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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Foreign Affairs Minister Tarasyuk begins Canadian visit in Winnipeg

WINNIPEG – Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk began his June 11-13 visit to Canada for meetings with government officials and the business community with a two-day stopover in Manitoba in recognition of the province's diverse economic ties with Ukraine.

Minister Tarasyuk came to Canada on the invitation of Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy. According to the Eastern Economist, meetings with Canadian government officials were to concentrate on the fulfillment of obligations undertaken by the G-7 countries in funding the construction of the sarcophagus over the fourth reactor of Chernobyl nuclear power station and problems connected with plant's shutdown. Other issues on the agenda included Canadian lobbying of the International Monetary Fund to assist Ukraine in restoring the Extended Fund Facility program.

"During his visit to Canada, Minister Tarasyuk presented a 'new Ukraine,' with a government committed to real changes in politics and economics in order to improve the living conditions for Ukrainians and to create real opportunities for foreign investors," said Eugene



Ian McCausland

Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk of Ukraine and Manitoba Premier Gary Doer near Winnipeg's Shevchenko Monument.

Czoli, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. "The Ukrainian Canadian Congress applauds and supports such reforms."

Minister Tarasyuk was welcomed on June 11 with the traditional Ukrainian greeting of bread and salt at Winnipeg International Airport by a delegation

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Ukrainian delegation participates in U.N. session on gender equality

by Irene Jarosewich

UNITED NATIONS – Leading a delegation of 10 women that included representatives from both government and non-government sectors, Ukraine's Minister of Justice Suzanna Stanik delivered the Ukrainian government's summary statement on the current status of women in Ukraine at the opening session of the 23rd United Nations General Assembly special session, "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century."

In her comments, delivered the morning of June 5, Ms. Stanik stated: "We are entering the new century, the century of humanism and rule of law. Military measures for solving human problems have been fully exhausted. There is a rising need for modernization of the world by addressing the global social and political changes on the basis of generally recognized morals and ethics, as well as legal principles: democracy, human rights, equality, justice, freedom and humanism."

"It is not incidental that the first special session of the General Assembly in the new 21st century is devoted to the elaboration of effective strategies for the advancement of women all over the world, the creation of appropriate conditions for their life, the enhancement of their role in political and economic activities. ... it is the woman who personifies civil, moral and human approach to addressing the most complex problems of the modern world." (The full text of Ms. Stanik's statement appears on page 3.)

Portugal's Minister for Equality Maria

de Belem Roseira, representing the European Union, also spoke during the opening session on June 5 and stated that "gender equality, sustainable development and peace are fundamental objectives, all of them interlinked, to be achieved in the 21st century ... the objective of building gender equality ... is not just a matter of fairness and justice to women ... but, above all, is a matter of democracy and human rights for all."

The U.N. special session, held June 5-9 and known popularly as "Beijing +5," is a follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women that was held in 1995 in Beijing. The 1995 conference developed an international agenda for the advancement of women, The Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, a plan that was adopted unanimously by representatives from 189 states.

Attending the Beijing +5 special session in New York were close to 10,000 participants, including 2,300 delegates, 2,100 NGO representatives, U.N. staff, media correspondents, experts, panelists and speakers. Of the U.N. member-states, 178 sent representatives to deliver five-year status reports on their countries' activities in implementing the platform for action adopted in Beijing. Also giving presentations were 28 heads of international bodies, U.N. commissions, non-member and observer states. Seventy-seven percent of the speakers delivering presentations during the 10 plenary sessions were women.

The status reports reflected progress made by countries in the 12 critical areas

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Ukraine's Minister of Energy resigns citing policy differences

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's energy sector was thrown into further turmoil on June 15 when Minister of Energy Serhii Tulub resigned over fundamental disagreements with the government of Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko over restructuring of the country's fuel and energy sector.

"In this aggressive atmosphere in which I have found myself and which surrounds the ministry, I cannot fulfill the directives that the president has placed before me, and therefore I offer my resignation," said Mr. Tulub through his press secretary.

During a press conference held earlier in the day, he said the specific reason for his resignation was the government's

inability to institute measures recommended by his ministry to resolve chaos in the oil, gas and coal segments of the economy, which are badly in debt and controlled by a few wealthy businessmen.

But chiefly he blamed his boss, Vice Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, whose determination to regulate the Ukrainian gas commodity market he could not accept. He said that too often Ms. Tymoshenko was long on rhetoric and short on action.

"More than once we discussed the biggest problems of the energy sector, but our proposals were either ignored for months, and if accepted only too late," said Mr. Tulub, according to Interfax-Ukraine.

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Ukraine's Minister of Justice Suzanna Stanik speaks at the opening session of the U.N. General Assembly special session "Beijing+5," June 5, in New York.

ANALYSIS

Chornobyl's closure means search for storage sites, new energy sources

by Tuck Wesolowsky
RFE/RL Newsline

PRAGUE – As expected, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma announced on June 5 that the last nuclear reactor at Chornobyl will be shut down on December 15.

Mr. Kuchma made that statement in Kyiv during a six-hour visit to the Ukrainian capital by U.S. President Bill Clinton. The United States has been one of several countries appealing to Ukraine for years to decommission Chornobyl.

The nuclear plant was the site of the world's worst civilian nuclear disaster, when the roof of the fourth reactor unit exploded on April 26, 1986, spewing radioactive fallout across Europe. Although much of the fallout fell on neighboring Belarus, radiation was detected as far away as Japan. Today, only reactor Number Three is in operation. Number Two was shut down in 1991, and Number One five years later.

Mils Bohmer, a nuclear physicist working for the Oslo-based nuclear-monitoring organization Bellona, says it was the fading likelihood of more Western aid to upgrade Ukraine's rickety energy infrastructure, coupled with growing problems at Chornobyl, that prompted Mr. Kuchma to act now. "There have been a lot of technical problems with the Chornobyl reactor," he commented. "Since Christmas the remaining reactor has been [stopped] every other week ... because of technical problems."

Tobias Munchmeyer, an anti-nuclear campaigner with Greenpeace, says shutting down the sole operating nuclear reactor at Chornobyl should be relatively problem-free. The most pressing matter now, Mr. Munchmeyer says, is finding storage for the spent fuel and other radioactive waste inside the reactor. "The

reactor contains [not only] spent nuclear fuel," he notes, "but also tons of light-, medium-, and high-radiated nuclear waste, and this has to be decommissioned to be stored somewhere The financing for this decommissioning work has been given by the G-7 countries."

During his visit to Ukraine on June 5 Mr. Clinton pledged \$78 million to rebuild the sarcophagus entombing the crippled fourth reactor. Next month in Berlin, donors from 40 countries are expected to announce they have secured the necessary \$700 million to rebuild the concrete encasement, which was constructed in haste following the 1986 disaster and now has several large cracks.

During Mr. Clinton's visit no mention was made of a project that has drawn criticism from environmentalists – the construction of two new nuclear reactors, at Khmelnytsky and Rivne, known as K-Two and R-Four. Ukraine has said the two reactors, which are about 80 percent finished, are needed to compensate for the energy lost from shutting down Chornobyl.

But there is growing Western reluctance to fund the project. Among the most vocal opponents are Germany, Austria and Sweden, which have offered to fund non-nuclear alternatives.

Emmanuel Bergasse, an expert in transition economies at the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA), says Ukraine will have to choose between three main fuels. The first choice, he notes, is "expensive and environmentally polluting domestic coal, but the reform program of the present government calls for less aid to the coal sector. The second alternative is to put more emphasis on environmentally friendly gas – but ... gas is imported at quite a high cost from Russia and other CIS states, and further increases in gas imports would increase Ukraine's dependence on its powerful neighbor.

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Tuck Wesolowsky is an RFE/RL senior editor based in Prague.

Energy issues rise to prominence after U.S. president's trip to Kyiv

KYIV – "The third reactor of the Chornobyl AES will be shut down even if the G-7 countries do not allocate the funds needed for implementation of the Shelter Project" said President Leonid Kuchma after meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton on June 5. "As president, I have responsibility for my words. It will be done as I said," he stressed.

About \$90-100 million will be needed per year to purchase alternate fuel including gas due to the closure of Chornobyl, said Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko. He added that during the talks with President Clinton an understanding on the issue of compensating capacities at the Rivne and Khmelnytsky stations was reached. He added this was in response to the Ukrainian decision to shut down Chornobyl's unit 3, which currently generates about 6 percent of the nation's electricity. Mr. Yushchenko added that if funding is provided on time the compensating capacity can be built in eight to nine months.

President Kuchma also stated that despite criticism of Vice Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, Mr. Yushchenko is not considering her dismissal. Mr. Kuchma added he will follow the Constitution,

which entitles only the prime minister to make this type of decision. Mr. Yushchenko stated that he is not going to dismiss Ms. Tymoshenko, and that professional qualities and not political motives are the main factors in making decisions about cabinets appointees.

However, if the situation in the fuel and energy sector grows worse the Council for National Security and Defense will become involved in staff decisions said Mr. Kuchma. The Council for National Security and Defense and its administration will increase their control over the implementation of presidential decrees and orders in the energy sector said Yevhen Marchuk, chair of the council. Mr. Marchuk stated in May that the energy system was on the verge of collapse three times and in April and May, five nuclear reactor reactors did not function for a variety of reasons. The debt to Russian gas suppliers grew by \$100 million (U.S.) as a result of siphoning of over 1 billion cubic meters of Russian gas that was to be delivered to Europe. Mr. Marchuk previously submitted a complaint to the president accusing Mr. Yushchenko of de-stabilizing the situation in the fuel and energy sector.

NEWSBRIEFS

President submits bill on tax amnesty

Kyiv – President Leonid Kuchma has submitted to the Verkhovna Rada a bill on a tax amnesty for citizens who have concealed their revenues at home and abroad, Interfax reported on June 13. The bill proposes that private businessmen deposit their concealed cash and property in Ukrainian commercial banks, where they would be taxed at a rate of 10 percent. Under the bill, the amnesty offer would be valid for one year, but businessmen would be obliged to declare their revenues during the first six months following the law's passage. The bill includes a promise that those who declare their assets will not be punished for previous violations of tax regulations and bans officials from seeking information on the origins of income. Mr. Kuchma has asked the Parliament to consider the bill urgent and include it on the agenda immediately. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv denies allegations of supplying arms

KYIV – The Foreign Affairs Ministry has rejected allegations in foreign news media that Kyiv supplied weapons to the anti-government United Front in Sierra Leone last year, Interfax reported on June 13. Those who make such allegations "not only attempt to conceal their dirty deeds but also want to remove Ukraine from the international weapons market through unfair competition," the agency quoted a ministry official as saying. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Lazarenko pleads innocent

SAN FRANCISCO – Former Ukrainian Minister Pavlo Lazarenko has pleaded not guilty to charges of laundering some \$114 million he allegedly stole while in office, Reuters reported on June 13. Those charges have been brought by the United States, which is holding Mr. Lazarenko in a federal prison in California, pending the resolution of an extradition request by Switzerland. Mr. Lazarenko's lawyers have vowed to fight the U.S. charges, depicting their client as the victim of a political vendetta by his former ally, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Anti-Communist congress convenes

VILNIUS – An international congress on evaluating the crimes of communism opened in Vilnius on June 12, the ELTA and BNS news agencies reported. Participants from 21 countries are attending the three-day congress, which formed a nine-member international tribunal to provide a social, political and legal evaluation of the crimes of communism.

Human rights activist Yelena Bonner and former Polish President Lech Walesa are in attendance, as well as Russian State Duma Deputy Sergei Kovalev. Mr. Kovalev told the congress, "It was my nation that tolerated communism, it was my nation that was fascinated with the idea of communism and welcomed it, and occupied the Baltic countries – and not only them. I would like to stress that although the main culprits are the Communists, we [Russians] cannot say either that we had nothing to do with it all. Please accept my apologies." By contrast, the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry last week issued a statement claiming that the USSR sent its troops to Lithuania in 1940 at the request of that country's authorities and under "then existing international law." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma pushes agro-industrial reform

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma on June 12 urged the government and the Parliament to provide a legislative foundation for reforming the country's agro-industrial sector, Interfax reported. "The state should create transparent rules of the game in the agro-industrial sector in order to help farmers stand on their own two feet," he said. Responding to criticism that agricultural reform in Ukraine was launched too late, Mr. Kuchma said that "a year and a half ago it would not have succeeded." He added that "the awareness of land ownership" has begun to return to the countryside only recently. Under a presidential decree issued last December, the government has divided the land of some 11,000 collective farms into plots and distributed them among the farms' workers. The decree obliges the government to supply the plots' owners with ownership certificates by the end of 2002. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine, Moldova agree on shipments

ODESA – Meeting here on June 9, Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko and his Moldovan counterpart, Dumitru Bragis, agreed to facilitate transit shipments through their countries and to pool efforts in combating cross-border smuggling, Interfax reported. Mr. Yushchenko commented that the two sides agreed to modernize customs checkpoints at the Ukrainian-Moldovan border in order to make those facilities "more attractive for businessmen as well as for ordinary people." Belarusian Premier Uladzimir Yarmoshyn was also scheduled to participate in the Odesa meeting but failed to do so. A Belarusian government spokesman told RFE/RL that Mr. Yarmoshyn did not show up in Odesa because Belarus and Ukraine have not yet

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Ukrainian delegation...

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identified in the Beijing final document as obstacles to women's advancement: poverty; lack of access to education and training; inadequate health care; violence; armed conflict; lack of economic power; lack of political power and decision-making authority; inadequate institutional mechanisms to ensure advancement; inadequate safeguarding of human rights; poor access to the media and new information technologies; environmental hazards; abuse of the girl-child.

Violence against women appeared frequently in the reports and it became clear throughout the week that, though poverty is an enormous problem for women, the incidence of violence against women worldwide is overwhelming. Examples of violence that specifically targeted women included: international trafficking of women, most recently women from Eastern Europe, who are held against their will to work as prostitutes; in certain Asian countries girls as young as 9 are sold as slaves; in some African countries genital mutilation of young women is still practiced; in many Muslim countries the killing of a woman to defend a man's sense of honor (so-called "honor killings") is still condoned; wife-beating is not illegal and in fact is socially accepted in a great number of countries; women and girls are victims of rape by invading soldiers in dozens of regional conflicts.

During her presentation on Thursday, June 8, Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, who headed the U.S. delegation, stated: "when a woman is raped, beaten, or mutilated it is not cultural, it is criminal; and no government ... can deny its responsibility to stop these crimes."

She later added, "[The United States] launched a major diplomatic and law enforcement initiative to halt trafficking in human beings. This rapidly growing criminal enterprise has gone global, distorting economies, degrading societies, endangering neighborhoods and robbing millions, mostly women and children, of their dreams. ... we are forging partnerships on every continent to share information, coordinate legal actions and find and close criminal networks. ... I invite everyone here to join in a multi-year, multi-national effort to win the fight against trafficking."

The final document from the special session, released on June 12, placed special emphasis on actions to be taken by governments and international organizations to reduce violence against women.

The topic of the economic empowerment of women, finding solutions to lift women out of poverty, was addressed in part on June 5 with a three-hour panel, chaired by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, on micro-credit programs – the granting of small loans, no more than several thousand dollars, to begin a business.

Micro-credit programs target people who have no collateral and, therefore, usually are denied start-up business loans by traditional banks. The micro-credit program has proved to be internationally successful in helping people achieve financial stability and independence, and about 75 percent of the close to 14 million people that have received micro-credit loans in the past five years worldwide have been women. (Also on June 5, President Bill Clinton, while on a six-hour visit to Kyiv, introduced a new micro-credit initiative, funded by the United States, to begin this year in Ukraine.)

Receiving special emphasis in several panels was the mandate to improve the political empowerment of women. A new initiative was launched by the international organization Women's Environment and Development Organization titled "50-50 by 2005: Get



Portugal's Minister for Equality Maria de Belem Roseira

the Balance Right!" Though women are about 50 percent of the world's population, only an average of 13 percent of the legislators worldwide and only 7.5 percent of government ministers are women. In Ukraine less than 8 percent of the parliamentarians are women, placing Ukraine in the middle third of East European countries and the bottom third of 180 countries worldwide according to information from the U.N. Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

Among the delegation members from Ukraine attending the U.N. special session were Dr. Iryna Holubieva, head of the Division of Family and Women's Affairs at the State Committee on Youth Policy, Sports and Tourism, and Halyna Honcharuk, coordinator of the Kyiv Center for Women's Issues.

Dr. Holubieva noted that she learned a great deal from the country reports and, furthermore, was impressed with the determination with which women from many Asian, African and Latin American countries pursue solutions to the problems facing women in their countries. She suggested that their assertiveness and their willingness to admit and confront problems offers a valuable lesson to women in Ukraine. She also noted that Ukraine's women are among the most highly educated in the world (according to a recent UNIFEM report, in 1996, 95 percent of young adult women in Ukraine received a secondary education) and therefore could be, and should be, living better.

She commented that she was impressed with the number of countries – 15 in Western Europe alone – that have high-level government commissions or ministries devoted exclusively to issues pertaining to women and children, and for developing programs in keeping with the critical areas identified in the Beijing action plan; she noted that a similar entity should be established in Ukraine.

Ms. Honcharuk attended several panels, including one on women and violence. She commented that she was extremely impressed with the number of men who participated in the panel and spoke out in support of programs and policies to stop violence against women in all forms and the necessity to elevate women in all aspects of society in order to achieve gender equality. She recalled that she particularly enjoyed the presentation by a group of men from Canada on a conference they had organized on gender equality and promised to take the idea back to Ukraine.

She stated that the activities of her center in Kyiv are completely funded by the mayor's office and the City Council, and believes that in Kyiv there is great support and understanding among local officials for the issues confronting women.

FOR THE RECORD: Statement at U.N. by Minister of Justice Suzanna Stanik

Following is the text of the statement delivered on June 5 by Suzanna Stanik, minister of justice of Ukraine, at the special session of the U.N. General Assembly "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century."

Minister of Justice Stanik delivered her presentation in Ukrainian. Official English language translation of her text was provided by the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations.

Allow me on behalf of Ukrainian women and the government of Ukraine to warmly welcome this important international forum and express our best wishes for the success of its work.

We are entering the new century, the century of humanism and rule of law. Military measures for solving human problems have been fully exhausted. There is a rising need for modernization of the world by addressing the global social and political changes on the basis of generally recognized moral and ethical, as well as legal principles: democracy, human rights, equality, justice, freedom and humanism.

It is not incidental that the first special session of the General Assembly in the new 21st century is devoted to the elaboration of effective strategies for the advancement of women all over the world, the creation of appropriate conditions for their life, the enhancement of their role in political and economic activities. Participation of women in political life is not an end in itself. It is founded on the fact that it is the woman who personifies the civil, moral and human approach to addressing the most complex problems of the modern world.

Five years have passed since the Beijing Conference and gender issues have undergone fundamental changes. The historic significance of the Fourth World Conference on Women is not confined only to the elab-

oration of strategies of the international community in the sphere of protection and promotion of the rights of women, but also contributes to the creation of a strict mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the set tasks.

Esteemed Mr. President:

With democratic reforms under way, Ukraine believes that equality is the basis for democracy and social justice, as well as for appropriate safeguarding of human rights.

Women make up about 54 percent of the population of Ukraine. Their participation in public life, their experience and intelligence, ability and willingness to work for the well-being of their nation are guarantees for the formation of a democratic civil society.

Ukraine has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, thus confirming the principle of unacceptability of discrimination against women and putting into life the idea of equality of women in all spheres of economic, political and public life.

In Beijing, together with the other member-states of the United Nations, we solemnly undertook commitments embracing advanced national and international practice.

The decisions of the World Conference on the Advancement of Women have been embodied in the social development of our country.

Guided by the provisions of the final documents of the Beijing Conference on Women, Ukraine has elaborated a national action plan for 1997-2000 on the advancement of women and the enhancement of their role in society, as well as a declaration on the general principles of the national pol-

(Continued on page 19)

Ukraine in numbers

Information about Ukraine given below was obtained from sources provided in the reports "The World's Women: Trends and Statistics 2000," published by the U.N. Secretariat Division of Statistics; "Progress of the World's Women: UNIFEM Biannual Report," published by the U.N. Development Fund for Women; and "Global Trends in Women's Access and Leadership," published by the non-governmental organization International Foundation for Election Systems. Within the U.N. reporting structure, Ukraine is included within the group of 20 East European countries.

- Official employment levels for women have dropped dramatically in almost all East European countries between 1985 and 1999. Furthermore, women's salaries have dropped in real terms, while wage inequality between men and women has increased. However, the rate of salaried employment for women in Ukraine in 1990 was 57 percent, 54 percent in 1996 and 50 percent in 1998, still one of the highest rates for women in the region, and in keeping with most developed nations (female employment in the Baltic countries is between 50 and 54 percent, the Czech Republic, 46 percent; the United States, 48 percent). Though women's salaries in Ukraine are low, salaried employment is an indicator of a more fully evolved economy; in many countries with less-developed economies,

women are only paid for piece-work, or a per-day wage, or not paid at all for labor performed.

- Within the block of East European countries, at 0.43 percent, Ukraine still has the highest percentage of the population infected with HIV/AIDS virus, compared to Estonia at 0.01 percent, Russia at 0.05 percent and Poland at 0.06 percent. The rate of infection in the United States is 0.76 percent of the population. However, all countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have between 2 percent and 26 percent of the population infected with the deadly virus; in almost each of these countries, 50 percent of those infected are women.

- Ukrainian law mandates that a woman be given 126 work days (approximately 22 weeks) of paid maternity leave. Norway offers 18 weeks at full pay, and an additional 26 weeks for either parent. Hungary offers 24 weeks at full pay. In comparison, U.S. law mandates that an employer offer only 12 weeks of maternity leave, unpaid.

- As of June 1999, only 2 percent of women in Ukraine expressed satisfaction with the general living situation in their country. Political corruption is seen as a common and serious problem by 88 percent of women. About 58 percent feel that their vote does not influence decisions made by political leaders and 56 percent do not believe that Ukraine is a democracy; while 16 percent do and 18 percent are undecided.

Ukraine takes steps toward expanding relations with Iraq

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine has taken initial steps toward expanded trade relations with the embargoed Iraqi government, Ukraine's first vice minister for foreign affairs announced on May 30.

Oleksander Maidannyk said that, during two days of talks in Baghdad with various Iraqi ministers, the two sides agreed in principle to accelerate the development of economic ties.

"You can say that it is the first time in 10 years of sanctions that the door has opened up in Ukraine-Iraq trade relations," said Mr. Maidannyk.

The possibility for renewed economic ties came after Iraq's strongman leader Saddam Hussein gave the go-ahead for trade talks in response to initiatives by Ukraine as a member of the United Nations Security Council, to have international sanctions against Iraq reduced. Baghdad has been diplomatically and economically ostracized by much of the international community since the Kuwait War of 1990.

Mr. Maidannyk emphasized that all trade agreements that will eventually be drawn up between the two countries will adhere strictly to U.N. sanction guidelines put into place at the war's end.

He explained that Ukraine supports the easing of international restrictions against Iraq, especially for humanitarian-related goods like medicine and food, and certain manufactured products.

"We have taken a position of positive neutrality, that is, to work to resolve the differences of the various parties," explained Mr. Maidannyk. "It is a constructive position, and we believe the only possible one in this very complex situation."

The Ukrainian first vice-minister for foreign affairs said that, in addition, Ukraine has joined Canada as a co-sponsor of U.N. Resolution 1284, which would change the way international sanctions are imposed and carried out in general.

Mr. Maidannyk explained that the Ukrainian government supported the latest U.N. resolution on lifting all sanctions against Iraq in return for U.N. oversight and regulation of certain Iraqi government facilities and laboratories. Iraq has rejected negotiations on such an agreement because it maintains that it has fulfilled all U.N. demands placed before it after its defeat in 1990.

Although development of trade with Iraq will be no easy task, Ukraine has moved to resume contacts with the country for obvious reasons: it is almost wholly dependent on Russia for its oil and gas needs, and would like to diversify.

Ukraine is not looking at Iraqi oil as a quick-fix solution to its energy dependence problem, but it does see a place for Ukraine's businessmen in the lucrative oil commodities market.

"Currently it is unprofitable to purchase Iraqi oil, since it is expensive to bring to Ukraine," explained Mr. Maidannyk, "but it is profitable to conclude contracts and then sell them to third countries."

Today France and Russia are major players in commodity trading in Iraqi oil. Up to 40 percent of the limited amount of oil that Iraq is allowed to export is bought up by Russian middlemen. Mr. Maidannyk estimated that about 30 percent of that amount eventually ends up in the United States. He said that indirectly about 8 percent of total U.S. oil imports are from Iraq. Meanwhile, in Ukraine there are currently half a dozen or so firms that have expressed interest and are ready to attempt to grab a share of that market.

Mr. Maidannyk explained that, if certain restrictions were eased, Ukraine also could benefit from the sale of drilling and excavation equipment, electrical parts and turbines that the Iraqi oil industry desperately needs. In addition he saw a market for Ukrainian sugar, wheat and other food commodities.

Congressional resolutions recognize 25th anniversary of Helsinki Accords

by Ben Anderson

WASHINGTON – Joint resolutions were introduced on June 8 in the United States Congress to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, which has played a central role in advancing human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission) Chairman Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.) introduced the House version (H.J. Res. 100), while Co-Chairman Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Colo.) introduced the Senate version (S.J. Res. 48). The remaining 16 congressional commissioners are original co-sponsors of the resolutions.

August 1 marks the 25th anniversary of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, renamed in January 1995 as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

In introducing the resolution in the House of Representatives, Chairman Smith, who has served on the Helsinki Commission since 1983, lauded the organization for its efforts to improve security and human rights conditions.

"The standards of Helsinki, which served as a valuable lever in pressing

human rights issues, also provided encouragement and sustenance to courageous individuals who dared to challenge repressive Communist regimes," Rep. Smith said.

Sen. Campbell, appointed co-chairman of the commission in 1999, said the Helsinki Final Act, signed by President Gerald Ford in 1975, has advanced democracy, human rights and the rule of law within a framework covering the security, economic and human dimensions. "In short, the Helsinki process helped make it possible for the people of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union to regain their freedom and independence," Sen. Campbell said.

"The Helsinki process is rightly credited with playing a contributing role in bringing down the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain, and in 1991 the Soviet Union," Sen. Campbell added.

The identical resolutions request the president to issue a proclamation commemorating the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, reasserting the U.S. commitment to full implementation of the Helsinki Final Act, and urging all signatory countries to abide by their obligations under the Helsinki Final Act.

"In the 25 years since this historic process was initiated in Helsinki, there

have been many successes. The task is still far from complete, and we must continue to do our part in championing the values that Helsinki espouses. There is still work to be done," Rep. Smith said.

Co-Chairman Sen. Campbell echoed Chairman Smith's concern: "Unfortunately, serious human rights abuses continue in all too many OSCE countries. The main challenge facing the participating states of the OSCE remains the implementation of the commitments contained in the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE documents."

The OSCE is engaged in standard-setting in fields such as military security, economic and environmental cooperation, and human rights and humanitarian concerns. In addition, the OSCE undertakes a variety of diplomatic initiatives designed to prevent, manage and resolve conflict within and among the participating states.

Membership in the organization has expanded to 55 countries from the original 35 signatory states (with the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia having been suspended since 1992).

The U.S. Congress contributed to advancing the aims of the Helsinki Final Act by creating the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe to monitor and encourage compliance with provisions of the Helsinki Final Act.

CSCE outraged over Lukashenka's threat to Belarusian opposition

by Ben Anderson

WASHINGTON – The chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.), and its co-chairman, Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Colo.), condemned remarks by Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka threatening to punish the Belarusian opposition for "seeking money overseas" to overthrow his government and viewing them as security threats.

His remarks come on the heels of the previous week's visit to the United States by leading members of Belarus' democratic opposition. The Belarusian opposition delegation, which met with members of Congress, including Helsinki Commissioners, government officials and non-governmental organizations, consisted of Vintsuk Viachorka, head of the Belarusian Popular Front; Anatol Lebedka, head of the United Civic Party; Pavel Zhuk, chief editor of Nasha Svaboda, an independent newspaper; and Dmitry Bondarenko, a leader of the Charter 97 human rights group.

Mr. Lebedka, who is also a member of Belarus' legitimate Parliament, which was illegally disbanded by Mr. Lukashenka in 1996, recently testified at a Helsinki Commission hearing on the deterioration of human rights and democracy in Belarus.

"Lukashenka's latest outburst is yet another in a long list of threats or worse – including detentions or beatings – against those who dare to question his democratic legitimacy and criticize his suppression of human rights in their long-suffering country," said Chairman Smith.

"Opposition leaders have disappeared or been imprisoned, and the independent media has been harassed. If Mr. Lukashenka wants to create a climate of trust for the fall parliamentary elections, as he apparently pledged to do yesterday, treating opposition members as security threats because of their meetings in Washington is outrageous."

Co-Chairman Mr. Campbell expressed grave concern about the per-

sonal safety of opposition members, noting the detention and beating of Mr. Lebedka following a March 25 pro-democracy demonstration in the Belarusian capital of Minsk which was harshly suppressed by the authorities.

"Instead of making threats against democratic activists, Mr. Lukashenka should be seeking to resolve the political and constitutional crisis in Belarus by respecting human rights and putting an end to the current climate of fear," Sen. Campbell said. "This includes ceasing repressions of those who seek to bring democracy to Belarus. The democratic

opposition in Belarus deserves both our moral and material support as they seek to overcome the legacy of communism and authoritarianism and build a democratic society firmly rooted in the rule of law."

Sen. Campbell stressed the ominous nature of the threats, given similar statements issued by President Lukashenka prior to the disappearance of a leading opposition figure last year.

Excerpts of testimony at commission hearings on Belarus and other materials pertaining to Belarus may be found on the commission's website: <http://www.house.gov/csces>.

Helsinki Commission members seeks Albright's intervention

WASHINGTON – Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Colo.) has written Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright to express "grave concern about the personal safety of leading Belarusian opposition members" with whom he met recently in Washington.

Sen. Campbell wrote the letter in light of news reports indicating that Belarusian leader Alyaksandr Lukashenka threatened members of the opposition party after their meetings with Washington lawmakers in late May. "Similar threats were issued by President Lukashenka prior to the disappearance of a leading opposition figure last year," Sen. Campbell wrote.

Other signatories of letter were Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee Chairman Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), and Baltic Caucus Co-Chair Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.).

"The democratic opposition in

Belarus deserves both our moral and material support as they seek to overcome the legacy of communism and authoritarianism and build a democratic society firmly rooted in the rule of law," the letter read. "Given the deterioration of human rights in Belarus and in particular repressive measures against the opposition, support for democratic forces in Belarus is more pressing than ever."

In their letter, the senators called on Secretary Albright to release existing State Department program funds "to enhance assistance to the democratic forces in Belarus at this critical juncture."

"We, therefore, urge you to take all available steps to help ensure the personal safety of these Belarusian opposition leaders and to ensure that adequate resources are made available on an urgent basis to support those programs aimed at strengthening independent media, human rights, civil society, independent trade unions and the democratic opposition in Belarus," the senators added.

– Ben Anderson

FOR THE RECORD

United States-Ukraine Joint Statement signed in Kyiv

President Bill Clinton and Leonid Kuchma signed a joint statement on June 5 during the U.S. president's visit to Kyiv. The statement reaffirmed their commitment "to advance and deepen the strategic partnership" between their countries, and summarized several new U.S.-Ukrainian agreements on nuclear safety, economic reform, commercial endeavors, and anti-corruption efforts. Following is the text of the joint statement as released by the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv.

United States-Ukraine Joint Statement

Ukrainian President Kuchma and U.S. President Clinton, during their meeting in Kyiv on June 5, 2000, reaffirmed their commitment to advance and deepen the strategic partnership between the United States and Ukraine in the 21st century. President Kuchma emphasized Ukraine's commitment to a democratic and market economic transformation. The presidents agreed that this transformation is the essential basis for fulfilling Ukraine's European aspirations. President Clinton praised the leadership of President Kuchma and his new government for early progress on reform, noting the importance of accelerated implementation of reforms, which will strengthen the ability of the United States to support Ukraine in its efforts to improve cooperation with the IMF and other international financial institutions.

President Clinton welcomed the announcement by President Kuchma to close the Chernobyl nuclear power plant on December 15, 2000, noting the importance of this decision to strengthening the security of all Europeans, especially the Ukrainian people and their immediate neighbors. President Clinton announced the decision of the United States to provide another \$78 million to the Chernobyl Shelter Fund. He noted the commitment of the United States to con-

tinue to work with Ukraine, the G-7 and the international community toward resolving the remaining tasks associated with the closure of Chernobyl, in particular to help provide for stable electricity generation in Ukraine supported by necessary energy reforms. The presidents expressed their support for a successful second pledging conference to be held in July in Berlin to obtain the remaining funds needed for the Shelter Fund. President Kuchma welcomed the announcement of an additional \$2 million from the United States for nuclear safety work in Ukraine.

The presidents welcomed the initiation of the Ukraine Nuclear Fuel Qualification Project, a major technology project to enable Ukraine to evaluate and certify the reliability and safety of new suppliers of fuel for Ukraine's nuclear energy sector. With an estimated value of \$30 million, this project will allow Ukraine to diversify its sources of supply of nuclear fuel. President Clinton expressed support for Ukrainian participation in the emerging east-west energy corridor from the Caspian region to world markets, within the contexts of Ukraine's energy sector reforms and the United States' broader Caspian energy policy.

President Kuchma reaffirmed Ukraine's European choice and its goal of achieving associate membership and eventually full membership in the European Union, recognizing the importance of continued reforms necessary to achieve that end. The presidents emphasized the importance of Ukraine's distinctive partnership with NATO and agreed to work to deepen Ukraine's cooperation with the Atlantic Alliance. They expressed support for their military cooperation in KFOR, where American and Ukrainian soldiers are working to bring peace and security to Kosovo.

President Clinton and President Kuchma praised the success of U.S.-

Ukraine cooperation in the area of commercial space launch services, particularly through the Sea Launch Consortium. They announced that the U.S.-Ukraine Commercial Space Launch Agreement of 1996 had been terminated, noting that this bold step will allow U.S. firms and their Ukrainian partners to enter into commercial space launch ventures unfettered by quantity restrictions. The presidents committed to strengthening commercial relationships between their two countries' aerospace firms because of Ukraine's progress in restructuring the space sector, its ongoing commitment to market-based principles embodied in the agreement, and to its strong adherence to our shared non-proliferation goals. The presidents affirmed their commitment to increase support for small and medium private enterprise development in Ukraine. President Clinton announced plans to establish a new micro-enterprise credit program in Ukraine, which will draw upon the successful Fundusz Mikro program in Poland, and to initiate a five-year \$25 million program to support small and medium enterprise development. President Kuchma affirmed that the Ukrainian government will ensure as soon as possible the necessary legal and regulatory framework for the new micro-credit program.

The presidents declared their continued determination to support the creation of a business and investment climate in Ukraine that will facilitate expanded trade and investment opportunities between their two countries. They welcomed initial steps toward privatizing the energy sector in Ukraine and the entry into force of the U.S.-Ukraine Treaty on Double Taxation. The presidents pledged to work together to support steps to advance their shared goal of WTO accession for Ukraine as soon as possible. In this context, they affirmed their intention to implement the U.S.-Ukraine Joint

Action Plan to Combat Optical Media Piracy in Ukraine and welcomed the Ukrainian government's suspension of the operations of pirate production facilities in Ukraine until the conditions for ensuring legal production are created. President Clinton welcomed Ukraine's progress toward achieving normal trade relations with the United States on a permanent and unconditional basis. President Clinton encouraged Ukraine to continue with reforms that would allow it to achieve market economy status.

President Kuchma emphasized the priority importance for Ukraine to combat corruption in order to strengthen a democratic society and market-oriented economy. In this regard, the Presidents welcomed the Program of U.S.-Ukrainian Cooperation for Combating Corruption and Organized Crime. The presidents recommitted themselves to strengthening efforts between the United States and Ukraine to combat the problem of trafficking in human beings. They welcomed the June 21-23 workshop in Kyiv co-sponsored by the two governments.

As a new century begins, the presidents affirmed that through their strategic partnership, the United States will support Ukraine's efforts to take its place among an undivided Euro-Atlantic community of free and stable states. Ukraine will, at the same time, continue to implement its democratic and market transformation, thus contributing to Euro-Atlantic security.

Signed in Kyiv, June 5, 2000, in the English and Ukrainian languages.

For Ukraine:

Signature of the president of Ukraine
Leonid Kuchma

For the United States of America:

Signature of the president
of the United States of America
William Clinton

Several bilateral agreements signed

Embassy of Ukraine

WASHINGTON – On June 5, within the framework of visit of U.S. President Bill Clinton to Ukraine, a signing ceremony for a number of bilateral instruments between Ukraine and the United States took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

These included the following:

- Deputy Head of the State Tax Administration of Ukraine Oleksii Shytria signed the Protocol of Exchange of Instruments of Ratification of the Convention Between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the United States of America for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Invasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital;

- Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine Vasyl Kremlin signed the Agreement Between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the United States of America on Science and Technology Cooperation;

- Minister of Transport of Ukraine Leonid Kostiuhenko signed the Air Transport Agreement Between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the United States of America, as well as the Agreement Extending the Agreement Between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the United States of America Regarding Certain Maritime Matters;

- Minister of Ukraine of Emergency Affairs and Population Protection from

the Consequences of the Chernobyl Catastrophe Vasyl Durdynetz signed the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the United States of America on Cooperation in Natural and Man-made Technological Emergency Prevention and Response;

- Vice Minister of Justice of Ukraine Lidia Horbunova signed the Program of Ukrainian-U.S. Cooperation for Combating Corruption and Organized Crime, 2000-2005;

From the American side, the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the United States to Ukraine Steven Pifer signed the above-mentioned documents.

There was also an exchange of Notes Concerning Termination of the Agreement Between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the United States of America Regarding International Trade in Commercial Space Launch Services signed on February 21, 1996, carried out by the Deputy Director of the National Space Agency of Ukraine Eduard Kuznezov and the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Steven Pifer.

The ceremony participants emphasized that the signed documents are called to give new impetus to the relations between Ukraine and the United States of America in development of which both sides are interested.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Ukraine hopes to enter European space systems

KYIV – The National Space Agency of Ukraine asked the government to support a pilot project to integrate Ukraine's space navigation system into all-European systems, EGNOS and Galileo. NSAU has already started talks with the Space Agency of Italy and a number of Italian aviation/space companies which will focus on funding for the project. According to NSAU experts, Ukraine must join EGNOS and Galileo systems in order to obtain navigational information needed to run its international transport corridors. (Eastern Economist)

Millions lost in shadow electricity sales

KYIV – Some 150 million to 200 million hrv from the sale of electricity goes to the shadow sector monthly, according to Vice Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. She added that this explains the resistance to energy sector reform by the top officials of the sector. (Eastern Economist)

10 percent of assets insured in Ukraine

KYIV – Only 10 percent of existing risk in Ukraine is insured, while in developed countries this figure is 90 to 95 percent, stated the president of the Ukrainian Center for Economic and Political Research, Anatol Hrytsenko. The insurance of property is 65 percent of the total, while health insurance is only 0.6 percent. (Eastern Economist)

Ernst & Young tapped as investment coordinator

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma has authorized Ernst & Young to coordinate ties between foreign members of the advisory council for foreign investments in Ukraine. The council consists of the chairs of the companies that have made the largest investments in Ukraine's economy. Until now the coordinating role has been performed by Bohdan Mysko. (Eastern Economist)

Oschadnyi Bank starts home mortgages

KYIV – Oschadnyi Bank Vice-President Serhii Myshta has started the implementation of the OschchadZhytlo project, providing mortgages for individuals to purchase homes. A

(Continued on page 16)

Foreign Affairs Minister...

(Continued from page 1)

from the UCC headed by Mr. Czolij. Minister Tarasyuk was accompanied by Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, Ukraine's ambassador to Canada, and members of the Ukrainian delegation.

Later that evening the UCC Executive hosted a private dinner for the foreign affairs minister. The event provided an opportunity for the Ukrainian delegation and the UCC Executive to exchange views on Canada-Ukraine relations and discuss topics of mutual interest, including agriculture, education and exchanges between the two countries.

The UCC president opened the dinner with a formal toast to the foreign affairs minister, congratulating Mr. Tarasyuk for his foreign policy initiatives in bringing Ukraine closer to the West. Minister Tarasyuk, in turn, toasted the UCC by praising its energetic and continuing efforts to advance Canada-Ukraine relations. The minister expressed optimism in the forward direction being undertaken by Ukraine's government since its last election, citing the fact that Ukraine's economic growth has exceeded 6 percent in the first quarter of 2000. The evening concluded with an exchange of gifts and wishes for successful meetings.

A breakfast meeting hosted by the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and Canada Ukraine Business Initiative provided an opportunity to showcase the ongoing economic development of Ukraine to Canadian business. "CUBI/Chamber is to be commended for its hard work and effort in promoting investment in Ukraine," said Adrian Boyko, first vice-president and chair of the UCC Canadian Issues Committee.



Ian McCausland

Councilor Harry Lazarenko and Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk place a wreath at the Famine monument in front of City Hall.

"As the CUBI/Chamber continues its work towards CUBI 2000 in Kyiv this fall, the UCC will continue to assist in any way possible in order to ensure its success," he added.

Mr. Tarasyuk also met with Manitoba Premier Gary Doer and Deputy Premier Jean Friesen. Messrs. Doer and Friesen, and their colleague, Rosann Wowchuk,

minister of agriculture and food, joined Mr. Tarasyuk in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Taras Shevchenko Monument on the grounds of the Manitoba Legislature.

This was followed later in the day with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Famine Monument with Councilor Harry Lazarenko at Winnipeg City Hall. During these solemn ceremonies, organized by the UCC, Minister Tarasyuk paid tribute to Taras Shevchenko and the victims of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933.

Sen. Gildas Molgat, hosting an official luncheon in honor of Minister Tarasyuk, announced that the government of Canada would contribute an additional \$18 million to assist Ukraine in its commitment to close the fourth reactor of the Chornobyl nuclear power station. Minister Tarasyuk thanked the senator and emphasized the special relationship between Canada and Ukraine. He also took this opportunity to commend the work of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

The official program also included a meeting of Ukraine's minister of foreign affairs with Canada's Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.

Minister Tarasyuk completed his stay in Winnipeg by attending a private meeting of the UCC Executive Committee chaired by Myroslava Pidhirnyj, second vice-president and chair of the UCC's Canada-Ukraine Relations Committee. During this meeting held at the UCC's Head Office, UCC President Czolij highlighted to Ukraine's foreign affairs minister, its ambassador to Canada and members of the Ukrainian delegation, the priority issues on the UCC's agenda.

"This meeting was very valuable," said Ms. Pidhirnyj. "It provided an opportunity for a good exchange of ideas."

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress on June 14 extended its deep appreciation to Minister Tarasyuk for his visit to the UCC headquarters. The visit completed two full days of activities for the foreign affairs minister in Winnipeg prior to his departure for Ottawa, where he was to meet with officials of the Canadian government and representatives of the private sector.

Summing up the minister's visit in Winnipeg, Mr. Czolij noted that "new opportunities have been created through this visit which build on the work of the past and allow us to strengthen the prospects of tomorrow."



Ian McCausland

A view of the wreath-laying ceremony at the Shevchenko Monument on the grounds of the Manitoba Legislature.



Andrew Sikorsky

At the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Head Office, (from left) Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada Dr. Yuri Shcherbak and Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk are welcomed by UCC President Eugene Czolij and Second Vice-President Myroslava Pidhirnyj.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

To all members of the Ukrainian National Association

Once again the Executive Committee of the UNA has not declared a dividend and, as a result, no dividends will be paid for the year 1999. Nevertheless all members with certificates that accumulate cash value will receive interest on the existing balance of the cash value at the guaranteed interest rate as provided in the certificate. The interest rate will vary between 3.5 percent and 5 percent depending on the mortality table. This is indicated under the section "Basis of Reserves and Withdrawal Equities" in each certificate. So, in fact, your savings, accumulated in the certificate as cash value, are growing in the same way as a bank deposit to which a bank adds interest, which also is called a dividend.

An insurance company can declare and pay dividends only if the business had generated a surplus of funds that could be divided among all certificate holders. Due to the many expensive fraternal benefits that the UNA extends to its membership, no surplus could be derived in 1999.

1. Our two weekly publications, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, generated a deficit in the sum of \$246,000. Furthermore, each member-subscriber receives a \$10 subscription discount.

2. Our resort, Soyuzivka, had to be supported to the extent of \$474,000. Furthermore, member-guests receive a 10 percent discount.

3. Our student members received \$35,000 in scholarships.

4. More than 2,000 members age 79 and older who continue to pay dues for their life insurance, get their annual dues waived as a fraternal benefit. The total of this fraternal benefit amounts to over \$146,000

5. Members who are chronically ill and disabled received aid totaling close to \$15,000.

The amount expended to support the above fraternal activities amounted to \$916,000. We have not yet included the \$50 donation being awarded to each Ukrainian Saturday School graduate nationwide and other support given to the community and the membership.

We must stress the fact that thousands of members have benefited from the above activities, which are almost totally subsidized by the UNA, because the \$3 fraternal dues our adult members pay amount to only \$40,500. Unfortunately our last convention refused to sufficiently increase the fraternal dues to pay for at least a part of the mandated fraternal activities.

The Executive Committee has taken many steps to make our publications and the resort financially more self-sufficient. By reducing fraternal expenditures, we will free up funds for payment of dividends. But, in order to maintain the present fraternal benefits, we must grow in membership because only the increased premium income so generated will be able to support them.

We highly value your longtime membership in our association and hope to serve you, your children and grandchildren in the years to come.

– UNA Executive Committee

UNA honors high school grads



WARREN, Mich. – Sixteen students graduated from Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic High School on Sunday, June 4. Among them were three UNA members, who received financial aid from the Ukrainian National Association. The three recipients were photographed during the graduation rehearsal with Principal Michaeline Weigle (second from left). The students are (from left) Mark Melymuka, Anne Maziak and Andriy Hnatiuk.

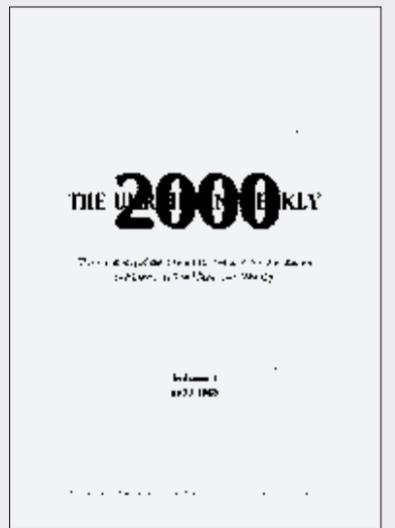
The Ukrainian Weekly 2000

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.

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY 2000 VOLUME I

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Young UNA'ers



Alexa Leah Kolakoski, daughter of Kenneth and Leah Kolakoski, is a new member of UNA Branch 362 in Levittown, Pa. She was enrolled by her grandparents Fedir and Maria Petryk.



Lesia Antonina Zappernick, daughter of Matthew and Nadia Zappernick, is a new member of UNA Branch 291 in Cleveland. She was enrolled by her grandparents Eugene and Vira Palka.

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

Common dilemma – common cause

New York can make one jaded about numbers: a million people lining the streets for a parade, a half million in Central Park gather to hear a rock concert – what's an additional 10,000 at the United Nations? Yet that number participated in the recent United Nations special session on the status of women throughout the world, known as "Beijing+5." If one listened closely to the more than 200 presentations given during the four days and attended even a few of the special panels, it was possible to get a concentrated and fascinating glimpse of what is happening to women in every corner of the globe. And in every corner of the world women had united into trans-national coalitions and organizations to solve similar problems.

The panels and country reports on the status of women offered an astounding array of information: dismal – 1.2 billion people in the world live on less than \$1 per day and three-fifths of these are women and children; shocking – black markets exist in Asia and Africa where parents sell their girl children for sex and labor; intriguing – women who are not allowed to leave their homes unescorted in some Muslim countries are receiving an education through computers via distance-learning; overwhelming – in some African countries one in four people is infected with the deadly HIV/AIDS virus, decimating entire generations; positive – since the mid-1980s the number of women in political office in Latin America and Western Europe has increased dramatically; and desperately depressing – according to the report by Austria's delegate, approximately 500,000 women each year, seeking employment abroad, are lured out of Central and East European countries under false pretenses to Western Europe, the Middle East, Asia and North America as part of the worldwide prostitution trade (the United States estimates that approximately 50,000 of these women arrive here annually).

This flight of women from their countries for economic reasons illustrates the dilemma that the East European countries present for the United Nations. The U.N. Division of Statistics includes Ukraine and 19 other East European countries in their category of "developed regions." However, the term "transition country" is used by the U.N. Development Fund for Women – and probably better reflects Ukraine's true status.

The official U.N. poverty level is \$360 per year – below that is considered destitution – "the poorest of poor" in U.N. parlance. The average salary in Ukraine is only about \$800 per year, not exactly a huge leap from the edge of poverty. However, this level of poverty does not make sense given the high level of education obtained by most people in Ukraine. In U.N. equations, increased levels of education usually lead to increased levels of well-being.

A highly educated, literate and trained population and a fairly sophisticated social and political infrastructure combined with economic crisis is a common phenomenon throughout all of Eastern Europe. And, as is common to most economic crises, the brunt in all these countries is being borne by the women and children.

Listening to the reports, it became clear that despite progress or steps taken in any one country, because of interdependence and borders, these countries would rise and fall as a region. However, it was also clear that the women of Eastern Europe, unlike women from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, even Europe and North America, were not used to working together, had no regional coalition, told a similar tale, but one by one. The next special session is scheduled for 2005. Let's hope that the women of Eastern Europe recognize their common dilemma and create a coalition that tells their tale, hopefully a better one by then, in unity.

June
23
1999

Turning the pages back...

More than 900 people – among them members of various Ukrainian professionals' societies and community organizations – participated in the diverse programs that constituted the inaugural Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations held in

and around Washington last year on June 23-27.

From its beginning, a reception at the Embassy of Ukraine on Wednesday evening, to its conclusion, a Sunday afternoon session that focused on "Finding Direction for Our Organizations," the mammoth event was an uplifting experience for a Ukrainian American community that has been changed dramatically – in the process becoming somewhat unsettled – since the re-establishment of an independent Ukrainian state.

From start to finish, participants of the Joint Conferences heard and saw what the Ukrainian American community and the Ukrainian nation have to offer, from professional knowledge in disparate fields to energetic volunteerism and beautiful music.

The Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations were seen as more than a one-shot-deal. They were to be the beginning of a new venture establishing a new framework for cooperation among the community's diverse yet complementary elements. And, community leaders and members meeting at an open session at the conclusion of the five-day event, spoke nearly unanimously in favor of setting up a mechanism for regular consultation among Ukrainian American organizations with the aim of increasing the community's effectiveness both internally and in terms of its external relations.

From all corners of the United States, representatives of younger generations of Ukrainian Americans – the 30-somethings to the 50-somethings – arrived in metropolitan Washington for this milestone undertaking.

The agenda and the mission of the Joint Conferences attracted such major organizations as the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, whose program was split into two full-day sessions, "Advances in Medicine" and "The First International Conference on Health Care in Ukraine"; and the Ukrainian Engineers Society of America, which opted to focus on "U.S.-Ukraine Science and Technology Cooperation: Status and Opportunities." The Ukrainian American Bar Association and the Ukrainian National Credit Union Association also held major sessions.

(Continued on page 17)

Two minutes of silence to recall internment

Following is the text of the letter to the editor sent to *The New York Times* by Dr. Frank Sysyn of the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta, Edmonton.

To the Editor:

Under the moving photo of President Bill Clinton standing before the Ukrainian Famine Monument in Kyiv (news article, June 6), a caption mentions "thousands who died in a famine in 1932 and 1933." In fact, thousands died daily in those years, and scholars today are trying to establish just how many millions died.

It is disheartening that *The New York Times*, which printed the false reporting of Walter Duranty at the time, thereby unwittingly abetting Stalin in covering up the Famine, has still not come to terms with the magnitude of the tragedy. (See Robert Conquest, "The Harvest of Sorrow," 1986, chapter 17).

Perhaps the present affront to the victims of the Famine will stimulate a reassessment of the way the paper deals with its Pulitzer Prize winner Duranty and its own reporting on the Famine.

Minister of Energy...

(Continued from page 1)

He explained that the little he was able to accomplish was due to interventions by President Leonid Kuchma to break political logjams. Mr. Tulub took credit for increasing coal supplies by 2.5 million tons, ensuring adequate energy supplies to Ukraine's electrical grid during the critical winter months and paying back wages owed to nuclear energy sector employees.

Vice Prime Minister Tymoshenko, whose portfolio includes the vast and very chaotic fuel and energy sector of Ukraine, has been embroiled in controversy ever since she was named to the post in January. She and Mr. Tulub have been at loggerheads almost from the beginning, when Ms. Tymoshenko announced that Naftohaz Ukrainy, Ukraine's major gas wholesaler, owed the Russian government more than \$1 billion in gas for some 5 billion cubic meters of gas it siphoned illegally from Russia's Gazprom pipelines, which run through Ukraine to other parts of Europe.

At first Naftohaz Ukrainy denied the charges, but within days its president, Ihor Bakai, had resigned and the company had begun negotiations with Gazprom on debt repayment. At the time, Mr. Bakai said he was forced to resign under government pressure induced by Ms. Tymoshenko, who was looking to restructure the sector more to her favor and to wipe out business and political opponents who had effectively removed her position in the gas industry after her political mentor, Pavlo Lazarenko, was charged with embezzlement and fled for the United States.

Last month more controversy erupted when Ms. Tymoshenko proposed a major shake-up of the energy sector and government regulation of the commodity market.

Today that market is substantially deregulated, although the government continues to be a key player because it holds substantial stock in some of the corporations. The sector's operations, however, remain glaringly opaque, and many of Ukraine's so-called clans have laid substantial claim to it. Among the key players in the lucrative gas trade are Hryhorii Surkis and Oleksander Volkov, both of whom are also politicians with great political influence.

Ms. Tymoshenko has played a prominent role in the gas business, where she made a fortune as one of the first large-scale private traders. She, along with Mr. Lazarenko, made millions of dollars selling Russian gas in barter operations in the mid-90s. Today she has officially distanced herself from the day-to-day workings of her company, United Energy Systems, but her past involvement has opened her up to accusations of conflict of interest.

One such accusation was leveled by Yevhen Marchuk, the secretary of the National Defense and Security Council, who said on June 6 that Ms. Tymoshenko may be artificially inspiring an energy cri-

sis. Ms. Tymoshenko rejected Mr. Marchuk's insinuations the next day, saying his claims have "nothing to do with reality."

"There is indeed a crisis in the fuel and energy sector, but this is not a crisis of the sector itself, but of its oligarchic teams," said Ms. Tymoshenko, according to Interfax-Ukraine. "This is a crisis of corporations that used to work in the energy market's shadows and are now losing that shadow business."

She said that until the Energy Ministry, Naftohaz Ukrainy and Energoatom, which controls Ukraine's nuclear energy supplies, is cleansed of people who have "dirty schemes" the sector will remain in crisis.

"If power remains with the friends of such people as Bakai, Volkov and Surkis, the government will always be hostage to certain provocations," said Ms. Tymoshenko.

Mr. Tulub has said he believes the gas market should remain unfettered by government intrusion, although he has recognized that reforms need to be implemented. During his short press conference he complained that not one of the 37 proposals prepared by Energy Ministry specialists on needed regulatory changes has been accepted by the government. He said he and Ms. Tymoshenko have very differing views on energy sector regulation.

Mr. Tulub seemed to have the support of President Kuchma, who recently criticized Ms. Tymoshenko for lack of action as well. On June 8 he accused the Ukrainian government of failing to review thousands of government recommendations for reform of the energy sector.

"No use has been made of the 11,000 directives from the government committee on reforming the fuel and energy sector and from the fuel and energy ministry," said Mr. Kuchma in remarks that at the time led some to believe that Mr. Tulub had won his feud with the first lady of energy and that her resignation was imminent. He said that Ukraine owed \$700 million for gas supplied by Russian companies for merely the first five months of this year.

President Kuchma left for a working visit to Cuba on the day Mr. Tulub resigned and was not available for comment.

There is a general belief among experts that the near bankrupt state of Naftohaz Ukrainy, which supplied much of Ukraine's gas, and Russia's intention to close the door on gas credits will lead to a major energy crisis in Ukraine in the fall and winter of this year. Already Russia has announced that from June through September it will not supply Ukraine with free natural gas, which it has regularly done in payment for its use of the country's pipelines.

Ukraine is one of the world's largest consumers of oil and natural gas, ranked in the top 10 in overall consumption and in the top five in per capita use. Its energy problems, mostly due to its nearly total reliance on Russian suppliers, are compounded by the fact that its electricity generation plants are among the world's most inefficient.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The facts in case of Elian Gonzalez

Dear Editor:

The Kuropas article concerning Elian Gonzalez ("The Fossil Wins, Again," April 30) is certainly replete with strongly worded opinions but regrettably devoid of facts about the circumstances surrounding the "snatching of Elian by the combat-gearred stormtroopers." Please allow me to cite the known facts concerning Elian.

Elian Gonzalez was rescued at sea and entered the United States as an undocumented alien. As such, legally he fell under the jurisdiction of the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service). Relatives in Miami then cared for him. A custody hearing took place where the relatives could argue their case and where his natural father, upon being interviewed by authorities, was awarded custody. The Miami relatives refused to accept the court verdict and stated, more than once, that the authorities will have to use force to retrieve Elian. Legally, the relatives were guilty of forced detention, a rather serious offense on the level of kidnapping.

In the meantime, the neighborhood around the Gonzalez house became a setting for a media circus with demonstrating Cuban Americans parading in front of cameras; in some instances the demonstrators would disperse as soon as the reporters went elsewhere.

After weeks of negotiating, the attorney general concluded that the relatives were stalling and had no intention to give up Elian. Deadlines passed and there was still no result – just a new set of demands. In the meantime, the mayor of Miami stated on record that Miami authorities would not cooperate with the INS. Furthermore, groups of Cuban Americans, some of them known to authorities to carry legal con-

cealed weapons, vowed to resist any attempt to remove Elian.

Against this background, the attorney general, with the explicit approval of President Bill Clinton, obtained a federal warrant authorizing the INS to enter the house where Elian was held, remove him from the relatives and transfer him to the custody of his father. In order to avoid potential violent riots, the warrant was executed suddenly at night. The INS agents approached the house, knocked on the door, identified themselves and stated their purpose. When the inhabitants would not open, the door was forcefully battered down and a Spanish-speaking agent removed the boy. The entire incident was over in about two minutes.

By using inappropriate comparisons, Dr. Kuropas shows, at best, an ignorance of the workings of the Nazi Sturmabteilung and the Soviet KGB. But, even allowing for the poetic license to exaggerate, such comparisons are ludicrous. My former mathematics professor, world-renowned in his field, once stated that it is possible to come to most any conclusion if one chooses to pick only the facts that confirm the thesis and to ignore those that do not fit. Oh, how true!

Let me remind Dr. Kuropas that this country is based on the rule of law. We use courts to settle disputes – not street demonstrations or outbursts of rhetoric. Citizens are expected to obey the laws and court decisions, for doing otherwise they simply promote lawless anarchy.

Ivan Pelech
Parsippany, N.J.

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed (double-spaced) and signed; they must be originals, not photocopies.

The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer must be given for verification purposes.

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

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PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



Reconnecting with cultural heritage

My family came to the United States in 1948. Along with other Ukrainians, my parents were political refugees with a strong attachment to their homeland. For them it was critical to retain their identity and culture. In America you could do that. The community was free to have its churches, youth groups, Saturday schools, etc. Still, the pressure to merge with the broader culture was overwhelming and my parents used every trick they could think of to motivate their children to identify as Ukrainians.

"Look at the Jews," they often said. "They're not ashamed of who they are. They maintain their identity. Take a lesson from them." Usually this lecture came with some unpleasant task – working your way through seven cases and three genders of Ukrainian nouns or going to a requiem service for fallen Ukrainian heroes instead of a baseball game.

A couple weeks ago, I was in Ukraine as a member of the American delegation to the U.S.-Ukraine Joint Heritage Commission. Among our visits was a Jewish school in Zhytomyr. There my parents' 40-year-old lesson was delightfully turned on its head. The leader of Ukraine's Jewish Association, Ilyya Levitas, speaking in Ukrainian to a group of 9- and 10-year-olds, advised them to never forget their Jewish heritage.

"Just look at Mr. Fedynsky, who's here with us today," he said. "He grew up in America, but he speaks Ukrainian and respects the culture of his ancestors."

Asked to say a few words, I encouraged the children to respect their Jewish heritage in Ukraine just as my parents in America had taught me to respect my own Ukrainian heritage. It had all come full circle. Who could have imagined?

For more than a thousand years, Ukrainians and Jews have lived side by side on the territory of Ukraine. Both peoples developed rich, colorful cultures, but rarely interacted with each. Although separate, both peoples have similar, painful histories punctuated with appalling atrocities: for Ukrainians, centuries of serfdom and bitter oppression, culminating with Stalin's Great Terror and Famine-Genocide; for Jews pogroms and systemic discrimination, reaching its height with the Holocaust.

Long suppressed by Soviet censorship, reminders of those grim events are everywhere in today's Ukraine. Just an hour after the meeting with the school children, Mr. Levitas spoke again at the dedication of a monument to several thousand Jews who were executed by the Nazis in a ravine outside of Zhytomyr. He reminded the crowd that it was independence that allowed Ukraine to honor Holocaust victims. He also noted that many Ukrainians had risked their lives to save Jews in World War II and called on the citizens of Zhytomyr to collect their names so they, too, could be properly honored.

When the monument was unveiled, a Ukrainian army band struck up the national anthem and an elite unit in blue berets fired a 21-gun salute. Irv Stolberg, co-chair of the binational commission and former speaker of the Connecticut House represented the United States at the unveiling. He made a point of addressing the Ukrainian soldiers, praising their dedication to their country.

"Your valor will ensure such a thing can never happen in Ukraine again," he said.

From Zhytomyr, we went to Berdychiv. There the mayor took us to another massacre site. "Victims of 1937," he said quietly.

Leonid Novokhatko, Ukraine's vice minister of culture and the other co-chair of the commission, explained: "These were poets, professors, journalists; people who were working on behalf of Ukrainian culture. That was their crime."

Caught between Communist oppression and Nazi genocide, Jewish and Ukrainian cultures in Ukraine faced extinction; then the Soviet Union miraculously collapsed in 1991. Three years later the United States and Ukraine signed an Agreement on the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage, and the Joint Heritage Commission came into existence. The commission's general mandate is to help Americans of Jewish and Ukrainian origins reconnect with their heritage.

A year and a half ago, the commission asked the Ukrainian Museum-Archives (UMA) in Cleveland to prepare a pilot project. With the commission's blessing and assistance, the UMA developed a partnership with Ohio State University (OSU) and the Lviv Academy of Art. Working with the Ukrainian Museum-Archives, OSU is now offering a distance learning course in Ukrainian history and culture. Rostyslav Shmahalo, a dean at the Lviv Arts Academy, organized an exhibit of Lviv artists at Cleveland's UMA and lectured at OSU. OSU Prof. Myroslava Mudrak reciprocated by going to Lviv for a conference on Ukrainian culture. We've now working to expand the Cleveland UMA model to other cities and universities.

As for Jewish Americans, the commission deals, above all, with the rehabilitation and preservation of long-neglected cemeteries. Starting in the late 1800s many Jews left Ukraine to seek a better life in America. Their ancestral villages and towns were largely forgotten. The Holocaust and Soviet anti-Semitism and atheism further destroyed Ukraine's Jewish communities. Entire cemeteries were abandoned.

The one in Berdychiv is now overgrown with thick trees and bushes. The same mayor who showed us the mass grave of Stalin's victims took us on a tour of the overgrown graveyard. At one time, he noted, Berdychiv was more than 80 percent Jewish. If the cemetery were restored, American Jews, he suggested, might want to visit his city to reconnect with their roots. He also gave us Ukrainian postage stamps commemorating the wedding of French writer Honoré de Balzac in a Berdychiv church. Worth a visit, the mayor assured us.

Later that evening, at a wonderful dinner near a scenic lake, the governor of the Khmelnytskyi Oblast echoed the same message. Besides the Jewish cemetery and the church, he said, there were all kinds of tourist attractions within an hour's drive: monasteries, synagogues, a massive network of 14th century forts and city walls, magnificent scenery and good fishing – not to mention the tomb of the Baal Shem Tov, founder of Jewish Hasidism.

(Continued on page 14)

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Young dancers demonstrate that the show must go on



NEW YORK – This year’s Ukrainian Festival on East Seventh Street – the 24th annual sponsored by St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church – may have been marred by, well, not the best of weather, as rain forced a cancellation of outdoor performances – the street festival’s centerpiece – on Friday and Saturday, May 19-20, and brought them

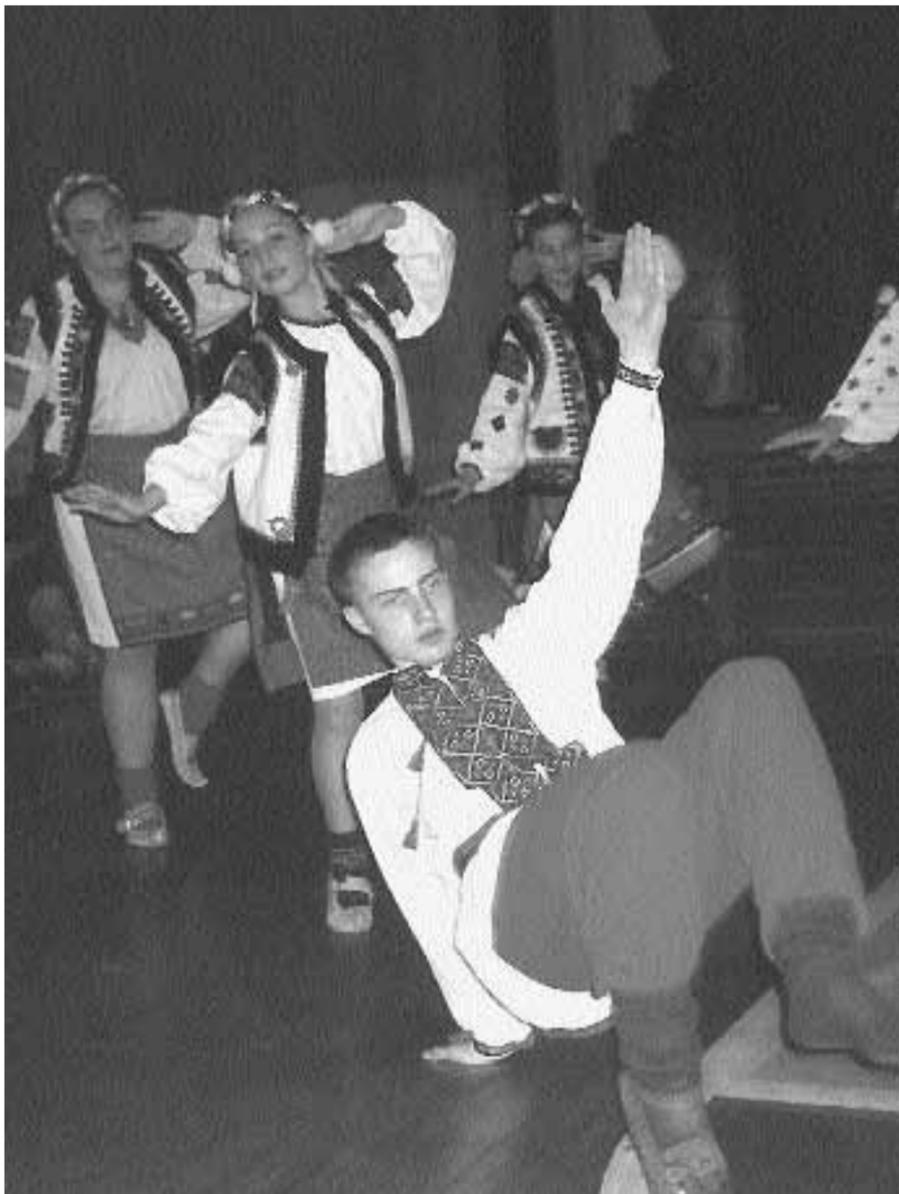
indoors on Sunday. The spirits of the young performers, nonetheless, remained undamped.

Seen on this page are the members of several Ukrainian folk dance ensembles who performed during the Sunday afternoon program held in the school auditorium of St. George. Most are students of the renowned Roma Pryma

Bohachevsky and belong to her dance troupes in New York City, Astoria, N.Y., and Newark, N.J. Rounding out the show were students of St. George Academy, who are instructed by the ever-energetic Daria Genza, with the wholehearted support of Sister Monica, principal.

The dance concert was well-received by an enthusiastic audience of young

and old who enthusiastically applauded and cheered each number. It was obvious also that the children and teens who danced that afternoon enjoyed the performances of their peers and proved themselves to be real troupers. The festival’s large outdoor stage may have been rendered unusable by drenching rains, but the show went on.



DATELINE NEW YORK: Krovtytska guest-stars at Ukrainian Institute

by Helen Smindak

Radiant in a gown of claret red with black-bead embroidery and matching stole, soprano Oksana Krovtytska brought her lyric voice to the Ukrainian Institute of America on May 21 for this season's gala concert and reception benefiting the institute's Crown Jewel Endowment fund and the Daria Hoydysh Endowment for the Arts. An enthusiastic audience greeted the New York City Opera diva with hearty applause.

The fund-raising event, initiated last year with an appearance by Met Opera bass Paul Plishka, affords music lovers an opportunity to become an event sponsor at three donation levels – platinum (\$10,000), gold (\$5,000) and silver (\$1,000). All donors receive reserved seats, autographed concert programs and recognition in the concert program. Gold and platinum donors are also granted a private photo opportunity with the guest star; platinum donors receive an additional bonus: the use of the institute's second floor for a day or evening to hold a corporate or personal party.

Ms. Krovtytska opened the program with jewels of music by the Ukrainian composers Stanyslav Liudkevych and Vasyl Barvinsky, pouring out glorious sound in Liudkevych's "Oдна Pisnia Holosnenka" (Loud Song) and "Taina" (Mystery) and Barvinsky's "Misatsiu Kniazii" (Prince Moon). She was ably backed throughout the evening by the refined, intelligent accompaniment of pianist Vyacheslav Bakis.

With Liszt's "Tri Sonetti di Petrarca" (Three Sonnets of Petrarch), Ms. Krovtytska demonstrated that her voice has become richer and more powerful. Her superb command of phrasing heightened the solemn "Pace non trove" and the poignant strains of the sonnet "Benedetto sia'l giorno," while her consummate artistry and quicksilver notes conveyed intense beauty in "I vidi in terra."

Following intermission, Ms. Krovtytska sang arias from a number of operas that offer great terrain for a soprano, including Dvorak's "Rusalka," Janacek's "Katya Kabanova," Umberto Giordano's "Fedora," Francesco Cilea's "Adriana Lecouvreur," and Puccini's "La Bohème" and "La Rondine."

In Fedora's opening aria she interpreted the role with the same artistry she showed in a recent appearance with the Palm Beach Opera, a performance that netted this review from Opera News of New York: "Oksana Krovtytska proved a natural in her first attempt at the title role ... The soprano used (her voice) with great intelligence and expressive intent. Her acting, too, was impressive and involving, easily suggesting Fedora's aristocratic bearing, as well as her emotional vulnerability."

Ms. Krovtytska's concluding arias – Cio-Cio San's entrance aria, a sweetly modulated "Un bel di," and the final scene from "Madama Butterfly" – were invested with the same emotional energy she gave to Puccini's heroine in City Opera performances over the past four seasons. An impassioned and vulnerable Cio-Cio San, Ms. Krovtytska prompted a standing ovation from the audience, just as she did at the City Opera.

Called back for an encore, she responded with Puccini's touching aria "O mio babbino caro" from the opera "Gianni Schicchi" and Kupchynsky's "Oy u Poli Tykhyi Viter Viye."

Though still recuperating from a respiratory illness, the singer was gracious as always and took time after the performance to meet and greet her fans individually before retiring to a third-floor room for private photo sessions with benefactors. She posed with platinum donors Joseph and Magda Gagliano, Dr. Walter Hoydysh and Mary E. Pressey, and gold donors Ostap and Ursula Balaban. Meanwhile, guests moved to the dining room to sample gourmet dishes and luscious desserts.

Benefactors for this fund-raiser also included Maria Olenska (platinum donor, in kind) and silver donors Drs. Adrian and Larissa Dolynsky, Zwen Goy, Myron and Olha Hnateyko, Dr. Zenovia Kuncio, Walter and Frances Nazarewicz, Andriy and Larysa Paschuk, Peter and Ilona Shyprykewich, Mykola and Valida Suk, Lydia Zaininger, and Olha and Teodosij Zazula.

Confiding to "Dateline that she has been studying "with great coaches" and taking master classes with Renata Scotto, Ms. Krovtytska said she will be spending a lot of time on study in coming months. During the 2000-2001 season she is scheduled to sing the title role in Janacek's "Katya Kabanova" in Montreal and Miami, Amelia in Verdi's "Un ballo in maschera" with the Palm Beach Opera and the Schumann "Requiem" with the National Orchestra of France in Paris. Returning to the New York City Opera for her eighth consecutive season, she will appear as Donna Elvira in Mozart's "Don Giovanni" in March 2001.

Mr. Bakis, who is German-born, studied at the Chernivtsi Music College and Kyiv Conservatory in Ukraine. An accomplished chamber musician, he was a



New York City Opera diva Oksana Krovtytska with Maria Olenska, a "platinum" donor at the Ukrainian Institute of America.

member of a trio that took the grand prix in the Kyiv Chamber Competition. He was artistic director and conductor of the Donetsk Chamber Orchestra and was designated a Distinguished Artist of Ukraine before emigrating to the United States in 1993. Based in New York, he has gained a reputation as an accomplished performer in chamber and recital venues.

On their toes

The American Ballet Theater's Ukrainian foursome continues to win raves from critics as the ABT season continues. Reviewing Harold Lander's "Études" in The New York Times, Jennifer Dunning touts the work of Maxim Belotserkovsky, who headed the matinee cast with Amanda McKerrow and Marcelo Gomes on June 7, and Irina Dvorovento and Vladimir Malakhov, who performed with José Manuel Carreno in the evening's lead cast.

Ms. Dunning felt that Ms. Dvorovento's dancing had a weight that made it regal, while Mr. Belotserkovsky showed "a winning clarity of line and shape." Mr. Malakhov, in Ms. Dunning's opinion, "could be said to be air" in the cast that "stood out on the whole for the glitter of its performing." He was also complimented for his debut that same evening in Martha Graham's "Diversion of Angels." Wrote Ms. Dunning: "The purest of classicists, Mr. Malakhov has obviously paid close and devoted attention to the distinctive shapes and propulsive quality of the Graham modern-dance technique."

Mr. Belotserkovsky's appearances earlier in the season in "La Sylphide" and "Le Corsaire" also elicited praises from Ms. Dunning, who wrote that "Maxim Belotserkovsky was a figure of heroic vigor as James, the Scotsman whom the sylph loves." In the pirate romp "Le Corsaire," the reviewer opined that "the clarity and amplitude of Maxim Belotserkovsky's dancing, a high point of the afternoon, made the slave dealer Lankendem unusually likable."

NYT dance critic Anna Kisselgoff, reviewing the June 9 opening performance of John Cranko's "The Taming of the Shrew," found Vladislav Kalinin to be marvelous in the leading role of Gremio, becoming "a doddering dolt without overdoing anything."

Ms. Dvorovento was a principal dancer in the Kyiv Ballet in Ukraine, as was her husband, Mr. Belotserkovsky. Also from Kyiv is Mr. Kalinin. Mr. Malakhov, a native of Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine, who began his dance training there at the age of 4, appears as a principal dancer with the National Ballet of Canada and the Stuttgart Ballet, as well as with the ABT.

Regards to Broadway

Singer/dancer/actress Christina Pawl (Pawlyshyn) has left the cast of the Tony Award-winning production of "Cabaret" to take up serious drama in Denver. Ms. Pawl, who spent more than two years in "Cabaret" as one of the six sinuous Kit-Kat girls, is studying acting and voice during a six-month rehearsal period for the Greek epic "Tantalus." Directed by Sir Peter Hall, the 15-hour production will open in mid-September for a three-month run at

the Denver Theater Center, with Ms. Pawl as one of nine Greek women in the chorus. Although she's left the Great White Way, Ms. Pawl is often seen on TV in the original "Cabaret" commercial and in a commercial showing the Kit-Kat girls ballyhooing a product called "Clean and Clear."

The name Mark Setlock sounds very much like Mark Sedlak, and readers have been inquiring whether the star of the Off-Broadway comedy "Fully Committed," playing at the Cherry Lane Theater, is Ukrainian. Mr. Setlock plays the chef and everyone else in this one-man show, described by Peter Marks in The New York Times as "a mocking dismantlement of megalomaniacal chefs, coked-up maitres d'hotel, food-averse VIPs, strung-out publicity agents and customers with exploding bowels." Besides the Slavic name, the 31-year-old actor seems to have some of the requirements of Ukrainian ethnicity: he grew up in a middle-class Cleveland neighborhood and settled into a small apartment in the East Village when he came to New York in 1992. Reached by fax, Mr. Setlock responded with this courteous note: "Thanks for your interest, but I am Polish, not Ukrainian. I do, however, love Ukrainian food!"

Television highlights

Natalia Shvachko, 23, represented Ukraine in the 49th annual Miss Universe Pageant, held last month in Cyprus and broadcast by CBS-TV. The 5-foot-10-inch brown-eyed beauty says her proudest personal accomplishment is running for membership in the Ukrainian Parliament and placing third out of 19 candidates. Ms. Shvachko, who feels that pageants broaden horizons, stature and exposure to more diverse cultures, intends to run again for political office in the future. Despite geographical barriers, she maintains frequent and close contact with her mother, older brother and sister (her father died when she was a child), and is grateful for her relationship with her mother and "how much she sacrificed for me." Fluent in Ukrainian, Russian, English, French and Polish, she lists art, music, travel, literature and athletics among her leading interests.

Some of the music heard on the soundtracks of several highly popular TV shows is the work of Ukrainian performers. "Dawson's Creek," for instance, carries significant contributions from Winnipeg-born pop music star Chantal Krevaziuk, winner of the Best Female Artist prize (beating out Celine Dion and Alanis Morissette) and Best Pop/Adult Album prize at the Juno Awards (Canada's version of the Grammy) last March. CBS-TV's "JAG" and NBC-TV's "Providence" and "Sunset Beach" have carried the musical stamp of the Baltimore-based band "Love Riot," fronted by New York-born singer Lisa Kruk Mathews. MTV's "Undressed" and "Making the Video" also featured music by "Love Riot," and the new women's network Oxygen licensed the band's entire CD "Heaven Can Wait" for use on its programming this year.

Notes on music

Conducted by Leon Botstein at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall, the American Symphony Orchestra ended its 1999-2000 season in grand fashion with a performance of Reinhold Glière's Symphony No. 3, "Ilya Muramets," Op. 42, featuring lush harmonies and triumphal string writing. The subject of Glière's last symphony – an epic work that may never have been performed before in its entirety in this country – is Ilya Muramets, known to Ukrainians as Illia Muromets of Chernihiv, the hero of the Kyiv bylyna cycle.

In essays included in the concert program guide, Mr. Botstein, Anthony Burton and Robert McColley refer to the composer as Russian and his work as part of the Russian culture; they do, however, praise the symphony in glowing terms and describe Muramets as a "bogatyryr" or knight errant of the 10th century court of Vladimir I of Kyiv who is also given a role in the 13th century battles between Christian Kyiv-Rus' and the Golden Horde of the Mongol Tatars.

Glière, of Belgian Jewish descent, was born in Kyiv in 1875 and composed over 500 works in a variety of genres, including the symphonic tableau "Zaporozhtsi" inspired by Ilya Repin's painting, the symphonic poem "Zapovit" dedicated to Taras Shevchenko, and the ballet "Taras Bulba."

During a recent Metropolitan Opera radio broadcast, the illustrious Ukrainian tenor Ivan Kozlovsky was the subject of highly complimentary remarks by Henry Fogel, president of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, in the intermission feature "Singers Hall of Fame." Referring to Kozlovsky, who was born in the Kyiv area in 1900 and sang to age 72, as "a throwback to the pre-Caruso era, with a stunning variety of innuendos," Mr. Fogel used the sec-

(Continued on page 17)

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Chornobyl closure...

(Continued from page 2)

Furthermore..., Ukraine already has a huge gas debt [vis-à-vis] Russia. The third alternative is nuclear power, which is relatively cheap but controversial both at home and abroad and which also would increase the country's dependence on Russia for securing nuclear fuel."

Messrs. Munchmeyer, Bergasse, and other energy experts say it is doubtful whether Ukraine really needs to build any new energy plants. Instead, Ukraine could meet its energy needs by better energy usage. According to Mr. Munchmeyer, "the energy problem existing in Ukraine is a fuel problem and an inefficiency problem. So on the one side, there is a lack of fuel and there is a lack of organization to get the fuel into the right places at the same time. The other thing is this huge inefficiency of the energy system. Ukraine is using five to eight times more electricity for producing goods compared to Western Europe."

Wasting energy is endemic throughout the countries of the former East Bloc. Mr. Bergasse says one of the main causes of poor energy efficiency are the high subsidies paid for energy purchases. He says a 1999 IEA study of 10 countries with heavy energy subsidies – including Russia and Kazakhstan – showed there is no incentive for saving energy whenever energy is subsidized or sold below cost of production.

"The non-payment problem which is pervasive throughout the CIS, although improving of late, is another form of energy subsidy," he explains. "So we calculated that the energy-savings potential of Russia alone is so enormous that if subsidies were abolished in Russia, Russia could save about twice the energy which Ukraine consumes today alone."

Mr. Bergasse says remodeling the energy sector is dependent on more overarching reforms. He says the three Baltic states have made the most progress toward cutting energy waste, partly because they have better defined property rights. Baltic homeowners, Mr. Bergasse says, feel more secure in making the investment to upgrade their home energy efficiency. CIS countries are still lagging behind in this regard, however.

Reconnecting...

(Continued from page 9)

Like the mayor of Berdychiv he wants people to visit, to stay over night, to spend money. The mayor and the governor both acknowledged that the amenities Western tourists expect do not exist yet, but that will all come, they believed. I couldn't agree more. Ukraine is no longer cut off from its past. The country is not shut off from the world. People are now free to pursue opportunities.

At the end of an emotional day during which they had visited churches, synagogues, massacre sites and graves, U.S.-Ukraine Joint Heritage Commission Co-Chairs Stolberg and Novokhatko offered toasts to friendship, cooperation, mutual understanding, and to the future. I drank to that.

Ukrainians and Jews, I realized, have a lot in common, beginning with an admiration for the way each community was able to survive genocide and terror in Ukraine and the lure of the melting pot in America. A lot of Jewish and Ukrainian Americans have common interests in the country of their origin. Wouldn't it be nice, if an obscure commission on cultural heritage could contribute to Ukraine's healing the wounds of all her peoples, while helping Americans of Ukrainian and Jewish heritage reconnect with their roots and, incidentally, with each other?

Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

agreed on regulations regarding the transport corridor through Belarus. The same day, Belarusian Television quoted Mr. Yarmoshyn as saying that "the khokhly [a disparaging term for Ukrainians] are going to fleece us at the border." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Moldova puts border treaty on hold

CHISINAU – The Parliament of Moldova has again voted against debating the 1999 treaty with Ukraine on settling the border dispute between the two countries. Under that treaty, the two states were to exchange small chunks of territory, giving Ukraine sovereignty over a portion of a highway to Odesa that passes through Moldovan territory in exchange for a small strip of land leading to the River Danube, where Moldova wants to build an oil terminal. The Party of Moldovan Communists said it has "other constructive proposals to make," while the Popular Party Christian Democratic called the treaty "a fiasco for Moldovan diplomacy." The Ukrainian Parliament has ratified the treaty, and experts cited by the Infotag news service said Moldova's refusal to do so might result in Ukrainian lawmakers' refusal to ratify an agreement recognizing Moldovan properties on Ukrainian territory. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv may obtain \$1.2 B from World Bank

KYIV – Johannes Linn, World Bank deputy chairman for Europe and Central Asia, said in Kyiv on June 9 that Ukraine may receive a \$1 billion to \$1.2 billion loan package from the bank in 2000-2002, Interfax reported. "The level of support in terms of financial assistance will depend very much on the government's ability to implement its reform program," Mr. Linn noted. Final approval will also depend on the results of an audit of the bank's previous loans to Ukraine and the government's success in passing laws the bank considers beneficial for economic development. Mr. Linn praised Ukraine's government, saying the bank has "a new sense of optimism" about the country's economic future. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma lambastes Cabinet's energy policy

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma on June 8 criticized Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko's Cabinet for failing to regulate the situation in the fuel and energy sector, Interfax reported. "No use has been made of the 11,000 directives from the government committee on reforming the fuel and energy sector and from the Ministry of Fuel and Energy," Mr. Kuchma noted, commenting on Vice Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's performance in reforming the energy market. President Kuchma said Ukraine's debt for Russian gas supplies for the first five months of this year totals \$700 million. He added that Ukraine has illegally siphoned off 13 billion cubic meters of Russian gas from pipelines crossing its territory. Russia has the right to take Ukraine to an international court over the issue, he commented. Ukraine's lucrative energy market is widely believed to provide huge revenues for a few powerful oligarchs who sell Russian gas at inflated prices. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Tymoshenko comments on gas payments

KYIV – Vice Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko also told Interfax that between June and September Ukraine will not be receiving natural gas in payment for the transit of Russian gas via Ukrainian territory. Ms. Tymoshenko said that in payment for transit services Naftohaz Ukrainy in 1999 had siphoned off 5 billion cubic meters of Russian gas to which it had not

been entitled. "This is the dreadful situation to which we were driven last year," she added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Tymoshenko denies complicity

KYIV – Vice Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko on June 7 denied she was involved in former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko's money-laundering schemes, as reported in the June 6 issue of the Financial Times. "I have never in my life conducted any operations with money-laundering," she told Interfax. "It seems to me that some corrupt circles in the shadow energy sector in Ukraine ... disseminate various news reports in the world in order to get rid of the government that is putting an end to their shady deals," Ms. Tymoshenko added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Life imprisonment replaces death penalty

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on June 8 amended the penal code to substitute life imprisonment for the death penalty, Interfax reported. The Parliament also ruled that life sentences cannot be handed down to people under 18 or over 65, or to women who are pregnant either at time of committing their crime or receiving the court verdict. The move followed last year's ruling by the Constitutional Court that the death penalty is illegal. Under pressure from the Council of Europe, in March 1997 Ukraine imposed a moratorium on executions. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Vilnius seeks redress for Nazi occupation

VILNIUS – The Lithuanian Parliament on June 8 passed a resolution demanding compensation for the German occupation during World War II. The resolution criticizes the current mechanism whereby Lithuanian nationals seeking compensation are forced to proceed via Moscow, and calls instead for a compensation mechanism to be a part of Lithuanian-German relations and to be handled as a bilateral issue. During his meeting between German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, Parliament Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis had brought up the issue, equating the mechanism via Moscow as tantamount to recognizing the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. Mr. Landsbergis said he expects a foundation to be established soon in Lithuania that will deal with applications to the German compensation fund. (RFE/RL Newsline)

U.S.-Baltic commission meets

TALLINN – The U.S.-Baltic Partnership Commission held its annual meeting here in the Estonian capital on June 7. U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott stressed that the year 2002 will be very important, even though no one knows what decisions will be taken at that time. Mr. Talbott added that "the NATO enlargement process will continue, it does not endanger anyone and no democratic European country should be left out of it for geographical or historical reasons, especially not reasons connected to the Cold War," the ETA news service reported. Officials signed a joint communiqué that focused on various defense and economic issues and stated that the United States welcomes "bringing to justice accused war criminals, regardless of ideology." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Odesa writers protect Ukrainian language

ODESA – The Odesa branch of the National Writers Association has initiated the set up of a Committee for Protection of the Ukrainian Language and Culture in the Odesa Oblast. The new organization will oppose the "long-lasting Russification policy in the region," said member of the board of NWA Bohdan Sushynskyi. The organization will assist Ukrainian-language TV and radio stations, newspapers and book publishing. (Eastern Economist)

With sorrow we announce that on Saturday, June 10, 2000, at the age of 57, passed away our dearest son, father, brother, grandfather



Bohdan Worobec, J.D.

A Panakhyda was held on Wednesday, June 14, 2000, at El Camino Memorial Park and Mortuary, San Diego, Calif.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, June 15, at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Ukrainian Catholic Church, San Diego, Calif.

Interment at El Camino Memorial Park.

In deep sorrow

daughter - Kim
son - Jimmy
mother - Zenowia
brothers - Andre with wife Christina and daughters Natalie and Marie
- Myron with wife Helen and sons Michael, Matthew and Adam
grandson - Devon

Family in U.S., Canada, France and Ukraine

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to: Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, 272 Old Short Hills Rd., Short Hills, NJ 07078.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

to be published in The Ukrainian Weekly – in the Ukrainian or English language – are accepted by mail, courier, fax, phone or e-mail.

Deadline: Tuesday noon before the newspaper's date of issue. (The Weekly goes to press early Friday mornings.)

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Information should be addressed to the attention of the Advertising Department and sent to: The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280 (NB: please do not include post office box if sending via courier), Parsippany, N.J. 07054; fax, (973) 644-9510; telephone, (973) 292-9800, ext. 3040; e-mail, staff@ukrweekly.com.

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Business in brief

(Continued from page 5)

pilot project is being tested in Kyiv with a planned expansion to the national level. Additionally, Oschadnyi Bank and its subsidiary, OshchadMarket, have announced the introduction of a new service, the sale of goods from a catalogue. The catalogue will be distributed through the over 10,000 Oschadnyi Bank branches. (Eastern Economist)

Gas well begins production in Poltava Oblast

POLTAVA – A new gas well has begun production in the Poltava Oblast. The well is 4,800 meters deep and is capable of producing 800,000 cubic meters of gas per day. The director of PoltavaGazoVydobuvannia, Volodymyr Artemov, said that this is the most productive well in the region for the last 15 years. Currently there are 400 well sites in the Poltava Oblast, which produced over 5 billion cubic meters of gas in 1999. The new site alone is expected to bring in an additional 300 million cubic meters of gas in 2000. (Eastern Economist)

Oreanda Hotel first for renovation

SYMFEROPOL – The first investment project to be carried out in the Greater Yalta Priority Development Zone will be the renovation of the Oreanda, one of the most fashionable hotels in the city, said Yalta Mayor Volodymyr Marchenko. According to Mr. Marchenko, Iventa of Switzerland will invest \$5.6 million (U.S.) in the hotel renovation, which will give it a 60 percent stake, the State Property Fund of Crimea, 36 percent; and the Yalta community, 4 percent. The Oreanda project will include a large-scale renovation of all the buildings, construction of a new building, park, parking lot, swimming pool and development of beach infrastructure. Oreanda will become a four-star hotel, according to the international classification system. The project is expected to show a profit in six years. (Eastern Economist)

Antonov and Air Launch sign agreement

KYIV – The Antonov aviation complex and Ukrainian-Russian Air Launch complex have signed an agreement, according to which Antonov will assist in launches of telecommunication, navigation and meteorology satellites up to 3.5 tons in weight into low orbits. AN-124-100 Ruslan aircraft will be used as the launch platform, taking the satellite and the booster to the optimal launch point and launching it from a height of 10 kilometers. Antonov will develop the system for loading and launching the booster. The first commercial launch is planned for 2003. (Eastern Economist)

National airline plans to fly AN-140s

KYIV – The National Airlines of Ukraine plans to receive the first AN-140 aircraft by the end of the summer, according to the airline's president, Mykola Plaksii, who spoke at a ceremony for certification of the AN-140. The airline is in talks with Kharkiv Aircraft Plant to lease two AN-140 for five years. The price of one aircraft is approximately \$8 million to \$10 million (U.S.). The president of Aerosweet airlines, Hryhorii Hurtovii, commented that the bigger issue than the price of the aircraft is its operating costs. "If the manufacturer offers a good price Aerosweet will soon also use the AN-140," stated Mr. Hurtovii. (Eastern Economist)

Ikar begins flights of AN-140s in June

KYIV – AN-140 aircraft will begin regular service on the routes of Ikar airways in June, said Ikar Assistant General Director Yulii Kyseliov. According to the contract Kharkiv Aviation Plant will supply five AN-140s to Ikar. The purchase was financed by a loan from Va-Bank. The size of the contract was not disclosed, but Mr. Kyseliov stated that the price of one aircraft was not higher than \$8 million. (Eastern Economist)

AN-140 production waiting for buyers

KHARKIV – The main problem for the producers of the new AN-140 aircraft is financing production since airlines of the Commonwealth of Independent States have a low ability to pay, stated Mykhailo Ternov, deputy general director of the Kharkiv Aviation Plant.

Kyiv receives World Bank loan of \$18.2 M

KYIV – The World Bank and the Kyiv City Administration have signed an agreement for allocation of a loan for \$18.2 million (U.S.) to be directed toward energy conservation. The document was signed by Deputy Mayor Viktor Padalka in Washington. The loan is allocated for this project under extremely attractive conditions to the city, according to the head of the Kyiv's Foreign Economic Relations Department, Mykhailo Pozhyvanov. (Eastern Economist)

50 percent of Bukovyna airline for sale

KYIV – The State Property Fund has approved the cash sale by tender of a 50 percent stake in Bukovyna Airlines. The stake's starting price is 1,036,000 hrv. The successful bid will be requested to pay the airline's 150,000 hrv debt, keep the airline's main operations and maintain aircraft. (Eastern Economist)

Insurance industry holds roundtable

KYIV – A roundtable on insurance business in Ukraine was held March 31 by the League of Insurance Organizations of Ukraine and the Institute for the Transformation of Society. The problems included the deficiencies in existing legislation, state influence on private insurance companies, the necessity of introducing new regulations and hurdles to the development of social insurance systems. Many participants complained that the state does not consider insurance companies as potential investors. As of January, 263 insurance companies were operating in Ukraine, earning 1.164 billion hrv in 1999. (Eastern Economist)

President at opening of Cargill plant

DONETSK – President Leonid Kuchma attended the opening of the new Cargill sunflower seed-processing plant in Donetsk on April 4. The president of Cargill Ukraine, Patrick Bracken, said the company will pay cash for sunflower seeds and the oil will be sold on both domestic and international markets with distribution through Cargill's international network. The plant was constructed over two years at cost of over \$50 million (U.S.). The new plant is capable of processing 300,000 tons of sunflower seed annually and provides 400 direct and indirect jobs. (Eastern Economist)

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4	68	29	161	54	385	79	738
5	70	30	167	55	397	80	752
6	73	31	173	56	409	81	765
7	75	32	179	57	422	82	778
8	78	33	186	58	435	83	791
9	81	34	193	59	448	84	803
10	84	35	200	60	462	85	815
11	87	36	208	61	475	86	826
12	90	37	215	62	489	87	837
13	93	38	223	63	504	88	848
14	96	39	232	64	518	89	858
15	100	40	240	65	533	90	868
16	103	41	249	66	547		
17	107	42	258	67	562		
18	110	43	267	68	576		
19	114	44	276	69	591		
20	118	45	286	70	606		
21	122	46	296	71	622		
22	126	47	306	72	637		
23	130	48	316	73	652		
24	135	49	327	74	667		
25	140	50	338	75	682		

Complete the following questionnaire and return it to the UNA Home Office:

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Krovytska guest-stars...

(Continued from page 13)

ond half of the aria "Pourquoi me reveiller" from "Werther" to demonstrate Kozlovsky's remarkable voice.

Kyiv Opera soloist Vladimir Grishko, who appeared at the Metropolitan Opera in "La Bohème" and "Khovanschina" this past season, will sing the role of Pinkerton in Puccini's timeless tear-jerker "Madama Butterfly" during the Met Opera's annual free series in the parks this summer. With Julius Rudel conducting, Mr. Grishko will appear with Cynthia Lawrence, Wendy White and William Stone in a concert version of "Butterfly" (no sets or staging) at Miller Field in the Gateway National Recreation Area, Staten Island, on Tuesday,

June 27, at 8 p.m. (rain date: Thursday, June 29, at 8 p.m.).

Ukrainian baritones Georgy Zastavny and Vassily Gerello, and bass Paul Plishka will be featured in upcoming TV and radio broadcasts. Mr. Zastavny, a member of St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theater since 1973, will be seen and heard in a PBS telecast on June 28 as Fra Melitone in Verdi's "La forza del destino." National Public Radio's World of Opera broadcasts will feature Mr. Gerello, a native of the Chernivtsi region who sings with the Mariinsky (Kirov) Theater, as Tomsy in a July 8 broadcast of Tchaikovsky's "Queen of Spades." Mr. Plishka's performance as Don Silva in Verdi's "Ernani" with the Opera Orchestra of New York is scheduled for NPR broadcast on September 16.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 8)

A key part of the program – which formed the principal part of the Joint Conferences on Saturday, June 26 – was The Washington Group's conference "At the Threshold." That conference attempted, in the words of TWG President Orest Deychakiwsky, to provide "five slices of the Ukrainian reality."

Besides separate conferences of Ukrainian organizations, there were several joint events: a reception at the Embassy of Ukraine attended by approximately 275 people in two shifts; a congressional reception on Capitol Hill attended by at least 400 people, and a reception at the U.S. State Department that was filled to capacity by 425 guests.

The Joint Conferences' Saturday evening gala comprised cocktails, a banquet and a ball, with nearly 800 persons in attendance. The keynote address was delivered by Leon Fuerth, national security adviser to Vice-President Al Gore. Mr. Fuerth read a message from Mr. Gore, in which the vice-president greeted the Joint Conferences and thanked organizers for presenting him their Friend of Ukraine Award. Mr. Fuerth offered the Ukrainian American community his personal pledge that he would arrange a meeting with Vice-President Gore.

In his remarks at the opening of the banquet, Dr. Goy pointed to the unique nature of the Joint Conferences. "Our motto," he stated, "is synergy, whereby the action of the whole is greater than that of its parts." This conference, he continued, "is significant, not in its perfection, but in the teamwork that it is building for the Ukrainian community. Through this kind of work we will create a better society, not only for our community, but for our country."

Source: "Over 900 attend Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations" by Roma Hadziewicz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, July 4, 1999, Vol. LXVII, No. 27.

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The Commission of Humanitarian Aid
at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

March 13, 2000
Kyiv

The Commission of Humanitarian Aid at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine attests that the Taras Shevchenko Foundation, an all-Ukrainian charitable fund based in Lviv, under the direction of Dr. Vasyl Iwanytzky, foundation president, is authorized to oversee projects dealing with humanitarian aid.

During 1998-1999 the foundation distributed approximately 200 computers and 100 photocopying machines to schools, universities, scientific institutions and libraries in Ukraine. This distribution program is being continued this year.

The commission at the ministry would like to take this occasion to express its gratitude to the businesses, institutions and organizations in Canada that have donated the above-mentioned technology to the Taras Shevchenko Foundation.

Unfortunately, given the current difficult economic situation in Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers is unable to provide educational establishments with necessary computers and photocopying machines. Therefore, we would like to ask that those individuals, businesses and institutions in the diaspora that are in the position to help support this undertaking and actively help the Taras Shevchenko Foundation continue its important work.

Mykola Zhulynsky
Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine

The Taras Shevchenko Foundation of Ukraine,
an All-Ukrainian Charitable Fund

We would like to issue an appeal to the Ukrainian community in the diaspora for the generous support of our foundation. Your continued support will enable us to continue our work and again send much-needed computers and photocopiers to schools in Ukraine this year, and thereby contribute to the upgrading of educational facilities. All contributions will be officially acknowledged upon receipt by the foundation. Individuals or institutions donating \$250 or more will have their names inscribed on an honorary plaque at the Taras Shevchenko Center in Lviv. Donations, with checks made payable to "School in Ukraine," may be sent to:

Taras Shevchenko Center in Lviv
215 Bloor St. W., Suite 96
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M6S 1M8

NEW RELEASE

An "eclectic collection" of music
by an eclectic British performer

EAST BARNET, England – Stepan Pasicznyk, formerly accordionist and co-songwriter with the indie/world/folk band The Ukrainians, has released a solo CD called "Ludwig's Eclectic Collection."

The Ukrainians achieved considerable international success writing songs in Ukrainian and performing at venues ranging from Ukraine's second anniversary of independence in the center of Kyiv, through to the Bumbershoot and Glastonbury festivals in the United States and England, not to mention numerous European festivals and venues. It also recorded a sound track to a Nike advertisement.

Mr. Pasicznyk, who likes to point out that his surname "means something like beekeeper," was involved with the band during the "Ukrainians," "Vorony" and "Kultura" LPs, and the Smiths covers EP.

He noted that "Ludwig's Eclectic Collection" is meant to be "a representation of my experience of being of Ukrainian-Irish descent, and yet born here, a British citizen." Ludwig, he explained, is the nickname by which he is known in the British Ukrainian community.

"Chaban," a shepherd's song, is given the Ska treatment juxtaposed with Ukrainian village folk music and vocals. "Halychanochka," a song about a woman from the Halychyna (Galicia) region of western Ukraine is given "Latino" treatment. An old Kozak song, "Zasvystaly Kozachenky" is given an instrumental "dance" type treatment. Thus, musician-songwriter pointed out, the transition from whistling Kozaks to dancing Kozaks happens in a few strokes of the keyboard.

"Song for Y. Shukhevych" (1984) was co-written with musician M. Stebiwka, a.k.a. "Steb," of Wolverhampton. It is a tribute to the well-known political prisoner, and a protest song about Ukraine's plight in the former Soviet empire. "Carpathian Trickle" is about Ukraine on one level, but starts out like an Irish lament – a reflection of the similar histories of these two nations. "Refugee Nation" addresses tragedies such as Kosovo in a way that a descendant of another "refugee nation" might relate to it.

The Potutory referred to in the "Potutory Waltz" is the home village of Mr. Pasicznyk's father. Located in the part of Ukraine ruled by Austria-Hungary, at one point during World War I it was on the front between the Austro-Hungarian and Russian empires. The village, Mr. Pasicznyk said, is alive with relics of some of the fiercest fighting in which the Ukrainian Sichovi Striltsi (Sich Riflemen) were involved in their struggle for Ukraine's independence. The duet reflects this point in history with a Viennese sounding theme. (The image on the CD/tape cover, by an artist from Ukraine named Myron Yatsiv, is of a soldier from this army.)



After this selection the CD suddenly goes from 1919 to 1999. "You've Gone Sour on Me" is straightforward rock-n-roll, while "Name on a Wing" is a country-style song about intercontinental love doomed to failure. The eclecticism is evident as "Hard to Hang On" is done in a dance/pop style, and "Saturday Will Never Come" is white reggae. Next come "So Near and Yet So Far Away" and "Is It Too Much to Ask," both big-band rock-n-roll. Then there is "Gertrude," a Bavarian-style thigh slapping drinking song.

The finale is "Miracles," which, according to the musician, is a celebration of everything good about life, especially becoming a parent for the first time.

"My Ukrainian dad bought me an accordion when I was 9 years old and got me involved with the music scene in the British Ukrainian community, and my musical intuition was helped along by my Irish mum, an accomplished fiddle player," Mr. Pasicznyk said. "In typical Irish tradition, our family band comprised my mum on fiddle, sister Mariyka on guitar, and myself on accordion playing Irish and Ukrainian music."

The price of the "Ludwig's Eclectic Collection" CD is \$16 (U.S.), or \$23 (Canadian), shipping included. Checks payable to Stepan Pasicznyk should be sent to him at 74 Jackson Road, East Barnet, Herts, EN4 8UU, England.

The CD is available from: Soyuzivka, UNA Estate, P.O. Box 529, Kerhonkson, NY 12446; telephone, (914) 626-5641; fax, (914) 626-4638; e-mail sqss@aol.com; and the Ukrainian Book Store 10215 97th St. Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2N9; telephone, (780) 422-4255; fax, (780) 425-1439; e-mail, ukrbkst@planet.eon.net; website, www.ukrainianbookstore.com.

Readers may contact Mr. Pasicznyk via e-mail at stepan@pasicznyk.fsnet.co.uk.

Correction

Last week's story about the "Sviato Vesny" for Plast children gave the wrong date for the celebration. The event took place on June 4, not June 11 (which was the date of the issue in which the article appeared.)

Notice to publishers and authors

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

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

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Statement...

(Continued from page 3)

icy regarding the family and women.

Under the Constitution of Ukraine the equality of rights of men and women is ensured by providing women with equal opportunities in social, political and cultural activities, obtaining education and professional training, occupation and remuneration, as well as by special measures for the protection of employment and health of women, introduction of pension privileges, creation of conditions that render women the opportunity to combine jobs with motherhood.

For the full realization of these rights Ukraine strives to create a national legislative base that would correspond to international standards in the field of human rights.

The president of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma, and the government of Ukraine attach great attention to the issues of protection and promotion of the rights of women.

The president's policy in reforming society is aimed at the revitalization of social relations, realization of constitutional principles, formation of gender culture. The adoption by the president of Ukraine of a number of regulations on strengthening the social status of maternity, on the provision of favorable conditions for women to combine their professional activities with motherhood and have real access to all kinds of activities, equality of rights and opportunities of women and men on the labor market, protection of women's health, raising their legal awareness concerning their rights, prevention of violence against women is a vivid example thereof.

Mr. President:

The activities of public women's associations in forming institutions of civil society and elaboration of the state policies as of today constitute a powerful driving force for solving women's problems. Currently, 29

national and over 200 regional women's NGOs operate in Ukraine and enjoy all-round state support.

At the same time, the present status of women in Ukraine is fully conditioned by the changes being experienced by the Ukrainian state in the process of the development of a market economy and radical changes in its economic and social structure. All the difficulties of the transition period, social and economic hardships, affect women with particular acuteness.

In this regard, our state has great expectations for this forum, which will comprehensively and thoroughly analyze the situation of women in the world, focus on problems that require urgent solution, and elaborate the strategy for further action on the national and international levels. We believe in consolidation of the women's movement in the world. We all understand that today, without invigoration of international cooperation and without creation of the appropriate international environment, we cannot achieve noteworthy successes in the sphere of ensuring rights of women.

Stabilization of the political, social and economic situation in countries and ensuring peace and security in the world to a large extent depend on the posture of women in public life, on their self-consciousness, their world outlook, and attitude toward public and state affairs.

The Beijing Conference made a significant contribution to gender issues, addressed the most acute and important problems of women, and marked the ways for their solution. I am convinced that the final documents of this special session will facilitate this process.

We have one common wonderful home – our planet, the Earth. For the sake of future generations, for the sake of our children, we should and we can consolidate our efforts, we should be wise and strong keepers of our families, our nations, our planet.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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Tryzub hosts spring tennis tourney

HORSHAM, Pa. – The first Ukrainian tennis tournament of the 2000 season was held during the weekend of May 6-7 here at Tryzubivka. It was hot and humid, and the 90-plus degree temperatures, more typical of mid-July rather than early May, made playing conditions very difficult.

The tournament was conducted in the men's group, singles only. This year the tournament winner was George Sawchak, who in the final match defeated last year's champion, Steve Sosiak by the score of 2-6, 6-4, 7-6. The last set was decided by playing two out of three tie-breakers.

In the semi-final matches Sosiak defeated Ihor Buhaj 6-3, 6-4, and Mr. Sawchak beat Jerry Tymkiw 6-1, 6-3. Mr. Tymkiw took third place in the tournament by defeating Mr. Buhaj in the finals of the consolation tournament 6-4, 1-0

(retired due to overheating).

In the consolation semi-finals Mr. Tymkiw won over Alex Olynec 6-2 (retired), and Buhaj beat Oles Kuchma 6-3, 6-3.

Other interesting matches were Walter Dziwak's first-round win over Bohdan Krawtschuk (6-2, 5-7, 6-1), George Popel's win against Mr. Kuchma (7-5, 6-3) and Boris Tatunchak's close win over Krawtschuk in the consolation (7-5, 6-4).

The tournament consisted of 17 individual matches.

The next Ukrainian tennis tournament will be held also at Tryzubivka during Ukrainian Diaspora Olympiad 2000. For information about the tennis competition at the Olympiad contact Mr. Sawchak at (215) 773-4424 (work) or (215) 576-7989 (home).



Tryzub tennis tournament winners: (from left) Steve Sosiak, Jerry Tymkiw, Ihor Buhaj and George Sawchak.

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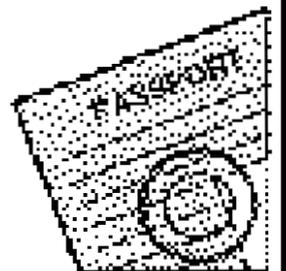
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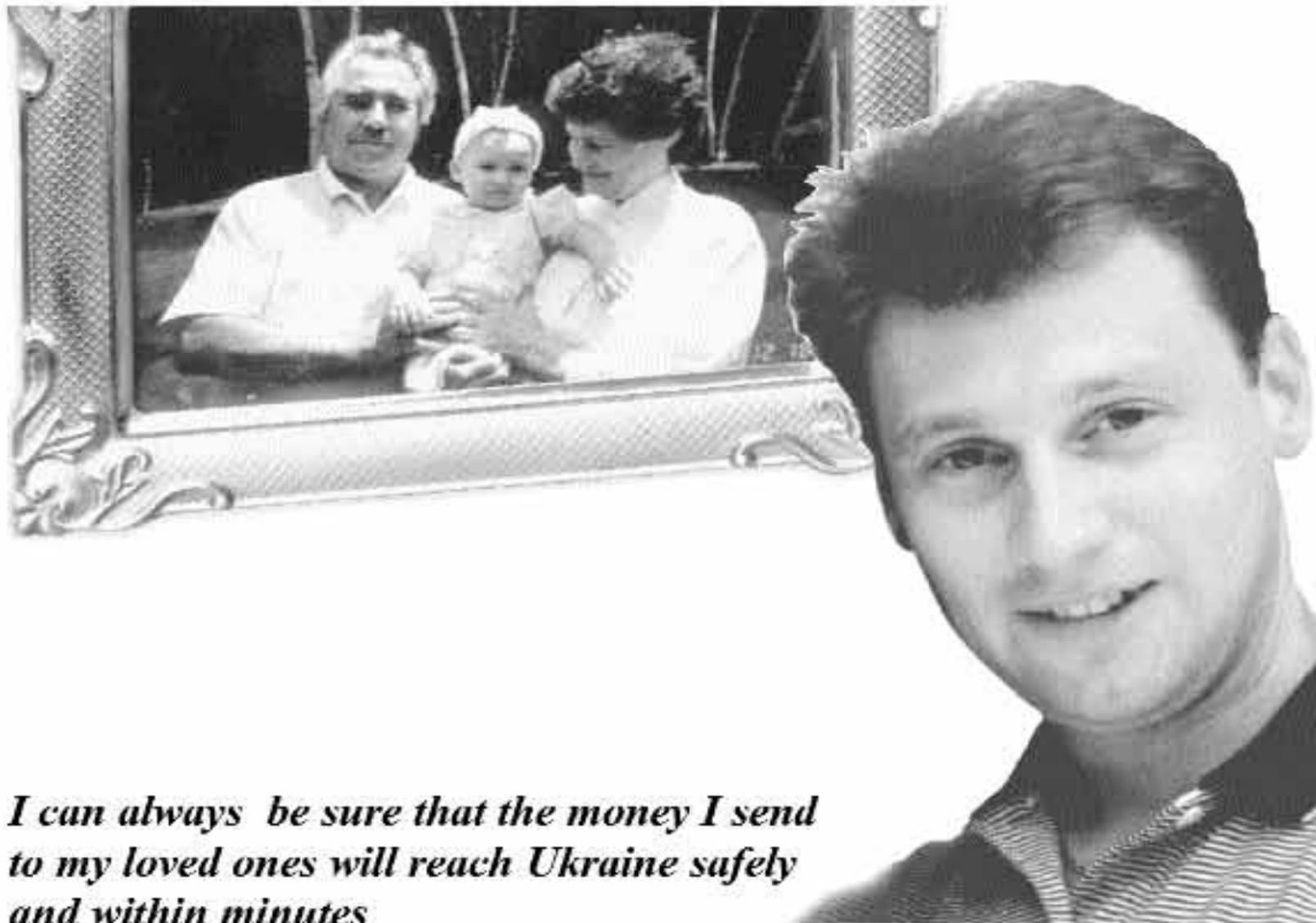
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Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble invites public to a concert/video shoot

by Peggy Leiby

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – The Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble invites dance aficionados to attend a free concert/video shooting on June 20 at 8 p.m. With over 35 dancers on stage, this exciting show by one of the country's foremost Ukrainian dance troupes will be held at the Mandell Theater on the Drexel University campus at 33rd and Chestnut streets in Philadelphia.

The purpose of this performance is to produce a videotape consisting of selected pieces from the ensemble's repertoire that will be included in its 30th anniversary video cassette.

Since 1972 Voloshky has been dancing with art and energy, athleticism and elegance, turning the culture of the Ukrainian people into a performance phenomenon. According to Artistic

Director Taras Lewyckyj, "Our company is reaching new artistic heights and we are very excited with our new choreography. This will be a 'best of' Voloshky video and, since the audience has always been a big part of our shows, we would not even consider leaving them out of our video production."

The event is sponsored in part by the Drexel University Dance Ensemble and is partially supported by a grant from Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour, a program developed and funded by the Vira I. Heinz Endowment; the William Penn Foundation; the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency; and The Pew Charitable Trusts; and administered by Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation.

For more information, call Joan Dobrowolski at (215) 322-7225, or see the website www.phillydance.com/fdc for "Places to Dance."

"Ancestral Voices" presentation based on Ukrainian songs, poetry

CLEVELAND – "Ancestral Voices," an original dance-theater piece based on Ukrainian folk songs and poetry, opens on June 29 at INSIDE art gallery where three performances of the piece will be held through July 1.

Using the theatrical conventions of dance, puppetry and music, "Ancestral Voices" explores a story of two sisters: one is destroyed by her fate, while the other thrives given her good fortune. The story draws its text from the poetry of Oleksander Oles, Lesia Ukrainka, Taras Shevchenko and Mykhailo Drai-Khmara as well as from the texts of Ukrainian folk songs. Translations have been provided by Hélène Turkewicz-Sanko, editor of "Treasury of Ukrainian Love Poems, Quotations and Proverbs" from Hippocrene Books, and Nadia Tamawsky, a graduate student in ethnomusicology at Cleveland State University.

The piece also features Ukrainian folk music played live on Ukrainian folk instruments by master musicians: Alexander Fedoriouk on "tymbaly," (hammer dulcimer) Andrei Pidkivka on "sopilka,"

(wooden flute), Don Safranek on drums and Ms. Tamawsky on bandura. "Bilyi holos"-style singing will be provided by the Divchata v Kukhni (Girls in the Kitchen) ensemble.

The premiere production is directed by Michael Flohr, with set design by Anonymous 3, musical arrangements by the Divchata V Kukhni ensemble and choreography by Natalie Kapeluck, a dancer with the Mary Miller Dance Company of Pittsburgh, and Beth Salemi, an MFA candidate in dance at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

The bilingual piece is easily accessible to English-speaking audiences and has traditional Ukrainian songs translated into English by Ms. Tamawsky.

Performances of "Ancestral Voices" at INSIDE art gallery, 2393 Professor Ave. in Tremont, will be held Thursday-Saturday, June 29, 30 and July 1, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10. For more information call (216) 749-0060 or send e-mail to nmt@po.cwru.edu. Seating is limited, so reservations are highly recommended.



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10 p.m. – dance – music by BURYA, ZABAVA

Sunday, July 2
8:30 p.m. – concert – Barabolya, Toronto
10 p.m. – dance – music by BURYA

Saturday, July 8
8:30 p.m. – concert – Luba and Mykola Duo
10 p.m. – dance

Saturday, July 15
8:30 p.m. – concert – Promin Vocal Ensemble
10 p.m. – dance – music by BURLAKY

Saturday, July 22
8:30 p.m. – concert – Cheres Ukrainian Folklore Ensemble
10 p.m. – dance – music by VODOHRAI

Saturday, July 29
8:30 p.m. – concert – Prometheus choir, Philadelphia
10 p.m. – dance – music by MONTAGE

Saturday, August 5
8:30 p.m. – concert
10 p.m. – dance – music by LUNA

Sunday, August 6
UNWLA Day at Soyuzivka

Saturday, August 12
8:30 p.m. – concert – Dumka choir, New York
10 p.m. – dance – music by TEMPO
11:45 p.m. – CROWNING OF MISS SOYUZIVKA 2001

Saturday, August 19
8:30 p.m. – concert
UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS
"Soyuzivka's Ukrainian Dance Workshop"
10 p.m. – dance – music by SVITANOK

Saturday, August 26
8:30 p.m. – concert – Solomiya Ivachiv, violin;
Christina Anum-Dorhuso, piano
10 p.m. – dance – music by VIDLUNNIA

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday-Sunday, June 24-25

Thursday-Saturday, June 29-July 1

BLOOMINGDALE, Ill.: St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church will hold its annual summer festival on the church grounds at 300 E. Army Trail Road with fun and entertainment for all. On June 24 there will be live entertainment by Ron Cahute and Burya, Ukrainian folk dance groups, as well as a 3-on-3 soccer tournament in cooperation with the Chicago Fire Soccer Team and the FireWorks for Children Foundation. On June 25, there will be a Barabolya children's program, kids' games, over \$5,000 worth in raffle prizes, as well as a barbecue and a "Beer Horod." And, of course, Ukrainian food will be available on both days. For more information call John Jaresko, (630) 682-4106.

CLEVELAND, Ohio: "Ancestral Voices," an original dance theater piece based on Ukrainian folk songs and poetry, will be presented for three nights only. The performances will fuse modern dance, puppetry, music and theater in a bilingual presentation. The story of two sisters draws its text from the writing of Ukrainian poets such as Oleksander Oles, Lesia Ukrainka, Taras Shevchenko, as well as Ukrainian folk songs. Live traditional music will be provided for this production by Divchata v Kukhni - The Girls in the Kitchen. All performances begin at 8 p.m. and will take place at the INSIDE art gallery, 2393 Professor Ave. in Tremont. Tickets: \$10. For more information call (216) 749-0060 or send e-mail to nmt@po.cwru.edu.

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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The Ukrainian Weekly

Wedding Announcements

will appear in our July 16, 2000 issue.

This past spring we introduced a new section —
The Ukrainian Weekly Wedding Announcements.

We're very excited about this new section, since not only are weddings wonderful events in each of our lives, but we look forward to helping you share your joy with others in our community.

This section will be published four times a year.

For a wedding announcement to be included in the July 16 issue, all information must be received in our offices by July 6.

Along with wedding announcements, we will include greetings from friends, family members, bridesmaids and ushers — from all those who wish to share in the excitement of a new marriage.

We hope you will announce your wedding in
The Ukrainian Weekly, or send a greeting to your favorite newlyweds.

Rates for announcements and greetings:

One-column wedding announcement: \$100

Two-column wedding announcement: \$200

Wedding greeting: \$75

For further information or to request a brochure, please call (973) 292-9800, ext. 3065 (Irene) or ext. 3040 (Maria). Visit www.ukrweekly.com to view a wedding announcement sample page.