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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

House passes bill to combat trafficking of human beings

by Chadwick R. Gore

WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives on May 10 adopted the "Trafficking Victim's Protection Act," a bill sponsored by Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.), aimed at combating the buying and selling of human beings into the commercial sex industry, slavery, or slavery-like conditions. The bill had 37 co-sponsors, including Rep. Sam Gejdenson (D-Conn.) and Commissioner Reps. Frank R. Wolf (R-Va.), Joseph R. Pitts (R-Pa.), and Louise McIntosh Slaughter (D-NY).

Last July, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the OSCE participating states to adopt or strengthen legislation and enforcement mechanisms that would punish those who forcibly or fraudulently recruit and transport individuals within or across borders in order to force them into the commercial sex industry.

At a November 1999 summit meeting, the OSCE participating states also pledged in the Charter for European Security to "undertake measures to ...[end] all forms of trafficking in human beings" including "the adoption or strengthening of legislation to hold accountable persons responsible for these acts and strengthen[ing] the protection of victims."

"Trafficking in human beings is a form of modern-day slavery," said Rep. Smith. "The international community has made it clear that lawmakers must declare war on those who commit these crimes. The House of Representatives today recognized that U.S. prosecutors need greater tools to convict and imprison criminals who traffic in human beings."

"The central principle behind this legislation," he continued, "is that anyone who knowingly profits from the most severe forms of trafficking should receive punishment commensurate with that given to those who commit other serious crimes, such as kidnapping or rape. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act will strengthen U.S. laws and penalties against trafficking so that the United States will become the last place that traffickers want to commit their crimes. Enactment of the Trafficking Victim's Protection Act into law will represent a direct fulfillment of the OSCE human rights commitment made last November in Istanbul," said Rep. Smith.

"This legislation ... will be helpful for those who are seeking a way out of situa-

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Yushchenko sees Washington visit as a success

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko said on May 17 that he had fulfilled all his objectives during his visit to the United States and expressed satisfaction with the results of talks with U.S. leaders and world financial organization representatives.

The prime minister's visit was seen as critical to U.S.-Ukraine strategic relations with various high-level issues on the agenda, including Ukraine's entry into the World Trade Organization, the closure of the damaged Chernobyl nuclear facility and the International Monetary Fund's continuing financing for Ukraine, which came under attack after critical reports — chiefly issued by the Western press but also by U.S. officials — of financial improprieties and reporting irregularities within Ukraine's central bank.

During a meeting with foreign businessmen in Kyiv a week after his return from Washington Mr. Yushchenko said the visit had exceeded his expectations.

"We fulfilled all the goals that we put before ourselves and then some," Prime Minister Yushchenko stated.

High on Ukraine's economic agenda is the country's inclusion in the WTO and the trade benefits that would result. On his return from Washington on May 10 after two days of meetings, including talks with President Bill Clinton, Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, as well as with



Reps. Curt Weldon and Marcy Kaptur present Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko with photo memento of the Capitol Building as his interpreter looks on. The presentation occurred during a reception hosted by the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus (see story on page 3).

directors of the IMF and the World Bank, Mr. Yushchenko said the U.S. fully supports Ukraine's entry into the WTO and would offer comprehensive consulting and technical assistance. He said he expected that Kyiv would make a strong push for entry into the organization during the WTO's June meeting in Geneva.

The prime minister said U.S. officials backed the measures Ukraine is taking in moving forward on economic reforms and

that they "understand the principles and measures which the government is carrying out in keeping with its economic agenda for the current year." He said Washington also supported his efforts to curb corruption and reduce the shadow economy by putting pressure on businesses to eliminate non-monetary transactions and barter.

During discussions on the large-scale pri-

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Ukraine's prime minister promises improved climate for foreign investors

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — While addressing foreign businessmen on May 17 during a seminar on the investment climate in Ukraine, Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko said the government will protect the rights of foreign investors in their economic activity in the country.

"We want the foreign investor to feel safe. We are ready to guarantee that there will be no problems removing capital from the country should a project fail," said Mr. Yushchenko.

Ukraine has not attracted foreign capital in large numbers in the nearly nine years since its markets opened up to the world mostly because of extensive bureaucratic red tape and corruption that have left foreign companies reluctant to risk their capital. The country has received merely \$3.25 billion in foreign investments — about a third of what has flowed into neighboring Poland.

Some of those who have taken the plunge have had to adjust to laws that hinder their work and taxes that have

eaten up their profits; some have suffered losses through unfair trade practices.

Mr. Yushchenko said that a new era in investor relations has begun, pointing to how the economic climate in Ukraine is changing to make it more accommodating to businesses.

He explained that the watershed was the passage of a balanced budget for 2000, which will release the country's financial resources — for years held hostage by the government's need to borrow to cover its budget deficits — to investors.

He said that inflation, although running at about a 12 percent clip in the first quarter of the year, will remain low because the government plans to adhere to a tight fiscal policy. The prime minister underscored that in the first four months of 2000 his government has not borrowed a single "kopyyka" on either domestic or international currency markets.

"I believe we will continue to fight inflation successfully and will not go out-

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Tkachenko's finances under investigation

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — A parliamentary ad hoc investigative committee on May 16 accused former Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Oleksander Tkachenko of failing to properly administer more than 50 million hrv (\$9.3 million) in government funds and recommended that the procurator general review the matter to determine whether criminal charges should be brought.

The committee charged that the Parliament's administrative bodies, which Mr. Tkachenko oversaw, had awarded contracts for capital renovation without seeking tenders and had failed to collect certifications that the contracted work was actually completed. It found that Mr. Tkachenko's office overspent freely, exceeding by 73,000 hrv its 105,000 hrv budget. And, in perhaps the most serious charge, it accused the former Parliament leader of spending almost 1 million hrv on purchases and renovations to his state-supplied vacation home.

"As a result of irrational expenditures, the inflating of costs and the like, more than

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ANALYSIS

Newly inaugurated Russian President Putin chooses repression by selective prosecution

by Paul Goble
RFE/RL Newsline

Newly inaugurated Russian President Vladimir Putin appears to have embarked on a strategy long favored by authoritarian leaders: the selective prosecution of his opponents for legal violations.

That chilling conclusion, only four days into the new president's term, is suggested by the May 11 police raid on a major Russian media group that has long been critical of Kremlin policy in general and of Mr. Putin's approach to a variety of issues, in particular.

Early on May 11, armed tax police searched the headquarters of the Media-Most Group, headed by Vladimir Gusinskii. This group controls NTV, the radio station Ekho Moskv, the daily Segodnia, and the weekly magazine Itogi. The Federal Security Service (FSB) said the raid was intended to find evidence of tax irregularities or what an FSB spokesman insisted was "a regular financial offense." Later the same day FSB officials reported finding not only the evidence they said they were looking for but indications of other criminal activity, including the use of unauthorized eavesdropping devices.

But Mr. Gusinskii and his supporters, who have often been the objects of official attention for their critical coverage of the government, viewed the police action in a very different way. Mr. Gusinskii himself suggested that "it is obvious that what is happening is a factor of political pres-

sure." Another Media-Most leader, Igor Malashenko, said the action "contradicts the norms of the Constitution of Russia and is against freedom of speech."

Because of the nature of the Russian political and economic system over the last decade, both the FSB and Mr. Gusinskii are right in some sense.

Given confusion over tax policies and the underlying corruption of Russian society, virtually no firm in that country has always been able or willing to conduct its affairs in full compliance with the law. Consequently, the authorities are likely to be able to find evidence justifying prosecution almost anywhere they choose to look.

But it is precisely because the authorities have the possibility to pick and choose whom they will prosecute that Mr. Gusinskii and the Media-Most team have the better argument. They properly point out that they have been singled out from among all the other potential targets of investigation. And they plausibly suggest that the government has done so not out of a concern for law enforcement but rather to build its power.

Even a cursory examination of the Russian media scene suggests that Mr. Gusinskii's group is no more "illegal" than that of other media barons, but Media-Most distinguished itself from other such holdings: it has been very critical of the Kremlin. The May 11 raid suggests that the Kremlin has decided to respond to that criticism and to do so in an ostensibly respectable way by using the provisions of the law itself rather than brute force to move against freedom of

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Helsinki Commission hearing to discuss "The Putin path: are human rights in retreat?"

WASHINGTON – The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe will conduct a hearing on human rights abuses in Russia following an attack by armed government security agents on the Media-Most headquarters in Moscow. A Media-Most official is set to testify about the raid at a hearing titled "The Putin Path: Are Human Rights in Retreat?"

Other focal points of the hearing will be the continuing war in Chechnya and fears that the human rights picture in Russia is turning for the worse.

The hearing will also assess security and economic issues and implications for U.S.-Russia bilateral relations, in advance of President Bill Clinton's June summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23, at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Room 2200 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The session is open to members, staff, press and the public.

Scheduled witnesses include: Lt. Gen. William Odom (ret.), director of National Security Studies, Hudson Institute, and former head of the National Security Agency; Igor Malashenko, first deputy chairman, Media-Most, Moscow; Dr. Sarah Mendelson, assistant professor of international politics, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University; Dr. Georgi Derlugian, assistant professor, department of sociology, Northwestern University; Rachel Denber, deputy

director, Europe and Central Asia Division, Human Rights Watch; and Andrei Babitsky (via video-conference) Radio Liberty, Moscow.

Background

The Helsinki Commission provided the following background related to the hearing.

On May 11, armed government security agents attacked the headquarters of Media-Most corporation in Moscow and its subsidiary, the NTV television station, seizing what a security service spokesman claimed were illegally acquired tapes and transcripts of private conversations. NTV had criticized some members of Russian President Vladimir Putin's administration, as well as the government's conduct in the continuing war in Chechnya.

Human rights activists also are feeling pressure. Some human rights advocacy groups have been told that only the government – not NGOs – can legally protect human rights. Last summer, Mr. Putin told a Russian newspaper that "environmental groups were in the employ of foreign intelligence agencies."

As a result of his reporting from besieged Grozny last year, Radio Liberty journalist Andrei Babitsky remains in Moscow under investigation for allegedly "participating in an armed formation." Mr. Babitsky was recently awarded the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's prize for journalism.

NEWSBRIEFS

Belarus, Ukraine discuss bilateral trade

MIENSK – Ukraine's Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko visited Minsk on May 16, seeking ways to expand and liberalize bilateral trade, the Belapan and Interfax news services reported. Trade turnover plunged from \$1.5 billion in 1997 to \$700 million last year, primarily because both Minsk and Kyiv lacked hard currency to pay for imports. Mr. Yushchenko commented that his talks with Belarus' Prime Minister Uladzimir Yarmoshyn were "quite productive." Mr. Yushchenko also met with President Alyaksandr Lukashenka of Belarus to discuss Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's visit to Belarus later this month. Mr. Lukashenka said Belarus has "practically no political disagreements" with Ukraine, adding that he will be able to resolve all economic problems between the two states at his upcoming meeting with Mr. Kuchma. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukrainian miners stage warning strike

KYIV – Some 6,000 miners at 150 coal mines staged a one-day warning strike on May 16 to demand back wages and the resumption of coal purchases by the state, Interfax and Reuters reported. The protest was organized by the Union of Coal Industry Workers. The union pledged to resort to "harsher protests" by the end of May if the government does not address the miners' demands. Last week's strike organized by the Independent Union of Miners ended after the Verkhovna Rada amended the budget to increase subsidies to the coal industry. Some 40,000 miners had launched an indefinite strike in 19 mines in Donetsk, Luhansk and Volyn oblasts on May 10. Ukraine's Independent Trade Union of Miners said the miners are protesting the late payment of wages and mounting wage arrears, low earnings in the mining industry in comparison with other national economic sectors and insufficient budget subsidies to the industry. According to official data, Ukraine's wage arrears totaled 6.5 billion hrv (\$1.2 billion) as of April 10, of which 747 million hrv were in the mining sector. Only eight of Ukraine's 191 mines are profitable. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine, Azerbaijan discuss peacekeeping

KYIV – Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk met with his counterpart from Azerbaijan, Vilayat Guliyev, on May 15 to discuss Kyiv's possible participation in an OSCE peacekeeping contingent in Nagorno-Karabakh. Mr. Tarasyuk said Ukraine is ready to contribute to the contingent if the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and Azerbaijan deem it necessary. Mr. Guliyev expressed Azerbaijan's interest in building a pipeline to carry oil from its Caspian Sea

deposits through Ukraine to Poland. "Azerbaijan has always stood for diversifying oil pipelines. This is in the interests of both Azerbaijan and Ukraine," the Associated Press quoted Mr. Guliyev as saying. Mr. Tarasyuk said the Ukrainian pipeline for the Baku-Supsa-Odesa-Brody-Gdansk oil transportation project is 70 percent completed. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Privatization of power supplies is decreed

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma signed a decree on the privatization of more regional power distributors, Interfax reported on May 15. The state has so far sold more than 75 percent of the shares in seven of Ukraine's 27 regional power suppliers. Mr. Kuchma's decree allows the sale of more than 75 percent of shares in another eight companies, more than 60 percent in 10, and more than 50 percent in two. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada vice-chair comments on referendum

KYIV – Vice-Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Stepan Havrysh told journalists on May 15 that the president has urged the Parliament to adopt constitutional amendments in line with the April 16 referendum and to do so no later than February

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Lviv electric transport paralyzed

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

PRAGUE – At 4 p.m. on May 4 the LvivOblEnerho company, which supplies electricity in the region, cut off the power supply to the LvivElektroTrans company, which manages trams and trolleys in Lviv.

As a result, the city's electricity-driven transport ground to a halt. This was the first such occurrence in the city in the last 100 years, Interfax noted.

LvivElektroTrans owes 2.44 million hrv (\$450,000) to LvivOblEnerho for electricity. The latter's move reflects a harsher approach to those not paying for electricity supplies, as announced by Vice Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

Ms. Tymoshenko said that the government on May 3 resolved "to abolish all restrictions" on cutting off debtors from energy supplies. She added that neither hospitals and kindergartens, nor military facilities have been spared from this move. "Electricity, heat and gas are commodities like any other, and one needs to pay for them," Interfax quoted her as saying.

According to Ms. Tymoshenko, 150-200 million hrv is lost every month in shadow sector electricity sales. She added that this explains the resistance to reform in the energy sector among its top officials.

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Yuschenko greeted in D.C. by American and Ukrainian Jewish organizations

by Natalie Mason Gawdiak

WASHINGTON – In addition to meeting with President Bill Clinton and other high-level administration officials, as well as members of Congress and officials of the International Monetary Fund during his working trip to the United States, Prime Minister Viktor Yuschenko of Ukraine was warmly received at a reception held on May 9 in his honor by the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine and the NCSJ: Advocates for Jews in Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic States and Eurasia.

Representatives of such Jewish organi-

zations as the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, Agudath Israel of America, ARZA/World Union and American Friends of Lubavitch were also present.

Rabbi Yaakov Bleich, chief rabbi of Ukraine, opened the event, and several members of Congress came to offer Mr. Yuschenko their congratulations on the advancement of Jewish life in Ukraine and the good state of relations between the Ukrainian government and the Jewish community.

Among those offering their praise were Reps. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), chair-

man of the House International Relations Committee; Chairman Christopher Smith (R-N.J.), chairman of the Helsinki Commission; Sander Levin (D-Mich.); and Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.), co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus. Orest Deychakiwsky, a professional staff member of the Helsinki Commission and president of The Washington Group, also was present.

The congressmen stressed the importance of supporting reform in Ukraine. Rep. Smith also emphasized that the G-7 nations should fulfill their pledge to assist Ukraine in closing the Chornobyl nuclear power plant and announced the passage of his "Trafficking Victims Protection Act" resolution which had passed the House of Representatives earlier the same day.

In introducing Prime Minister Yuschenko, NCSJ Vice-President Harold Paul Luks recalled: "Twenty years ago, this event would have been unimaginable. Ten years ago it would still have been impossible – the prime minister of a free Ukraine, hosted by American Jewish and Ukrainian Jewish organizations on Capitol Hill." Mr. Luks expressed hope that the prime minister's background and outlook would help Ukraine as well as Ukrainian Jewry to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Prime Minister Yuschenko commented that the government of Ukraine was gratified at the presence of those in attendance and for the presence in Ukraine of the Jewish population. He guaranteed the support of the government of Ukraine for its Jewish citizens and thanked them again for their support of Ukraine.

Mr. Yuschenko's wife, Katya née

Chumachenko, an American-born economist of Ukrainian descent, accompanied him.

The highlight of the evening at the Rayburn House Office Building came at its conclusion, when the prime minister of Ukraine was presented with a beautiful silver chalice adorned with sculpted clusters of grapes by Rabbi Israel Pilchick, who on behalf of the Jewish organizations assembled, said in his moving presentation: "You have wiped away the tears of history."

Also among the guests were Steven Pifer, U.S. ambassador to Ukraine; and Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, ambassador of Ukraine to the United States, with his wife and Embassy of Ukraine staff. Also present were two national deputies of the Verkhovna Rada, Ihor Ostash, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee and vice-president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly; and Vitalii Tsekhmistrenko of the Banking and Finance Committee.

Ukrainian Americans attending included the heads of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, the Ukrainian National Information Service and the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, and staffers from the Law Library of Congress and the Voice of America.



Ron Sachs /CNP

NCSJ Vice President Harold Paul Luks (right) welcomes Prime Minister Viktor Yuschenko of Ukraine (left) and Ukrainian Chief Rabbi Yakov Bleich (center) to the Jewish communities' reception on Capitol Hill.

Congressional Ukrainian Caucus hosts prime minister

by Vera Andryczyk

WASHINGTON – The Congressional Ukrainian Caucus on May 9 hosted, with the support of the Action Ukraine Coalition, a working luncheon for Ukraine's Prime Minister Viktor Yuschenko and members of his delegation on the occasion of his visit to the United States. The guests from Ukraine were accompanied by Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Kostyantyn Gryshchenko and the Embassy's First Secretary Tetiana Zhmachenko.

The luncheon was organized by caucus co-chairs Rep. Curt Weldon (R-Pa.), Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) and Bob Schaffer (R-Colo.). Other members of the caucus attending the luncheon were co-chairs Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.) and Rep. Stephen Horn (R-Calif.), and Caucus members Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), chairman of the House of Representatives

International Relations Committee; Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.); Rep. Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.); Rep. Chet Edwards (D-Texas); Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.); Rep. James Greenwood (R-Pa.); and Rep. Corrine Brown (D-Fla.).

Also present were Xenia Horczakiwskyj, a member of Rep. Schaffer's staff, and Matthew Terlecki, a member of Rep. Greenwood's staff, as well as representatives of the Action Ukraine Coalition, Dr. Zenia Chernyk and Vera Andryczyk of the Ukrainian Federation of America, Nadia McConnell of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, and Ihor Gawdiak of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council.

The 90-minute luncheon in the Members' Dining Room of the U.S. Capitol was friendly, and the Ukrainian delegation was greeted on its arrival with welcoming remarks from Reps. Kaptur and Schaffer. Reps. Weldon, Gilman and

Lantos also extended their greetings.

Rep. Weldon expressed the hope that a strong working relationship can be established in the near future between the Verkhovna Rada and Congress, and announced his intention to lead a congressional delegation to Ukraine in July. He expressed his appreciation of the Ukrainian American community's efforts in informing Congress about the most critical issues pertaining to Ukraine and championing greater involvement by the United States in Ukraine's struggle to achieve greater economic prosperity and political stability.

In his remarks Rep. Lantos noted that he was born in Hungary, one of Ukraine's neighbors, and that he has a great understanding of and affinity for Ukraine. He expressed his gratitude to the prime minister and the government of Ukraine for its excellent treatment of the Hungarian minority there.

Prime Minister Yuschenko thanked the members of Congress for their work on behalf of Ukraine and underscored the fact that one of the most positive signs of progress in Ukraine is the ongoing development of a working relationship between the Verkhovna Rada and the government.

Ihor Ostash, a national deputy and chair of the Verkhovna Rada's International Relations Committee, emphasized the importance of the U.S. Congress' assistance to the Verkhovna Rada on legislative matters.

Both sides engaged in a discussion of the latest developments in Ukraine, steps the new government is taking to bring the country out of its economic malaise and the prospects for stronger ties between the two nations – especially between the two legislative branches. Members of Congress expressed their full support for the new Ukrainian government's reform program and pledged to assist Ukraine in these efforts.



Seen during a working luncheon in the Members' Dining Room in the U.S. Capitol are: (from left) Reps. Maurice Hinchey, Curt Weldon and Marcy Kaptur, Prime Minister Viktor Yuschenko; and Reps. Louise Slaughter, Stephen Horn, Corrine Brown, Eliot Engel and Chet Edwards.

White House conducts teleconference call with Ukrainian Americans

by Michael Sawkiw Jr.

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON – As a preview of the issues and events surrounding President Bill Clinton's June 5-6 trip to Ukraine, the White House Office of Public Liaison held a conference call with representatives from various Ukrainian American organizations and institutions.

Nearly 25 members of the Ukrainian American community participated in a telephone conference call on Tuesday, May 17, with John Tedstrom, director for Russian, Ukrainian and Eurasian affairs at the National Security Council (NSC). In his presentation on Mr. Clinton's trip to Ukraine, Mr. Tedstrom outlined the president's schedule in Kyiv and addressed key issues that would surely be raised at meetings with Ukrainian government officials.

The president's agenda in Ukraine will include meetings with various Ukrainian government officials, including President Leonid Kuchma, Prime Minister Yuschenko, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Ivan Plushch and other Ukrainian leaders.

His schedule also calls for an evening reception with "Next Generation" leaders from across the entire spectrum of Ukrainian society, which will highlight the U.S. government's "Next Generation" initiative. This program has been designed to increase the number of exchanges from Ukraine to the United States for high school, college and graduate-level students, as well as young business leaders and civil servants.

On the morning of June 6 President Clinton will deliver a public speech to all Kyivans on the grounds of the newly reconstructed

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Maj. Gen. Krawciw speaks in Kansas on U.S.-Ukraine military relations

by Maj. Myron Hnatzuk

LAWRENCE, Kansas – More than 50 Ukrainian Americans as well as students of the University of Kansas filled the Kansas Room of the Kansas Union to hear Maj. Gen. Nicholas Krawciw's (U.S. Army-ret.) address on the state of U.S.-Ukraine military relations on the evening of March 9.

Gen. Krawciw's presentation was sponsored by the Palij Memorial Fund, which annually (since 1983) invites speakers on Ukrainian topics to the University of Kansas. Gen. Krawciw is currently the U.S. defense secretary's senior military representative for Ukraine, and in this capacity is responsible for the military to military contacts between the two countries.

Gen. Krawciw has worked in this area since Ukrainian independence and was

one of the key people involved in the creation of the Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia (RUE) division within the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD). Thus, the general has been involved in U.S.-Ukraine relations and events from the start. His presentation traced the development of military relations from their early beginning, what the general described as "mostly military tourism" to the current "substantive engagement," and outlined plans for the future of these contacts.

Among the most successful aspects of past military cooperation were the annual Peace Shield and Sea Breeze exercises, and the state partnership programs, under which the Kansas and California National Guards have close ties with the Ukrainian military. One of the most important ongoing projects involves the

Ukrainian Military Education reform program.

Under this program, Ukraine continues to adapt and modernize its military educational system, using modern methodologies, while consolidating the number of military education institutions to a smaller number, more in line with current, post-Soviet-era needs.

Another key point discussed was the current support that Ukraine provides to the peacekeeping operations in the former Yugoslavia, as well as current and possible future Ukrainian involvement in the Kosovo operation.

The key areas for future developments that Maj. Gen. Krawciw touched upon where the expansion of advanced contacts in the field of civil military affairs. The development of these contacts is tied to future military participation in humani-

tarian and environmental endeavors.

Earlier in the day, Maj. Gen. Krawciw met with a much smaller group, the Central European and Eurasian foreign area officers (FAOs) studying at the University of Kansas. FAOs are U.S. Army officers preparing for careers in military service either as analysts or attachés working at embassies within their areas of expertise.

During this smaller group discussion the general was able to discuss the specifics of military to military contacts on a much more detailed level. The discussion during this session was much more focused on specifics of past, current and future contacts, and was a question and answer period. Trisha Hobson, University of Kansas Ukrainian studies coordinator, was also part of this discussion group.



Maj. Gen. Nicholas Krawciw (left) with University of Kansas faculty members (from left) Prof. Alex Tsiovk of the Ukrainian Program, Center for Russian and East European Studies; Trisha Hobson, program director of Russian and East European Studies; and Prof. Yaroslava Tsiovk, professor of the Ukrainian language, Slavic department.

FAO's receive specialized training in fields of diplomacy and history

by Maj. Tarn Warren

LAWRENCE, Kansas – As a foreign area officer (FAO) for the United States Army, graduate school is a critical and required portion of my training. FAOs are considered soldier-statesmen because they must be experts in both the military arena and the diplomatic and historical aspects of our country of specialization. My specialty, however, does not cover just one country, but 15. Hence, I am potentially responsible for every country from Ukraine to Russia to Kyrgyzstan. In order to gain both a broad and deep understanding of these countries, I chose the University of Kansas.

First of all, the University of Kansas Russian and East European Studies (REES) program graduates more FAOs annually than any other university in the United States. This popularity among FAOs stems from the reputation for academic excellence in the REES program. The courses are diverse and taught by distinguished and internationally known professors. The FAO can choose to specialize in many nations of Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Caucasus region, the Baltic states and, of course, Russia. I have chosen a loose mix of all of these regions with a particular interest in Ukrainian and Russian history and relations.

Secondly, the REES department at the University of Kansas is extremely flexible in allowing the FAO to choose his/her own course of study. Furthermore, the various faculty know who FAOs are, what they do for the army, and what the diplomatic demands of the future will require. Simply put, the academic environment here in the REES program not only allows, but also requires the FAO to stay engaged in order to maximize his/her potential.

The REES program also sponsors many important extracurricular events and programs. For example, the majority of a stimulating conference on NATO expansion with a broad range of international speakers was held at the University of Kansas in the fall of

1999. The REES program also invites various national and foreign guest speakers on a regular basis. These programs greatly benefit the FAO, whether understanding is deepened or broadened.

Furthermore, the REES department maintains unique and strong ties with Lviv University in Ukraine and the Foreign Military Studies Office at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Both of these institutions give the FAO an increased opportunity for travel and a more in-depth study of Ukrainian history and culture and intensive regional military topics.

With over 40,000 volumes, the Slavic collection in the library network at the University of Kansas is immense. Of particular value are both the Ukrainian and Russian collections. Not only are these native-language sources indispensable for solid research, they often cover the same exact topics, allowing the student to gain a balanced, even revised, view of historical and current events.

I am particularly impressed with the wide range of Ukrainian studies courses offered at the University of Kansas. From Ukrainian language to history to culture, native Ukrainian professors normally lead the courses. I am currently taking a graduate-level course on Ukrainian nationalism and culture, and must admit that most of my previous academic instruction of this region was (unbeknownst to me) Russo-centric. At the very least, I now have a much more balanced view, especially of Ukraine's development after Kyivan-Rus'.

I am thoroughly enjoying my time in the REES M.A. program at the University of Kansas. While confident that I will be well-prepared for a future military-diplomatic assignment in any of my region's 15 nations, I feel particularly well prepared for an assignment in Ukraine with the U.S. Embassy or other governmental institutions.

Put simply, the opportunity to study Ukraine in depth here at the University of Kansas has very few peers in the United States.

The Ukrainian Weekly introduces a new special section

Congratulations, Graduates!

Every year tens of thousands of students throughout North America receive undergraduate and graduate degrees at colleges and universities, cresting a pinnacle of personal achievement.

This year The Ukrainian Weekly introduces a new special section – Congratulations, Graduates! – where readers of The Ukrainian Weekly can place a note congratulating family members and dear friends on their recent achievements. This new, once-a-year, section will be published for the first time on July 2, 2000.

To place an ad congratulating a recent graduate, please send us the following by June 23:

- your note of congratulations, in Ukrainian or English, which should be no more than 50 words, including names;
- in English, the full name of the graduate, the degree completed and date received, list of awards and honors given the graduate, name and location of college or university;
- photo of the graduate (optional);
- payment for the ad;
- your daytime phone number.

The ad sizes for the greeting are a 1/8 page horizontal, for \$100, or a 1/4 page for \$180.

Please make checks payable to The Ukrainian Weekly and mail along with above information to: The Ukrainian Weekly - Congratulations Graduates! 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280 Parsippany, NJ 07054

For further information, please call: (973) 292-9800 ext. 3065 (Irene) or ext. 3040 (Maria) or visit www.ukrweekly.com

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Visit our archive on the Internet at:
<http://www.ukrweekly.com/>

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

The Weekly releases its compilation of the top articles of the 20th century

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Ukrainian Weekly has released the first volume of "The Ukrainian Weekly 2000," a compilation of the most significant news stories and commentaries published by the newspaper during the last century.

Volume I cover the years from 1933, when The Weekly first rolled off the presses, through 1969. Volume II, to be released later this year, will include articles from the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.

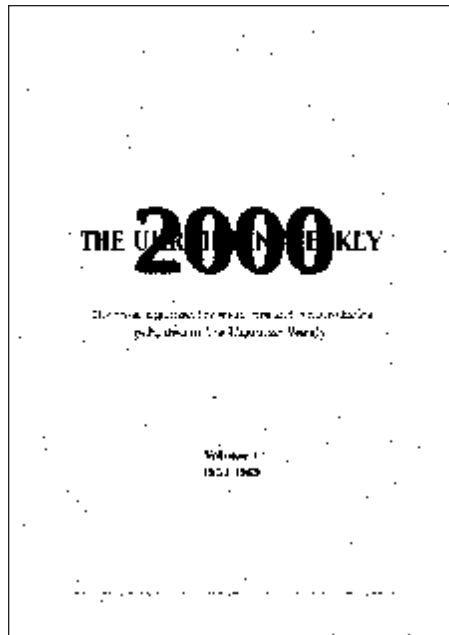
Among the significant articles from the 1930s that appear in Volume I are reports of the Great Famine in Ukraine (1933); news about the murder of Col. Eugene Konovalts, leader of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, by a Soviet agent (1939); reports on the autonomy of Carpatho-Ukraine (1938); and the invasion of western Ukraine by the Soviets (1939).

Articles selected from the 1940s include: accounts of the historic Congress of American Ukrainians (1940); the declaration of western Ukraine's independence (1941); forcible repatriation to the USSR of Ukrainian World War II refugees (1945); and the arrival of the first groups of displaced persons to the United States (1949).

Selections from the 1950s highlight the Carnegie Hall concert of the famed Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus and the New York debut of the Dumka Chorus (both in 1950); the debate on the policy of containment of the USSR versus the new dynamic policy of liberation (1952); reaction to a new U.S. immigration bill (1956); the formal opening of the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City (1956); inauguration of student efforts to establish a chair of Ukrainian studies at Columbia University (1957); and the signing of the Captive Nations Week law (1959).

The 1960s section covers: anti-Khrushchev demonstrations (1960); the unveiling of Shevchenko monuments in Winnipeg (1961) and Washington (1964); the release of Metropolitan Josyf Slipyj from Soviet imprisonment (1963); the Ukrainian Day program at the New York World's Fair (1964); the dedication of the St. Andrew's Memorial Ukrainian Orthodox Church in South Bound Brook, N.J. (1965); the first World Congress of Free Ukrainians (1967); and the announcement of the first chair of Ukrainian studies at Harvard University (1968).

"The Ukrainian Weekly 2000" is not



meant to be either a history or an exhaustive chronicle of all the news developments affecting Ukraine and Ukrainians. It is a selection of The Weekly's top stories and commentaries, chosen to reflect the tenor of the times as well as the variety of events and issues that concerned Ukrainians in North America and around the globe.

The volume has left intact all spellings, transliterations, capitalizations, abbreviations, hyphenations, etc., with a view toward reflecting the usage of the period during which an article appeared. Articles are reprinted in the volume as they were originally published.

Volume I has now been mailed to all Weekly subscribers.

Each copy of Volume I of "The Ukrainian Weekly 2000" costs \$15; additional donations to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund are welcome. All donors will be acknowledged in The Weekly.

The newspaper's editorial staff and administration ask readers to not return copies of "The Ukrainian Weekly 2000" as this entails additional postage expenses. If, for some reason, readers do not wish to purchase the book, they are asked to keep the volume with The Weekly's compliments, or present it as a gift to a family member, friend or colleague.

To order additional copies, readers may call the paper's administration at (973) 292-9800, ext. 3080.

UNA Seniors announce program

by Anna Chopek

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Have you made your reservation for the UNA Seniors Conference that will take place at Soyuzivka on June 11-17?

We promise you that you will have an enjoyable experience if you attend!

The conference will begin with a divine liturgy at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kerhonkson, N.Y., in memory of deceased UNA Seniors.

The program includes a few brief business sessions; a welcoming party; Bingo Night; an auction of Ukrainian items; and a Hutsul night, starting with a Hutsul-style dinner, followed by a video, "Carpathian Journey," depicting the customs and traditions of the Hutsuls, a Hutsul wedding, scenes of Ivano-Frankivsk, Kolomyia, Yaremche, Kosiv, and an arts and crafts fair.

There will also be a talk on legal matters of interest to seniors by attorney Anna Chopek, president of the UNA

Seniors; slides of a trip to China by Eugene Moroz; discussion of current problems in Ukraine by Dr. Roman Baranowskyj and Dr. Roman Procyk; as well as a talk on new publications issued by the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute by Dr. Procyk.

Seniors will meet with UNA President Ulana Diachuk, which will be an opportunity for questions and answers, and they will end the week with an elegant cocktail party and banquet.

Seniors are asked to bring Ukrainian items to the auction; all proceeds from the auction go to Ukrainian charities. Also, it would be appreciated if seniors wear a Ukrainian blouse, shirt or tie to the banquet.

To get a special rate for a stay at Soyuzivka during the conference, regular members and social members must present a card from their UNA branch secretary verifying their UNA membership.

Call Soyuzivka at (914) 626-5641 to make your reservation.

RECORDING DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP REPORT – MARCH 2000

Martha Lysko, National Secretary

	Juvenile	Adult	ADD	Total
Total Active Members – 2/2000	7,448	15,779	3,849	27,076
Total Inactive Members – 2/2000	7,316	18,203	0	25,519
Total Members – 2/2000	14,764	33,982	3,849	52,595

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Gains in 3/2000

New members	18	33	0	51
New members UL	2	0	0	2
Reinstated	5	10	1	16
Total Gains:	25	43	1	69

Losses in 3/2000

Died	1	35	0	36
Cash surrender	5	31	0	36
Endowment matured	9	17	0	26
Fully paid-up	17	16	0	33
Reduced paid-up	0	0	0	0
Extended Insurance	15	39	0	54
Certificates lapsed (active)	14	30	27	71
Certificate terminated	0	4	8	12
Total Losses	61	172	35	268

Total Active Members - 3/2000	7,412	15,650	3,815	26,877
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INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Gains in 3/2000

Paid-up	17	16	0	33
Reduced paid up	0	0	0	0
Extended insurance	15	39	0	54
Total Gains	32	55	0	87

Losses in 3/2000

* Died	5	52	0	57
* Cash surrender	26	34	0	60
Pure endowment matured	5	5	0	10
Reinstated to active	5	11	0	16
Certificates lapsed (inactive)	3	3	0	6
Total Losses	44	105	0	149

Total Inactive Members – 3/2000	7,304	18,153	0	25,457
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TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - 3/2000	14,716	33,803	3,815	52,334
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(* Paid up and reduced paid up policies)

Young UNA'er



Victoria Anne McMeekin, daughter of Christine and Ross McMeekin, is a new member of UNA Branch 76 in Newark, N.J. Above she is seen with her grandparents Oksana and George Bazylevsky, who enrolled her in the UNA.

Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

- to promote the principles of fraternalism;
- to preserve the Ukrainian, Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian heritage and culture; and
- to provide quality financial services and products to its members.

As a fraternal insurance society, the Ukrainian National Association reinvests its earnings for the benefit of its members and the Ukrainian community.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

A necessary follow-up

Last week's issue of this newspaper contained the report of the Ukrainian National Association's Auditing Committee, which had just completed its review of UNA operations for 1999. The report provided some information about The Ukrainian Weekly's financial status and its current projects, but the key word here is "some."

In keeping with our policy of being open with our readers, therefore, we have decided that some elucidation and amplification are in order – particularly on financial issues. The Auditing Committee noted the following: "The deficit of both [UNA] publications for 1999 totaled \$246,000 (of that amount, Svoboda's deficit was \$54,000)." So, of course, that meant the greater part of the total deficit – \$192,000 – was The Weekly's. Right? Well, not exactly. And here's where the clarifications are needed.

First off, let us note that during 1999 the two newspapers' budgets were not yet completely separated; therefore, there was good amount of estimation and extrapolation that went into determining who was responsible for what expense and related issues. At a recent budget meeting some of those estimated figures were revised, but the reports submitted to the Auditing Committee did not reflect those reductions to The Weekly's expenses. Nonetheless, we must acknowledge that the figures for 1999 for The Weekly are not good. There are several reasons and they were discussed in editorials of October 3 and 10, 1999; we will not repeat that information.

However, in case our readers think we are not concerned about our financial situation, we would like to share the following.

The Ukrainian Weekly in mid-April sent out letters to persons and institutions that have been receiving complimentary subscriptions to The Weekly for many years and for various reasons. The truth is that, while we value continued contacts with these recipients, we simply can no longer afford to bear the more than \$20,000 burden of funding their subscriptions. We await responses and expect that many of these recipients will opt to pay for their subscriptions rather than lose them.

Besides these gratis subscriptions, still at issue, as far as the UNA, our publisher, is concerned, are the subscriptions provided as a community service to members of the U.S. Congress in an effort to keep them and their staffs informed about issues of concern to Ukrainian Americans and about developments in Ukraine. With a 1987 decision by its Supreme Assembly, the UNA had decided to start these subscriptions and to fund them, but since 1996 the cost has come out of The Weekly's budget.

Letters seeking outside funding for these subscriptions will soon be mailed to various Ukrainian institutions and organizations, the argument being that The Weekly is an invaluable source of information for U.S. legislators and that it is in all of our interests that they continue to receive Weekly subscriptions. To be sure, we could easily cut about \$27,000 out of our expenses by simply halting this congressional perk – if we believed that was the thing to do. But we don't. Our staff continues to feel strongly that The Weekly, as the most significant English-language Ukrainian newspaper, has a responsibility to our Ukrainian American community and that providing decision-makers with the unique information contained in The Weekly is our duty.

In an effort to increase our income at The Weekly we are publishing a two-volume book titled "The Ukrainian Weekly 2000." We now charge for our "Preview of Events" section, and we have introduced two special paid advertising sections to boost income – the "Wedding Announcements" section and a forthcoming "Congratulations, Graduates!" section. We are working closely with our administration, advertising and circulation departments to increase income, attract new subscribers and cut expenses. As well, we have turned to our readers. It is gratifying to see so many of them responding by contributing to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund.

To conclude, the financial situation is improving and will continue to improve. And to you, dear readers, we say once again: If you value this newspaper, please contribute to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund; advertise and encourage others to advertise; and help us expand the number of our subscribers.

May
22
1996

Turning the pages back...

Four years ago on May 22, Rep. Christopher H. Smith, chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, spoke about the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 167, which among other things called for the president of the United

States to continue enhanced support for U.S. assistance providing medical relief, humanitarian assistance, social impact planning and hospital development for Ukraine, Belarus and Russia in the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

The resolution, which passed 404 to 0, also urged Ukraine to continue its negotiations with the G-7 to implement the December 20, 1995, Memorandum of Understanding, calling for all nuclear reactors at Chernobyl to be shut down by the year 2000. The Senate companion bill, S. Con. Res. 67, had passed on April 25 by unanimous consent.

Rep. Smith said: "H. Con. Res. 167 is an important and timely resolution which recognizes the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster – the worst in recorded history – and supports the closing of the remaining reactors in that plant."

Rep. Smith pointed out that 10 years ago millions of people were exposed to dangerously high levels of radiation and that since then children, in particular, experienced alarming increases in thyroid cancer and other conditions. He cited one World Health Organization expert's recent forecast that the total of thyroid cancers among children in the contaminated zones may ultimately reach 10,000, that these trends have accelerated since the disaster.

Thus, H. Con. Res. 167 called upon the president to encourage national and international organizations to expand the scope of research into the public health consequences of Chernobyl. The resolution also urged the president to support the process of closing Chernobyl, while recognizing the tremendous costs involved and its impact on a country undergoing the unbelievably difficult transition from communism.

Source: "Houses approves Chernobyl resolution," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, May 26, 1996, Vol. LXIV, No. 21.

NOTABLE UKRAINIANS

Ivan Piddubny: the Ukrainian Hercules, a powerful athlete and staunch patriot

by Danylo Kulyniak

Ukrainian-born Ivan Piddubny was once one of the most famous athletes in the world – a legend in his own time. He began his sports career at the turn of the century. In the course of almost 40 years Mr. Piddubny tested his strength against the mightiest people in the world.

He died undefeated in August 1949, in the town of Yeysk, in the Kuban region, to which he and with his wife had to escape the Terror-Famine of 1933 in Ukraine.

This Ukrainian Hercules was born October 8, 1871, in the village of Krasenivka (now in the Chornobayivskiy region of Cherkasy Oblast). Traveling across this region along the Dnipro, one cannot help but marvel at the tremendous natural beauty of the land that gave birth to this incredible athlete. As a young man Piddubny worked as a fitter in the ports of Sevastopol and Feodosiya for seven years, and in 1898 he started traveling with circus tours.

In the eyes of the world Piddubny quickly became the epitome of the Russian "bogaty" (mighty man), though he never considered himself to be Russian, as did others. (However, all Soviet academic reference materials and the latest Russian reference books refer to Piddubny as a Russian sportsman.) In 1939 he was given the title of Honored Artist of the Russian Federation, and in 1945 that of Honored Master of Sports. It was precisely this discrepancy in his national identity that was the basis for one of the most unpleasant incidents in his biography.

When the first passports were introduced in the Soviet Union in 1932-1933, his last name was written in a Russian form as Poddubny. This deliberate Russification of last names was then an unwritten law, and in the column of nationality they marked the great man down as Russian.

All this was done without the consent of the passport's owner, of course. He protested, together with then renowned specialist in Ukrainian lore, Hnatenko, who was Russified as Ihnatenko by the Soviet authorities. However, all their protests proved to be in vain. Faced with official intransigence, Piddubny asked Hnatenko to correct the o in his passport to an i, which he did, also crossing out Russian as the nationality and replacing it with Ukrainian. Soon enough somebody reported this deliberate act of vandalism, and the world champion was carted off to the regional NKVD headquarters (Ministry of Internal Affairs) in Rostov-

on-Don on 26 Engels St. There Piddubny was locked up for several days in a basement room, up to the waist in water.

Of what was he accused? "Inveterate anti-Soviet agitation." Officials at the time justified the charge saying that, along with the passport episode, which was then interpreted as a "manifestation of Ukrainian nationalism," there also were Piddubny's accounts of his life abroad before the Russian Revolution, when he was touring the world as a wrestler. This all occurred in 1937, during Stalin's repressions. Refusing to confess to anything, Piddubny was scorched with an electric soldering iron, leaving him scarred for life.

"That was the way they taught me Leninism (he refused to pronounce the word "Leninism") in the NKVD on Engels Street," he used to later say. "I endured everything from those devils in their little pocket of hell because I was a world champion, not a sardel on two legs [a fish similar to a sardine; this is a common Ukrainian phrase expressing weakness – Ed.]. But I have a bunch of scars for souvenirs, damn it," he would claim.

Piddubny was finally able to break loose from the clutches of the secret police when an influential figure helped free him, remembering the bygone worldwide fame of the Ukrainian wrestler.

His fame was of great use to him later in life, as well. During World War II, when the Romanian troops occupied Yeysk (Romania was an ally of Nazi Germany), the soldiers began looting local homes. On that occasion it was Piddubny who intervened to protect the town's residents and their possessions: he threatened the commandant that he would lodge a complaint with the "Old King" himself, the father of the Romanian king, who had once greeted the world champion in Bucharest. It worked.

Old-timers of Yeysk remember one famous incident when a local girl approached Piddubny one day in the town's marketplace.

– Ivan Maksymovych, why are you so sad these days?

– I am reminiscing over my first infatuation and my last love.

– And what was the name of your first love?

– Ukraine, of course, and what else could it be? When appearing on stage, I used to pray not for me, or the tsar, but only for my dear Ukraine. And that's why I was winning!

Piddubny died on alien land; his tombstone bears the following engraving: "Ivan Maksimovich Poddubny, outstanding Russian Soviet athlete."

White House conducts...

(Continued from page 3)

St. Michael's Cathedral complex.

In a dialogue with the National Security Council official, many of the Ukrainian American participants discussed key issues on the president's agenda. Among the issues mentioned were: the U.S. government's support for commercial law reform in Ukraine as a basis for continued and sustained economic activity; progress towards accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO); and permanent normal trade relations (NTR) status for Ukraine.

Other issues of importance for Ukraine touched upon during the conference call were equal rights for women in Ukraine, health-care concerns, education

of a new generation of business leaders and the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Chernobyl is a key area of concern for both the United States and Ukraine, as Ukraine has agreed to close the nuclear power plant by the end of this year, yet lacks the requisite financing to complete the shutdown.

In concluding the hourlong conference, Mr. Tedstrom emphasized the positive aspects of Ukraine's foreign policy since its independence. Mr. Tedstrom added that Ukraine's strategic objective should be to achieve similarly positive results in its domestic economic policies to help improve the standard of living.

The conference call was organized in part by Julian Kulas of 1st Security Federal Savings Bank and the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Prochorenko right on aid to Ukraine

Dear Editor,

In his commentary "Aid to Ukraine and why it does not work" (April 9), Walter Prochorenko hits the nail on the head. It's certainly no secret that Ukraine has been the second largest recipient of foreign aid from the United States in recent years. There's also not much dispute about Ukraine's dismal economic performance.

Mr. Prochorenko attributes the country's malaise to rampant corruption, to a dependency syndrome of hand-outs and to ineffectual consultants from the West. His principal advice is to clean up the endemic corruption.

Of course, this is easier said than done, especially as the Ukrainian saying goes "ryba z holovy smerdyt," freely translated as "the rot starts from the top." Understandably there has to be a political will to change this state of affairs, but a Ukrainian Robespierre is not waiting in the wings at the moment.

Another serious problem is the attitude of the Ukrainian power brokers dealing with mismanagement, i.e., theft of the aid received. Most of them are there primarily for self-aggrandizement without much concern for improving the lot of their fellow citizens. For them, Ukraine is still a colonial entity to be exploited by whatever means available.

How is this cleansing of the proverbial stables from corrupt officials to be accomplished? The obvious solution is a political one: kick the rascals out and prosecute them to the full extent of the law. So far this approach has mainly been confined to rhetoric. The other way, however draconian it may sound, is to cut off aid completely. This shock therapy may be just the prescription needed to begin regenerating Ukraine's societal underpinnings.

Corruption has extended its tentacles so insidiously throughout the societal infrastructure that a Herculean effort will be required to eradicate it. It's even unclear to what extent Ukrainians are willing to tolerate this problem or to what efforts they are willing to expend in arresting it.

Let's be clear on one thing: only by implementing a process of moral cleansing and by earnestly attempting to build a normally functioning nation state, will Ukraine make it through the next decade of the 21st century.

Yurij Hanas
Hamilton, Ontario

Eleanor Roosevelt helpful to our cause

Dear Editor:

Regarding Boris Danik's letter "More observations on FDR's legacy" (April 30), written in response to Jaroslaw Sawka's letter, permit me to confirm his point that Eleanor Roosevelt was most helpful to my brother Stephen Shumeyko when he was working on behalf of several organizations and for the "Ukrainian cause."

I remember the day Steve came home and told us about the phone call he received from Mrs. Roosevelt and how sympathetic she was to the cause. At that time he was writing appeals on behalf of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the Pan American Ukrainian Congress in desperate attempts to reach key people in our government and the United Nations.

Upon receiving copies of various appeals and communications, she called my brother. Thanks to her interest and help,

doors that were closed to Stephen were opened so that he eventually managed to reach and influence people on Ukraine's behalf, such as Sens. Arthur Vandenberg and Howard Taft; Anne O'Hare McCormick, The New York Times' top international correspondent; Hessel B. Tiltman, British political writer; and many others.

Theodore Shumeyko
Saddle River, N.J.

There are more Odessas in U.S.

Dear Editor:

As to of localities in the United States with the name "Odessa," my article "U.S. Post Office Names with Ukrainian Connections" that appeared in Ukrainian Philatelist No. 44, 1981, (pages 23-25); No. 45, 1982, (pages 17-21); No. 46, 1983, (pages 31-32) and No. 48, 1985, (ages 14-16) lists eight "Odessa" post offices in this country.

- DE 19730, New Castle County incorporated in 1755;
- FL 53556, Pasco County founded in 1876;
- MN 56276, Big Stone County founded in 1879;
- MO 64076, Lafayette County changed to "Odessa" in 1800;
- NE 68861, Buffalo County changed to "Odessa" in 1974;
- NY 14869, Schuyler County founded in 1880;
- TX 79760, Ector County founded in 1881;
- WA 99159, Lincoln County founded in 1886.

Besides these eight there are "Lake Odessa," MI 48849, Ionia County and "West Odessa" TX 79763, Ector County post offices.

In addition A. Wlasenko-Bojuncun in "Ukrainian Place Names in the U.S.A." (Bismarck: 1977) lists three localities named "Odessa" in North Dakota located in Pierce, Ramsey and Grant counties.

It might be added that there are only two "Odessa" post offices in Canada – one in Ontario named "Odessa" in 1854, and the other in Saskatchewan (Andrij D. Solczanyk, "Canadian Post Offices with Ukrainian Names," Ukrainian Philatelist, No. 43, 1980, pages 20-21).

Anyone interested in having a cover with an "Odessa" post office cancellation should mail a letter to the postmaster of the post office with an enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope and ask for a post office cancellation.

Sometimes you might be surprised, as I was when in the returned letter there was a note from one postmaster stating that he, too, is a Ukrainian.

Andrij D. Solczanyk
Media, Pa.

Kuropas promotes right-wing agenda

Dear Editor:

Like many other Ukrainian Americans, I depend on The Ukrainian Weekly for news and discussion about events in Ukraine and Ukrainian life in the United States. The newspaper almost always does a great job at covering both topics and I am glad to be a subscriber.

For years, one of The Weekly's strengths has been the writing of Dr. Myron Kuropas, whose column, "Faces and Places," appears every two weeks. I admire Dr. Kuropas for

his decades of energy as an activist on behalf of the Ukrainian community, his great knowledge of Ukrainian history and the Ukrainian immigration and his intimate understanding of many Ukrainian American (and Ukrainian Canadian) organizations, including the Ukrainian National Association. He has brought this experience to his column and enlightened us all many times. For this reason, a number of readers have sent in letters of praise for Dr. Kuropas, which The Weekly has published.

However, I join with a growing chorus of letter-writers to complain about recent columns in which Dr. Kuropas has moved from specifically Ukrainian concerns to American politics and social issues more generally. My larger complaint is that these columns are written in a tone that is offensive and hateful toward those who would disagree with the conservative Republican viewpoints that Dr. Kuropas espouses, and can only be divisive within The Weekly's readership.

Among others, he alienates Ukrainian Americans who might support feminist issues, gun control, gay rights, the Democratic Party and its candidate, and the right of Juan Miguel Gonzalez to raise his own son. This complaint adds to those about earlier.

I have considered stopping my subscription, but choose not to do so because I depend on The Weekly for its news and announcements.

Dr. Kuropas is, of course, entitled to his opinions, as I am entitled to think that he has overstayed his welcome. The issue is the following: The Ukrainian Weekly is a unique community resource, one that no single columnist should be allowed to

appropriate, no matter what his or her politics. To do so is to disenfranchise members of the community who happen to think differently. The bigotry and name-calling that mark Dr. Kuropas' recent columns make the situation worse and raise legitimate questions about his fitness for the job.

What do the editors of The Weekly think? If they agree that Dr. Kuropas' recent columns are divisive, as more and more letter-writers are saying, then they should tame him, drop him, or take on additional columnists with different viewpoints. From these choices, I would recommend dropping him. The extra-splenetic column of April 30, venting at both our government and majority opinion in the United States on the Elian issue, showed that Dr. Kuropas is every bit the outdated and inflexible old fossil that he says Castro is, although with opposing politics. If, on the other hand, the editors endorse his right-wing approach, then they should say so directly, telling those of us who are offended that we matter less.

Roman Cybriwsky
Fort Washington, Pa.

Editor's note: As we have repeatedly underlined, opinions expressed by columnists, commentators and letter-writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either The Weekly editorial staff or its publisher, the Ukrainian National Association. The Ukrainian Weekly has always welcomed letters to the editor and commentaries expressing a diversity of opinions on a variety of topics that concern the Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities.

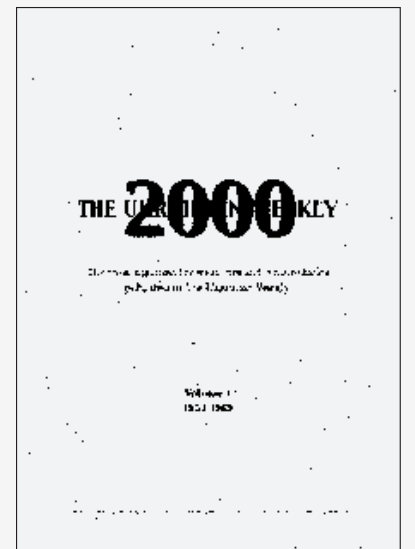
Throughout its history, The Ukrainian Weekly has been a chronicler of the times, a reflection of our society, a purveyor of information, a leader of public opinion.

To mark the end of this millennium and the beginning of a new one, the editors of The Ukrainian Weekly have prepared "The Ukrainian Weekly 2000," a two-volume collection of the best and most significant stories that have appeared in the newspaper since its founding through 1999.

Volume I, now available, covers events from 1933 through the 1960s.

All subscribers to The Weekly should have received their copies in the mail. To order additional copies of this unique book, please use the clip-out form below.

"The Ukrainian Weekly 2000" is sure to become a resource for researchers, and a keepsake for readers. A great gift idea!



THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY 2000 VOLUME I

- Number of books _____
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(check one): \$25.00 \$50.00 \$75.00
 \$100.00 Other \$ _____ \$ _____
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ZAPORIZSKA SICH UNA BRANCH 206 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, June 3, 2000, at 1:00 p.m.
St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church Parish Hall

House passes bill...

(Continued from page 1)

tions that seem bleak, dark and hopeless," Rep. Wolf observed.

"Developing this initiative has been a long and arduous process," said Rep. Slaughter, a member of the Helsinki Commission who has worked on the trafficking problem for six years. "But this is an issue that is important enough to cross both partisan and personality divides. It is also an issue that is not limited to one particular region of the world. In fact, in the wake of the discovery of a prostitution ring of trafficked women in Florida and the Carolinas, as well as a group of Thai garment workers held captive in California, we now know this is a problem that must also be dealt with in our own back yard. This legislation does that and more."

"It is time we stopped punishing the victims and wrist-slapping the real criminals," said Rep. Pitts. "Sex traffickers destroy lives, and it's time we punished them accordingly."

The Trafficking Victim's Protection Act allocates \$95 million over two years to combat trafficking. In addition to authorizing severe punishment for persons convicted of operating trafficking enterprises in the United States, the legislation provides the possibility of severe economic penalties against traffickers located in other countries.

Tkachenko's finances...

(Continued from page 1)

50 million hryv was wasted," said Yaroslav Kendzior, chairman of the ad hoc investigative committee, during his presentation before the parliamentary body.

Mr. Kendzior's special investigative committee was formed on January 21 in one of the first acts by the newly formed center-right political majority coalition after it dismissed Mr. Tkachenko as the leader of the Parliament for gross violations of parliamentary procedures. The chairman was voted out during an unconventional parliamentary session held outside the confines of the Verkhovna Rada Building after Mr. Tkachenko refused several times to allow for a vote of confidence in his leadership.

Whether the results of almost four months of work by the Kendzior committee will be supported by the Verkhovna Rada quickly came under question on May 16 after the report was severely criticized by opponents. Several national deputies, including Mr. Tkachenko, called the Kendzior committee's work illegal and questioned its motivation. After limited debate they succeeded in suspending debate on the issue.

National Deputy Oleksander Moroz of the Socialist faction and a leading opposition member, persuasively explained to the parliamentary body that President Leonid Kuchma had vetoed a bill on parliamentary ad hoc investigative committees and had ordered executive bodies not to cooperate with them - which makes the committee's work legally dubious.

Mr. Tkachenko accused the committee of bias because it included only members of the majority coalition and no opposition members. He added that, in addition, the committee's findings could not be debated until the Constitutional Court decides the legality of Mr. Tkachenko's removal in January, an issue now before it.

Mr. Kendzior expressed no surprise that a majority of lawmakers voted to cut short debate. He explained that the report covered a wide breadth of parliamentary activities and brought into question the activities also of several members of the majority, who would rather that the findings not see the light of day.

The legislation also addresses the need to assist and protect victims of trafficking. Specifically, it authorizes initiatives to create economic opportunities for potential victims abroad - thereby decreasing their need to migrate in search of employment - and to increase public awareness of trafficking schemes. The legislation provides for the creation of shelters and rehabilitation programs for victims, and limited provision of relief from deportation for victims who expose their traffickers to law enforcement officials and who would face retribution or other hardship if removed from the United States.

The legislation authorizes foreign aid to assist other countries in legal reform related to trafficking, but prohibits non-humanitarian U.S. assistance to foreign governments that tolerate or condone severe forms of trafficking, unless the prohibition is waived by the president.

According to Rep. Smith, "The Trafficking Victim's Protection Act will make important and necessary changes to U.S. law designed to help end this brutal, inhumane and horrific exploitation of human beings - especially women and children. Every year, millions of women and children are forced, coerced or fraudulently trafficked into modern day slavery around the world with no way out. This legislation will put human traffickers behind bars while protecting their victims."

"I believe that among the deputies we will be hard-pressed to find 226 people who will want to dot all the i's on the matter of Tkachenko," explained Mr. Kendzior. "The thing here is that the committee greatly expanded the scope of its work and among the names that figure in the report are members of the majority. Of course, the question in these cases is not about criminal activity but about small improprieties."

The Kendzior committee's findings split the Verkhovna Rada along ideological lines once again, with the left condemning the report on one of its leaders as an attempt to discredit it.

While Leonid Kravchuk, leader of the Coordinating Council of the majority coalition, voiced unqualified approval for the findings, Heorhii Kriuchkov of the Communist faction said the report was misleading. He gave as an example the criticism leveled for the expenditure of parliamentary funds to furnish and renovate Mr. Tkachenko's dacha, which he explained were minuscule compared to the lavish expenses for homes and dachas incurred by executive branch officials.

But some members of the majority coalition said they also believed that the charges were mired in politics and pettiness. National Deputy Dmytro Tabachnyk suggested that the report needlessly aired the Parliament's dirty laundry in public, while never directly showing what actions were illegal.

While referring to Mr. Kendzior's enumeration of the amount and types of domestic furnishings purchased for Mr. Tkachenko's dacha, Mr. Tabachnyk said: "You can't simply talk about the number of certain objects, but must explain whether they were obtained within the legal confines of the budget of the Verkhovna Rada."

In response, Mr. Kendzior said criticism of the report is merely an expression of the twisted mindset of some national deputies.

"It's this type of psychology: Let's say that somebody in fact did do something improperly. But then why should we dump our trash outside the walls of the Parliament? And more so, why should we hand it over to the procurator so that they too can go through our dirty laundry. That's why the desire to close this issue as quickly as possible will dominate," explained Mr. Kendzior.

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UUARC's Kyiv office delivers aid to miners' families in Krasnodon

United Ukrainian American Relief Committee

PHILADELPHIA – As soon as Stefan Hawrysz, executive director of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee Inc., received word from the Embassy of Ukraine of the disastrous mine accident, an emergency phone chain went into action and all of the directors on the board unanimously agreed to immediately authorize the director of UUARC's Kyiv office to distribute funds to the families of the miners killed and injured in Krasnodon, Ukraine.

The sums to be donated were \$200 (U.S.) per family for the kin of miners killed in the accident, and \$100 per injured miner, for a total of \$16,700. UUARC had previously assisted victims of other mining disasters, but in this case it was decided that Vira Prynko of the UUARC's Kyiv office would personally deliver the funds to suffering families to ensure safe and prompt distribution.

This decision raised the question of logistics: how to travel from Kyiv to Luhansk carrying cash. In the brief time between the accident and Ms. Prynko's departure from Kyiv, arrangements could not be made with a dependable bank in Luhansk, so help came from the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the persons of Dr. Viktor Rehulsky, general major of the militia and rector of the Academy of the Internal Affairs, and Mykola Anufriev, vice-minister of internal affairs.

Ms. Prynko was given an armed escort and safely flew into Luhansk and then traveled overland to Krasnodon. Over 200 people assembled in the activity hall of the Krasnodon Museum. With Oleksander Efremov, the head of the Luhansk Oblast Administration officiating, one by one the

devastated family members of the 80 miners who lost their lives in the explosion gratefully received and signed for their \$200.

Each one of the widows, mothers and children expressed their thanks and cried tears of relief, as not only was this the first aid they had received from anyone since the accident, but prior to the tragedy, their husbands, fathers and sons had not been paid in months for the work they had done.

The international press corps was fascinated with how the UUARC was able to mobilize the funding for these families so quickly, and interviewed Ms. Prynko at length about the activities of this organization. A great deal of emphasis was placed on the fact that this was the first assistance actually distributed to the victims' families.

While reports circulated that \$5 million (U.S.) of international aid had been given to the Ukrainian government specifically for these families, there was no sign of this money. The families questioned why representatives of various foreign governments had not taken steps to ascertain whether their help was received.

Ms. Prynko's report to the UUARC's executive board confirmed the wisdom of "hand to hand" delivery of the aid, as the survival of these widows and orphans seemed truly in question.

The UUARC is encouraging further contributions toward aid to the miners' families. As donations from the Ukrainian American community pour in, the UUARC will continue to provide the families with financial aid for the future.

Donations may be sent to: UUARC Inc., 1206 Cottman Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111. For information call (215) 728-1630.



Vera Prynko (second from left), representative of the UUARC's Kyiv office, with the family of a miner killed in the March 11 accident in the Barakova mine.



The UUARC's Kyiv representative speaks with a woman who lost both her husband and son in the mining disaster.



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Detroit Regional Council holds first celebration of UNWLA's 75th anniversary

by Lydia Kachan Jachnyckyj

WARREN, Mich. – The first gala jubilee celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Ukrainian National Women's League (UNWLA) was held by its Detroit Regional Council on Saturday, March 18, here at the St. Josaphat banquet center.

Regional Council President Lida Kolodchin, who has served as a model worthy of special recognition for the exemplary leadership she provided during her tenure as president, presented her opening remarks and welcomed the festive crowd to the sold-out event.

Ms. Kolodchin introduced Natalie Hewko, the mistress of ceremonies, who very aptly led the program in a professional manner. Ms. Hewko, who served as the jubilee committee chairperson and was the guiding force behind the organization of this most successful celebration, was chosen as the new president of the Detroit Regional Council at the annual meeting held the following day. She indicated that her projected goals as president include closer cooperation with English-speaking branches, increasing membership, and organizing a local fund-raiser for the UNWLA action "Milk and Buns" for schoolchildren in Ukraine.

At the banquet guests sang the UNWLA anthem and observed a moment of silence in memory of deceased UNWLA members, or "Soyuzianky." Dr. Mary Beck, one of the pioneer members, along with keynote speaker UNWLA President Iryna Kurowyckyj and Ms. Kolodchin lit the ceremonial three candles. Dr. Beck, a well-known Soyuzianka who was inaugurated into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, lit a candle representing the UNWLA's pioneers. Ms. Kurowyckyj lit a candle representing all of the current members nationwide, while Ms. Kolodchin's candle represented the Detroit area members.

President Kurowyckyj presented congratulatory remarks and a brief history of the myriad activities undertaken and completed by the UNWLA. Her dynamic speech highlighted the organization's plans for the new millennium, including actively recruiting new members – especially the fourth wave of Ukrainian immigrant women.

She also inspired the Soyuzianky at their annual meeting on the following day to continue with their hard work and determination to achieve their projected goals. Natalia Danylenko, vice-president of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, presented warm greetings and best wishes for the future on behalf of her organization and also addressed the Soyuzianky at their annual meeting.



Members of the UNWLA Detroit Regional Council at their 75th anniversary banquet with honored guests representing the leadership of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America and the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations.

The following women celebrating over 50 years of membership in the UNLWA were recognized at the banquet and received certificates from Ms. Kurowyckyj and Ms. Kolodchin: Josephine Popowich Bobowsky, Maria Cisaruk, Maria Diakiw, Elsie Kozachenko Dodson, Stanislava Haida, Sonia Malaniak Hayes (Hawaii), Olena Hewko, Tekla Hrynczuk, Sophie Hudzinski, Irena Iwanyckyj, Ann Kibzey, Evdokia Klymyshyn, Kateryna Kobasa, Joanna Draginda Kulchesky, Aleksandra Latyszewsky, Olha Makar, Mary Popowich Maliszewski, Mychajlina Maslowsky, Justine Malaniak Nelligan, Olha Sawczuk, Ann Sedorak, Helen Sedorak, Rose Slupecki, Anastasia Sedorak Sosnowsky, Maria Sywak and Anna Zajac. Pauline Budzol, the Detroit Regional Councils honorary president, Zenovia Kaminsky and Olga Kachner O'Neill were recognized posthumously.

Special recognition was given to Orysia Lonchyna as honorary president and Daria Koniuch as honorary member of the Detroit Regional Council for their invaluable efforts on behalf of the organization through the years.

Acknowledgments were also given to

the following women for their dedication and hard work: Ksenia Antypiw, Myroslava Baranyk, Myroslava Capp, Myroslava Chomiak, Roma Dyhdalo, Natalia Hewko, Olha Hyszczak, Kwitka Iwanycky, Marta Jovanovic, Aleksandra Latyszewsky, Olena Liskiwsy, Maria Lisowsky, Anna Macielinski, Stephania Ohlhabiak, Emilia Onyskiw, Irene Pryjma, Marta Szechowycz, Olga Solovey, Irena Tarnavsky, Marta Wasylkewych and Maria Zarycky-Cherviovsky.

Children from the local "svitlychky" (preschools) sponsored by UNWLA Branches 53 and 76 performed a medley of songs and recitations. The guests, as evidenced by their smiles and endearing expressions of approval, enjoyed the special performance prepared by teachers Oleksandra Gedson, Lesia Perchyk and Lesia Sherstylo.

Local singers presented an entertaining program. Mezzo-sopano Christina Romana Lypecky received a special honorary tribute for the many performances she has given through the years on behalf of the UNWLA. She sang several selections, including one from the operetta "Natalka Potavka" by Mykola Lysenko. Soprano

Maria Nazarenko also sang solos and tenor Dr. Jurij Rozhi joined the two women to perform "Ey, Nataka." The singers were accompanied by the well-known local pianist Maria Lonchyna-Lisowsky, who also played "Entr' act" from the operetta.

Bishop Oleksander Bykovetz of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church gave the invocation in Ukrainian, and the Very Rev. Basil Salkovski OSBM, pastor of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church, gave one in English. Olga Solovey provided a wonderful ambiance with her music while guests enjoyed a delicious four-course dinner.

Afterwards, Reps. Jennifer M. Faunce and Paul Wojno presented a tribute to the UNWLA members in honor of their 75th anniversary. Olha Liskiwsy-Morgan's presentation provided an interesting historical overview of the Detroit Regional Council, emphasizing the spirit of community and friendship among the women as they shared 75 years of humanitarian endeavors.

A delightful original poem "U 75 Littia SUA" (on the 75th anniversary of the

(Continued on page 12)



At the presentation of the State of Michigan Legislative Tribute at the State Capitol in Lansing are: (from left) Lida Kolodchin (Detroit Regional Council president), Anna Macielinski, State Sen. Art Miller, State Reps. Jennifer Faunce and Paul Wojno, Natalia Hewko and Olena Liskiwsy.



Detroit's Jubilee Committee: (seated, from left) Maria Lisowsky, Lida Kolodchin, Natalie Hewko, Daria Koniuch; (standing) Stefania Korol, Valentyna Pateryn, Marta Jovanovic, Lydia Kachan Jachnycky, Olena Liskiwsy, Irena Tarnavsky, Kwitka Iwanycky, Lydia Kazewych and Anna Macielinski.

SUM's Internet movement makes new strides via world conference

by Ihor Symchych

ELLENVILLE, N.Y. – Computers, computing systems and the Internet have become ingrained in our lives, becoming not only a convenience but a necessary component in today's dynamic lifestyle. Having become widely known only less than a decade ago, development of the World Wide Web has exploded, opening ever more exciting possibilities for its users. Unhindered by geographic boundaries, the Internet, with its accessibility, openness and velocity, is the new resource of information and communication.

For several years the Ukrainian Youth Association (SUM) has been fostering a technology program that includes the development of its site on the World Wide Web, with an eye toward creating an effective medium for communicating its ideas and programs worldwide. Its web presence, at www.CYM.org [CYM is the Ukrainian acronym for SUM – Spilka Ukrainskoyi Molodi] already serves to provide information and resources to CYM members in all corners of the world. The rapid development of this movement within SUM has brought out the need to not only reflect on what has been achieved to date, but to contemplate directions of future evolution.

To that end, SUM's world executive recently backed a plan, initiated by its CYMnet Committee, to hold an international event – the first World CYMnet Conference. Invited to participate were not only professionals and academics in computer science, but also computer users and novices who wanted to learn more or share their knowledge about technical or non-technical areas tied to the Internet.

SUM's Ellenville resort was the location of the April 1-2 event. Over 100 delegates arrived from Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Ukraine and the United States. After Yury Nakonechny, president of SUM in America, officially opened the event, participants were met by the warm greetings, broadcast online via Streaming Video technology and projected onto a one-and-a-half-story high screen in the conference hall, from Wira Hajdamacha, president of SUM's World Executive in Prague, from national presidents of SUM in Ukraine, Canada and the United States, and from Askold Lozynskyj, president of the Ukrainian World Congress and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

The conference's keynote address was delivered by Ihor Symchych of Kyiv, former president of SUM in Ukraine and a CYMnet Committee founding member.

A range of introductory sessions were held that provided a technical foundation on which the two days of subsequent sessions would build. Andriy Bebko (London),



Participants of SUM's first world conference on the Internet, held in Ellenville, N.Y., on April 1-2.

CYMnet's first chairman, presented "What is CYMnet?" – a history of the CYMnet movement, its goals and major projects. Pawlo Figol (Passaic, N.J.) delivered a technical overview of the Internet, its principles and workings, as well as its history and perspectives for the future.

The Internet today is easily accessible to much of the world's population. The statistics of SUM's website indicate that tens of thousands of surfers have browsed the CYMnet site from over 20 countries, including exotic locations such as Mexico, Japan and New Zealand where SUM branches do not (yet) exist.

Though readers may surf the Web every day, they may wonder: how are webpages actually created? For CYMnet conference attendees, this is no longer a secret. Under the direction of Ihor Stecko (New York), conference delegates undertook a practical course in HTML, the language of the Internet, and learned to create their own websites. On-site was a computer lab consisting of dozens of networked personal computers that were available around the clock for all to use their newfound web-building knowledge to construct useful and interesting webpages and sites.

Complementing the HTML sessions were several instructional sessions dealing with creation and manipulation of graphics, photographs and images for the web, taught by Roman Panchyshyn (Chicago).

The Ukrainian Youth Association is first and foremost an organization dedicated to its youth. Thus, educational and developmental topics played a major role for the association's youth counselors at the CYMnet conference. Much attention was given to how technology can play a useful role in SUM's youth programs.

Practical methods of utilizing computers in presenting material in an interesting and interactive way for children were presented by seasoned teachers and counselors. Dania Nauholnyk (New York), a teacher and school principal who is co-chairperson of SUM's U.S. Educational Council, presented a session on using Hyperstudio to develop interactive lessons that she has had success with as a middle school teacher. The presentation had a tremendous impact on those present, planting innovative ideas that would be taken home and put to practical use. Marianna Znak, co-chairperson with Ms. Nauholnyk, led a roundtable session titled "Educational Programs and Computers" during which counselors exchanged ideas and experiences, and developed proposals for future electronic content offerings on CYMnet and for

SUM's educational program.

Drawing a large crowd was a session at which Walter Hanchuk (New York) a well-known attorney specializing in the Internet, intellectual property, trademarks and patents, shared his legal experiences. Mr. Hanchuk addressed the legal issues, perils and pitfalls of creating personal and business sites on the Internet.

Mykhajlo Bycko (Cleveland) offered a practical course in Internet journalism, followed by sessions led by Andriy Bihun (Goshen, N.Y.) on creating a website on SUM's web server, as well as about Ukrainianization of personal computers and Ukrainian fonts. Andriy Bebko returned to discuss "Dangers of the Internet," focusing on parenting issues and children's access to inappropriate content on the web.

Jurij Stecko (New York) presented the result of a research project, a collection of Internet resources suitable for gathering ideas and materials for SUM members in their various branches of work. Among the surprises of the talk were close-up satellite photos of the conference site in Ellenville, showing detailed high-quality images of the resort's buildings and grounds with remarkable clarity at one-meter resolution. Many in the audience, upon returning home, no doubt went directly to their computers to find images of their own homes on the Internet's Terraserver site.

The Planning Committee of the World CYMnet Conference, made up of local representatives in the United States, handled all

technical, organizational and logistical feats of planning and executing a conference of such high professional quality. Committee members were: Iryna and Volodymyr Kohut, Lida Mykytyn, Mr. Figol, Ihor Stecko, Jurij Stecko and Kristine Bihun. The soul and driving force behind the project was Mr. Bihun, chairman of the CYMnet Committee.

Kudos were expressed also to the new administration of Ellenville's "oselia" (as the resort is known), which provided first-rate accommodations and a delightful environment for the conference.

Organizers acknowledged that the success of the event was due, in large part, to the generous support of the conference Sponsors: i2 Technologies Inc., Air Ukraine, Self Reliance (N.Y.) Federal Credit Union, SUMA (Yonkers) Federal Credit Union, 1st Security Federal Savings Bank, The Ukrainian Weekly, Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, Cleveland Self Reliance Federal Credit Union, the America weekly and the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in the U.S.A.

After two days of sessions that left attendees wanting more, all returned home. Wherever home may be, for every SUMivets, the opportunity now exists to meet frequently with friends and colleagues in the virtual world called CYMnet. It was a truly inspiring site: the eyes of both young and old were lit up with the revelation of new ideas and techniques.



Andriy Bihun, chairman of the CYMnet Committee, addresses the conference.



Young members of SUM work on their personal webpages.

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Grads of Ss. Peter and Paul School schedule Reunion 2000 in Cohoes

COHOES, N.Y. – On May 27-30 three generations of Ukrainian Americans will revisit the elementary school that served their community for over 30 years at the Ss. Peter and Paul Reunion 2000.

Over the Memorial Day weekend, former students of Ss. Peter and Paul Elementary School in Cohoes, their children, their parents and their teachers will reunite for the first time since the closing of the school in 1980. The highlight of the reunion weekend will be a concert of Ukrainian and American music at Cohoes High School on Sunday, May 29, followed by an old-fashioned family picnic on the grounds of the Ukrainian American Citizens Club.

Ss. Peter and Paul School was small by most measures – only 300 graduates over the 33 years it was open, some classes with as few as five students – but it meant a lot to the newly arrived immigrant families for whom it was a launch pad to the great America dream.

"The school and the church were the focal points of our community," said Anna Pawliw Mariani (class of 1963), reunion coordinator. "Almost everything we did academically, spiritually and socially had its heart and soul in the school, church or Ukrainian Club. We cherish those memories and truly look forward to renewing some of our fondest relationships at the reunion," she added.

Reunion organizers tracked down the current addresses of 100 percent of the school's attendees from all parts of the United States and Canada: "The enthusiasm for this reunion is just phenomenal," said Walter Kolakowski (1963), chairman of the organizing committee. "It seems to have struck a chord with everyone – maybe because we were all very close for so long," he added.

Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Church

was established in 1907, but it wasn't until September 1947 that the community achieved its goal of opening a parish school. The first school building was the former rectory and, in an interesting example of "déjà vu all over again," that same building is a rectory again today.

In the early 1950s a drive was inaugurated to raise money for construction of a new school building, which opened its doors in 1950. Throughout the next 20 years the "new school," as it was fondly known in the community, stood within walking distance from the church and the club house, and took its place as a cornerstone in the tightly knit Ukrainian community.

The full program for the reunion is as follows.

- Saturday, May 27 – 4 p.m., English-language liturgy at Ss. Peter and Paul, followed by coffee hour and get-together in the church hall.

- Sunday, May 28 – 9 a.m., Ukrainian-language liturgy followed by coffee hour; 1 p.m., opening ceremony and Millennium Concert at Cohoes High School Auditorium; 3 p.m., Reunion Family Picnic at the Ukrainian American Club; 5:30 p.m., swinging and dancing to the music of Danny Lombardo.

The concert will feature Oksana Krovtytska, a Ukrainian-born leading soprano in her seventh season at the New York City Opera. Also featured will be Ukrainian-born singer Marianna Vynnytska. Pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky will accompany both soloists.

- Monday, May 29 – 9 a.m., service at Ss. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Waterford, N.Y.

For more information, to purchase tickets, to participate in the raffle or program, or for advertising opportunities, contact Ms. Mariani at (518) 235-5951.

Detroit Regional Council...

(Continued from page 10)

UNWLA) was written and recited by Marta Szechowycz. In verse Ms. Szechowycz recognized the 75 years of charitable activities performed by many Soyuzianky and fondly remembered those who are no longer with us. She emphasized their legacy with the hope that the younger generation will follow in their footsteps.

In her closing remarks, Ms. Hewko thanked everyone who participated in this historic celebration. The Very Rev. Roberto Lucavei OSBM, pastor of

Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, gave the benediction.

The culmination of the evening was a commemorative photograph taken of members spanning four generations of women. This indeed was a reflective moment for the attending Soyuzianky.

It was a celebration of the hard work and dedication of Ukrainian women who have every reason to be proud of their past achievements. To ensure the continuity of the goals of their organizations, they have committed themselves to carry on the charitable, educational and social activities initiated by their predecessors of 75 years ago.

Newly inaugurated...

(Continued from page 2)

the press and those who seek to defend it.

Such a strategy has three major advantages for a leader like President Putin, who has made it clear that he wants to ensure his control. First, it can be used to silence or break those who oppose his regime, either by drawing them into legal cases or financially ruining them.

Second, actions of this type intimidate other groups that might be thinking about opposing him. The latter can see what the costs of such an approach are and may therefore decide to remain silent or other-

wise go along with the regime.

And third, because such actions are cloaked in a mantle of legality, they often escape any criticism from democratic governments. Such governments can and do say to themselves that the Russian police are, after all, only enforcing the law.

But for all three of these reasons, this "legal" threat to media freedom and to other forms of freedom that rely on it may be even more insidious than the direct application of force. Thus, the May 11 raid on Media-Most may prove an even more significant turning point in Russia's political development than Mr. Putin's inauguration as president four days earlier.

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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Whippany church holds parish breakfast



WHIPPANY, N.J. – St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church held a sold-out parish breakfast on Sunday, April 2. State Sen. Tony Bucco (R) attended the event and was presented a pysanka, or Ukrainian Easter egg, as a gift from the local Ukrainian community. Seen in the photo above (from left) are: Michael Halibej, parish trustee; Orest Kucyna, Ways and Means Committee; Mr. Bucco; the Rev. Uryi Markewych, pastor; and Jerry Kuzemczak, Building Committee. St. John's Parish is currently in the process of raising funds for a new church for its growing congregation in Morris County.

Parishioners in Ansonia bless "pasky"



ANSONIA, Conn. – More than 550 Ukrainians brought their Easter baskets to the parish auditorium of Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church here on April 22, Holy Saturday, for blessings conducted by the Rev. Robert J. Batcho. In the photo above, the Rev. Batcho blesses the "pasky" as parishioners, young and old, pray.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

2001, Interfax reported. According to Mr. Havrysh, President Kuchma will not oppose lawmakers if the Verkhovna Rada introduces "some corrections" into the constitutional formulations approved by the referendum. Mr. Havrysh suggested that the president might introduce the constitutional amendments by decree if lawmakers failed to pass them. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Demonstrators react to bread price hike

KYIV – Two opposing rallies were held at the Kyiv City Administration building on May 13 in response to the city authorities' decision to nearly double prices for bread as of May 10, Interfax reported. A rally organized by the Social Democratic Party (Unified) protested the hike, calling it "the beginning of famine" and demanding the ouster of Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko. The other demonstration, organized by workers at city bakeries, expressed support for the hike and protested "Communist methods of fighting for social rights." Mr. Omelchenko told the gatherings that Kyiv has "the cheapest bread in Ukraine." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine, Vietnam to cooperate in military

KYIV – "We are on the threshold of large-scale military and military-technical cooperation between our countries," Interfax quoted Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksander Kuzmuk as saying on May 13, following a meeting with his Vietnamese counterpart, Pham Van Tra. The two sides plan to sign a five-year military cooperation accord by September. "Ukraine is ready to sell military equipment to Vietnam. The Vietnamese side is now determining its capabilities for the purchase of arms," the Associated Press quoted Gen. Kuzmuk as saying. The sides also agreed that 30 Vietnamese officers will receive training at Ukrainian military schools beginning on September 1. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada sends referendum bills to court

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on May 11 voted 304-7, with four abstentions, to send to the Constitutional Court two draft bills on how the Constitution of Ukraine should reflect the results of the April 16 referendum, Interfax reported. The first bill was submitted to the Parliament by President Leonid Kuchma, while the second was sponsored by 152 lawmakers primarily from leftist and centrist caucuses. The Associated Press quoted a parliamentary spokesman as saying that the lawmakers' bill proposes granting the Parliament the right to appoint and dismiss the prime minister and Cabinet members. Meanwhile, the Constitutional Court is examining the legality of resolutions adopted by the parliamentary majority outside the parliamentary building after the Verkhovna Rada split into two warring factions in January. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada adopts laws on amnesty, budget

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on May 11 passed a law stating that amnesty may be offered to those convicted for "minor crimes," primarily minors, people with children who are minors or disabled, pregnant women, the elderly, and war veterans, Interfax reported. The Parliament also amended the 2000 budget to increase revenues from 32.8 billion hrv to 33.7 billion hrv (\$6.2 billion). The amendments stipulate that an additional 200 million hrv be directed to local budgets, and that other funds be allocated as follows: 195 million hrv to support the agricultural sector, 35 million hrv for the shutdown of Chernobyl, 80 million hrv for restructuring the coal sector and 195 million hrv for subsidies to coal mines. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Putin comments on Slavic victory

ST. PETERSBURG – Writing in The St. Petersburg Times on May 9, Yevgeniya Albats discussed President Vladimir Putin's suggestion last week that the Soviet victory in World War II was "the victory of Slavic peoples." Such a remark not only minimizes the contribution of all other Soviet peoples to the war effort, she said, but recalls the words of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin in his 1945 toast to the Great Russian people, whom he described as "the most outstanding nation of all the nations comprising the Soviet Union." Ms. Albats, whose Jewish father became an invalid after fighting in World War II, concluded that in 1991 the Soviet Union, as a party state, "proved once again that the idea of ethnic supremacy is self-destructive. It seems," she said, that "our new president, inaugurated on [May 7], did not study his history lessons well enough." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Lviv Oblast orders Nashe Radio off air

KYIV – The head of Lviv Oblast Administration, Stepan Semchuk, has signed an order to halt transmissions by Nashe Radio in the oblast. The official reason for closure of the station is that over 90 percent of the information on this channel is in Russian. The chair of the Verkhovna Rada Committee for Freedom of Speech and Information, Oleksander Zinchenko, said the decision by Lviv authorities is a severe violation of the freedom of speech. He added that "only the courts or the National Council on TV and Radio and its regional branches may issue such a decision." (Eastern Economist)

Sejm ratifies abolition of death penalty

WARSAW – By a vote of 257-117, with 33 abstentions, the Polish Parliament, or Sejm, on April 14 voted to authorize the president to sign a protocol to the European Human Rights Convention that abolishes the death penalty. The move bans Poland from reintroducing capital punishment, which was formally dropped with the introduction of the post-Communist penal code on September 1, 1998. Poland suspended executions by hanging in 1988. "This symbolic act brings us into a group of modern European states. We are no longer in the infamous group of countries, such as Albania, Russia or Turkey, which have not ratified the convention," Justice Ministry spokeswoman Barbara Makosa-Stepkowska said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Journalists demand limits on court fines

KYIV – In an action protesting what they condemned as the suppression of the media in Ukraine by courts that impose exorbitant fines, some 50 journalists on May 3 erected a five-meter-high barricade and marched along a central Kyiv street with their mouths taped shut, the Associated Press and Interfax reported. The journalists demanded that the Verkhovna Rada amend the law on the media to establish limits on the size of the fine the media must pay if found guilty of libel or other offenses. More than 2,250 lawsuits were filed against Ukrainian newspapers in 1999 for damages totaling 90 billion hrv (\$16.8 billion). That sum is nearly double Ukraine's planned budget revenues in 2000. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Suspect arrested in attack on embassy

MOSCOW – Russia's Federal Security Service on May 7 announced the arrest of a Moscow resident who is suspected of having opened fire on the U.S. Embassy in Moscow on March 28, 1999, Interfax reported. The suspect was part of a group protesting NATO's operations in Kosovo. Officials said a criminal case has been opened and that charges are to be brought against the man in the near future. (RFE/RL Newsline)

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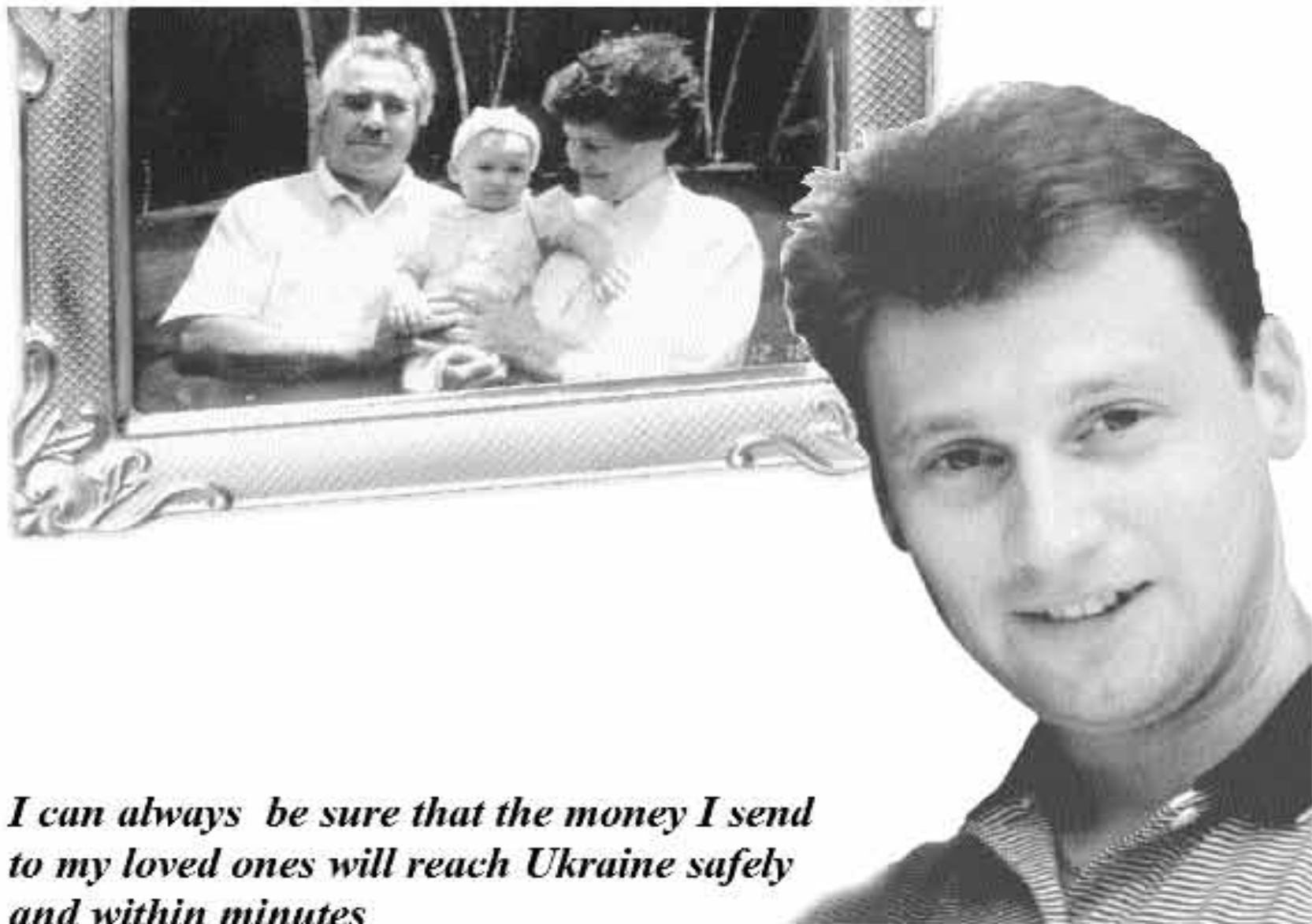
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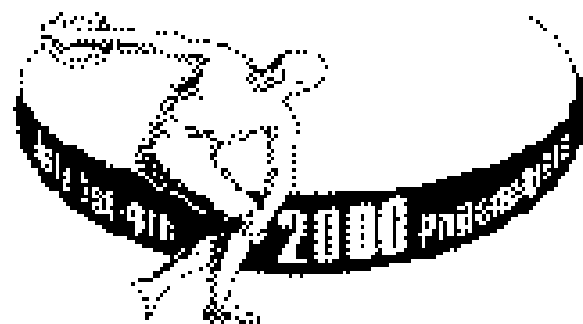
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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Elected to Ukraine's Academy of Sciences

KYIV – Dr. George Gamota was elected a foreign member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine on April 7. Dr. Gamota is currently the In-Country Manager of the USAID-supported Business Incubator Development (BID) Program in Ukraine managed by Loyola College of Baltimore. He was recognized for his pioneering scientific work as a scientist at the University of Michigan and Bell Laboratories, as well for his continuing support of scientists in Ukraine since independence in 1991.

As a member of the Emergency Task Force of the American Physical Society (APS), Dr. Gamota managed, with the help of the Ukrainian Physical Society, the APS small grants program that supported 875 young scientists in 1992-1993. He further helped Ukrainian scientific organizations acquire technical journals and other information from the West and started summer school programs in Kyiv, Kharkiv and Lviv. He brought a number of American scientists to Ukraine that resulted in many new opportunities for Ukrainian scientists to partner with their American counterparts. For his work with young scientists and other efforts, he was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Ukrainian Physical Society, an honor that has been bestowed to only four physicists. He is also a long-standing member of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America.

In 1995 he proposed to the USAID the establishment of a technology business incubator program to help support scientists interested in starting their own small businesses. He successfully competed for a grant to begin that work in 1997. Currently, two technology incubators are operating in Ukraine: in Kyiv (The Center of Innovation Development, a

subsidiary of the International Institute of Management) and in Kharkiv (The Center of Kharkiv Technologies, a subsidiary of the Institute of Single Crystals). Together they have served over 600 small companies.

He also was a managing partner of the just completed Marketing Assistance Program (MAP) in Kharkiv where over 2000 persons received training in marketing and business skill development. To further expand the development of business skills for scientists, Dr. Gamota will begin a Distance Learning (DL) program this summer that will help electronically link 10 cities in Ukraine and incorporate new DL teaching technologies throughout Ukraine. This program is supported by the U.S. State Department and will be managed by Loyola College.

Dr. Gamota's career began at the University of Michigan, where he obtained his Ph.D. in physics. He also held senior positions in the U.S. government, as director of research at the Pentagon, professor of physics and director of the University of Michigan's Institute of Science and Technology, president of Thermo Electron Technologies Corporation, and director of the MITRE Institute. He is currently president of a small technical consulting firm, Science and Technology Management Associates and associate director of the International Technology Research Institute of Loyola College. He is the author or co-author of over 80 technical articles, four books and a comprehensive 5-volume report titled "Science, Technology and Conversion in Ukraine."

Dr. Gamota was born in Lviv, Ukraine, in 1939 and emigrated to the United States in 1949. He is married to the former Christina Dawydowycz, and has three sons, two of whom have worked in Ukraine for a number of years in various capacities after completing their studies in the United States.

To The Weekly Contributors:

We greatly appreciate the materials – feature articles, news stories, press clippings, letters to the editor, and the like – we receive from our readers. In order to facilitate preparation of The Ukrainian Weekly, we ask that the guidelines listed below be followed.

- ✦ News stories should be sent in **not later than 10 days** after the occurrence of a given event.
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- ✦ Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date of The Weekly edition in which the information is to be published.
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Yuschenko sees...

(Continued from page 1)

vization that is currently occurring in Ukraine, Mr. Yuschenko said he invited U.S. experts to witness the process to assure its openness and transparency.

The two sides discussed in detail Ukraine's decision to close Chornobyl this year – a move that the international community has pushed for over a decade. The United States made no promises to help Ukraine fund two reactor blocks at other nuclear energy facilities it claims are required to offset the energy lost when Chornobyl closes. And, while Ukraine still has not received financing promised by the G-7 industrialized nations, including the United States in 1995, Mr. Yuschenko said the U.S. administration showed understanding for the need for alternative energy sources, as well as for the problems Ukraine will encounter in taking Chornobyl permanently off-line.

He added that President Clinton will further discuss the situation with President Leonid Kuchma when the two meet in Kyiv at the beginning of June.

The prime minister also reported that Ukraine had achieved success in the most sensitive issue discussed in Washington: whether the National Bank of Ukraine had deliberately misrepresented its hard curren-

cy holdings in order to obtain IMF loans.

Mr. Yuschenko, who headed the central bank of Ukraine before he became prime minister, said that in discussions with the IMF the two sides reviewed the flexibility and transparency of past relations, especially in regard to the several audits that have taken place, and agreed on how to move forward to continue cooperation. He noted, however, that unsubstantiated press reports and allegations had put Ukraine in an awkward position.

"For Ukraine, and I underscore this, this is a difficult, unpleasant and even to a degree an insulting topic, one which carries with it many insinuations, many of them fabricated, which I believe the IMF understood," said Mr. Yuschenko.

From the U.S. side, according to Mr. Yuschenko, among the chief concerns raised regarding bilateral relations was the bootlegging of U.S. manufactured products and Ukraine's support for intellectual property rights. Today Ukraine, along with China and Russia, is one of the leading manufacturers of bootleg music CDs and videocassettes.

Mr. Yuschenko said he had assured U.S. authorities that in the last two to three months major inroads had been made in Ukraine to combat bootlegging, including a presidential decree on actions to combat the manufacture of unlicensed products.

Ukraine's prime minister...

(Continued from page 1)

side the parameters we have set for this year," said Mr. Yuschenko, while assuring foreign investors that their investments no longer are at risk of losing value.

State privatization, long considered the corrupted playground for Ukraine's political and financial clans as they took control of the Ukrainian market, is undergoing major changes as well, to make the process more open and transparent. The prime minister said that, as the sell-off of the state's business holdings moves into its largest phase, the sale of regional energy suppliers, only businesses with transparent practices willing to have their books audited will now be allowed to participate and that the process itself will be recorded at every stage.

For investors who are reluctant to join the Ukrainian economy until substantial land reform occurs, Mr. Yuschenko said they will not have long to wait. He explained that the first stage of land reform, whereby collective farms were transformed into land cooperatives and agricultural corporations, is complete. Towards the end of the summer Ukraine's long-ignored agricultural sector should finally begin to see real money begin flowing back into the country's villages.

He announced that a second round of land reform, to begin in the second half of

the year, will include enactment of a new land code that will be followed by land registration.

Other changes in the economic sector, including ongoing administrative reform and a new tax code, also will make it much easier for foreign investors to begin their work in the country, explained Mr. Yuschenko. He noted that the government now has better control over revenue collection, which resulted in a 47.4 percent increase in government income in 1999.

Mr. Yuschenko had plenty of positive economic indicators to cite as more proof that the time is right for foreign investment in Ukraine. He said that in the first quarter of 2000 capital investment increased by 26 percent, individual savings by a whopping 130 percent and hard currency investment by 20.5 percent, while average annual incomes grew by 11.5 percent. He also noted that, for the first time in several years, pension and wage arrears had been paid.

He said the current numbers, along with already released economic figures that show a 5.5 percent increase in gross domestic product in the first quarter and a nearly 10 percent growth in industrial output, give every reason to believe that Ukraine's long economic slide has been stemmed and economic growth is occurring.

"With conviction I want to tell you that we are at the beginning of a period of economic reinvigoration," Mr. Yuschenko underscored.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday-Sunday, May 27-28

LEHIGHTON, Pa.: The Ukrainian Homestead will hosts its traditional Memorial Day weekend zabava on Saturday at 9 p.m., with music by the Dnipriany. Admission: \$10 per person. On Sunday, May 28, the festivities will continue with a picnic and barbecue at 3-8 p.m. Admission is free for club members; \$5, for non-members. For information call (610) 377-4621 or ask for Ulana Prociuk at (215) 235-3709. Additional information about the Ukrainian Homestead is also available on the website at www.ukienet.com.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday, June 10

LEHIGHTON, Pa.: The Ukrainian Homestead will host its eighth annual "Whitewater Kozak" rafting trip at the Lehigh River gorge. Rafters will depart the Ukrainian Homestead at 7:45 a.m. and return by 4 p.m. A victory celebration will be held for survivors immediately after the rafting trip. Fee: \$45 per person, with wet suit rentals at an additional \$12 per person. For information and registration call Ihor Stefan Bilynsky, (215) 332-5760 (after 8 p.m.).

PLEASE NOTE REQUIREMENTS:

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

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

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



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