63 miners killed in gas explosion
by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – While Ukraine observed an official two-day mourning period on April 6-7, friends and relatives began burying 63 of the 63 coal miners who perished in an explosion in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine.

On April 4 during a 10 a.m. shift change at the Skachinsky coal mine, located in the city of Donetsk, a lethal build-up of methane gas caused an explosion that buried at least a hundred miners. Of some 260 workers who were in the pit at the time, 63 did not survive, 43 were hospitalized, 13 critically. A half hour before the blast, which occurred at a depth of 1,200 meters, an alarm signal went off, indicating a dangerously high concentration of methane gas in the mine shaft. The mine is notorious for the methane gas build-ups that regularly occur. The alarm automatically shut down electricity, but minutes before the explosion energy was turned back on.

Nineteen victims were buried on April 6, the next day 39 additional victims were interred, and the remaining five on April 8. Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko, who attended a liturgy for 11 victims on April 6 at the Kirov Cemetery in Donetsk, offered condolences to the bereaved families and assured them that “nobody will be forgotten,” according to Interfax-Ukraine. He said that all necessary material and financial resources will be provided to the families of the dead and injured.

President Leonid Kuchma has ordered the establishment of a special commission to investigate the cause of the tragedy and appointed Vice Prime Minister Mykola Biloblotskyi as chairman.

On April 6, as flags flew above government buildings draped with black bunting, President Kuchma said on national television that officials in Ukraine’s coal industry must bear responsibility for the sorry state of Ukraine’s coal industry. “The tragedy has once again demonstrated the high price we have to pay for coal in the Donetsk basin,” said President Kuchma. “It is an excessively high price for old problems in the development of the coal industry, which have accumulated for decades, as well as for our inability to resolve them.”

Minister of Energy Dmytro Herasymchuk told Agence France Presse that maintenance of the coal mines in Ukraine’s coal industry must bear responsibility for the sorry state of Ukraine’s coal industry. “The tragedy has once again demonstrated the high price we have to pay for coal in the Donetsk basin,” said President Kuchma. “It is an excessively high price for old problems in the development of the coal industry, which have accumulated for decades, as well as for our inability to resolve them.”

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WASHINGTON – The government of Ukraine intends to work more closely with the new Verkhovna Rada elected on March 29, according to Vice Prime Minister Serhiy Tyhypko, who admitted that it had not always cooperated as well as it should have with the old Parliament. In the past, he told Washington jour- nalists at the Ukrainian Embassy on April 3, the government introduced reform measures but did not always follow up in the legislative process.

“Not all measures were accepted,” he said, “and we understand well that we also were partially to blame. We did not work adequately with the Verkhovna Rada. We did not do as much as we should have to win them over.”

He added that no matter the ultimate make up of the new Verkhovna Rada, the government fully intends to continue its reform policies, “and we will try to coop- erate with it.”

Mr. Tyhypko was in Washington lead- ing a large Ukrainian government delega- tion to the fourth meeting of the sustain- able cooperation committee of the U.S.-Ukraine Binalon Commission headed by President Leonid Kuchma and Vice- President Al Gore. The delegation con- sisted of 20 Ukrainian officials, including Finance Minister Iurii Mityukov, Environmental Protection Minister Yuri Kostenko, Roman Shpek, who heads the National Agency for Development and European Integration, and Valerii Lytvynskyi, assistant to President Kuchma.

The Ukrainian delegation also met with members of the U.S. Congress and American business executives to discuss, among other things, Kyiv’s economic reform program and its efforts to improve the investment climate in Ukraine.

There was also a two-hour meeting with the International Monetary Fund conducted over a planned long-term, almost $3 billion Extended Fund Facility credit program for Ukraine that would replace the current $542 million stand-by credit program for Ukraine that would replace $3 billion Extended Fund Facility credit

According to a stipulation in the U.S- framework of talks with U.S. representatives also favorable IMF decision later this month. in the negotiations, Ukraine expects a

Mr. Tyhypko said that much progress has been made in improving the investment climate in Ukraine and in resolving investor dis-

votes. He added, however, that a number of problem investments remain to be worked out. The vice prime minister said he was pleased with the tone and atmosphere of talks with U.S. officials and business- men, and with how Ukraine now is viewed on Capitol Hill.

“The world is very hard to gauge the mood of Congress based on meetings with three congressmen, I thought the meeting went very well and I noticed an improvement in the way it looks at Ukraine,” he said.

Mr. Tyhypko pointed out some of the good economic indicators in Ukraine during the first months of the reform program:

• industrial output grew by 1.9 per- cent;

• inflation was 1.5 percent, compared to 4 percent last year;

• the hryvnia dropped by 6.5 percent, which rebounded in the last two weeks; and

• for the first time in six years, Ukraine has a trade surplus.

“But we understand and are not com- placent about these indicators,” he added, “because they do not yet show the eco- nomic growth that all of us are working toward.”

He said the most troubling aspect of the economy today is budgetary – this year’s estimated budget deficit of 650 million hryvnia ballooned to 1.35 billion. The remedy calls for tighter regulatory policy and structural reforms, he said. The latter – including deregulation of the economy, development of a free market, privatisa- tion, agriculture and energy sector reforms – were the subject of the Ukrainian delega- tion’s discussions with the head of the U.S. State Department, Madeleine Albright, who was in Washington to meet with the Ukrainian prime minister and his delegation.

Mr. Albright will certai- nly that Ukraine is making progress in resolving outstanding disputes with a number of American investors.

According to a stipulation in the U.S. for- eign aid bill, if she cannot certify this progress by the end of April, Ukraine stands to lose $225 million of its appropriated U.S. assistance funds.

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INTERVIEW: Ambassador to NIS Stephen Sestanovich

by Michael Sawkiw Jr.
Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON — As the legislative process speeds ahead for the US Congress during this November, several hearings have already been held in Washington concerning U.S. foreign assistance for Fiscal Year (FY) 1999, in particular assistance to the new independent states (NIS).

The Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee has had a public witness hearing, the latest on foreign assistance on Tuesday, March 31. Under the chairmanship of Rep. Sonny Callahan (R-Ala.), this subcommittee is responsible for appropriating government funds for programs around the world that uphold America’s commitment to democracy-building and economic development.

The public witness hearing offers groups an opportunity to testify on a broad range of issues and topics. The only witness speaking on behalf of the Ukrainian American community was Michael Sawkiw Jr., director of the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the Washington bureau of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), who appeared before the Foreign Operations Subcommittee and offered his opinions on the aid program for Ukraine in his turn.

In his testimony, Mr. Sawkiw provided the members of the subcommittee an analysis of Ukraine’s recent macro- and medium-economic reforms, as well as the democratic principles with which the young country is being endowed by the parliamentary elections held several days earlier on March 29.

He also stressed the importance of the U.S.-Ukraine strategic partnership and the improved bilateral relations between the two countries. “The crucial question at this juncture for Ukraine is whether we will be able to sustain the help we have been given — a helping hand — the West or the East? The future or the past?” asked the UNIS director as he quoted an appeal from Ukraine to the United States.

When addressing the subcommittee chairman, Mr. Sawkiw made “an urgent plea to Congress, not merely on behalf of the Ukrainian American community, but on behalf of U.S. businesses seeking to operate in Ukraine and the Ukrainians who call the U.S. a second home.” He concluded by suggesting that by constructing a private sector and business economy, Ukraine might be capable of addressing these complicated issues, which Ukraine inherited from the Soviet system.

In his testimony, Mr. Sawkiw reiterated that Ukraine, independent for only seven years, is not fully capable of addressing these complicated issues, which Ukraine inherited from the Soviet system.

The 20-minute interview, which focused on U.S.-Ukraine economic development, was interviewed on March 13 by the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) and The Ukrainian Weekly. The 20-minute interview, which focused on U.S.-Ukraine relations, was conducted by UNIS Director Michael Sawkiw, editor-in-chief of The Ukrainian Weekly. Following are excerpts of that interview.

According to a press conference held at the National Press Club on March 12, 1998, Ambassador Stephen Sestanovich acknowledged that a tentative date for the next Gore-Kuchma meeting has been set for the end of June in Kyiv. What can you tell us about the progress of the commission in date? More specifically, where is the progress (from your perspective) on reform in Ukraine and how is the United States helping to resolve those issues?

Let me answer that by referring to the experience of all persons within those societies [of the former Soviet Union]. There is hardly a one where corruption is not a problem. Across the NIS we have programs to try to help countries establish as many as possible of those strategies, programs to strengthen the rule of law, judicial reform, law enforcement, and we have the same programs in Ukraine. Those technical assistance programs never by themselves solve the problem but they are a crucial component to solve the problem is political will.

This issue [corruption] has been under discussion before the US Congress [All Gore and President Clinton] [Leonid] Kuchma with particular urgency because we feel that corruption is blocking the economic road that Ukraine is going down; and the US administration is committed to making sure that the US government funds will be used in a lot of different ways. I would like to give you a progress report, but it’s certainly true that at their last meeting in November, the two of them [Vice-President Gore and President Kuchma] agreed that it was the initiative they wanted to come back to when they next meet, and that they wanted the reports from the committees that worked under the commission as to the kind of progress that has been made.

Has a specific agenda for the Gore-Kuchma Commission been proposed?

What the agenda of these commissions always includes is a review of the work done by the committees under the vice-president and president, plus issues that may not have been addressed by these committees, but require their attention. They’ll look at foreign policy issues. They’ll look at economic reform, business development, trade and so forth. In last month [February] we had a meeting on the Foreign Policy Commission, next month [April] there will be a meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Economic Development. Issues that are on the agenda of that committee, as it was during Secretary Albright’s visit to Kyiv, will be commercial disputes.

Have there been any resolutions to U.S. investor issues?

Yes, since last April, which is the date that Congress set for measuring progress in investment disputes, some problem cases have been resolved; others have hardly moved at all. There is one case that was resolved and then got worse again. So we monitor the situation closely, and we’ll report to the Congress on where things stand.

There is a very tough issue because it extends beyond the problems that individual companies have in Ukraine, and involves a broader question of whether Ukraine is creating a climate that will attract foreign investment. What’s at stake here is not just our understandable interest (Continued on page 12)

Congressional hearings focus on U.S. foreign aid for 1999
REPORT OF SVOBODA EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ZENON SNYLYK

1. Report of the Editor-in-Chief
2. Discussion on reports and their acceptance
3. Merger of the UNA and the UFA
4. Merger of the UNA and the UNAAA
5. Report of the By-Laws Committee, discussion and approval of changes
6. Report of the Financial Committee and determination on bonding and salaries of paid officers
7. Election of the General Assembly
8. Report of the Petitions Committee, discussion and resolutions
9. Report of the Secretaries Committee, discussion and resolutions
10. Resolutions and recommendations for the well-being of the organization
11. Miscellaneous
12. Adjournment

The convention will open promptly at 9 a.m. on Friday, May 15, 1998.

REGISTRATION

Thursday from noon to 10 p.m., and Friday from 7 a.m.

For the Supreme Executive Committee of the UNA:

ULANA M. DIACHUK, President
NESTOR OLESNYCKY, Vice-President
PETER SAVARYN, Director for Canada
ANYA DUDYK-PETRENKO, Vice-Presidentess
MARTHA LYSKO, Secretary
STEFAN KACZARAJ, Acting Treasurer

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

The UNA Executive Committee, during a special meeting on March 21, 1998, appointed, in accordance with Article 16 of the UNA By-Laws, the following delegates to convention committees:

Credentials Committee
1. Adolph Slovik, Branch 7, McAdoo, PA
2. George Yurkiw, Branch 130, New York, NY
3. Gregory Klymenko, Branch 182, Clifton, NJ
4. Myron Kuzio, Branch 277, Hartford, CT
5. Lev Chirovsky, Branch 445, Winnipeg, MN

Financial Committee
1. Nicholas Fil, Branch 13, Watervliet, NY
2. Gloria Paschen, Branch 125, Chicago, IL
3. Jaroslav Zaviysky, Branch 155, Perth Amboy, NJ
4. John Gawaluch, Branch 377, St. Petersburg, FL
5. Larissa Hwozdulych, Branch 432, Winnipeg, MN

By-Laws Committee
1. Marianne Cizdyn, Branch 55, Baltimore, MD
2. Longin Staruch, Branch 172, Whippany, NJ
3. Leon Hardink, Branch 206, Woonsocket, RI
4. Michael Karkoc, Branch 345, Minneapolis, MN
5. Stefan Czorney, Branch 401, Toronto, ON

CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

Saturday, May 16
Banquet at 7 p.m., Toronto Hilton

Sunday morning, May 17
Liturgies at local Ukrainian churches

Sunday, May 17
Concert at 7 p.m. of Vesnivka Choir, Kvitka Zorych Kondratska, conductor; Alexis Kochan will perform as soloist.

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Ukrainian National Association Branch 287, “Sons of Ukraine,” held its pre-convention meeting here at the UNA Corporate Headquarters on Wednesday, February 25.

The meeting elected new branch officers as follows: Stephen Parubchak, president; Roma Hadzewycz, vice-president; Dana Jasinski, secretary; Taras Sochan, treasurer; Vasyl Shevchuk and Neomila Sochan, auditing committee.

Ms. Jasinski was elected as the branch’s delegate to the UNA’s 34th Convention; Mrs. Sochan was elected alternate.

Branch 287 members also discussed some of the issues that await delegates’ action at the UNA Convention. They agreed that their delegate should vote at the convention to retain the Ukrainian National Association’s current name, regardless of mergers with any other Ukrainian fraternal, and that the UNA should continue publishing Svoboda as a daily newspaper.

Also approved at the meeting were fraternal donations from the branch to the Ukrainian Catholic Church now being restored in Peremyshl, and to the Ukrainian National Home in Stanok, both on ethnographically Ukrainian territory in Poland.

Branch 287 elects officers, delegates

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Auditing Committee of the Ukrainian National Association concluded its weeklong pre-convention review of the fraternal organization’s finances and activity on March 27 at the UNA Corporate Headquarters. Seen in the photo above are Auditing Committee members (from left) Anatole Doroshenko, Stefania Hewryk, Stefan Hawrysz, William Pastuszek and Iwan Wynn. The auditors will report to the 34th Regular Convention of the Ukrainian National Association, which is to be held in Toronto on May 15-19.

PROGRAM...

(Continued from page 1)

8. Report of Svoboda Editor-in-Chief Zenon Snylyk
9. Report of The Ukrainian Weekly Editor-in-Chief Roma Hadzewycz
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EASTER PASTORAL LETTER

So that we may be enriched in the hope of eternal life

To the revered clergy, religious and our God-loving faithful:

Greeting in the Lord and our archiepiscopal Blessing!

The holy evangelist writes that after the Sabbath, very early in the morning, the first day of the week, the myrrh-bearing women came to the tomb of Jesus, to anoint His Body with aromatic spices. As they approached the tomb, there was a thunderous earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone and sat up upon it. The women were terrified. The angel then reassured them, saying, “Do not be afraid, I am seeking Jesus the Christ, He has been raised just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead’...” (Mt. 28:1-7).

Beloved in Christ! The empty tomb of Our Lord Jesus Christ, where rested His Crucified Body, bears unmistakable witness to His glorious resurrection; for, who believe in the risen Christ, that bomb is incontestable evidence that He indeed is our “resurrection and life,” and that everyone who believes in Him, even if he dies, is assured of a spiritual rebirth, and who lives in Him will never die” (Jn. 11:25-26). The empty tomb of our Divine Savior, therefore, confirms the eternal truth of our faith, that our lives do not end with death. We, who have believed in Jesus Christ “look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come” (The Creed). Through the resurrection of Christ our Lord, in “His great mercy He gave us a new birth to a living hope” of eternal life in heaven (1 Peter 1:3-4). This renewal of the living faith in us for eternal life in heaven is achieved by “the power of the Holy Spirit” (Rm. 15:13).

It is in the power, the action of the Holy Spirit that in baptism we are reborn to life as “children of God” (Rm. 8:16). Through the power of this same Holy Spirit we are assured that “we shall be conformed to the image of His Son” (Rm. 8:29). By His resurrection, Jesus Christ “should suffer these things (before) entering into His glory” and “in His suffering He will manifest the Abandoned of God” (Phil. 2:5). Christ therefore initiates in death a “symbol of the aberrations of which man is capable when he turns against God,” to “prevent the final catastrophe” (Pius XII). The Catholic Church desires to express her deep sorrow for the failures of her sons and daughters in every age. This is an act of repentance - “we pray that our sorrow for the tragedy which the Jewish people has suffered for the failures of her sons and daughters in every age. This is an act of repentance... the Jewish people... to hear us with open hearts. ... The Catholic Church desires to express her deep sorrow for the failures of her sons and daughters in every age. This is an act of repentance... the Jewish people... to hear us with open hearts. ...

But in expressing sorrow for the failures of the Church, we do not wish to minimize the complexity of the events of the Holocaust. SHOAH is a term used to designate the systematic extermination of the European Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators. In the course of the war, the Jewish population of Europe was systematically exterminated in the extermination camps of Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Dachau, Ravensbruck, Sobibor, Treblinka, and others. The losses were enormous, and the meticulous records of the extermination centers left no doubt about the extent of the Nazi atrocities. The following are the estimates of the number of Jewish victims:

- Approximately 6 million European Jews were exterminated in the Holocaust. This number includes Jews from all countries occupied by Nazi Germany, as well as Jews from other parts of Europe and Russia. The exact number is still unknown, but it is estimated that at least 6 million Jews were killed. The number of Jews who perished in the Holocaust is considered the greatest mass murder in history.
- The Holocaust was preceded by the Nazis' extermination of Jews in occupied territories, including Poland, Russia, and other countries.
- The Nazi regime had a policy of forced labor, deportation, and forced labor camps, which resulted in the deaths of many Jews.
- The Holocaust was part of a larger program of Nazi racial policy, known as the “Final Solution,” which aimed at the total annihilation of the Jewish people.

We, therefore, remember the victims of the Holocaust and express our deep sorrow for the suffering and loss experienced by the Jewish people.

We pray for the forgiveness of all who were responsible for these atrocities, and we ask for the healing of the wounds caused by the Holocaust.

We also pray for the peace and prosperity of Israel, and we encourage all nations to work towards a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Finally, we recall the words of Saint Paul, who said, “We should suffer these things (before) entering into His glory” (Phil. 2:5). This passage reminds us of the importance of perseverance in the face of adversity, and of the ultimate triumph of good over evil. We, therefore, pray for the defeat of evil and for the triumph of good in the world.

In conclusion, we express our deep sorrow for the victims of the Holocaust and we pray for the peace and prosperity of Israel and all nations.

Sincerely yours,

[Your Name]
[Your Position]
Letter from Kyiv
by Marta Kolomajetz

I’ve been going to the polls with Ukraine’s elections for years. I never vote on a referendum regarding their sta-
tuses within the Soviet Union, eagerly awaiting their confirmation of independ-
ence. In every election, I line up at the pol-

dent, listening to their musings on Kravchuk and Kuchma, going through the painful process of rounds and rounds of parliamentary elections to fill 450 seats in the Verkhovna Rada. (That Parliament never did get all 450 seats filled; after two years of run-offs, they managed to elect 417 deputies.)

I’ve attended all those elections as a jour-
nalist, but this time, on March 29, I was an international observer during Ukraine’s first post-Soviet system parliamentary elec-
tions. Starting out at 6 a.m., I, along with a colleague from USAID and I, made our way down to a polling station located in Kyiv’s city center to make sure that the polling station commission had received its ballots and to witness the sealing of the ballot boxes. By 7 a.m., when the station opened, the first voters, two elderly men (who shared one pair of glasses) were waiting to cast their ballots. As they babbled away, I noticed the fabric of a makeshift booth in order to mark their ballots and drop them into cardboard boxes adorned with the Ukrainian tryzub (the national emblem).

Throughout the day, as I traveled around the country, I kept seeing people lining up to vote; some spent more than an hour in line to cast their ballots. There were long lines of voters at the polling stations throughout the day, until they closed at 10 p.m. University students came to take advantage of their right to vote for the first time; many of them had worked on vari-
cious candidates’ campaigns or volunteered to be observers at the polling stations. Pensioners born in the 1910s and 1920s, who arrived at their district polling places at 6 a.m. and didn’t make it back. After seven years of independence, however, this is unlikely.

A confused and uneducated electorate who too many choices and didn’t have enough of an understanding of the new system to make an educated choice to make their vote count. After all, it is not difficult to be confused when you are handed ballots for Parliament (majoritarian and single-


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Skachinsky mine.

on a powder keg, we're inside the barrel of by the methane gas because their personal
numerous casualties. Last year 290 coal
funds to replace aging equipment has led to
Chirva, who was in the mine at the time of
lems, including poor working conditions,
failed to resolve their grievances and prob-
ers are pointing the finger elsewhere – at
uals, cast ballots for Hromada, which is
the new Parliament.

Lazarenko said he sees the possibility of
sion for two days, “he said.
stand why ballots have been moving from
days after the elections. “We cannot under-
mation about serious violations in the
Verkhovna Rada. The other 225 seats were
were voted to fill half of the 450-seat
Kuchma’s side. Mr. Lazarenko has been
Hromada Party.

Many of those who died in the
remained standing. Since January 16,
Ukrainians perished or fled, and only a
2,600 Ukrainians lived in this town, and
Yugoslavia in 1991, the town of Vukovar

a sufficient number of members to check
be many complaints by parties and individ-
investigation.
may appeal to a court to demand a special
positions a “victory for democracy, and there-
chairmanship of the Verkhovna Rada.

most of the political parties that passed
the fire of political passion have expressed
limits of reason,” Mr. Udovenko said. “Other
victors will now give up their place in the
voters in the single-mandate districts, the
Sumy region is a stronghold of the

340 kilometers (225 miles) southeast of
at least 10 political parties indicated last
which in no way can be considered a re-
country. Karpov represents the single politi-
country that is directly linked to President
Kuchma. One of the party’s most promi-
feral, the governor of the Dnipropetrovsk
region, said Lazarenko’s Hromada is not a polit-
by Pavel Politiuk
in the Hromada Party.

63 miners killed...

(Continued from page 1)

But survivors of the blast and coal work-
er are pointing the finger elsewhere – at
the government in Kyiv, which they say has failed to resolve their grievances and prob-
cluding poor working conditions, low salaries and wage arrears. Oleksander
Chirva, who was in the mine at the time of
the blast, told the Kyiv Post: “The whole system is to blame.”

Deaths, cave-ins and explosions have been part of the mining landscape, centered in the Donetsk region. Lack of funds to replace aging equipment has led to mining accidents.

Last year 290 coal miners died in accidents.

Many of those who died in the
Skrachinsky blast on April 4 were poisoned by HCN gas because their personal
breathing apparatuses failed to work, said the Kyiv Post report. “We do not know whether
Kiev is good to fire a gun and it’s always about to go off,” said
Nikolai Galushko, a foreman at the
Skachinsky mine.

nationwide who supported Mr. Lazarenko’s
party, according to CEC figures.

The results of the elections showed that
Lazarenko’s Hromada is not a political party but only a personal clan of 198 deputies,” said
Kushnarov, presidential chief of staff and a
member of the HDP. He added that the HDP has the authority to call new elections in electoral
districts where numerous violations have been reported.

A representative of the Hromada Party, Viktor Omelych, warned that Ukrainian mining ministry officials may face penal actions by political parties about the fairness of the elections as a basis to call the results of the Verkhovna Rada elections “unlaw-

“We must say that our party has infor-
mation about serious violations in the
Dnipropetrovsk region,” Oleksander
Karpov, a leader of the National Democratic Party, told journalists several
days after the elections. “I don’t think we would under-
stand why ballot boxes have been moving from the polling places to the regional commis-
sion for two days,” he said.

Mr. Karpov represents the single politi-
country that is directly linked to President
Kuchma. One of the party’s most promi-
neral, Valerii Pastovtenko, is the
prime minister of Ukraine.

“Mr. Moldyuk is sure that the
Dnipropetrovsk balloting were altered in the offices of the regional government of Dnipropetrovsk
head by Pavlo Lonchenko, who is also the leader of the
Hromada Party.

The Hromada Party has been and contin-
ues to be a sharp thorn in President
Kuchma’s side. Mr. Lazarenko was recently
security chief of the new government and
as the political science minister last summer. His Hromada Party
took 4.7 percent of the vote in the
Vukovar district, and Mr. Lazarenko said he sees the possibility of
forming the third largest political faction in the
Parliament.

About 37 percent of the Dnipropetrovsk
region’s voters, more than 700,000 individ-
uals, cast ballots for Hromada, which is
more than half of the 1.2 million people

voters, and Mr. Lazarenko said he sees the possibility of
forming the third largest political faction in the
Parliament.

Several other ministers, including

Vukovar, Croatia – Early on during
the outbreak of war in the former
Yugoslavia in 1991, the town of
Vukovar and the surrounding area
were home to 2,600 Ukrainians
who fled to Croatia. Since the war,
that number has fallen to about
200, and the Vukovar area has
remained a bastion of Ukrainian
conservatism.

With the advent of war, many
Ukrainians perish or flee to
CEC determined a sufficient number of members to
check each complaint and recommended that
protests be lodged with the general courts.

The elections results are
presented graphically, the elec-
tion picture divides the map of Ukraine into
three distinctive ideological sections. As
viewed from west to east, the politi-
cal picture turns redder and redder.

In western Ukraine the Rukh Party
decided to move only five of eight
ballots: Voly, YIv, Ternopil and
Lazarenko’s Hromada Party.

In the eastern nine electoral, only
Sumy and Dnipropetrovsk did not go Communist.

Twelve of the twice-elected parliamen-
tarians are Communists. The extent of the
Communists’ dominance in these elections is
further evidenced by the fact that six of
the candidates who moved up to take the
place of the twice-elected Communists
were themselves also elected in single-
mandate voting and, therefore, cannot take
the party seat. No other party has had to
give up its seat in this manner. If
all the winning political parties
win elections twice; once as part of
the official party lists and a second
time as winners in single-mandate voting.
Those
voters now will give up their place in the
party lists to make room for the party mem-
bership on the new lists.

In Western Europe said the campaigns for Verkhovna
Rada were stolen; the Hromada Party has said
that the final results gave them
a sufficient number of seats to check
the elections as a basis to call the results
of the Verkhovna Rada elections “unlaw-

the Parliament.

Kushnariov, presidential chief of staff and a
member of the Verkhovna Rada, whose Vpered
party lists to make room for the party mem-
bership on the new lists.

The Communist Party of Ukraine
has declared that about 15 percent of their
votes were stolen; the Hromada Party has said
that, at a minimum, 3 percent has disap-
mished; and the Alliance Party, which could
lose seats as a result of the elections, said
that 200,000 of its votes were missing.

Agrarian Party Chairman Kurkyn
has said initial election results had
showed the party had broken the 4 percent
barrier, but that the final results gave them
some 200,000 less votes, which left them at
3.69 percent. “I want to know what hap-


Also, by Pavel Politiuk

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the outbreak of war in the former
Yugoslavia in 1991, the town of
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conservatism.
Report on U.S. investments in Ukraine to determine aid allocation
by Roman Woronowycz
Kyyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – What U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright will recommend in her certification report on whether the U.S. Congress should give Ukraine the second portion of the $225 million in U.S. foreign aid promised for 1998 is not certain and depends on the resolu-
tion of complaints by U.S. firms doing business in Ukraine.

Secretary Albright is due to report to the House of Representatives on April 30 on the status of complaints filed by 12 U.S. companies on various issues related to their investment in this country.

Her certification – which will decide whether the Congress will release the foreign aid funds – is contingent on Ukraine showing that “significant progress has been made with regard to these cases,” said Richard Morningstar, U.S. special ambassador to the newly inde-
dendent states of the former Soviet Union, at a press con-
ference in Kyiv on April 8.

“I cannot tell you what the end result will be,” said Ambassador Morningstar. “Both the U.S. and Ukrainian sides are working hard on the issues.

The foreign aid bill that the U.S. House of Representatives approved for fiscal year 1998, earmarked $225 million in aid to Ukraine but conditioned the release of the earmark excludes money appropriated for nuclear reactor safety and for election assistance, so Ukraine stands to lose about $90 million if Secretary Albright decides to give Ukraine a failing grade in her certification.

Ms. Albright will make her recommendation after con-
tinuing discussions with U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Steven Pifer and with Mr. Morningstar.

Both ambassadors said that intense discussion are now under way at the highest levels of both governments. After a March 6 visit with President Leonid Kuchma, Mr. Albright on April 8, 1998, to specify that the problems were much the same that most foreign investors have in Ukraine, and that the point of the discussions is not sim-
ply to resolve the 12 cases but to make the business cli-
mate in Ukraine more friendly.

“We are not just worried about foreign investment, we are not only concerned about U.S. businesses,” explained Ambassador Morningstar. “We’re concerned about the ability of Ukraine to operate businesses, and we’re con-
cerned about the importance of achieving economic stability. If Ukraine can become a prosperous market democracy.”

He did admit that there was also a concern about wast-
ing U.S. taxpayer dollars in granting foreign aid to Ukraine.

OBITUARY: Kvitka Cisyk, 44, popular singer

by Khristina Lew

KYIV – Singer Kvitka Cisyk, best known to the Ukrainian-speaking world for her two albums of Ukrainian folk songs, “Kvitka” and “Kvitka Two Colors,” died of can-
cer in New York City on March 29, five days before her 45th birthday.

To the English-speaking world she was known as Kacey (from her initials, K.C.), the voice behind commercial mes-
sages for hundreds of products and institutions. It was Kacey’s coloratura soprano voice that sang the slogan “Have you driven a Ford lately?” In the 1970s she also recorded two movie soundtracks, “You Light Up My Life” and “The One and Only.”

Kvitka was born in Queens, N.Y., on April 4, 1953. Her father, Wolodymyr Cisyk, a concert violinist and teacher, taught her to play the violin when she was 5 years old. She told the trade magazine Ford Times in a February 1990 interview that when her father died when she was 17, she was devastated. “I had his bowing arm, his technique,” she said. “I wanted to sing, but I was filled with turmoil and guilt. Shouldn’t I keep playing the violin for my father?”

Kvitka was accepted to the State University of New York at Binghamton on a violin scholarship. A year later she was accepted to the Mannes School of Music on a voice school-
ship. She engaged herself in the school’s opera work-
shop, where she studied under Sebastian Engelberg, and graduated from Mannes in 1977.

Kvitka began working in recording studios in order to pay for voice lessons, sheet music and operatic auditions. Her song list of commercials includes spots for Coca-Cola, American Airlines, Mr. Pibbs, Sears, JC Penney, Safeway grocery stores and Starbuck candles. In 1982 she began working for Ford and eventually became the only voice rep-
resenting Ford products. In 1990 she was regularly seen in regional Ford dealer television commercials in the western United States. She received several honors for her work with Ford, one for having recorded 20 billion consumer impressions.

Kvitka also worked as a back-up singer for such artists as Barry Manilow, Michael Bolton, Linda Ronstadt, Carly Simon and Quincy Jones. But her greatest love was the Ukrainian song, and in 1980 she recorded her first album, “Kvitka,” which won top honors in the 1988 Ukrainian Music Awards. Her second album, “Kvitka Two Colors,” was devoted to “the spirit of the Ukrainian soul, whose wings can never be broken.” Today, songs from both albums can be heard on radio in Ukraine.

Both “Kvitka” and “Kvitka Two Colors,” released in 1989, were family projects. Kvitka’s husband, Ed Rakower, a recording engineer, produced them. Her sister, Maria Cisyk, a concert pianist and teacher, played piano for them. Her mother, Iliana, made sure that Kvitka’s Ukrainian pronunciation was perfect.

In 1983 Kvitka visited Ukraine with her mother, and when Ukraine declared independence in 1991, she planned to tour her parents’ homeland in a series of concerts. Her dream of touring Ukraine was fulfilled.

Kvitka is mourned not only by family and friends, but by the millions around the world who were touched by her music.

She is survived by her husband, Ed; her 7-year-old son, Ed; her sister, Maria, with her daughters Lesia and Sussana; her brother, Wayne Merly; and her uncle, Wayel Merly, with his wife, Oksana, and their daughters, Kristina, Oleisia, Ruta and Maya Lew.

Memorial services were held on both sides of the Atlantic the week following Kvitka’s death. On March 30 a small private service was held on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. On April 2 a memorial service was held in the chapel at Askoldova Moihly in Kyiv.

by Orysia Paseczak Tracz

In good memory of Kvitka Cisyk

WINNIEP – Our tour bus was rumbling through the Karpaty (Carpathian Mountains) this past August, and, as usual, those of us who like to sing, and thought we could, were in full voice. If the song was something like “Lutsho bulo,” then it was a full chorus at least on the refrains. Other times, for more obscure songs, we had some wonderful quartets, trios, duets and solos.

The interconnections between people and tradition were fas-
cinating. A woman who immigrated to Canada as a 10-
year-old before World War II, a student from Canada now in her 80s, our Ukrainian guides, and a few of us DP’s – we all knew and harmonized on “Tam na hori krutia vezha.”

Our Ukrainian tour leaders, Bor and Mykola, had wonderful voices and led us in a great variety of folk and contemporary songs. Other times, we listened as they sang. This was my opportunity to learn some other traditional music, the more salty kind. Really hearty, the songs are creations of the folk, too. Talk about narodna ovecha!

I started “Teche richka nevelychka z vysnevoho sadu.” This is a lovely song I have known since child-
hood, from my mother. For some reason, I was singing alone, with Mykola and Bor just listening. As I finished, Mykola turned to me and said, “Ise Kvityka” [that’s Kvitka], I looked at him blankly, with no idea what he meant. “Kvitka? I was singing about richka,” he said.

“Kvitka, Kvitka Cisyk,” then he explained that my “version” of the song was Kvitka’s version, from her recording. We had a lively debate, since my “version” was the one I had known all my life, and maybe it was Kvitka’s version as well, but that was the way I had learned it very long ago (and Kvitka is younger than I).

Both Bor and Mykola spoke highly of her, and about how well-known and admired she is in Ukraine. One of the most welcome gifts for relatives and friends in Ukraine is a collection of her tapes. Then Bor men-
tioned that we “North Americans” have a different iden-
tifiable style of singing Ukrainian folk songs, and that in Ukraine, people can tell right away who we are from our singing. Thus I could not understand.

He also expressed admiration and amusement that so many from Canada and the U.S. know so many old songs that even people in Ukraine do not always remember. But that is the way it is, folks.

They unify families, generations, and strangers in beautiful harmony.

So, somewhere on the road between Yaremche and Ivan-Frankivsk, in mid-August, and continents and an ocean away, Kvitka was with us on that bus.
A touching “Butterfly”

In her fifth season as a leading soprano at the New York City Opera (NYCO), Oksana Kryvotytska has been receiving bravos from audiences and critics alike, especially after her performances last month in Puccini’s “Madama Butterfly.” The work was presented in the time-honored 1906 version, which includes revisions the composer undertook after the original score foundered at its La Scala premiere in 1904.

Among reviewers, The New York Times music critic Alan Kozinn was especially warm in his praise of Ms. Kryvotytska as Butterfly. Calling her “the principal attraction in the current run,” Mr. Kozinn said the Ukrainian soprano’s vocal agility, graceful movement and dramatic sensibility made the title character’s ingenuousness “both believable and touching.”

The March 10 review appeared under the headline “The Butterfly Puccini Wanted,” with a subhead that read “A Ukrainian singer seems to know what the geisha must have felt.”

Ms. Kryvotytska’s work last September with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra and the CSO Chorus in Rossini’s “Stabat Mater”—both as a soloist and in duet and ensemble performances with other soloists—garnered excellent reviews in the Denver press.

The Livv-born singer also appeared in NYCO productions this season as Musetta in “La Bohème.”

This summer, Ms. Kryvotytska is scheduled for a return engagement at the Kampfital Festival in Gars, Austria, where she will sing Mimi in Puccini’s “La Bohème.” She is already booked for performances at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (October 31), Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall (December 2) and a Christmas concert with North German Radio in Hannover.

Although the NYCO’s 1998-1999 season is not completely set, Ms. Kryvotytska is already on the schedule to sing the title role in “Madama Butterfly.”

A celebrated tenor

Gregg Whiteside and George Jellinek, two of New York classical radio’s mightiest proponents of fine music, landed a celebrated Ukrainian tenor Ivan Kozlovsky during recent programs on WQXR-FM Radio.

During an intermission in a Metropolitan Opera broadcast on March 7, Mr. Whiteside, WQXR’s chief announcer, introduced the love of opera with Dr. James H. Billington of the Library of Congress in Washington. Among the musical selections used during the interview was a recording of Mr. Kozlovsky singing the role of the Fool in a 1954 Bolshoi Theater production of “Boris Godunov.” In his remarks Dr. Billington also noted “the famine that killed 7 million people in Ukraine.”

Mr. Kozlovsky’s voice was heard on a recent Jellinek program, in the Prince’s airs in Rubinstein’s “The Demon.” Mr. Jellinek noted, “Mr. Kozlovsky is a celebrated Ukrainian tenor. I am a great admirer of his recordings, and I play many of them.”

Lyric tenor Ivan Kozlovsky was born March 24, 1900, in Chernivtsi in Bukovina, where he lived the first 10 years of his life. He had his voice lessons with Dr. Markus Lantsy in Chernivtsi, later in Kiev, and the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow. His major roles were Lensky in Tchaikovsky’s “Eugene Onegin,” the Fool in Mussorgsky’s “Boris Godunov,” Levko in Rimsky-Korsakov’s “A May Night” and Benedo in “Snow Maiden” by the same composer. He also appeared in the Ukrainian opera “Natalka Polovtsia,” “The Drowned Girl,” “Kateryna” and “Zaporozhian Cossack beyond the Danube.”

An Oscar winner

His voice is instantly recognizable on TV commercials touting the new Broadway musical “Ragtime,” and he is seen on TV in reruns of movies like “Batman,” “Dracula” and “Cops and Robbersons.” But Jack Palance hasn’t starred in any new flicks since “City Slickers II.”

So what was he doing at the 70th annual Motion Pictures Academy Awards presentation a few weeks ago? Smiling affably as he posed for a “family” portrait of 70 Oscar winners as the TV camera moved from A to Z through the gallery of winners and finally came to P, Mr. Palance, who recently turned 78, was shown full face on TV screens grinning disarmingly and flanked by two interesting vignettes—one as the tough-guy ranch foreman in “City Slickers,” the other doing a series of one-arm push-ups at the 1992 awards ceremony to celebrate Best Supporting Actor Award.

During the evening, Mr. Palance was also shown in a flashback to the 1993 Academy Awards, a mighty rope over one shoulder as he pulled a gigantic wagon that brought “City Slickers” co-star Bucky Crystal on stage to host the ceremonies.

A coast-to-coast Hopak

A suite of Ukrainian songs and dances that climaxes with the Hopak comprises the finale of this season’s program by the highly acclaimed folk ensemble, the Duquesne University Tamburitzans. Presented coast-to-coast at colleges and high school auditoriums, opera houses, performing arts centers, civic centers and music halls, the program has been cheered by tens upon tens of thousands of spectators since its Town Hall opening here last October.

The suite includes two women’s dances: “Rushnychok,” a “khoroived” (the most ancient form of Ukrainian folk dance, combing movement, singing, instrumental music, speech and mime), and “Metytlytsya” (Snowstorm), characterized by quick changes in motion, reminiscent of a winter storm. The men strut their stuff in Pavlo Vyrsky’s “Povzanets,” the whole dance done entirely in the squatting position, before the entire ensemble whirls into the spellbinding Hopak.

The Tamburitzans company currently includes seven Ukrainian students (eight, if you count Justin Greenswald, whose mother is Ukrainian). The seven—all alumni of Roma Pryma Bohachevsky’s Szyczkryl Dancers of New York—are Larisa Halaway, Andreja and Mark Kalyt, Lydia Kurylas, Victor Kotow, Peter Oysz and Tara Posewa.

Credit for the Ukrainian suite choreography is given to Richard Hladio, a former Tamburitza who, as the Rev. Hladio, is now using his formidable talents to shepherd the parish of St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Hamilton, Ontario.

And more Hopak

The Red Star Red Army Chorus and Dance Ensemble brought Russian dances and the Ukrainian Hopak to the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts last month, displaying “an extraordinary lightness to the men’s leaps, many executed with amazing spring and height.”

The observation was made by The New York Times dance critic Anna Kisselgoff following the group’s appearance in Brooklyn on March 8.

Ms. Kisselgoff pointed out “Carol of the Bells” as one of the art songs “that complemented the folk material and the folk-tinted contemporary compositions.” Program notes described the song as an “intricate, ever so charming traditional tune from the (sic) Ukraine ... sung in the West as a carol at Christmas.”

The five-column-wide photo above the review showed the dance ensemble in an action shot of what else? — the Ukrainian Hopak.

Directed by Col. Anatoly Bazarhalkin, a native of Zhytomyr, Ukraine, the Red Star Red Army ensemble has been performing the Russian-Ukrainian program throughout its current U.S. tour. Ukrainian spelled correctly, Russians acknowledging the Hopak and “Carol of the Bells” as Ukrainian — we ask for anything more? Well, maybe ... deleting that superfluous article in “the Ukraine.”
The Ukrainian Dance Company is one of the most engaging and enduring in the world. It has an immediacy of impact that is simply bewitching, and its simplicity of manner is matched only by the brilliance of its technique.

"There are many folk dance ensembles in the world, some good, some bad and most indifferent. The Ukrainians differ from most by having genuine choreography to dance. Virsky is not content to weave together a pattern of virtuoso tricks, peasant humor and easy symmetries. Mr. Virsky is concerned with a form perhaps best described as a choreographic vignette.

"Every one of his dances, while based on Ukrainian folk dance, has been polished into an almost balletic form .... It is Virsky's care with the choreography, his skill with his raw materials, that gives his dancers their chance. For this is one of the most technically superb and innovative choreographers.

"Virsky attributed the style of the company to "the close ties we (Ukrainians) have with our national folk art and with the achievements in classical dance which is part of our heritage. ... Both elements are combined in our approach so that we may always maintain the highest level of technique together with a harmonious beauty of presentation." (Kyiv, 1966).

"He noted that the operative principle informing his work was not the simple copying of ethnographic patterns of Ukrainian folk dance but rather the enrichment of existing forms "by means of creative interpretation."

"The company was named after Virsky in 1977, two years after his death. Virsky has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards in recognition of the significance of his contribution to the development of dance. His choreography has been a lasting and formative influence and has set a standard of excellence for generations of succeeding choreographers and artistic directors.

"Such popular works as "Zaporozhtsi" (the dance of the Zaporozhian Cossacks), "Vyshyvalnytsi" (a dance of the embroiderers), as well as dances based on vignettes of everyday life and humor ("The Shoemaker," "New Boots"), apart from being signature works of the company, have long since entered the repertoires of Ukrainian dance companies in North America.

Born in Odessa on February 25, 1905, Virsky completed his studies at the Music and Drama School in his native city in 1927 and attended the Lunacharski Dance Technicum in Moscow (1927-1928). His professional career began in 1928 when he joined the Odessa Opera and Ballet Theater as a solo dancer and choreographer. For the next decade he worked as ballmaster at the Khariki, Odessa, Dnepropetrovsk, and Kyiv theaters of opera and ballet.

"During the war, he continued his artistic activities in groups set up among soldiers at the front. Later he was appointed artistic director of the dance troupe of Red Army Chorus (1942-1945).

"Working in many theaters across the Soviet Union, he produced such ballets as Swan Lake, Raymundi, Esmeralda, Le Corsair and Don Quixote. Virsky also devoted much time to research on folk dance and choreography.

"Under Virsky's direction, the Dance Ensemble of Ukraine company's performances abroad were reviewed by leading dance critics, among them Clive Barnes and Anna Kisselgoff, and reviews were carried in such publications as: The New York Times, New York Post, Washington Post, The Boston Globe, The Tribune (Oakland, Calif.) and San Francisco Chronicle, among others. * * *

Myroslav Vantukh was appointed artistic director of the company in 1980. Prior to his appointment, he was director and choreographer of the Yunist dance ensemble in Lviv. Mr. Vantukh has concentrated on reviving and revitalizing many of the renowned dances choreographed by Virsky that are the company's signature works. He has added to the Virsky legacy, creating such new works as: "The Carpathians," "Ukrainian Dance with Tambourines" and "Green Years."

"...This is dancing with no tomorrows. It has no intellectual content to weave together a pattern of virtuoso tricks, peasant humor and easy symmetries. Mr. Virsky is concerned with a form perhaps best described as a choreographic vignette."
The vote for Senate ratification of NATO's enlargement is expected to pass with an overwhelming majority of senators in favor of NATO's eastward expansion. What do you foresee for NATO following the admission of the first tier of members?

NATO invited the first three new members to join. It said that they would not be the last. The alliance's declaration in Madrid last year set the spring of 1999 for another review of new applicants. It said what criteria would be, and that the alliance would judge new applicants according to their ability to take on responsibilities in membership and would judge their applications in terms of the alliances interest in European security.

There is no mystery as to what will happen next. There will be countries that were not considered in spring of 1999. As the alliance prepares to consider their applications, it will judge their applications in terms of these criteria. One of the alliance's important tasks is that this process will be relatively transparent. That creates a kind of confidence among applicants that they will be fairly dealt with, among members of the alliance that the process has certain predictability, and among other states that are not applying that they know the direction and meaning of NATO's policy.

At the NATO summit in Madrid, Ukraine and NATO signed a charter on a "partnership" that provides for increased dialogues between the alliance and Ukraine. In your opinion, what concrete results could be accomplished via such a partnership with NATO for Ukraine?

In creating this special relationship with Ukraine, the alliance was expressing its commitment to some of the cooperative activities that already have been created between Ukraine and NATO. Particularly, under the Partnership for Peace. That means Ukrainian participation in exercises, training, various forms of technical assistance, even things like English language study for Ukrainian officers.

But the charter indicated beyond that a desire for a political consultative body on both sides, which reflects Ukraine's special situation, its strategic importance. That extra political dimension is one that is hard to quantify but creates an institutional framework for the alliance and for Ukraine. However, whatever the dimensions of NATO's expansion or enlargement eastward are, Ukraine can count on these ties that have been created.

Having been in your new position as ambassador to the NIS for the past five months, what specifically is your agenda for the office, vis-à-vis Ukraine?

Our agenda is to advance the policy that the president and the secretary have enunciated, and that is the policy that reflects America's interest in Ukraine's success – its political, economic, social and strategic success. We want a strong, democratic, prosperous Ukraine – and strategic success.

Within that framework we obviously have to address particular problems as a means of finding ways to facilitate, accelerate any economic reform, and to help Ukraine deal with the economic crisis that is made more and more acute by the fact that it coincides with the American financial crisis. The second issue that's been high on our agenda has been to address a set of non-proliferation questions that are a test of whether, in addition to an agreement in general terms on the goal of our cooperation, we can implement that policy in practical ways.

How can the Ukrainian American community assist in our long-term planning and strategy?

From my point of view, the Ukrainian American community represents a strategic asset to the U.S. government because it represents people with a stake in Ukraine's success that coincides with the administration's own stake in foreign policy. [It is] a group that has a unique understanding of the situation in Ukraine that will help us to understand better both what is happening in Ukraine and how we can advance our goals. This is an asset, by the way, that we don't have in every other country in the NIS. It's there where there is a large group of Americans with a special interest in the success of country's policy that is much more likely to succeed.

I might add that one of the things that I was particularly impressed by our conversations with Ukrainian American leaders is not only the depth of their support for Ukraine but also the depth of their worries about Ukraine. They recognize the dangerous sides, have no interest in papering over difficulties, but have helped us to see what the real problems are.

In your previous writings, you had expressed concern regarding the expansion of NATO to former Warsaw Pact countries, and referred to a Russian sphere of influence on the territory of the former Soviet Union. What, in your view, should be Russia's role vis-à-vis the independent states of the former Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact?

When I wrote that Russia would have a sphere of influence in this region, I think you will find what I said was that Russia should have influence. In a country, a large economy and a large factor in political developments of the region, she said that it was clear that Russian influence be exercised in ways that are consistent with international norms, with the independent sovereignty of its neighbors and with their emergence as successful democracies. That's still the right test of whether Russia has found a legitimate new form of relations with other states of the former Soviet Union. It's not yet reached consensus in every case to what kind of relationship it wants.

It's [Russia]'s relations with Ukraine that have largely developed in a positive way. President's Kuchma state visit to Moscow was the first state visit by any leader of the NIS. The Russian-Ukrainian treaty represents the normalization of relations between Russia and Ukraine, of a kind that many of us thought would take years to achieve. When Secretary [of State Madeleine] Albright was in Kyiv she spoke of those terms as positive. She was asked at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy what her view of Russian-Ukrainian relations is. She noted that in the post-Cold War world, relations among states don't have to be conducted in zero-sum terms. She said Ukraine could improve its relations at the same time.
Going to the polls
(Continued from page 7)

Ambassador to the NIS...
(Continued from page 12)

time with Russia and the United States. That’s a sign that we can put the Cold War behind us.

Should Russia have a veto regarding NATO expansion?
The founding act is explicit about that. The answer is no.

The secretary of state traveled to Kyiv on March 6. Her visit came on the heels of President Kuchma’s state visit to Russia a week earlier. What is your assessment of Secretary Albright’s trip to Kyiv on March 6?
I thought Secretary Albright’s trip was extremely successful. It represented a breakthrough in our ability to deal with nuclear cooperation with Iran and China were able to reach agreement on nuclear cooperation with Iran, they signed the same kind of peaceful nuclear cooperation agreement.

Similarly, the U.S. and Ukraine were able to reach agreement in terms of Ukraine’s accession to Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), a further sign of Ukraine’s entry into leading international institutions. These were goals we’ve been working on for some time, and it was very satisfying for both governments to be able to deal with that during Secretary Albright’s visit.

If you judge simply by that progress you’d have to say that our strategic partnership is flourishing. We are able to resolve these difficulties because we resolve these difficulties because we have nearly identical views on big issues of international politics. If we hadn’t had that similarity of views, we would never be able to reach agreement.

I’ve been thinking about everything that happened since March 29, and I believe that these people all deserve a better life and a government that works. When will this finally happen?
A good friend of mine, Serhii Naboka, who is the president of the Ukrainian Media Club and the director of the independent press center Elections 98, summed up the events of March 29 by saying “democracy scored a victory on Sunday, but democratic forces lost.”

Perhaps, this is a lesson to be learned by the democrats – one more time: there is strength in unity. Being a Ukrainian American I can only hope.

Ambassador to the NIS...
(Continued from page 12)

time with Russia and the United States. That’s a sign that we can put the Cold War behind us.

Should Russia have a veto regarding NATO expansion?
The founding act is explicit about that. The answer is no.

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79 1,620 805
80 1,650 820
83 1,680 835

So that we may be enriched...

(Continued from page 6)

date of birth.

This hope of eternal, glorious life in heaven overcomes the fear of death at that moment, and fills our hearts with peace and assurance. An example of this attitude is found in the person of St. Macrina, who at the time of her death prayed, “I thank you, our Lord God, that you freed me from the fear of death, and pray, “I thank you, our Lord God, that you freed me from the fear of death, and provided that the end of our earthly life has brought me to the Lord God, whom I have known to meet.” Indeed, happy is he, “whose hope is in the Lord” (Ps. 146:5).

Beloved in Christ, may the Lord God, “who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3), fill our hearts with joy and heavenly peace, so that in the “renewal by the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5), we may be enriched in the hope of eternal life.

May the blessing of the Lord be with you always! Christ is Risen!

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Votes for Women Hosts Panel on Ukraine

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377/417 John Gawluch 379 Myron Lusczczak
381/6 Barbara O. Boyd 382/9 Julia H. Cesena
385 Myron Kramarczuk 387/355 Irene Oliynyk
388/380 Lubow Marynyk 389/32 Michael Chomyk
397 Michael Nytsh 397 Olga Nytsh
399 Andrii Skyla 399 Michael Martynovych
399 Bohdan Kuluz 399 Jan Paluchowicz
401 Steve Chorney 401 Genya Woloshyn
401 Sophie Chorney 401 Audrey Stasula
402 Anna Bus 402 Omelian Drohobitsky
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409 Genet H. Boland 412 Emilia Smal
414 Gloria Paproski Horbaty 414 Maria Antonyshyn
421 Linda Weiner 422 Wolodymyr Antonetz
422 Wasyl Jewtushenko 422 George Budnerack
423 Vera Gowyrycz 423 Alexandra W. Kupapas
427 Ben W. Dolinsky 427 Maria Dolinsky
430 Ivan Skahtzuk 430 Stefan Wotanuk
432 Yaroslava Zorych 432 Oszpa Maksymiv
432 Ivan Shipak 432 Svitlana Hrybinska
432 Larysa Hvozdytska 432 Vera Plavusach
434 Oleksandra Dolynych 434 Olha Kucharska
434 Adolf Hlydlyovych 434 Yaroslav Kobyletski
437/416 Roman Kudzi 441 Dmytro Zanevych
444 Albert S. Kachkow 444 Linda Katsrufa Colistro
445 Lev Chirovsky 445 Bill Zerebesky
450 Motia M. Milanyct 450 Christine Nakrslovsky
452 Natalia Shyu 452 Wasyl Shyu
458 Peter Tymruk 458 Eugene Demydchyk
461 Myron Groch 465 Miss Natala Morykon
465 Roma Zajacz 465 Derek Chudy
472 Vera Banit 472 Bohdan Tkachuk
473 Vera Banit 473 Serguei Djoula
484/192 Walter Krop 489 Halya Kolessa
496 Michael Khiczuk 496 Melania Khiczuk
496 Minon Pilipak 496 Yaroslava Pilipak
503

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cranes is flying away. They cry: “Kru, Kru, Kru, I will die in a
foreign land. Before I cross the ocean, I will wear-away my
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cry: “Kru, Kru, Kru...”

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Watch for a special feature tribute to “Kvitka” on Kontakt Ukrainian TV Network April 18-19 in your city.
Yale conference to focus on economic issues

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – The Yale Center for International and Area Studies will host a two-day conference on April 24 and 25 to examine the rapidly changing links between the economy and the state in today’s Ukraine. Ukrainian policy-makers and Western economic experts agree that the future growth of Ukraine’s economy depends upon reshaping a broad variety of political, legal and financial institutions that define the environment in which business can thrive.

Speakers will address the following topics: the changing political contest; reshaping the legal system; regulatory reform; renewing public administration; fiscal, financial and investment reform; and emerging market issues, with special attention to the agribusiness sector.

The conference will be held on two days, Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Yale Center for International and Area Studies, Luce Hall Auditorium, 34 Hillhouse Ave., New Haven, Conn.

Conference organizers are Robert Evenson, professor of economics and director of the Economic Growth Center, and Susan Rose-Ackerman, the Henry R. Luce Professor of Jurisprudence, Law and Political Science and co-director of the Center for Studies in Law Economics and Public Policy. Guus Ranis, Frank Altschul Professor of International Economics and director of the Yale Center for International and Area Studies, will open the conference.

Viktor Yuschenko, chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine, will deliver the keynote address. Academic and policy experts in institutional reform, as well as prominent representatives of Ukrainian and international institutions will speak at the conference.

On Friday morning, Serhii Tereshkin, member of Parliament and co-chair of the Ukrainian Institute of Civil Society Transformation, will discuss the political system and recent elections. Viktor Lysytskyi, advisor to the chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine, Robert Kravchuk of Indiana University, and Jaroslav Kinach of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development will examine Ukraine’s evolving fiscal and financial institutions.

Alexander Piovovsky of the Harvard Institute of International Development, and Scott A. Carlson, president and CEO of Western NIS Enterprise Fund, will consider aspects of investment in the first afternoon session, followed by a panel discussion on food system reform. Panelists will be drawn from among board members of the Ukrainian Agricultural Development Corporation (UADC), a consortium of 11 major Western firms that invest in projects in Ukraine. William G. Miller, former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, will address a conference dinner at the New Haven Lawn Club on Friday evening.

On Saturday morning, Serhii Holovaty, president of the Ukrainian Legal Foundation and former minister of justice of Ukraine, Louise Shelley of The American University, and Peter Langseth of the World Bank will focus on reform of the legal system. Bohdan Krawchenko, vice-rector of the Ukrainian Academy of Public Administration, Vira Narovska, director of the International Center for Policy Studies, and Kerpent Jenkins, chairman of the Ukraine-U.S. Business Council, will survey the interrelationship of public administration and the markets.

After lunch, regulatory reform will be the topic for Joel Turkewitz of the International Center for Policy Studies, Andrew Stone of the World Bank and Robert Westoby of Monsanto and the UADC. The conference will end with a roundtable discussion by Susan Rose-Ackerman and Stephen Holmes, professor at the New York University School of Law.

The conference is bracketed by two concerts. At 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 23, acclaimed recording artists Alexei Kochan and Julian Kytasty will perform a benefit concert of Ukrainian folk music for the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund in Yale’s Dwight Chapel, and at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, the renowned Vinnyky Ukrainian National Dance Company takes the stage of New Haven’s Palace Performing Arts Center.

Support for the conference is provided by the Chopivsky Family Foundation, Yale’s Council on Russian and East European Studies, and the Yale Center for International and Area Studies.

For further information, contact the Yale-Ukraine Initiative at the Yale Center for International and Area Studies by telephone, (203) 432-3107; fax, (203) 432-5963; or e-mail, rues@yale.edu.
Ukrainian National Dance Company

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY  SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 1998

No. 15

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MAY 22, 1998  8 P.M.

Syracuse University Center

MAY 20, 1998  8 P.M.

BURLINGTON, ON

CASEY'S PLACE

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CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute is holding, as part of its seminar series, a lecture by Angela S. Stent, associate professor of government, Georgetown University, on the topic “Ukraine and Germany: Toward a New Partnership?” The lecture will be held in the HURI seminar room, 553 Massachusetts Ave., at 4:45 p.m.

Thursday-Sunday, April 16-19

NEW YORK: The Association for The Study of Nationalities is holding its third annual convention at Columbia University’s International Affairs Building on the campus of St. The first panel, titled “Language Policies and Nation-Building in Ukraine,” is scheduled for April 16 at 4:45 p.m., to be held in Room 1219, International Affairs Building. Among the participants are: Larissa Onyshkevych (Princeton Research Forum); “Language Policies in Ukraine, 1953-1997”; Alexander Tsyvchek (University of Kansas); “National Identity and Language in Present-Day Ukraine: Taras Kuzio (University of Birmingham, United Kingdom).”

The lecture will be held in the HURI seminar room, 553 Massachusetts Ave., at 4:45 p.m.

Tuesday, April 21

TORONTO: St. Vladimir Institute, 620 Spadina Ave., will present a traditional Ukrainian cuisine class with recipe handouts. The instructor is Hanya Cirka. Cost: $25. For more information call the institute, (416) 923-3318.

Thursday, April 23

NEW HAVEN, Conn.: Acclaimed Canadian recording artists Alexis Kochan and Julian Kytasty will be appearing in concert at Dwight Chapel on Yale University’s Old Campus. The concert will be held at 7 p.m., with proceeds to benefit the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund. Musical selections will include compositions for the bandura by Mykytyy, I. Kryzhanivskyi, and excerpts from the recent collaborative recording “Paris to Kyiv: Variations.” Tickets: $10, $5, children and students with a valid ID. For more information, contact the CCFEP Connection office, (203) 407-0261.

Saturday, April 25

NEW YORK: “Music at the Institute” presents “Beyond Chamber Music Standards” featuring a program of works by Hindemith, Sonata for Tuba and Piano; with Aleksandri Markovich (tuba) and Virko Baley (piano); Beethoven, Adagio in E-Flat Major for Mandolin and Piano; with Mykola Kalikhman (mandolin) and Mykola Suk (piano); M. Weiner, Sonatina for Soprano and Piano; with Wendy Waller (soprano) and Esther Budurjado (piano); Chausson, Chanson Perpetuelle for Soprano, String Quartet and Piano, Op. 37, with Ms. Waller, the Flux Quartet (Tom Chin and Cornelius Dufallo, violins; Kenji Bunch, viola, and David Eggar, cello); and Mr. Suk and Schröder, Eine kleine Lachmusik, with the Flux Quartet. Concurrently, there will be an exhibit titled “In few drawings by Gogo,” featuring the work of Orest Shulyavsky of New York. The concert will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., at 8 p.m.

WARREN, Mich.: The Olha Tenua Branch 58 of the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America is sponsoring an “Alola Luncheon” to be held at Ukrainian Vilage, 26377 Ryan Road, at noon. Donation: $5. Proceeds to benefit the Veselka charitable organization which comes to the aid of elderly Ukrainians as well as nursing home patients. RSVP by April 20, by calling Julia Stoiko, (313) 276-7862.

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