools.

In its rendering the high court supported the view presented by the national deputies that within government institutions and in public schools the Ukrainian language is "disregarded" and "deliberately ignored."

The decision states that the Ukrainian language is "the mandatory means of communication for state bodies and local administrations, as well as in the spheres of public life on the territory of Ukraine."

(Continued on page 10)

Patriarch Dymytrii of UAOC dies

KYIV — As The Weekly was going to press, information was received that Patriarch Dymytrii, leader of the Kyiv-based Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church died on February 25 at 2 a.m. in Lviv, where he was spending the winter months with this son. He was 85 years old.

The UAOC Chancery in Kyiv said the patriarch died in his sleep. In recent years,

declining health and heart problems had slowed the vigorous Church leader. Nonetheless as recently as last month he had presided over the Patriarchal Council that controls UAOC affairs.

Patriarch Dymytrii was elected head of the UAOC by a vote of the Second All-Ukrainian Sobor on September 7, 1993,

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Ukrainian and Russian officials calculate mutual indebtedness

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — A Ukrainian Finance Ministry official disclosed on February 22 that Russia's debt to Ukraine exceeds by nearly \$1 billion the debt Kyiv owes Moscow.

Vice Minister of Finance Serhii Makatsaria said that an ad hoc intergovernmental committee of Russian and Ukrainian government financial experts had tabulated the total commercial and governmental indebtedness of both sides and had arrived at a figure of \$3.9 billion for Russia and \$3 billion for Ukraine. The numbers were released during a February 17 meeting of the ad hoc committee.

The Finance Ministry's disclosure came on the day that Russia's Vice Prime Minister Mikhail Kasianov, effectively the head of government since Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's elevation to the presidency, arrived in Kyiv for further talks with Ukraine's Prime Minister Viktor Yuschenko on Ukraine's gas indebtedness.

Ukraine, which has few oil and gas deposits of its own, is heavily dependent on Russia for its energy supplies. Kyiv's inability to consistently pay for gas and oil often has overshadowed other aspects of relations with Moscow. Since early January, when Ukraine's newly appointed Vice Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko returned from Moscow to say that Ukraine owes more than it had previously believed, the Ukrainian gov-

ernment has made negotiations on the debt a major priority, fearing that it was losing control of the situation.

Prime Minister Yuschenko said after consultations with Mr. Kasianov that further progress had been made in assessing the total Ukrainian bill for gas due Russia.

"There has been progress in understanding the reasons for how the debt was formulated," explained Mr.

Yuschenko. He said that as of February 1, leaving room for adjustments, Ukraine's gas debt stood at \$1.4 billion.

Mr. Kasianov agreed with the figure and said that, although the discussions were difficult, there was movement.

"We are struggling forward, as opposed to what some would like to believe," said Mr. Kasianov.

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Victor Pobedinsky

Ukraine's Prime Minister Viktor Yuschenko (right) and Russia's First Vice Prime Minister Mikhail Kasianov during their joint press conference in Kyiv.

ANALYSIS

Russia afraid of Ukraine's de-Russification?

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

PRAGUE – Interfax reported on February 1 that the Ukrainian president's Council for Language Policy Issues has approved a government draft resolution "On Additional Measures to Expand the Use of Ukrainian as the State Language." According to the news agency, in addition to expanding the use of Ukrainian, the government is seeking "to de-Russify various spheres of life" in Ukraine.

In particular, the document calls for checking the knowledge of Ukrainian among all state officials and re-assigning them to posts depending on their ability to use the state language (the so-called "re-attestation").

The implementation of the state language policy will also be monitored in the regions. Among other things, local authorities will be scrutinized for their use of Ukrainian in official documents and correspondence, as well as in their dealings with citizens on a daily basis.

The draft resolution also proposes "bringing the system of educational institutions into line with the ethnic composition of the population, working out programs of de-Russification for the sports and tourism spheres, bringing the repertoire of theaters into conformity with their language status, [and] using taxation levers for regulating the import of publications," according to the agency.

The news agency also notes that the authors of the document believe the proposed measures "will change the trend of hindering and localizing the process of promoting the state status of Ukrainian."

Russia's Foreign Affairs Ministry told Interfax on February 1 that it is seriously concerned about the strengthening of "administrative and other measures directed

against the preservation and development of the Russian language and culture" in Ukraine.

The ministry pointed to the December 14, 1999, ruling by Ukraine's Constitutional Court that Ukrainian is "the obligatory language of instruction in all state educational institutions in the country," while instruction in national minority languages may be carried out only if special permission is granted.

The Constitutional Court also ruled that the Ukrainian language is "the obligatory means of communication on the entire territory of Ukraine for the state authority bodies and local self-government bodies to exercise their powers, as well as in other spheres of public life."

According to the Russian ministry, such policies contravene the Ukrainian Constitution, which guarantees the "free development, use and protection of the Russian language" and the right of national minority citizens to receive their education in Russian.

Russia's Foreign Affairs Ministry said that on January 28 it sent a note to the Embassy of Ukraine in Moscow, expressing the hope that Kyiv's policies vis-à-vis Ukraine's Russians will be conducted "in the spirit" of the Russian-Ukrainian Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership.

On February 9, Russia's Foreign Affairs Ministry commented that the implementation of the Ukrainian government's draft resolution on language may "infringe upon human rights and damage the cultural and linguistic environment," according to ITAR-TASS. The ministry warned that "actions of this kind in such a sensitive area as language usually have dire consequences."

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Symonenko warns of anti-Communist plot

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

PRAGUE – In the February 17 issue of *Komunist*, Petro Symonenko warned his comrades from the Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU) about the "anti-communist hysteria" in the country.

According to the CPU leader, the "anti-popular regime" of President Leonid Kuchma is seeking to deflect public attention from the looming economic catastrophe through "provocative campaigns and actions."

One such campaign, Mr. Symonenko noted, was launched late last year in western Ukraine (Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Ternopil and other regions), where "the oblast councils, which are subservient to nationalist leaders, began to manufacture resolutions banning the activity of Communist [local] organizations."

Another anti-Communist move was the submission to the Parliament of a draft law by 10 Rukh deputies banning the activities of the CPU in Ukraine. Mr. Symonenko said the draft law on banning the CPU is unconstitutional, while the accusation of the 10 Rukh deputies that the CPU "intended to overthrow and liquidate the existing state system" during the presidential election campaign is "mendacious."

Why do nationalists behave in so hostile a manner toward Communists in world history? Because, Mr. Symonenko explained,

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nationalists are "nothing more than paid lackeys of foreign and domestic capital." As for Ukrainian nationalists, they are especially notorious for their "servility and mercenaryism" as well as for their "zoological [sic] hatred of Communists," he noted.

In Mr. Symonenko's opinion, the most perfidious "anti-Communist plot" by "servants of the ruling regime" is the recent attempt to split the CPU and create a Ukrainian Communist Party (UCP). Mr. Symonenko commented:

"The aim of this subsequent provocative undertaking is obvious. This pseudo-Communist, overtly pro-Kuchma party intends to deceive some of the uninformed people, while taking advantage of their pro-Communist views.

"This pseudo-communist party intends to split the leftist electorate and help the bloc of rightists and nationalists gain victory in the upcoming referendum and [early] parliamentary elections. There is another obvious goal in the provocative venture to create the UCP: to deliver a blow to Communist ideology.

"They are trying, as did the ideological predecessors of today's UCP proponents – UCP activists of the 1920s, to ingrain in some Communist supporters the idea that it is possible to pursue 'national communism.' This idea simultaneously implies that today's CPU – which consistently defends its class, internationalist positions, the only correct positions that guarantee our success – allegedly is not a party that defends the national interests of the Ukrainian people and Ukraine's statehood."

NEWSBRIEFS**Ukraine lets hryvnia float**

KYIV – The Ukrainian government and the National Bank of Ukraine on February 21 allowed the national currency exchange rate to float freely. A joint statement by the Cabinet of Ministers and the NBU said the floating exchange rate will "correspond to Ukraine's level of integration in the world economy, balance the demand for and supply of foreign currency... as well as keep Ukrainian goods competitive and enterprises profitable." So far, Ukraine has tried to keep the hryvnia exchange rate within a "trading corridor." Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko commented the same day that the introduction of the floating hryvnia testifies to the stability of the Ukrainian currency. The current exchange rate is 5.56 hrv to \$1 (U.S.), while the 2000 budget is based on an average annual exchange rate of 5.78 hrv to \$1. Some Ukrainian currency dealers deem this projection "too optimistic," according to Interfax. (RFE/RL Newsline)

IMF decision to come after audit

KYIV – Vice Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov said on February 21 that the International Monetary Fund will decide whether to unfreeze its \$2.6 billion loan program for Ukraine after an audit of the National Bank of Ukraine, Interfax reported. The audit was ordered after the *Financial Times* alleged in a series of articles that Kyiv misused some IMF credits. IMF mission head Mohammad Shadman-Valavi said after his meeting with Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko on February 21 that both sides reached agreement "on many points ... but a lot of work is still to be done." Mr. Yushchenko said the talks with the IMF mission ended "optimistically for Ukraine," adding that the fund will "most likely" make a decision on further credits in March. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Poll shows public trusts Yushchenko

KYIV – According to public monitoring carried out by the Socis Sociological and Marketing Research Center, 32 percent of people surveyed trust Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko, while 14 percent do not. The figures for President Leonid Kuchma are 22 percent and 33 percent, respectively. The center's analysts state that Mr. Yushchenko's decisions to cut apparatus expenditures and attempts to resolve the foreign debt problem added to his rating. Only 7 percent of respondents indicated that they trust the Verkhovna Rada, while 53 percent do not. These figures for the Cabinet of Ministers are 14 percent and 35 percent, respectively. A total of 1,200 respondents from all

regions of the country were polled. (Eastern Economist)

IMF questions Kyiv's planned revenues

KYIV – The International Monetary Fund mission in Ukraine, which has started a detailed review of the country's 2000 draft budget, expressed doubts on February 16 about whether Ukraine will achieve its planned revenues, Interfax reported. Vice Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov made that statement to the agency, while mission head Mohammad Shadman-Valavi refused to comment. Mr. Yekhanurov added that Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko will ask national deputies "to adopt a number of laws oriented toward making budget revenue items more realistic." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Tkachenko says Rada majority has split

KYIV – The leftist former chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, Oleksander Tkachenko, told Interfax on February 18 that the center-right parliamentary majority is now suffering from "a split and misunderstanding." Mr. Tkachenko added that last week the majority approved only six bills of the 44 on the agenda and failed to agree on personnel issues. "The majority has no such enthusiasm as in the beginning. They have felt that they were fooled," Mr. Tkachenko added. Vice-Chairman Stepan Havrysh denied that the majority is facing a crisis. Mr. Havrysh said the majority's inability last week to appoint parliamentary committee vice-chairs was caused not by a lack of agreement but a lack of time. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma: referendum only solution

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma said on February 21 that the "divergence of opinions" within the center-right parliamentary majority can be overcome only by the April 16 referendum, Interfax reported. Mr. Kuchma said the referendum is "absolutely necessary" and should help resolve Ukraine's main problem: "the ability of the state power to function." According to President Kuchma, the existence of a parliamentary majority is equivalent to the existence of the Parliament itself. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Marchuk injured in car accident

KYIV – The secretary of the National Security and Defense Council, Yevhen Marchuk, was injured in a road accident on February 19 and was admitted to a hospital with injuries. The Interfax-Ukraine news agency learned from sources at law

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"Russian commitment to freedom of religion is tenuous," says Helsinki Commission chairman

by Gore Chadwick

WASHINGTON – "This is a crucial year in Russia in the post-Yeltsin era, and we must be vigilant in assuring that Russia adheres to its commitments to human rights and freedoms. Today's testimony indicates that Russia's commitment to freedom of religion is tenuous at best, an illusion at worst," said Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.) at a commission hearing. Ranking Member Rep. Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.) and Rep. Bob Clement (D-Tenn.) also were in attendance.

Testifying were: Robert Seiple, ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom, U.S. Department of State; Anatoly Krasikov, chairman, Russian Chapter, International Religious Liberty Association, Moscow; Pastor Igor Nikitin, chairman, Union of Christians, St. Petersburg; and, Rabbi Levi Shemtov, director of the Washington Office, American Friends of Lubavitch, speaking for Rabbi Berel Lazar of the Marina Roshcha Synagogue, Moscow.

"While the central government appears committed – on paper – to religious freedom through the country, some local officials have clearly interpreted the 1997 law as a license to harass minority religious groups," said Smith.

"At least one American missionary has been evicted from Russia on what certainly appear to be very flimsy grounds. Charismatic groups have been accused by authorities of 'hypnotizing' congregation members. Churches that formerly rented public buildings are now finding these premises closed to them by local officials. The leadership of the Russian Orthodox Church, Moscow Patriarchate, seems more interested in criticizing so-called 'non-traditional' faiths than in actually engaging in the witness of their faith – a right protected by a commitment to the freedom of speech. Even in supposedly more liberal Moscow, a court case against the Jehovah's Witnesses for allegedly 'inciting religious discord' and 'destroying families' has dragged on for more than two years," the congressman stated.

Rep. Hoyer added that, "In some instances, religious communities have

been able to secure their legal rights through court decisions at both the national and local level, only to face attempts by local officials to 'liquidate' their formal status on flimsy legal grounds. In many cases, local officials claim to be 'protecting' citizens from the alleged dangers of 'sects' when they act against religious communities. It seems to me that their time might be better spent working on economic and social betterment for all of their constituents."

Repl. Clement commented, "We're not trying to dictate Christianity around the world, we want tolerance for all religions around the world."

Ambassador Seiple said, "In Russia there is the potential for events to bring about a decline of religious freedom. ... There is also the potential for us and like-minded advocates of religious freedom to take steps to prevent this from happening."

He cited Russia's Constitutional Court ruling on a challenge to the 1997 "restrictive religion law," which was felt by many to have been a step in the right direction. He also cited the Duma's failure to enact legislation that would have extended the deadline for re-registration of religious groups and organizations, and instances of some local officials using the 1997 law to harass "so-called 'non-traditional' religious groups."

In a more positive light, Ambassador Seiple noted that there have been "some positive steps taken against anti-Semitism." He also cited examples where U.S. diplomacy had played a constructive role, particularly regarding Roman Catholics, Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses.

He concluded, "Many observers today believe that the situation with respect to religious freedom in Russia has stabilized. I believe the country remains on the cusp. ... I am an optimist by nature. I believe the Russian people and their government will choose to respect religious freedom and democracy, but not without the active support of the international community. We will continue to work with our European partners to promote a climate in Russia which respects diversity in religious practice."

Rabbi Shemtov commented that "in recent years the incidents of anti-Semitism in Russia have reached alarming levels, ...but there was also an undeniable trend towards lawlessness." It must be noted that since August of 1999, when a savage attack at the Choral Synagogue in Moscow was followed a few days later by the attempted bombing of the Bolshaya Boronya Synagogue, "the situation has improved dramatically."

Pastor Nikitin noted the fact that, "Following the visit of American members of Congress to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly meeting in St. Petersburg [in July 1999], city officials were much more amenable to my church's community services." He added, "The visit by the U.S. Congress had a tremendous positive impact."

Dr. Krasikov recalled James Madison's warning, "When there is a union of state and Church, this has often resulted in using religion to uphold political tyranny," as he discussed efforts by some to merge the Russian Orthodox Church with the Russian government.

When asked what the United States should do to pre-empt such deterioration, Ambassador Seiple responded that, whenever an anti-religious act occurs, "the United States, and this commission, should shout early, loudly and often. We must be vigilant on this issue."

Anatolii Lupynis, former Soviet political prisoner, dead at 62

KYIV – Anatolii Lupynis, a Ukrainian nationalist leader and dissident who spent 27 years in Soviet labor camps, prisons and mental institutions, died in Kyiv on February 4 at the age of 62.

Mr. Lupynis, a dissident who fought against Communist ideology, was first arrested for his poetry readings in public as a 19-year-old in 1956 on charges of "anti-Soviet propaganda" and sentenced to six years in prison.

A year later he was transferred to Dubrovlag in the Mordovian ASSR, where new proceedings were brought against him for taking part in a strike by 2,000 prisoners and for heading the strike committee. He was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment to run concurrently with his other term.

In 1962, while serving his sentence in Vladimir Prison in Moscow, Mr. Lupynis became seriously ill, suffering from leg paralysis and other ailments.

Shortly before completing his term in 1967, Mr. Lupynis' case was brought up in a letter by Lev Lukianenko, at the time himself a prisoner serving a 15-year labor-camp term, to Ukrainian Prime Minister D.S. Korotchenko, calling attention to Mr. Lupynis' condition.

In 1971 he was arrested once again for reading a poem (and taking part in a public meeting at the foot of the Taras Shevchenko monument in Kyiv. Russian dissident physi-

cist Andrei Sakharov and Ukrainian dissidents Ivan Svitlychny and Leonid Plyushch arrived in Kyiv to observe proceedings, only to be apprised that the trial was postponed.

During his incarceration in various psychiatric hospitals across the Soviet Union, Mr. Lupynis was forced to undergo treatment with insulin and such anti-psychotic drugs as sulfazin and haloperidol.

Mr. Lupynis nearly lost his sight and used crutches after being released from his final prison term in 1983, but that did not stop him from continuing his dissident activities.

He was among the founders of the nationalist Ukrainian National Assembly, and since December 1990 was head of the political section of the UNA-UNSO (Ukrainian National Self-Defense Organization).

He also was among the founders of Rukh, Soviet-era Ukraine's pre-eminent pro-independence movement, which was established in the late 1980s, and he was active in Memorial, a group dedicated to preserving the memory of people killed or persecuted by the Soviet regime.

A panakhyda service for Mr. Lupynis was held February 8 at St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Kyiv.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Tax administration to collect more revenues

KYIV – The State Tax Administration must collect 28 billion hrv in "real money" for the state budget in 2000, which is 40 percent more than in 1999, stated the administration's head, Mykola Azarov, on February 8. He added that the tax administration will have to collect 700 million hrv more each month than in 1999. At the same time, the tax pressure on businessmen should be lowered, said Mr. Azarov. In January tax services transferred 2 billion hrv to the consolidated budget and 1 billion hrv into the state budget, with almost 100 percent of the income in monetary form. Mr. Azarov stated that the highly developed shadow economy and the extraordinary pressure on businessmen prevent the administration from collecting the maximum revenue. In 1999 tax collectors generated 26.5 billion hrv into the consolidated budget, which was 3.4 billion hrv more than in 1998. In 2000 the excise and profit taxes will be collected for the state budget, which will prevent local tax administrations from making mutual settlements, stated Mr. Azarov. The administration will not postpone tax payments and provide tax breaks to companies, he said. Mr. Azarov added that a moratorium on changes to tax legislation should be introduced until the new tax code is approved. This is necessary to simplify the registration of VAT payers, increasing the minimum trade volume from 20,000 to 61,000 hrv. Mr. Azarov proposed that the government cancel all fees for delayed tax payments in 2000, if an enterprise pays off its tax debt in full, restructure the tax debt as of January 1, 1999, and reconsider the fee rate and introduce a single rate for untimely payments of taxes and fees. Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko called on the STA to stop inspecting companies, which pay taxes on time and to restructure their tax debts for previous years. A clear model for fiscal control of oil and gas structures should be created, since they mostly have a chaotic system of payments, said Mr. Yushchenko. (Eastern Economist)

Bolshevik will produce escalators

KYIV – Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko issued an order, according to which the Kyiv Bolshevik plant will produce escalators for Ukraine's subways. It is expected that the serial production will start in 2002. Subway escalators, which make up 50 percent of the cost of construction of a subway station, hitherto have not been produced in Ukraine. (Eastern Economist)

Kyiv metro plans expansion to suburbs

KYIV – KyivMetroBud, the city's subway construction company, in 2000 plans to extend the Sviatoshyn-Brovary line by two stations to Novo Billichy, with the extended service of the local electric train infrastructure. In 2001, the company plans to extend the Obolon line by one station, with further construction of the subway to the Troieschyna district of the city. (Eastern Economist)

Commodity exchange opens in Zhytomyr

ZHYTOMYR – The first agricultural commodity exchange was created in the Zhytomyr Oblast. The exchange was created for the purpose of selling all types of agricultural commodities. Among the 24 founders of the exchange are agricultural joint stock companies, and private and collective agricultural enterprises. (Eastern Economist)

Cyprus and Ukraine sign agreements

KYIV – Three inter-governmental documents were signed during the visit of Cypriot Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulidis to Kyiv. These included agreement on air

Over 100,000 minors homeless in Ukraine

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

KYIV – Yurii Bohutskyi, deputy head of the presidential administration staff, told journalists on February 16 that there are 101,000 homeless minors in Ukraine, constituting 36.3 percent of all homeless people in the country. The data were obtained during special police raids across the country.

According to Mr. Bohutskyi, vagrancy and begging among homeless minors have acquired a "mass character." He added that 14.4 percent of homeless minors are children of pre-school age.

Ukraine has 80 orphanages, half of which were set up over the past two years. According to Mr. Bohutskyi, the number of orphanages is insufficient.

President Leonid Kuchma recently issued a decree ordering the government to address the problem of homelessness and criminality among minors. In particular, the president instructed the government to open more orphanages and children's homes.

(Continued on page 16)

Ukraine's national referendum subject of attack at home and abroad

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The national referendum that President Leonid Kuchma has scheduled for the end of April, which could lead to a dismissal of the Parliament and give the president additional powers, has come under serious attack at home and in Europe as critics declare it unconstitutional.

While Ukrainian lawmakers opposed to President Kuchma's decision to decree a national poll are questioning the right of the president to ask for changes to the Constitution without the consent of the legislature, the president maintains that he is simply executing the will of the people.

President Kuchma decreed a national referendum on January 15 after a petition-gathering effort succeeded in collecting nearly 4 million signatures. Opponents, however, reject the notion that it was a spontaneous popular effort and suggest that it was a move orchestrated by the president's aides and cohorts to give the president more power over the legislative branch of government.

An investigative team from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), led by rapporteurs Hanne Severinsen and Renata Wohlwend, arrived in Kyiv on February 16 to look into the legality of the national referendum after a plea from the leftist minority in the Verkhovna Rada.

After two days of meetings with national deputies, the president, members of Ukraine's Constitutional Court and the Central Election Commission, the two rapporteurs suggested that Ukraine should

at least reschedule, if not cancel, the national referendum because the way in which it was organized was constitutionally dubious.

"If the referendum takes place in contradiction to a possible decision of the Venetian Commission on the lack of authority by the president of Ukraine in the Constitution to decree such a referendum, then it cannot be excluded that the fate of Belarus awaits Ukraine," said Ms. Severinsen after meeting with Viktor Skomorokha, the chief judge of Ukraine's Constitutional Court.

One of the theories suggested by some political analysts in Ukraine is that Mr. Kuchma is copying moves made by Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka in 1996 when he dismissed the Belarusian Parliament and changed the Constitution, giving himself dictatorial powers and extending his term in office.

Ms. Severinsen and her colleagues from the PACE are asking that President Kuchma delay the referendum until after a ruling by a team of PACE constitutional experts, called the Venetian Commission, on the constitutional merits of the Ukrainian referendum and the way in which it was organized. The commission previously gave extensive advice to Ukraine in drafting its Constitution in the days before it was ratified in July 1996.

The PACE investigative team said the chief problem with the referendum is that, since it involves constitutional changes, the amendments should have been developed and approved by the Verkhovna Rada, as the Constitution of Ukraine clearly delineates.

Ms. Severinsen threatened Ukraine with exclusion from the Council of Europe if it did not "execute European norms and standards," a threat Ukraine has heard before on the matter of the death penalty.

President Kuchma, standing firm on his decision, said he could not ignore the bidding of a portion of the populace and would allow the Constitutional Court of Ukraine to decide the matter. He provoked further the controversy when he said that Ukraine "would not be guided by the conclusions of the Venetian Commission."

The Constitutional Court currently has before it two appeals from deputies asking for a ruling on the legality of the national referendum. Chief Justice Skomorokha said that, although PACE representatives had asked that the court put off its decision until after the Venetian Commission hearings scheduled for early April, the justices would discuss the case and render a decision at the end of February.

The president and his supporters maintain that the questions in the referendum that refer to the Constitution – on the restructuring of the Parliament into a bicameral body; its reduction from 450 to 300 members; extension of presidential powers to dismiss the Verkhovna Rada if a national referendum voices a vote of no-confidence in the parliamentary body, or if in the course of a month's time the Parliament fails to form a sustainable and working majority; and that the Constitution must be ratified by a national referendum – are all merely consultative

in character and therefore not constitutional changes per se.

"I really don't understand why [PACE representatives] said that if the referendum should be held it will be a black mark on our democracy since the referendum is in large part advisory," said Viktor Medvedchuk, the recently elected first vice-chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, who is an attorney.

He said he believes the PACE representatives were misguided by national deputies who asked for their help in condemning the referendum.

"For instance, they thought that in the proposed bicameral Parliament, the second house would be appointed by the president [and not popularly elected] because that is what they were told," said Mr. Medvedchuk.

He said the rapporteurs also did not realize that, even if the question was approved in the referendum, 39 laws and Constitutional statutes still would have to be passed by the Parliament before the change took place.

Mr. Medvedchuk downplayed the Venetian Commission's jurisdiction over Ukraine other than as a consultative body of the Council of Europe, of which Ukraine is a member.

Viktor Shyshkin, a member of the Hromada Party and a well-respected former minister of justice of Ukraine, told Interfax-Ukraine that the president had the legal right to raise only a single question in the referendum. "Only one, the question on no-confidence in the Verkhovna Rada could be raised," said Mr. Shyshkin.

The issue of the national referendum has agitated more than merely the leftist minority in Parliament. One of the two petitions filed with the Constitutional Court asking that it rule the referendum illegal was submitted by 108 lawmakers – most of whom are members of factions belonging to the newly formed parliamentary majority, which has pledged to legislate the president's economic agenda.

At a roundtable on February 22 organized by Anatolii Matvienko's Sobor Party, representatives of 10 of Ukraine's leading political parties, including both Rukh parties, the Socialist Party and the Ukrainian Republican Party, criticized the intent, the process and the constitutionality of the referendum.

Mr. Matvienko, today a major critic of the president but once the chairman of the pro-presidential National Democratic Party, said a strategy must be developed to stop "the dirty techniques and lies" that surround the referendum. He described the upcoming national poll as an effort by the president to turn the Ukrainian legislature into a "pocket Parliament."

Serhii Holovatyi, another consistent critic of presidential policy, said the petition gathering process, which was organized to give credence to the populist nature of the national poll, was a sham. He explained that during a meeting with the PACE representatives CEC Chairman Mykhailo Riabets could not properly answer a PACE rapporteur's question on how the signatures were checked.

Meanwhile National Deputy Mykhailo Syrota, considered the father of the Constitution because of the role he played in guiding the document through the ratification process, said the referendum is a flagrant move by politicians and businessmen close to the president to assure them control over the Ukrainian business world.

"It is more for the benefit of the financial-business oligarchies that would use the changes in the Parliament and the Constitution to take further control of the political and economic spheres of Ukraine," said Mr. Syrota.

Ottawa UCC organizes commemoration of Famine-Genocide

OTTAWA – The Ottawa branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) organized an evening commemorating the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933, in the Center Bloc on Parliament Hill, on November 23, 1999. The evening was hosted by the Canada-Ukraine Friendship Group, which promotes ties between parliamentarians of the two countries.

The evening was very well attended, with over 150 participants, including several senators and members of Parliament.

The program included short speeches by Sen. Raynell Andreychuk and Ambassador

Volodymyr Khandogiy of Ukraine. The main speaker was Prof. Roman Serbyn of the University of Quebec in Montreal, who included in his presentation excerpts from the award-winning film "Harvest of Despair." Concluding remarks were by UCC Ottawa President Oksana Bashuk-Hepburn.

A feature of the evening was the blessing of bread and water jointly by Father Ihor Kutash and Father Cyril Mykytiuk, respectively of the Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic Churches. The table was beautifully decorated in black and white, with touches of red. The commemorative event

ended with all those attending filing past the table to partake of the bread and water.

The event, and particularly Dr. Serbyn's presentation, elicited many very positive comments. However, the mainstream media did not cover the event.

The organizing committee was headed by Peter Sorokan, and included Yaroslav Baran, Irena Bell, Olya Henry, Halyna Michaelchuk, Olga Sametz, Victor Shevchenko, Julia Woychyshyn and Marta Wynnycka.

Master of ceremonies for the evening was a member of the UCC executive committee, Irena Bell.

The Weekly's collection of materials about the Famine

The Ukrainian Weekly's official website contains the largest collection of materials on the Internet dedicated to the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine.

Located at www.ukrweekly.com, the special section includes a chronology of the Famine years, eyewitness accounts, editorials, media reports, stories about observances of the Famine's 50th anniversary in 1983, scholarly articles, interviews with journalists who reported on the Famine, transcripts of testimony on the Famine commission bill ultimately passed by the U.S. Congress, texts of statements before the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, references and other documentation, as well as the full text of The Ukrainian Weekly's special issue on the Great Famine published on March 20, 1983. The section is completely searchable.

Quotable notes

"I think that the only way the society moves forward is to have a full accounting of its past, including its bad past. The Armenian Genocide is a fact ... and I think that history is best served by acknowledging what is a fact. ... I had one experience with this in the past, and that was with the Ukrainian famine of the 1930s, which the Soviet Union denied, and we established a study group, a commission, to look into it and in the mid-'80s we revealed a lot of facts that had not come to light before and therefore nailed it as being an event in history that has to be dealt with. That is the same attitude I have toward the Armenian Genocide."

– Bill Bradley candidate for the Democratic nomination for president, responding on November 29, 1999, in Derry, N.H., to an audience member's comments about the Armenian Genocide (cited in a press release from the Armenian American Democratic Leadership Council).

* * *

"... we must not forget our past of systematic destruction of human beings. Be it at the hands of those who would murder millions during World War II under Nazi leadership. Or, be it the systematic starvation of 6 million people in Ukraine under Russian Communism. Or, be it tribal peoples of Africa starved and murdered by power-hungry lords. All of these people deserved to have their right to life protected and honored."

– Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore, speaking on January 23, on the eve of the pro-life March for Life in Washington, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (quoted in *The Way*, a Ukrainian Catholic biweekly published in Philadelphia).

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

UNA Seniors slate conference for June 11-16 at Soyuzivka

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. – The UNA Seniors Conference will take place at Soyuzivka June 11-16.

The committee is planning to make this a memorable millennium event. Since this is a very well attended affair, those interested are urged to make reservations as soon as possible. Call Soyuzivka at (914) 626-5641, or write to

Ukrainian National Association Estate, P.O. Box 529 Kerhonkson, NY 12446.

An auction is held each year to raise money for charitable purposes and Ukrainian-style items are needed to make it a success.

Anna Chopek, president of the UNA Seniors, advises conference participants to bring as many items as you can.

Young UNA'ers



Mark Ivan and Deanna Anastasia, children of Roman and Mira Kyzyk, are new members of UNA Branch 293 in South Brooklyn, N.Y. The tykes were enrolled by their parents.

The Weekly's 1999 articles now available on its website

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The full texts of all articles published in The Ukrainian Weekly during 1999 – 1,556 in all – are now available on the newspaper's official website.

The Ukrainian Weekly Archive opened its official website at <http://www.ukrweekly.com/> on August 20, 1998. (The paper's first appearance on the Internet, however, came much earlier as in July 1995 excerpts of each week's top stories began to be featured on the Tryzub website.)

The Weekly's official website, which now contains nearly 7,000 full-text articles, is constantly being expanded.

The website is dedicated to archival materials published in the newspaper since its founding in 1933, among them The Ukrainian Weekly's inaugural issue dated October 6, 1933, two issues devoted to the 1960 visit of Nikita Khrushchev to the U.S., the special issue published on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group (1986), and special issues dedicated to the 50th (1983) and the 60th (1993) anniversaries of The Ukrainian Weekly and the centennial of the Ukrainian National Association (1994).

The Weekly's website also contains the largest collection of materials on

the Internet dedicated to the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine. The section was unveiled in 1998 on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide.

Year-in-review issues of The Weekly from the years 1976-1999 (and the "Decade in Review" published at the end of 1979), as well as issues reporting on the Chernobyl accident (1986), Ukraine's declaration of sovereignty (1990), its proclamation of independence and national referendum on independence (both 1991) also are found on the archive site.

The archive also contains full texts of all issues published in 1996 through 1999, as well as excerpts of the top news stories published each week during the current year. All sections of the site are searchable.

The Ukrainian Weekly provides this website of archival materials as a community service. The site is maintained by the newspaper's production and editorial staffs.

Donations to support the work of this site and other projects of The Ukrainian Weekly are gladly accepted; they will be acknowledged on the website as well as on the pages of The Weekly.

Contributions may be sent to: The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054

UNA seeks members' addresses

Below are the names of Ukrainian National Association members, listed by branch number and with their insurance certificate numbers, whose addresses are not known to the UNA Home Office.

The members listed are asked to contact the UNA Home Office, (973) 292-9800.

Branch #	Certificate #	Insured Name
22	A129581	Schwinn Linda M.
22	D178794	Rataczyk T.S.
27	A085826	Hladky Walter
27	A155880	Prychodko Konstantyn
32	D162083	Bernado Nadia
32	J099962	Buruschkin Brian B.
32	J099961	Buruschkin Joseph N.
32	D189108	Dmytrus Nykola
32	D188809	Dunliawka John
32	D185946	Glass Jr. Frank G.
32	A181309	Mischtschuk Maria
32	D183525	Poduslenko N. and Z.
32	D181434	Prybolsky Nina
32	D186276	Singer Richard J.
32	D186275	Singer Michael S.
32	D186274	Singer Donna A.
32	J100887	Smulac Mihail
83	A197679	Joseph Lupan
94	A075290	Chester Pieniazek
94	J074933	Pawl Jeffrey M.
94	J066319	Pawl Jeffrey M.
130	J050415	Stafford Rose
147	D189545	Bochnak Katherine A.
155	J083948	Dawwn M.De Satnyik
173	A177736	Mckaig Robert T.
216	A161694	Bilajiw Wolodymyr
231	J102331	Birney Amanda M.
231	J103141	Ehling Jamie
231	J103142	Ehling Justin
231	D196744	Jones Laurie A.
238	A184427	Dorofi Victor W.

271	J096553	Knapp Carrie A.
271	J096555	Robertson Jamie L.
271	J096554	Robertson Jon Mce
271	D192478	Westermann Alfred
287	A159394	Dremuk Richard
287	A090687	Karpiuk Paraska
287	J099910	Kinal Ihor
296	J099596	Taylor Stephanie
305	J099128	Dorton Shawna L.
305	A180279	Forgotch Helene
305	A197936	Kennedy Neil B.
305	A193967	Remaley Bonnie T.
305	J098339	Strenchock Logan P.
305	J096310	Strenchock Kyla A.
305	J098384	Strenchock Logan P.
305	J093813	Strenchock Janelle M.
305	A193930	Walters Irene
340	D187003	Chomik Olga
340	A143088	Jaruchik Teodoro
364	A201303	Yaeger Laurel A.
364	J049889	Karpiuk Mary A.
377	A184594	Bulkot Olga
379	J069214	Bryowsky Patricia A.
397	A113487	Ciuch Josefine
397	A123895	Demjanovic Mary
397	A079267	Fedin Jaroslav G.
397	A965716	Fedin Jaroslav Y.
397	A079268	Fedin Maria I.
397	A962521	Fedin Maria I.
397	A967927	Fedin Michael J.
397	A079270	Fedin Wolodymyr
397	A079269	Fedin Michael J.
397	A962520	Fedin Wolodymyr
397	A058103	Fox Maria A.
397	A993665	Hawryliw Michael
397	J093923	Jarema Mark
397	A108475	Kasian Mykola
397	A078581	Klim Anna
397	J097986	Krywolap Stefan E.
397	A138455	Kulyk Stach

397	A876992	Kulyk Irena
397	A070164	Senick John M.
397	A117123	Subtelny Orest
397	A184900	Maksymiuk Irene
397	A178004	Nasevich Mike F.
397	A173203	Nasevich Stephen P.
397	A173179	Nasevich Michael E.
397	A136840	Pelensky Jeane
397	A170964	Sawchuk Nadija
397	A183132	Sawchuk Lisa
397	A183133	Sawchuk Eugene
397	A187938	Seniw Irene
397	A187937	Seniw Jaroslava I.
397	A187939	Seniw Wasyl
397	A187990	Seniw Ihor
397	J096441	Seniw Dana M.
397	A085945	Subtelny Myroslaw K.
397	A086545	Szaszarowsky Julia
412	A145401	Luczkiw Ivan E.
421	A175285	Hnatiuk J.M.
432	A135255	Mazurenko A.E.
434	A190579	Kulish Taras
440	D145810	Kowalczyk A.
440	A180207	Kramarchuk B.
440	D149611	Spolsky M.J.
440	D152039	Spolsky C.
440	D165571	Trutiak S.
440	D176018	Trutiak L.
460	A135207	Roslycky E.B.
466	J099267	Scott P. Pr Garvey
479	D189243	Hrechka J.
479	A189500	Hrechka J.R.
479	A189499	Hrechka E.
479	D175603	Lonchyna J.L.
479	D175602	Lonchyna Rev. T.R.
479	D179286	Myr D.M.
479	D179287	Myr P.A.
490	J092387	Gibb Stephanie Nadia
490	J092907	Mazey Christopher John
777	A203123	Zawrotniak Piotr

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

VOA getting sliced again

The salami-slicers are back at work at the Voice of America – you know, the people who manage programs by slicing off a little bit at a time until there is nothing left.

On February 10 the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG), which oversees the VOA, announced that 51 positions – almost all of them in the language services that provide radio programming to Eastern European countries, chiefly Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic – as well as eight smaller services, would be eliminated and other program funds reduced. The monies saved by this move will now be directed toward programs serving Africa and Asia.

Since 1995 the Eastern European language services, by turn, have been taking a hit. The Ukrainian service, which missed this round of cuts, nonetheless recently had funds for its Kyiv correspondent post dramatically reduced. All the language services have undergone staff reductions and limits on new hires. Most of the language services are now responsible for signing contracts with in-country radio stations to broadcast programming since in many cases VOA no longer provides direct transmission. So, like a salami, first you cut the budget, then you cut the staff, then you cut the technical capabilities, then you cut the budget again until there's nothing left. On the SaveVOA website, set up by an action group to protest this latest round of cuts, there is open speculation that the BBG basically wants to cut all the VOA Eastern European language services to nil, but hasn't done so out of the concern for political fallout if such was done in one drastic step.

The BBG, in turn, states that the "measures ... are a first step in what the board envisions as a progressive realignment of strategic priorities and reallocations of U.S. international broadcasting resources ... also underscore the need to use funds efficiently to provide accurate, objective news and information and to support emerging democracies ..."

The BBG, it seems, has decided that Eastern Europe no longer has "emerging" democracies – unlike the democracies that are apparently emerging in Indonesia, East Timor and Colombia, where the money will now be going – but has stable democracies with "free and open media." Wow! Bet that's news to Serbs and Croats and Rumanians and Bulgarians and Albanians, which are among the people to which VOA services will be cut. The BBG states that Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic are now members of NATO, which apparently makes everything in those countries hunky-dory. Turkey also is a member of NATO – we don't remember anyone pointing to that country as a bastion of democracy and free speech.

The BBG is also relying on new venues, such as audio transmission over the Internet, to alleviate budget constraints. Forgetting for a moment that the VOA has a federal charter for radio programming and transmission, it should be acknowledged that new venues are not necessarily bad. But now, let's get real: How many average Poles, or Hungarians, or Latvians own high-end computers complete with audio capabilities? Even most Americans can't do audio downloads. And to assume that Slovenian, Romanian and Slovak students will use whatever limited time they have at their university computer centers to download VOA broadcasts, or to assume that young professionals hanging out in cyber-cafes in Prague and Warsaw will pay for computer time to access VOA is, well, not very well rooted in reality.

Furthermore, to assume that many Eastern Europeans will be able to access VOA information through the Internet, which requires pretty expensive computer hardware and software, along with a pretty sophisticated national telecommunications network, and to see this as a solution to the cut in radio broadcasts may be realistic in 10 years, but not now. The BBG should be honest: the proposed Internet solution serves only the elite of the targeted countries. And, it would be underlined, that the original point of VOA radio broadcasts was to give listeners radio that was cheap and accessible – something still necessary, today.

We have written several times about the ongoing budget cuts at the Voice of America. And now, as then, we believe that VOA services to these countries must be expanded – not reduced. As every good marketing expert knows, in order to ever be effective, a message must be consistent and frequent, something that cannot be done on a shoestring budget. News from America, as well as America's messages of respect for (as well as the value of) the individual, the importance of the balance of powers, freedom of speech, the rule of law still need to be sent and reinforced in all these countries.

February
27
1991

Turning the pages back...

Nine years ago to the day, the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic voted to add a poll on the sovereignty of Ukraine to the public referendum already scheduled for March 17, 1991, on a renewed federation of Soviet socialist republics as proposed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The proposal was passed by 307 votes out of 395 people's deputies taking part in the parliamentary proceedings.

The question to be put to the citizens of Ukraine was: "Do you agree that Ukraine should be part of the Union of Soviet Sovereign States, based on the principles of Ukraine's Declaration of State Sovereignty?"

The Supreme Soviet's approval of the sovereignty poll was seen by democratic political leaders as yet another step toward securing the independence of Ukraine.

The end result: on March 17, while 70.5 percent of voters supported a renewed union, 80.16 percent also voted "yes" to Ukraine's sovereignty within a union of sovereign states.

Source: "Ukraine adds sovereignty poll to March 17 union referendum" by Marta Kolomayets, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, March 3, 1991 (Vol. LIX, No. 9); and "Over 80 percent vote for Ukraine's sovereignty; 70.5 percent support union" by Marta Kolomayets, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, March 24, 1991 (Vol. LIX, No. 12).

APPEAL TO THE DIASPORA

Rehabilitation center in Kyiv in dire need of funds

by Dr. Semyon Gluzman

For quite a long time a unique center – the International Medical Rehabilitation Center for the Victims of Wars and Totalitarian Regimes – has been functioning in Kyiv providing medical, psychological and social assistance to people who suffered repression during the years of the totalitarian regime. The average age of our clients is 72; many have no families; some are immobile because of diseases.

Our clients are UPA soldiers, Ukrainian dissidents and the so-called "enemies of the state" who lives were guiltlessly disrupted by "Stalin's" regime.

Unfortunately, now as before, all these people are not of interest to their country. Being sick, hungry and lost they have only one hope – our center. They find kindness and sympathy here; qualified medical assistance and free-of-charge medicines are offered to them here.

I have no illusions; nobody can return them strength, youth, life or a future. Our assistance has a much more modest goal: to give them their last consolation and the opportunity to leave life with dignity.

I was the initiator of this center, since I remember and love my camp friends.

Semyon Gluzman is a physician/psychiatrist, a former political prisoner of the Brezhnev regime in the USSR. He served 10 years of imprisonment and exile for conducting an independent psychological examination of Petro Grigorenko, a former Soviet Red Army general-turned-political dissident who became a founding member of the Moscow and Ukrainian Helsinki monitoring groups. Dr. Gluzman founded the International Medical Rehabilitation Center for the Victims of Wars and Totalitarian Regimes in 1994. For the last three years the center has been operating under a license issued by the Ministry of Health. The center has always been supported by grants and donations from Western sources.

The UPA soldiers Yevhen Pryshliak and Dmytro Basarab, my "forest brother" in the underground Jonas Matuziavichus – they are gone, alas.

But there are the others, known to nobody – old men and women who continue to live in a strange land in their own country, where their long cherished blue-and-yellow flag is firmly in the hands of the eternally alive Soviet nomenklatura.

The majority of our center's clients will soon die. In five to 10 years only video interviews with these people, will remain to tell of their sufferings and their pride.

But now they are alive; my staff has warmly cared for them. I have no right to commit a sin by telling them the bitter truth: there is no money left to continue the work of the center. Former sponsors from the West have changed their priorities – what concern do they have about these incomprehensible and useless Ukrainian old people. Unfortunately, the world has gotten used to grief and pain.

There is no more money for medicines, no money for salaries for the staffers who nevertheless keep working every day. We go on smiling and expressing hope about the future.

I know it is immoral to ask for money. But I am not asking it not for myself. I, the director of the center, I am working free of charge – as a volunteer. (I could not be paid for this work.)

A relief fund for former political prisoners that was established by Alexander Solzhenitsyn has not found it possible to support us. Other foundations, too, are unable to help.

Please help the last living former prisoners of the gulag. They do not deserve to be forgotten.

Tax-deductible donations may be sent to 20th Century of Human Rights, 29 Sanford Terrace, Irvington, N.J. 07111. For further information, please call Nadia Svitlychna, (973) 371-6361.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Seniors and the 2000 Census

by Herbert W. Stupp

Not only is the year 2000 the beginning of a new millennium, it is also the year the United States counts each and every resident. This is more than just an exercise in arithmetic. The census count determines the number of New York City's congressional representatives and how much state and federal money we receive for local programs.

In fact, the census is so important to New York City's economic well-being, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani has established the New York City Office of Census 2000 to work with the Census Bureau and to help educate every New Yorker about the importance of responding on Census Day, April 1.

In New York City, Census 2000 is an important opportunity for older residents to show there is strength in numbers. When seniors return their census questionnaires, they help their communities obtain federal funding for meals, home care and other services that assist older people.

Census 2000 aims to count every person – citizen or immigrant, legal or undocumented – in every house, in every building. This includes all boarders and renters living under all types of housing arrangements,

legal or not legal. The City of New York cannot access any of this information. So, please, encourage all your friends and neighbors to answer the census.

Be assured that answering the census is safe. All census information is kept confidential for 72 years. It's the law! This means that answers cannot be shared with anyone or any organization – including the IRS, FBI, Public Assistance, Immigration or the City of New York.

Answering the census is also easy. In late March, the Bureau of the Census will mail a census form to every household in the five boroughs. Most will receive a questionnaire that takes about 15 minutes to complete and a few will get a longer form that takes about 45 minutes to answer. After you have filled out all the answers, simply mail it on April 1. Even the postage is paid!

If you are not comfortable with English, the Census Bureau can supply information and forms in 59 additional languages via phone or website. For further information about Census 2000, contact the New York City Regional Census Center at (212) 620-7702 or visit the Census Bureau's website at www.census.gov.

PS: To learn all the latest news about benefits for older New Yorkers, don't forget to visit the website of the Department for the Aging at <http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/aging/>.

Herbert W. Stupp is commissioner of New York City's Department for the Aging.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

About The Weekly's financial problems

Dear Editor:

You eloquently described the financial problems of The Ukrainian Weekly in your editorial of October 3, 1999, and provided "the complex answer" in your editorial of October 10, 1999. Since then a number of letters to the editor have appeared that indicate The Weekly's importance and the need to support the publication.

For example, Ihor Gawdiak wrote in the November 28 issue that The Weekly plays an extremely important role in providing information about current developments in Ukraine to the segment of the U.S. population that has the greatest effect on formulating policy towards Ukraine. This presumably refers to the members of Congress to whom The Weekly is being sent at a cost of approximately \$27,000. If Mr. Gawdiak, who is identified as president of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, considers this to be extremely important, why doesn't the UACC assume this cost of \$27,000?

Then, you have readers, such as Boris Danik (December 5) and Ihor Lysyj (December 19) who compare The Weekly to newsmagazines such as Newsweek and Time and particularly Mr. Danik recommends that you raise the price of The Weekly to the same level, i.e. \$2.50 per copy. My subscription to Time costs me 99 cents (Canadian) per issue or \$51.48 per year, whereas The Weekly costs me \$50 (U.S.) per year or \$75 (Canadian), which is almost 50 percent more than Time. As stated in your editorial of October 3, 1999, The Weekly lost a third of its subscribers when it doubled its subscription price in 1995, and I have no doubt that you would lose another third if you substantially raised the price again.

The point is that for your average reader, The Ukrainian Weekly is much less relevant today than it was even five years ago. Today, the Internet has taken over as the basic source of information and if I wish to have current news about Ukraine, there is an abundant choice of it online. With a click of the mouse, I can read the Kyiv Post, Ukraine Today, Ukraine Online, the English Digest of Den (Day), and for those who read Ukrainian, there are many other online sources such as Vechirniy Kyiv, Ukraina Moloda, Halyski Kontrakty, etc. Moreover, there are Ukrainian newsgroups, mailing lists, chat groups and general websites, such as Brama, InfoUkes, Ukemonde and so on, where one can get all the information about Ukraine one wants, and much more.

The Ukrainian Weekly is still interesting, but mostly due to the insightful, in-depth reports of Roman Woronowycz and other members of your staff, as well as various analyses, commentaries and news about American and Canadian diaspora and the like.

I think that the low number of your Canadian subscribers is probably due to the fact that we receive The Weekly with considerable delay (often two or three weeks after publication) and by then most of the news reported therein becomes very old news indeed. Also, there are competing Canadian papers, such as the bilingual Ukrainian News, published in Edmonton, and Ukrainian-language newspapers such as Homin Ukrainy, published in Toronto. These are probably of greater interest to Canadian Ukrainians since they provide more information about events in Canada, in addition to the usual news about Ukraine. Moreover, the weak Canadian dollar doesn't help The Ukrainian Weekly either.

So, what should The Ukrainian Weekly do in order to survive and prosper? As Mr. Gawdiak stated, The Weekly is "an extremely important" Ukrainian American community newspaper and its importance lies much more in the information it provides to non-Ukrainian Americans, such as the members of Congress, libraries, etc., rather than to your average Ukrainian American or Ukrainian Canadian reader, who can readily find a lot of the same information about Ukraine elsewhere, particularly on the Internet.

It is, therefore, organizations such as Mr. Gawdiak's UACC, and particularly the Ukrainian World Congress, which claims to represent 20 million people of the Ukrainian diaspora, that should financially support The Weekly, with no strings attached. It is they that will be the big losers if The Weekly folds. I suggest that The Weekly should approach every major Ukrainian organization in the United States and Canada with a request of assistance, for the reasons outlined above. It is unfair to have only the Ukrainian National Association supporting the publication of The Weekly.

The other major financing of The Weekly should come from expanded advertising. Today, it is e-commerce that leads the way to business development, sales of goods and services and so on. Advertising one's website in a newspaper has become a common thing to do.

The Weekly should expend much greater effort to attract advertising not only from the Ukrainian community, but also from mainstream American business. I noticed that you have started to do this with ads such as the one from Western Union. You should try to attract many more such ads. Procuring large advertising revenues is almost an art, and you should find and hire such an "artist" as quickly as possible. In fact, many community newspapers live exclusively from advertising, while distributing their papers free of charge. Of course, this is not an option for The Weekly, since it must be mailed to its subscribers, but raising your subscription price would, in my view, be a big mistake. You should consider lowering it to get more subscribers and thereby attract more advertisers.

Finally, The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund may be a good stop-gap measure, but in the long run it will not work. Apart from charitable organizations, I know of no business that could be sustained from a long period on charity. Let's face it, publication of The Ukrainian Weekly is a business and its press fund is a charity. It would be far preferable for you to find sufficient revenues from Ukrainian organizations that benefit most from The Ukrainian Weekly's existence and from advertising, as outlined above, rather than from charitable donations. (In this regard, by separate mail, I am sending to you an ad of my own.)

Best wishes of success in the new millennium.

George Primak
Pierrefonds, Quebec

Editor's note: We thank Mr. Primak for his comments, some of which, we hope, are taken to heart by our Ukrainian community and its organizations.

However, we differ with the letter writer on the importance of The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund, which is a significant source of support from readers who value this newspaper.

Also, we ask readers to consider well other providers of information about current events in Ukraine. Yes, there are many sources - many of them new. But there are important questions that need to be consid-

(Continued on page 12)



The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

Coming home to a place you've never been

She sobbed into my shoulder: "Why do I feel so at home? I've never been here before. And why am I crying?!"

We were standing outside a village church in Mykulynychi, in the Hutsul region of the Carpathian Mountains, Ukraine, taking in the view, the people, and the morning.

Edie and I, along with the rest of our tour group, had just been inside at a liturgy celebrating Spasa, the Feast of the Transfiguration of Christ. The wooden church was packed with festively dressed villagers, holding baskets of fruit, herbs and flowers to be blessed at the end of the service. This was the Ukrainian Thanksgiving in mid-August, the celebration of the end of the harvest, a blend of the Christian and the pre-Christian dualism of Ukrainian tradition.

It was 1997, and we were half-way through the folk arts and culture tour I had organized. This was a benevolently selfish exercise to which I had invited fellow travelers. The folks who joined me from across Canada and the United States were an intelligent, highly educated group of enthusiasts, including four weavers, a potter, embroiderers and collectors. Our goal was to see folk art in the museums, meet with craftspeople, and shop!

Along the way, we were embraced by the amazing beauty of the landscape and the people, their generosity and hospitality, as well as by the discomforts and disappointments of a place just getting out from under Soviet conditions.

No matter what the original purpose of the tour, a constant is having at least a few individuals in the group discover their roots in an intense way. They already know that their ancestors came to Canada from Ukraine a century ago, they may still remember the village name, or at least the region, and may still be able to pronounce a few words in what they call "kitchen Ukrainian."

Yet they themselves cannot explain what overcomes them at some moment during the trip. They feel so "at home" even though no relatives remain to be found. And if there are distant relatives awaiting them as the tour bus pulls into the hotel parking lot, the emotions burst forth even though these families had never seen each other before.

All 32 of us, along with our guides and the busdriver - wept as one of our group was greeted with flowers and a traditional kolach (beautifully braided round bread) in Ternopil. Generations, oceans and decades separated the two women, but evaporated with their first embrace. The rest of us became family, too.

There was no one waiting for Edie. She was not really sure why she came on this trip. The daughter of a Swiss father and a Ukrainian mother who came to Canada as a child, she is a successful businesswoman in Central Canada, and an accomplished potter. While she learned Ukrainian as a child and remembered a bit, and knew something about her origins, she grew up High Anglican, as a family compromise between the Ukrainian Catholic and Lutheran faiths of her parents.

Contact with any Ukrainian relatives was lost long ago, especially since one uncle had been sent to Siberia. After her mother passed away, Edie thought there was no one left. She wanted to see the land where her mother was born, and held a sliver of hope of finding someone who at least knew her family.

Used to traveling comfortably, at first she was displeased with some of the inconveniences of the tour. The hotel rooms were adequate, but not deluxe in the least. In Ternopil, there was no hot water in the hotel. The locals were used to this; we were not.

But this inconvenience was so very quickly forgotten over our first dinner in the hotel restaurant. A member of the local militia was celebrating his promotion a few tables away. As the after-dinner band played non-stop, the ladies of our tour danced away with the militia partiers, as well as with their own husbands. When it comes to dancing, European gentlemen do not stick to one partner only, but make sure that all the ladies have been asked, no matter what age, size or shape. We were all home - the band and its waltzes, polkas, tangos and kolomyikas could have been playing in a community hall in Manitoba's Interlake or in Alberta's Kalyna Country.

By the time we departed from Lviv for Paris and then home to Canada, Edie was planning a return trip to find someone of her family. But then someone in our group visited a village near her ancestral home, and heard of people with her family surname. Back in Canada, Edie wrote a general letter to the village, with few specifics, hoping to hear from someone, anyone.

She received a reply from her first cousin, the son of the uncle shipped to the Siberian camps. Her cousin described what had happened to the family since the war.

Edie has family! She is now taking Ukrainian language courses, going to the Ukrainian church and participating in Ukrainian community events. She calls herself a "born-again Ukrainian", and was surprised to learn that this was not her own original term, but one commonly used to describe individuals who have rediscovered their roots.

I have gone back to Ukraine every year since 1997. The place pulls me, even though my very first time there was in 1993. In my mind's eye, at any given moment, I see myself in this museum or that ancient church, walking on medieval cobblestones and village paths, talking to people I had never met before who seem like family, singing songs with the folks there, all of us knowing the same melodies and lyrics.

Ihor, one of our wonderful guides, was right when he welcomed us at the airport in Kyiv upon our arrival.

He said we would not always find luxury (at least not yet, and not at the price our group was willing to pay), but we would be surrounded by culture, history and Ukrainian hospitality. Towards the end of the tour Edie understood this when she sighed, "It's not hard to believe in heaven after a place like this." She was home.

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Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

enforcement agencies that the accident happened on the evening of February 18 when Mr. Marchuk was returning home from work. His car swerved on a slippery road and flipped upside down. (Eastern Economist)

Rada approves deficit-free budget

KYIV – Lawmakers on February 17 voted 252-18 with 22 abstentions to adopt a zero-deficit budget for 2000, with revenues and spending at 33.4 billion hryv (\$6 billion U.S.), Interfax reported. Leftist parliamentary caucuses did not participate in the vote. The lawmakers decided to exclude from the budget bill articles that stipulated changes in tax legislation. The passing of the zero-deficit budget removes a serious obstacle in talks between Ukraine and the International Monetary Fund on resuming the fund's \$2.6 billion loan program. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine's budget sparks criticism

KYIV – Andrii Derkach, a member of the Parliament's Budget Committee, told Interfax on February 18 that Ukraine will soon see that the Economy Ministry made "miscalculations" in the 2000 zero-deficit budget, which was approved by the Verkhovna Rada the last week. Mr. Derkach also criticized the stance of some lawmakers during the voting on the budget, adding that "it is the government that invented this budget, so let the government implement it, while we will only approve it." Meanwhile, Leonid Davydov, a coal mining trade union activist, warned that miners may launch spontaneous protests over insufficient funding for the coal mining sector. The 2000 budget provides for some 1.5 billion hryv (\$268 million U.S.) in subsidies to the sector, while trade unions demanded twice that amount. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukrainian river is contaminated

KYIV – The epidemiological service in Zakarpattia Oblast has said that some water contaminated by cyanide has been discovered in the Tysa River. The use of water from wells has been banned in Ukrainian-Hungarian border villages, and fishing will not be possible for a long time to come. The residents of five Transcarpathian villages situated near the Tysa River have written to the Hungarian government with a collective demand for compensation to be paid for damages resulting from contamination. On February 22 it was reported that monitoring of the state of water pollution was continuing in the zones of the Tysa and Danube rivers. According to the Ukrainian Emergency Ministry, as of the morning of February 22 no cases of poisoning of people or animals had been registered. The level of cyanide and heavy metals in the water was reported as within acceptable norms. (Eastern Economist)

Latvia hosts meeting on war crimes

RIGA – Latvia on February 16-17 hosted an international meeting of investigators and prosecutors who agreed to cooperate in investigating war crimes cases. Officials from the United States, Canada, Germany, Israel, Great Britain and Australia joined their Latvian counterparts in pooling evidence on Konrads Kalejs, and Latvian Prosecutor-General Janis Skrastins said later that "several important elements" were unearthed, the BNS news agency reported. Mr. Skrastins also said the meeting laid the foundations for further cooperation on the Kalejs and other cases. Justice Minister Birkavs told participants, "We have gathered here with one objective to achieve: that all war criminals are called to responsibility." Russian investigators, who had earlier voiced anger over not being invited to the meeting, will be asked to attend talks later this month, officials added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

CE concerned about referendum

KYIV – Hanne Severinsen, a rapporteur from the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, said in the Ukrainian capital on February 17 that she hopes President Leonid Kuchma will suspend holding the April 16 constitutional referendum until the Venetian Commission presents its assessment of the referendum decree, Interfax reported. Ms. Severinsen added that she has invited President Kuchma to take part in a PACE session in Strasbourg in early April at which the Venetian Commission's conclusions are to be discussed. Meanwhile, a late January poll showed that 76 percent of Ukrainians want to take part in the referendum. According to that poll, if the plebiscite were held now, all the questions would be supported by more than 50 percent of those intending to vote. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Troops to learn about Nazi, Soviet crimes

VILNIUS – Members of the Lithuanian army are to start receiving education about crimes against humanity committed by both the Nazis and Soviets. An agreement to that effect was signed on February 21 by the Defense Ministry and the commission investigating Soviet and Nazi war crimes in Lithuania. Special emphasis will be placed on teaching about the Holocaust, reported the BNS news agency. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Zyuganov predicts Estonia-Russia union

TALLINN – The leader of the Russian Communist Party Gennadii Zyuganov told Eesti Paevaleht that in 15 years there could be an Estonian-Russian Union, noting that "historical development in post-Soviet territories is directed at integration." Mr. Zyuganov added, "We regard the disintegration of the Soviet Union as the worst tragedy for all the peoples involved, and so we are going to make our best effort to strengthen integration policy with former Soviet territories." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Clean energy program unveiled

KYIV – Vice Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko on February 18 announced the beginning of the clean energy program. Its aim is to liquidate any potential for abuse and corruption in the energy sector. The first target of the program's work is the nuclear energy field. Its strategic aim is to remove funds from circulation in the shadow sector and direct them towards the social needs of the field, payment of wage arrears and procurement of technical equipment. (Eastern Economist)

Veterans to get Polish pensions

PRAGUE – Ukrainian Television recently reported that former soldiers of the Polish army who now live in Ukraine are rushing to register at the Polish Consulate in Lviv. The Polish authorities have announced they will pay pensions worth \$20 a month to those who took part in the war in 1939 when Germany attacked Poland. The deadline for registration was December 31. (RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report)

Kuchma praises new cooperation

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma believes that Ukraine's executive and legislative branches are now working "very constructively," his spokesman, Oleksander Martynenko, told journalists on February 16. Speaking about the forthcoming vote on confidence in the Parliament in the April 16 referendum, Mr. Martynenko said the vote was proposed in relation to the 14th convocation of the Verkhovna Rada, while "now we have the Verkhovna Rada of the third convocation," Interfax reported. With regard to other questions related to the referendum, Mr. Martynenko said "we need to wait for the Constitutional Court's ruling," adding that the president will take action on the basis of that ruling. (RFE/RL Newsline)

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St. Vladimir Institute ushers in new millennium with a Ukrainian twist

by Larissa Ciupka

TORONTO – You're taking a moonlit stroll on a crisp winter evening. You pass white-washed homes with straw roofs, shops and a domed church. Stars twinkle above. The boughs of evergreen trees sparkle with freshly fallen snow.

Have you been transported back in time to a "selo" (village) in Ukraine? Or are you experiencing Malanka at St. Vladimir Institute – a cultural center and student residence in Toronto – dubbed "the best traditional Malanka in town"? For the 160 revellers who flocked to 620 Spadina Ave. on Friday, January 14, it was the perfect way to bring in the year 2000 – among friends, and with a definitely Ukrainian twist.

The evening began with a cocktail hour. It's not every day you get to hobnob with "chortyky" (little devils) – actually the angelic members of the renowned Arkan Dance Company in disguise – but become engrossed in conversation and your drink may disappear. Or you may receive a kiss from a total stranger (only to discover a sign on your back exhorting others to "Kiss me when my wife isn't looking").

When guests stepped into the dining hall, a magical scene awaited them. Twinkle-lights were strung from the ceiling. Giant canvases of a snow-covered Ukrainian village hung on the walls. Mini-forests of pine trees graced every corner. Terracotta pots sprouting evergreen boughs and red-barked branches served as table centerpieces, adding to the wintry atmosphere.

The decor provided the perfect backdrop for dinner – a veritable feast for the senses. Prepared by Chef Peter Ochitwa of Mad Apples fame, the menu was innovative and, as always, delicious. It appears that haute cuisine has taken a peek at Baba's cookbook: savory syrnok on spinach sauce with crisp fried beets, breast of capon filled with smoked apple kasha, raspberry and red wine sorbet with poppyseed and white chocolate biscotti.

Before the meal was done, a knock on the door heralded carollers dressed as the traditional Malanka characters. There were chumaky, merchants, fortune tellers, talking animals, Hutsuls, gypsy musicians, and the stars of Ukrainian New Year's Eve: the village busy-body Malanka and the dashing Vasyl. Together, everyone carolled, and then Malanka and Vasyl helped distribute door prizes, generously donated by the St. Vlad's board of directors, with many of the gentlemen winners lining up to give Malanka a good luck smooch.



Maria Rypan

Arkan's new Malanka dance bids farewell to the old millennium and ushers in Vasyl – the New Year.

As revellers enjoyed their dessert, coffee and liqueurs, the fortune tellers and merchants made the rounds, telling fortunes and selling trinkets, thus ensuring a prosperous 2000. All present then further guaranteed the next 365 days would be successful ones by "sowing" each other with wheat, wishing their friends and family health and happiness in the New Year.

With appetites sated and the enjoyable task of sowing completed, the merry-makers adjourned to the ballroom, where the Solovey band kept the party going.

Just before midnight the Arkan dancers presented the premiere of their new dance work, Malanka, which integrated the important elements of the New Year's Eve celebrations. Malanka was removed, and Vasyl was ushered in to welcome the New Year. As the dancers extinguished candles in a dramatic finale, everyone joined hands in a circle and sang "De Zhoda v Rodyni" – a song celebrating the love and harmony of close family and friends.

And what better way to welcome in the year 2000! At St. Vladimir Institute in the heart of downtown Toronto, a village of friends gathered to carol, eat, sow, dance and laugh their way into the new millennium.



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Detroit	Alexander Serafyn, (248) 646-5882	3/26/00	Ukrainian Cultural Center, 26601 Ryan Rd., Room 10, Warren, MI 48091	12:00
Chicago	Stefko Kuropas, (847) 923-7458	4/1/00	St. Volodymyr & Olha Cultural Center, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622	1:00
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Ruling on pre-eminence...

(Continued from page 1)

The court ruled that the Ukrainian language is mandatory for government officials while carrying out the duties associated with their official positions and that, beginning with elementary schools up through the university level, Ukrainian must be utilized as the language of the teaching process.

The Constitutional Court also clearly stated that minority languages can be utilized in public schools where it is allowed by law and in the Constitution.

Kyiv responds to attacks

The Russian criticism has brought a full battery of responses from Ukrainian officials in various branches of government.

Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry replied to the Russian complaint – the second one issued from Moscow since the December ruling – by rejecting Russian assertions of discrimination against the Russian ethnic minority in Ukraine and attacking Moscow for its widespread disregard of the language rights of Ukrainians living in the Russian Federation.

The Ukrainian ministry stated that in their fury the organizers of the attack on the Ukrainian Constitutional Court's decision have ignored the fact that the need to strengthen the Ukrainian language is a direct result of decades of forced Russification, which artificially relegated Ukrainian to secondary status. The retort pointed out that, while Ukraine has many Russian-language schools, theaters, books and newspapers, and that minority language rights are enshrined in the Constitution and in normative law, Russia continues to ignore the needs of its large Ukrainian minority.

"In the Russian Federation to this day there is not a single state-supported newspaper, magazine, library or professional theater in Ukrainian, and there are only a handful of schools where the Ukrainian language is taught," reads the statement.

Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry also summoned the temporary Russian chargé d'affaires, Vsevolod Loskutov, on February 14 to discuss the Russian asser-

tions, which it called "groundless accusations by the Russian party with regard to Ukraine on the infringement of language rights of the Russian ethnic minority," according to Interfax-Ukraine.

Ukraine's parliamentary ombudsman, Nina Karpachova went even further and suggested that Russian officials "have stepped outside the limits of their competence and interfered in Ukraine's internal domestic affairs."

In particular she criticized the remarks on human rights violations by Mr. Mironov. Ms. Karpachova explained that a bilateral agreement has been in effect for more than a year, which foresees regular consultations between both countries' ombudsmen on alleged human rights violations. She said that in that time her office has not received a single complaint on human rights abuses due to language discrimination.

A political move?

The latest confrontation between Russia and Ukraine over minority language rights may have more to do with the upcoming Russian presidential elections than a court ruling. Acting President Vladimir Putin's success in stifling the Chechen opposition and his shrewd manipulation of the media has left his opponents grasping for issues to bring attention to themselves. The minority rights of Russians living in the near abroad is just such a subject.

Yurii Bohutskyi, President Leonid Kuchma's aide on cultural affairs, said only one problem exists on the issue of Russian language rights in Ukraine. "There is a problem with unscrupulous politicians trying to use language issues as a means to meet their own ambitions," he said.

Although Mr. Bohutskyi did not name individuals, political experts in Ukraine have suggested presidential candidates Vladimir Zhirinovskiy of the Liberal Democratic Party and Grigorii Yavlinsky of the Yabloko Party, as two who may have put pressure on Russia's Foreign Affairs Ministry to reply to the Ukrainian Constitutional Court decision in order to create a political stir in Russia that would enable them to present themselves as defenders of the Russian culture.

Statistics tell the story

Try as one might, it is difficult to make a case for Russian-language discrimination in contemporary Ukraine. Statistics presented by Ms. Karpachova show that currently more than 3,000 preschools and 5,000 elementary schools in Ukraine teach in Russian and more than half a million students are taught in the Russian language.

Some 90 percent of all books sold in Ukraine are in the Russian language, while 62 percent of the literature found in state-supported libraries is in Russian. Fourteen theaters in Ukraine are Russian-language, while a majority of Ukrainian television programming is also in Russian. Additionally, most newspapers and magazines are printed either exclusively in Russian or in two languages, Russian and Ukrainian.

Ukraine recently has begun to review its language policy and has taken several preliminary steps to assert the dominance of the Ukrainian language, which was given official status as the state language in the Constitution of Ukraine adopted in 1996.

As a result of the Constitutional Court decision, the Cabinet of Ministers under recently appointed Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko has developed a resolution on additional measures to expand and enforce the use of the state language in public institutions. The resolution, which has yet to be signed by Mr. Yushchenko, is a wide-ranging plan for the reinvigoration of the Ukrainian language for the period through 2005.

The document was developed by the Council on Language Policy, which was appointed by President Kuchma and is chaired by First Vice Prime Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Mykola Zhulynskyi.

A comprehensive language policy

On January 27, when the finished document was presented to the government for review, Dr. Zhulynskyi explained that Ukraine needs a comprehensive language policy as a unifying influence within society.

"In Ukraine we must create a normal climate for the acceptance of the Ukrainian language, to raise its prestige and to utilize a series of needed measures so that the language gathers new impulses for further development to become a consolidating factor within our society," said Dr. Zhulynskyi.

Some of the 26 measures proposed by the resolution include:

- developing special courses and seminars to raise the language proficiency of Ukrainian citizens, including representatives of minority groups;
- monitoring the use of the Ukrainian language as the means of communication and correspondence in central and local government bodies in keeping with the Constitutional requirement;
- testing the language proficiency of officials at various levels to motivate them to speak and write in Ukrainian to the extent necessary for competent work performance;
- organizing broad discussions in the mass media regarding the current status of the Ukrainian language and what is needed to raise its authority and prestige to become a consolidating force within society;
- suspending the practice of allowing exceptions to Ukrainian language school instruction in areas that show a predominant minority composition;
- enforcing minimum Ukrainian language requirements for television and radio broadcasts, including private stations, as stipulated in their licenses;
- developing a program for the de-Russification of the sport and tourism spheres;
- utilizing measures to expand sub-



Vice Prime Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Mykola Zhulynskyi, chairman of the Council on Language Policy.

scriptions to Ukrainian-language periodicals in libraries; and

- developing a tariff system for foreign publications imported into Ukraine.

Ukrainian must be predominate

Oleksander Trybushnyi, deputy director of the Department of Language Policy Implementation, said it is time that the state language assume predominance in Ukraine. "We are not ousting the Russian language from its position in today's society. We are saying that the Ukrainian language needs to be supported," explained Mr. Trybushnyi, who is also the secretary of the Council on Language Policy.

At the same time, Mr. Trybushnyi could not adequately explain why the completed Cabinet of Minister's resolution has not yet been signed by the prime minister. He speculated that the normal procedure for review was not yet completed, but also admitted that the outcry from Russia may have stalled the process.

The presidential administration is preparing a parallel decree to be issued by President Kuchma, according to Mr. Trybushnyi. That, too, is stalled in the approval process. Mr. Trybushnyi would only say that it has reached the "upper administrative levels." He cautioned that neither administrative order may be signed before Russia's presidential elections because of the additional discord it may cause between Moscow and Kyiv.

Mr. Trybushnyi also cautioned that miracles should not be expected once the implementation process begins. Although he said he sees a clear willingness on the part of Mr. Kuchma to finally assure a proper place for the Ukrainian language, the council's lack of a vertical organization to the grassroots level will make implementation difficult.

"This will not be a blitz-parade, of course," explained Mr. Trybushnyi. "It will be difficult work. It will depend on the political will of the Cabinet of Ministers and the president."

Patriarch Dymytrii...

(Continued from page 1)

after the death of Patriarch Mstyslav earlier that year. He was enthroned on October 14, 1993.

In his final will and testament Patriarch Dymytrii asked that the UAOC maintain a close working relationship with the diaspora portion of the Church in the U.S. and asked that Metropolitan Constantine, the leader of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. – to whom he referred as "metropolitan of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church" and "successor to Patriarch Mstyslav" – become the leader of the worldwide UAOC.

Funeral services for Patriarch Dymytrii will take place on February 29 at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Lviv.

Young Canadians return from internships in Ukraine

OTTAWA – Six young Canadians returned to Ottawa on February 21 after a half-year internship in Ukraine. They were participants in the International Youth Internship Program funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and administered by the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE).

"This is a win-win situation. We send recent university and college graduates on these internships abroad and they return to Canada with professional experience that helps them to find attractive jobs," says Jennifer Humphries, director, for membership and Canadian services at the CBIE. "The hosts in Ukraine benefit from having eager young Canadian professionals working within their organizations. And the special partnership between Canada and Ukraine is further strengthened."

The Ukrainian Canadian community numbers 1 million, and the CIDA/CBIE program drew on that group for interns, although not exclusively. "It's terrific to have so many young Canadians with Ukrainian and Russian language skills, no matter what their own background," said Ms. Humphries.

This particular group of young people included recent graduates from universities across Canada: Michael Barnycz of Toronto (University of Guelph), Ryerson Polytechnic University); Orest Dykyj of Hamilton (Carleton University); Lynn Kasinska of Vancouver (Carleton University); Sandra Rezanoff of Swift Current, Sask. (Queen's University, University of Saskatchewan), Tamara Romas of Montreal (McGill University), Jeffrey Stepnisky of Winnipeg (University of Alberta), and Peter Steponaitis of Etobicoke (Queen's University, University of Windsor). They hold either undergraduate or master's degrees in specializations such as economics, political science, history, rural planning and development, public administration, journalism and social psychology.

The host organizations in Ukraine included the United Nations Development Program, Democratic Initiatives Foundation, the Ukrainian Academy of Public Administration. The latter offered internships in Kyiv, Lviv,

(Continued on page 11)

Pianist Vitaliy Samoshko of Kharkiv to debut in New York on March 6

NEW YORK – Twenty-six-year-old pianist Vitaliy Samoshko of Kharkiv, winner of the 1999 Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition of Belgium, who is currently on a world concert tour, will make his New York debut on Monday, March 6, at The Metropolitan Museum in a program of works by Schubert, Schumann, Scriabin and Prokofiev.

The concert will be held in the Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium, main floor, Egyptian Wing, beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets at \$15 may be ordered in advance by calling (212) 570-3949, or purchased at the Box Office which opens at 7 p.m.

Mr. Samoshko received his musical training at the Kharkiv Conservatory. He began studying with Leonid Margarius in 1985 and went on to win a series of prizes starting with the Busoni Competition in 1993, followed by the Senigalia Competition in 1995, the Montreal Competition in 1996 and the Rubinstein Competition in 1998.

As laureate of the prestigious Queen Elisabeth competition, which counts musicians of the highest caliber among its prize winners, Mr. Samoshko has a two-year contract for concertizing in Europe, the United States and Asia.

Mr. Samoshko, who currently is continuing his studies in Imola, Italy, has been concertizing and giving recitals in Ukraine, Russia, Australia, South Africa and across Europe. His last appearance in Kyiv was on November 26, 1999, where he appeared in recital at the National Music Academy in a concert



Sébastien van der Straten

Pianist Vitaliy Samoshko

sponsored by the Embassy of Belgium of Ukraine.

This year, he is touring Japan, Lebanon and the United States, where apart from New York, he will appear in recital in Savannah, Georgia on March 8. He will also perform at the Tonhalle Zürich, at the Châtelet in Paris, as well as in Canada in July.

Mr. Samoshko's New York concert has been made possible thanks to the support of the European Union Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce in Belgium.

COMMENTARY: Kyiv arts festival demonstrates devotion to Ukraine

by Oksana Rodak

KYIV – Songs have lifted the Ukrainian spirit for hundreds of years. For those Ukrainians who live beyond Ukraine's borders, songs are a reminder of their native land; they seem to make boundaries disappear and establish close ties to Ukraine. Nations of the world have come to recognize Ukraine through her singing tradition.

Last October 19, the stage of the National Opera of Ukraine was filled with Ukrainians who came from far away to perform their beloved songs and to visit Ukraine. Almost 500 artists came from the United States, Canada, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Slovakia, Moldova, Romania, Poland, Belarus, Russia, and Kazakhstan. Amateurs and professionals, singers, dancers and musicians, congregated at the Arts Festival of Ukrainian Ethnographic Lands and the Diaspora. The concert was one of the closing events of the All-Ukrainian Folk Festival of the Arts in which every region of Ukraine took part and presented its own musicians, dancers, instrumentalists, poets, painters, masters of embroidery and other crafts.)

The United States was represented by composers Ihor Sonevtsky, Yuri Oliynyk and bandurist Olha Herasymenko-Oliynyk. Piano duo Ireneus and Luba Zuk, bandurist Victor Mishalow and this writer represented Canada.

The Perlyna Children's Choir of Kyiv was formed three years ago under the sponsorship of the international women's organization Zhinocha Hromada. Thirty-five children age 10-16 meet three times a week to sing, rehearse and perform Ukrainian songs and world classics.

In Kyiv the choir has performed at the Ukrainian National Academy of Music, the Ukrainian House, the Teacher's Building and at various museums. Performing at the opera was a huge undertaking for the young choir. What follows are the Kyiv children's perspectives on the concert.

We, of the children's choir, were incredibly moved by our experience at the National Opera. There were so many rehearsals, and so much work! Finally, the day arrived; we could not believe that we were actually singing on the same stage that saw such great names as Borys Hmyria, Maria Lytvynenko-Volhermut, Solomiya Krushelnytska, Oleksander Myshuha. Our great moment in our short "history" was now upon us. After two extremely tiring dress rehearsals, we felt as if we had been here our entire lives, as I've had always been a part of the back-stage environment.

We listened to the other performers and especially enjoyed Canadian pianists Ireneus and Luba Zuk, as they performed "Ethnic Dance" by Roger Matron. The Moscow choir Chuyesh Brate Mii conducted by Oleksander Semaka, sang very well. We found out that the group from Kazakhstan had traveled for four days by train to sing at this festival.

Olha Zhurbenko, 15, commented: "What a celebration! What an unusual atmosphere! I met Ukrainians from Poland and Russia and could not believe that total strangers were talking to each other as if they were old friends!"

Oleksandra Labunska, 16, was also changed by this experience. She said: "It's comforting to know that Ukrainians who live thousands of kilometers away do not forget about Ukrainian culture."

Finally, we walked onto the stage. It

Oksana Rodak is founder and conductor of the Perlyna Children's Choir of Kyiv.

seemed as if all of Ukraine, all 50 million were watching. At that moment we realized the responsibility which was required of each of us to have a successful performance. The master of ceremonies made the first announcement – "Song of Youth," words by Ivan Bahrianiy, music by Hryhoriy Kytasty. Our voices rang out, "...nema toyi syiy schob vesnu spynyla..." (there is no power that can stop spring from coming...), confirming love of life, belief in oneself and a better future.

We must have convinced the audience; the moment we stopped singing there was thunderous applause and shouts of "Bravo!" We did not want to leave the stage and could have sang on and on. After the performance, we were extremely excited and hugged each other!

For the finale, all the choirs sang "Prayer for Ukraine" (by Mykola Lysenko/Oleksander Koshetz). We watched as the audience rose to their feet, singing with us. We all had tears in our eyes! The song united all of us!

For 15-year old Anna Kurza, this festival helped remind her that there are many patriotic Ukrainians who live outside of Ukraine. Anna Stavychenko, 14, now understands how lucky she is to be a part of a nation that so deeply loves its country and its songs. Twelve-year old Evhen Kirienco most enjoyed the television broadcast of the concert. "We looked very serious, like true artists – 'narodni artysty.'"

Events of this nature are truly uplifting. The organizing institutions – the Ukrainian Ministry of Culture and Arts, the State Committee on Nationality and Migration, the Ukraine World Society and the All-Ukrainian Coordinating Council – must be congratulated.

This festival proved that the 22 million Ukrainians who live outside of Ukraine's borders, know no boundaries. They will come together because of their deep devotion, love and respect for Ukraine.

For the Kyiv children, this was a life-changing experience and an event they will always cherish. All the long rehearsals, the constant striving for excellence, and the sleepless nights were well worth the end result. These children will continue to strive for new artistic heights!

Young Canadians...

(Continued from page 10)

Odesa and Dnipropetrovsk. Their work encompassed public relations, policy development, education and public administration.

The group is to participate in a re-entry debriefing in Ottawa to provide direction in finding suitable employment, hopefully incorporating their new international experience. In fact, in this regard, theirs is already a success story. Mr. Dykyj flew in a week early to start a job at the Communications Research Center in Ottawa, a position which he is convinced he got in part because of this internship. Another of the original interns, Margaret Duda of Saskatoon has remained in Ukraine, where she was quickly scooped up by a prestigious international school.

Their days in Ottawa will also give the interns an opportunity to share their experiences with the CBIE, the national organization that sent them abroad, as well as with the CIDA, the program founder.

The CBIE is an Ottawa-based national organization comprising 110 member colleges and universities. More information about the CBIE can be found at <http://www.cbie.ca>. For further information about CIDA and its youth internships visit <http://acdi-cida.org>.

Lviv Opera production of "Moses" to celebrate second millennium

PARAMUS, N.J. — The Lviv Opera Theater named after Ivan Franko will be celebrating the conclusion of the second millennium of Christianity and the centennial of its own existence with the production of a new opera titled "Moses." The opera, based on the poem by the same name written by Ivan Franko, is composed by Myroslaw Skoryk, with libretto by B. Stelmakh. The work is slated to have its premiere at the Lviv Opera Theater in October.

Although still in the very early stages, the event has already received the blessing, support and some preliminary

financing from Pope John Paul II, President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Ivan Pliusch, as well as many leaders of the opera world in Italy, Poland, Russia and other countries.

A centennial celebration committee for the production of the opera has been formed in the United States, with Walter Prochorenko, as chairman. The committee's main function will be to seek funding to defray the costs of the production, and to promote the event. Mr. Prochorenko may be contacted by calling (212) 658-9220; (201) 909-0073; or by e-mail at: LvivOpera@email.com.



Interior of the Lviv Opera Theater.

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Russia afraid...

(Continued from page 2)

More harsh were the February 10 comments made by Oleg Mironov, Russia's human rights commissioner, who said that Ukraine's restriction of the official and business use of the Russian language "is a gross and explicit violation of the norms of civilized relations among peoples and of the basic rights and freedoms of citizens proclaimed by the European Convention, to which Ukraine is a signatory," according to ITAR-TASS.

Mr. Mironov urged international organizations such as the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to increase their monitoring of the situation. "The scale of language discrimination [in Ukraine] is massive and unprecedented," Mr. Mironov noted, adding that the Ukrainization campaign has affected the interests of more than 50 percent of Ukrainian citizens who consider Russian their native tongue.

Yurii Bohutskyi, an official from the Ukrainian presidential administration, rejected Mr. Mironov's accusations. Mr. Bohutskyi told ITAR-TASS that Russian is the language of instruction for 31.7 percent of Ukraine's schoolchildren. Moreover, Russian is taught as a subject in all Ukrainian schools. He added that 25.3 percent of children in pre-school establishments are brought up in Russian.

According to Ukraine's 1989 census, 64 percent of the population declared Ukrainian their native language, while 31 percent gave Russian that status (9 percent were ethnic Ukrainians who considered Russian their native tongue).

These figures, however, give a somewhat false impression of the language situation in Ukraine insofar as "native language" in Ukraine (as is the case in the far more Russified Belarus) seems to mean something other than the language people prefer to use in everyday life. Recent studies have found that some 40 percent of Ukraine's population are Ukrainians who prefer to speak Ukrainian, some 33 percent are ethnic Ukrainians who prefer Russian, and some 20 percent are ethnic Russians who prefer Russian. (By comparison, the 1999 census in Belarus found that some 82 percent of the population think their native language is Belarusian, but only 36.7 percent speak Belarusian at home.)

If the above-mentioned studies are accurate, then a majority (some 53 percent) of Ukrainian citizens prefer to speak Russian. However, Mr. Mironov's comment that more than 50 percent of Ukrainian citizens consider Russian their native tongue is basically untrue. Most Ukrainian citizens still regard Ukrainian as their mother tongue in the sense that it is the language of their indigenous cultural and ethnic heritage, which is essentially non-Russian. Whether they actively use Ukrainian in their daily life is another question.

About The Weekly's...

(Continued from page 7)

ered before readers can come to rely on them as providers of accurate and meaningful information. Are they trustworthy? What are their sources, who are their correspondents? Do they have responsible journalists/editors? Do they verify the information they disseminate? For whom is the information prepared? How is the information presented?

We at The Weekly have a track record of providing reliable and meaningful information, written expressly for our readership outside of Ukraine, as well as an editorial staff that has both training and experience. Thus, we would argue with Mr. Primak that not all things are equal and not all sources of news can be accepted at face value. Finally, not everything packaged online as "information" qualifies as such.

Ontario UCC...

(Continued from page 1)

continue to believe that every Canadian has the right to his or her own viewpoint. However, that right of free speech does not extend to using the Canadian postal system for the purpose of sending a letter whose contents are demeaning and racist. I therefore immediately reported the incident to the Sudbury Police and have forwarded the information to Toronto, where the letter-writer allegedly lives. I intend to pursue my complaint to the full extent of the law."

Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, director of research for the UCCLA, observed: "Racist and hate crime incidents directed against individuals within Canada's Ukrainian community and against our community centers, churches and cemeteries, appear to be on the rise. We believe that the extremists who have expended considerable resources over decades propagating the unsubstantiated allegation that there are Nazis hiding within our community should be held responsible for the threats and hate graffiti that have been aimed against our group in recent years."

He added: "We will respond vigorously, and to the full extent of the law, to expose these perpetrators and secure convictions against anyone, regardless of ethnic, religious or racial heritage, who engages in hate crimes against any member or institution in our communities. We call upon all fair-minded Canadians to join us in condemning these tactics directed at those who do not conform to their narrow versions of historical truth and justice."

Commenting to The Weekly, Dr. Luciuk stated: "We have, all too often, allowed these occasional incidents of harassment, intimidation and threats against community activists to go by the wayside. Perhaps it is time to make it plain that there are fanatics out there who, in a cowardly manner,

are intent on defaming Ukrainians and undermining our efforts to ensure that justice, fair play and truth win out."

It was during the night of June 20, 1999, that the Ukrainian Cultural Center in downtown Toronto was defaced with graffiti suggesting the center was a gathering place for Nazis. At the time UCC Ontario and UCCLA activists expressed the community's outrage, and suggested that such incidents were fallout from the Canadian government's unfocused effort in prosecuting World War II era war criminals and loose reporting on the subject in the mainstream media. Officers from the Toronto Police Hate Crimes Unit were assigned to the case, but its investigations proved inconclusive. The city's Graffiti Removal Unit arrived only two weeks after the incident to cover up the hateful message that stated: "Nazi SS here: corrupting children, sh..... on them."

In his letter to the editor of the Toronto Star, Mr. Halchuk had written:

"The hateful words spray-painted on the Ukrainian Cultural Center on Christie Street are only the tip of the iceberg. Hate crimes and xenophobic incidents against Ukrainians are on the increase. We are now in the process of documenting Ukrainophobic incidents on the Internet and in our neighborhoods.

"The outrage in our community is only matched by the fear that there is tacit approval for this type of cowardly act. I have been asked what type of social and political climate permits this sort of desecration? Especially so close to Canada Day [July 1]. I don't have an answer, but I'm certain that this cannot be one of the ways we as Canadians welcome immigrants.

"I believe it is Ottawa's policy on denaturalization and deportation that may be fanning these fires of hate. Our community centers throughout Ontario have been alerted, and we trust the Toronto Police will quickly locate these perpetrators of hate."

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Ostap S. Kosovych, 55, a well-known defense system planner and analyst, died of pancreatic cancer February 12 at Arlington Hospital.

Dr. Kosovych was born in Ukraine and came to this country in 1948. He grew up in New York City. He was a graduate of the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, receiving his Ph.D. in electrical engineering in 1972. He was employed by the Institute for Defense Analyses for 20 years, then served as a senior staff member of Massachusetts Institute of Technology/Lincoln Laboratory for four years. In these positions he was a major contributor to the development of plans and system architectures for ballistic missile defense. Most recently he was a Technical Group Manager with XonTech, Inc., where he played a leading and vital role in defining and shaping the radars and other sensors for the National Missile Defense Program. He will be greatly missed by his professional friends and colleagues.

Dr. Kosovych is survived by his parents, Dmytro and Stefania Kosovych, his children, Stefan, Danylo and Andre Kosovych, his brother Andrey Kosovych; his companion, Mary Anne Bright; and his former wife, Linda Kosovych.



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DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF UNA BRANCHES*of*

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

*announces that***ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING***will be held on*

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2000 at 2:00 PM

at the UNA Home Office

2200 Route 10, Parsippany, NJ 07054

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:

25, 27, 37, 42, 70, 76, 133, 134, 142, 170, 171, 172, 182, 214, 234, 286, 287, 322, 340, 371, 490

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

Meeting will be attended by:

UNA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
and MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

District Committee:

Eugene Oscislawski, District Chairman

Mark Datzkiwsky, Secretary

Andre Worobec, Treasurer

Honorary District Chairman:

Volodymyr Bilyk John Chomko

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF UNA BRANCHES*of*

CONNECTICUT

*announces that its***ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING***will be held on*

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2000 at 2:00 PM

at St. Michael Ukr. Catholic Church Hall

569 George St., New Haven, CT, 06511

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:

12, 59, 67, 253, 254, 277, 350, 387, 414

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

Meeting will be attended by:

ULANA BIACHUK - UNA PRESIDENT*District Committee:*

Ihor Hayda

Stephan Tarasiuk

Taras Siewitsky

ANNUAL MEETING*of***DISTRICTS OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY***will be held on*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2000, at 1:00 PM

at the St. Michael Church Hall

1700 Brooks Blvd., Manville, N.J.

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:

26, 155, 168, 209, 269, 312, 349, 353, 372

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

Meeting will be attended by:

Martha Lysko, UNA National Secretary

Jaroslav Zaviysky, UNA Auditor

District Committee:

Michael Zacharko, District Chairman

John Kushnir, Secretary

John Babyn, Treasurer

Business in brief*(Continued from page 3)*

routes, and trade and cooperation between the foreign ministries of both countries. Other documents planned for signing include an agreement on eliminating double taxation, on international and sea transportation, and an agreement on tourism. The trade volume between the countries in 1999 was \$102.7 million (U.S.), down from \$120 million (U.S.) in 1998. Cyprus is the fourth largest investor in Ukraine, following the United States, the Netherlands and Germany. (Eastern Economist)

Reemstma prepares new product launch

KYIV – The Kyiv tobacco plant Reemstma plans to launch a new product on the market in the first half of 2000, said the head of the tobacco department, Pavlo Soloviev. The type of product has not been disclosed, but “in recent years, the company has been aiming to produce low-nicotine cigarettes,” said Mr. Soloviev. Reemstma refines 80 percent of domestically produced tobacco. (Eastern Economist)

AN-140 aircraft undergoing certification

KYIV – The certification works for the AN-140 under low-temperature conditions are 90 percent complete. The certificate is expected to be received in April-May of this year. The AN-140 is capable of carrying 52 passengers, with maximum speed of 575 kilometers per hour and carry up to 6 tons of cargo. The AN-140 was designed to replace the outdated AN-24 model. (Eastern Economist)

Final TU-160 planes delivered to Russia

KYIV – The remaining two TU-160 strategic bombers flew off to Russia on February 21. The planes were the last of the group of 11 bombers that Russia received for compensation for Ukraine’s gas debts. The price of the bombers was agreed upon at \$285 million (U.S.). Russia also received service stations and over 600 air-to-air missiles for TU-95MC and TU-160 bombers. (Eastern Economist)

Automaker sets 2000 production goals

KYIV – The VAT ChernihivAvtoDetal automobile plant, ex-subsiary of Gorkov Avtomobile Plant or GAZ in Russia, plans to produce around 4,500 cars in 2000. In 1999 the plant produced 2,000 cars. The cargo trucks GAZ-3307 and Gazel models have been assembled at the plant since 1998, and Volgas since 1999. In 2000 the plant started producing Sobol models, which may be produced as both cargo and passenger vehicles. The general manager of the plant, Ihor Latynskyi, said the plant was able to agree for supply of parts from GAZ sufficient for the assembly of 4,000 vehicles. The plant is also starting the production of its own spare parts for the vehicles. (Eastern Economist)

Tax breaks for wine, cognac producers

KYIV – The Cabinet of Ministers has reinstated tax breaks on imported raw materials for the production of champagne wines, cognac and grape wines. Taking into account the lack of raw materials for production of wines on the domestic market, such breaks would enable producers to receive 3.7 million liters of raw material in 1999-2000, produce 15 million bottles of champagne and sparkling wine, 1.7 million deciliters of grape wines and 500,000 decaliters of cognac. Additional income to the state budget is forecast at 91 million hrv. (Eastern Economist)

Rada sets new import duties on cigarettes

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on November 19, 1999, introduced new import duty rates on cigarettes that will remain in effect until July 1, 2000. The new import duty rate on filter cigarettes is 10 hrv per 1,000 units and 7 hrv per 1,000 units of non-filter cigarettes. According to Ukrainian legislators, the new law will help combat cigarette smuggling and stimulate growth in domestic cigarette production. (Eastern Economist)

SPF will sell stakes in energy companies

KYIV – Starting in the fourth quarter of 1999 through the first quarter of 2001, the State Property Fund will announce quarterly three to five tenders for the sale of stakes in energy companies. The SPF will attempt to sell stakes in three regional power-generating companies by the end of 1999. The companies show the lowest figures in the industry in terms of volumes of payment for energy supplied to the market. (Eastern Economist)

Pro hockey...*(Continued from page 15)*

“He has his system and all the drills are geared toward that system,” said Lightning left-winger Shawn Burr.

Ludzik holds two-star, three-star and four-star practices. Four-star practices are the most demanding, while two-star practices are the easy ones, usually reserved for the day before a game. Ludzik’s tough workouts last about an hour and 10 minutes, but have been cut to about 45 minutes since Christmas. There are never any water breaks.

“They are definitely the fastest-paced practices I’ve ever had,” said former Toronto Maple Leafs’ left-winger Fredrik Modin, who was traded to Tampa Bay early this season.

“His practices are right to the point,” said Lightning forward Stan Drulia, who was with the Vipers the past three years. “He has a name for everything and he uses

terminology that, if you’re not used to it, is hard to understand. Like, he’ll say, ‘Let’s do the Boom-Boom.’ Me, (center) Dan Kesa and defenseman Ian Herbers have played for him before, so we know what he’s up to. Other guys will look at us like, ‘What’s he talking about?’”

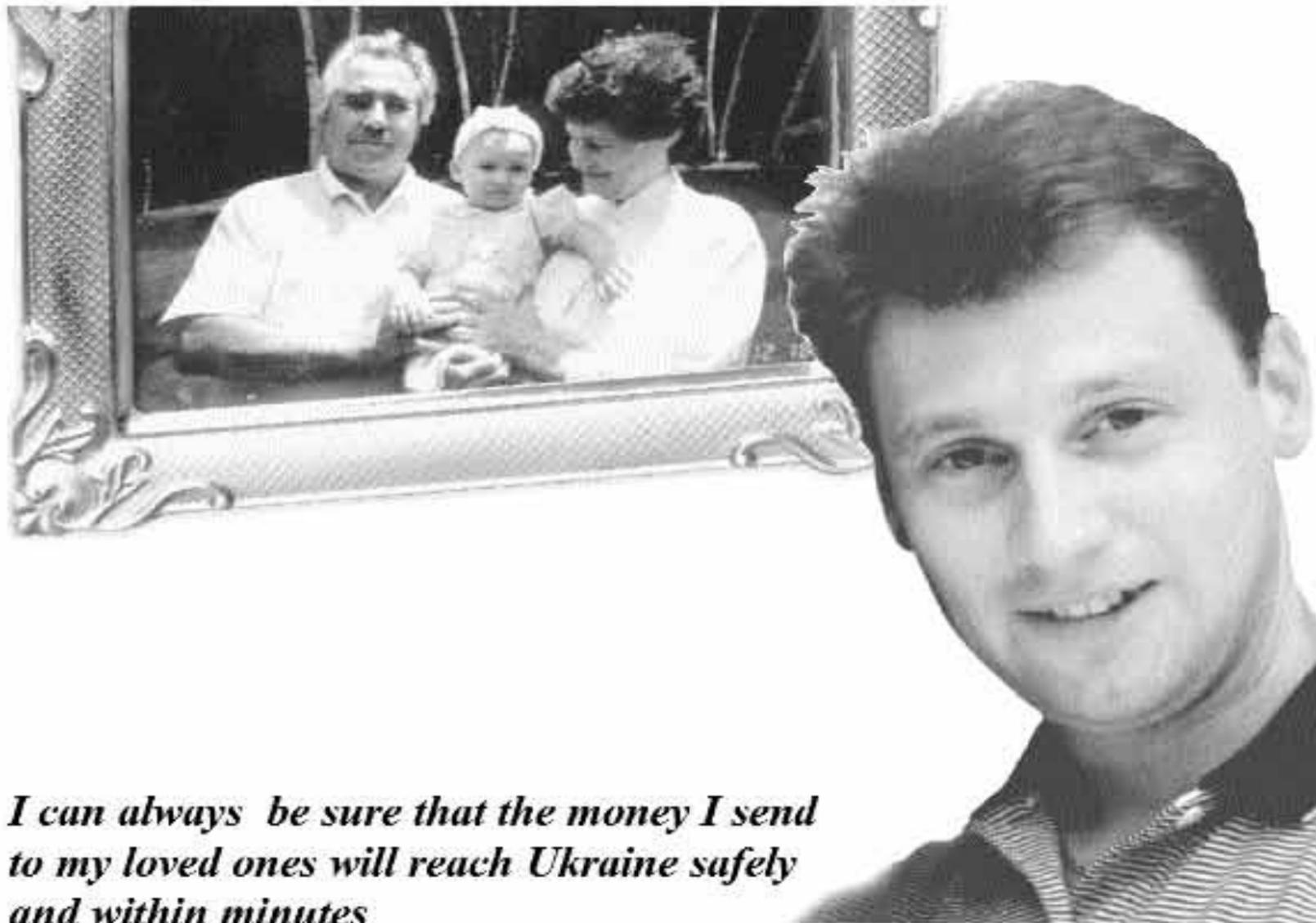
Whether Ludzik’s philosophy will translate into success in the NHL remains to be seen. The Lightning currently stand at 12-36-6 in their first year under his guidance.

“No matter what players are being paid, today’s athletes still want to win,” Ludzik said. “I’ve told the guys this is a great opportunity for them. Nobody expects anything from this team, so we have a chance to sneak up on some people. To do that we have to be committed to learning and working hard.”

And, if all goes well, Ludzik won’t be stuck at the bottom end of the coaches’ pay scale for too long.

(Quotations courtesy of senior writer Mike Brophy and The Hockey News.)

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday-Sunday, March 3-5

NEW YORK: Jacques Hnizdovsky's woodcuts and linocuts will be on exhibition and for sale at William Greenbaum Fine Prints at the "Works on Paper Show" (featuring 90 dealers) in Booth C8 at the Park Avenue Armory at 67th Street. (Admission: \$12. Hours: Friday, noon-8 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-7 p.m.) For more information call William Greenbaum, (978) 283-0112.

Sunday, March 5

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.: The Ukrainian Dancers of Miami Inc. present a whirlwind afternoon of dance and song in "A Ukrainian Montage," their eighth annual concert, featuring the Ukrainian Dancers of Miami, Trio Maksymowich and acclaimed bandurist Yarko Antonevych. The concert begins at 2 p.m. in the Amaturo Theater at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 201 SW Fifth Ave. Admission is \$15; for tickets call the AutoNation Box Office, (954) 462-0222. For more information call Donna Maksymowich-Waskiewicz, (954) 434-9753, or visit the website <http://www.UkrainianDancersMiami.org>.

Monday, March 6

EDMONTON: The 34th annual Shevchenko Lecture, sponsored by the Ukrainian Professional and Business Club of Edmonton, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta, and Ukrainian Resource and Development Center, Grant MacEwan Community College, will focus on the topic "Ukrainians in the Western Media: A Malignant Minority?" Speakers are Chrystia Freeland, deputy editor, The Globe and Mail; and Roma Hadzewycz, editor-in-chief, The Ukrainian Weekly. The lecture is at 7 p.m. at the Grant MacEwan's City Center Campus, Building 5, Conference Theater (Room 142), corner of 104th Avenue and 105th Street. For information call Olia Briggs or Eleanor Witiuk at (703) 492-2973.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute seminar series presents "New Thoughts on the Bohdan Khmelnytskyi-Aleksei Mikhailovich Relationship in the 1650s," with Peter D. Brown, professor of Russian and East European History, Rhode Island College. The lecture will be held in the HURI Seminar Room, 1583 Massachusetts Ave., at 4-6 p.m. and will be followed by an open discussion. For further information contact Lubomyr Hajda, (617) 495-4053.

Wednesday, March 8

TORONTO: St. Vladimir Institute and the University of Toronto Ukrainian Students Club present "Shevchenko's Zapovit" which, with 150 translations, inspired people in many lands with a vision for a new world. Find out why! Recitations in several languages, lecture by librarian Tony Rocchi, performance by young bandurists. Lecture/performance will be held at the

Institute, 620 Spadina Ave., at 7-9 p.m. Fee: \$10. For informational call (416) 923-3318.

Sunday, March 12

NEW YORK: Come one! Come all! The New York City Branch of the Plast Ukrainian Youth Organization invites the public to its 48th annual "novatska kostiumivka" featuring "The Circus!" The children's costume play will begin at 2:30 p.m. in the gymnasium of St. George's Ukrainian Catholic School located at the corner of Taras Shevchenko Place and Sixth Street.

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art is holding a group show of paintings and works on paper titled "Surface Impressions." Taking part in the exhibit are Christine Basick, Guy Benson and Jessica Gondek of Chicago, along with Vladimir Zabeida of Montreal. The artists are linked by a formal concern with surface and texture. Although their approaches veer from tight geometric configuration to warm and highly textured surfaces, they share a concern with charging the spatial plane and developing compositions of rigor and energy. The exhibit runs through April 16. The institute is located at 2320 W. Chicago Ave.; telephone, (773) 227-5522.

Saturday, March 18

WARREN, Mich.: The Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Detroit Regional Council, is celebrating its 75th anniversary with a program and dinner to be held at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church Parish Center at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25. Sponsor tickets also are available. For further ticket information and table reservations for 10, to be made by March 11, call Martha Jovanovic (after 6 p.m), (810) 939-8166. Tickets are available also at Eko Gallery and Ukrainian credit unions.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday-Sunday, March 18-19, and March 25-26

LOS ANGELES: The documentary film, "Eternal Memory: Voices from the Great Terror," about the Stalinist purges and terror in the former Soviet Union during the late 1930s and 1940s, will show at the Laemmle Sunset Theater on March 18 and 19 at 10 a.m. each day and at the Laemmle Monica Theater on March 25-26 at 11 a.m. each day. The film, directed by David Pultz, centers on western Ukraine and includes historical footage and interviews with witnesses and survivors, historians and public officials. The historians include Roman Szporluk of Harvard University, Robert Conquest of Stanford University and Zbigniew Brzezinski, former U.S. national security advisor. Most of the film was shot on location in Ukraine and took six years to complete. The film is narrated by Meryl Streep. It has been to a number of major international film festivals. Last October it was included in the Molodist International Film Festival in Kyiv.

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