INDEPENDENCE

Over 90% vote yes in referendum; Kravchuk elected president of Ukraine

by Chrystyna Lapychak
Kiev Press Bureau

KIEV — "On the map of the world a new European state has emerged — its name — Ukraine."

A special session of the Supreme Council of Ukraine opened with these words by First Deputy Chairman Ivan Pliushch, as Leonid Kravchuk was sworn in as the first popularly elected president of a united new independent Ukrainian state, inaugurating a new era in the often tragic 1,000-year-old history of the Ukrainian nation.

Four days after an overwhelming majority of Ukrainian citizens — 90.32 percent — voted "yes" in a December 1 referendum on independence and elected him chief executive, President Kravchuk took his oath of office to the people of Ukraine with his hand placed on two documents: Ukraine's current Constitution and the Act of Declaration of the Independence of Ukraine. "I solemnly swear to the people of Ukraine to realize my authority as president, to strictly adhere to the Constitution and laws of Ukraine, to respect and protect the rights and liberties of people and citizens, to defend the sovereignty of Ukraine and to conscientiously fulfill my obligations," pledged the new president.

On a table next to him lay the 500-year-old Peresopnytsky Gospel, the first Bible in Old Ukrainian, "as a symbol of the continuity of Ukrainian history," according to Deputy Ivan Zayets.

"In the space above the chairman's podium, where a giant statue of Lenin once stood, was a blue-and-yellow Ukrainian national flag."

During the solemn ceremonies, which featured a choir singing "Bozhe Yedyny Yedynyi" and "Sche Ne Vmerla Ukraina" and an address by the new president, the Ukrainian Parliament formally renounced Ukraine's participation in the 1924 act creating the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The legislature issued a statement to the parliaments and peoples of the world announcing its intentions and directions in foreign and domestic policy, particularly in questions of international cooperation, human rights, nuclear disarmament, respect for borders and economic reform.

President Kravchuk also outlined his vision of Ukraine's political, economic and social direction as a fledgling European democracy, repeating the basic principles in his campaign platform and responding to the concerns of many foreign countries in an effort to win their recognition.

The results of the December 1 plebiscite also rendered invalid the results of the March 17 all-union referendum on a renewed union, said Deputy Vitaliy Boyko, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, during the special session. It also served as a vote of (Continued on page 5)
**HUNGARY** — Chief Consul Andras Paldi and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko signed papers to establish diplomatic relations. As the Hungarian consulate in Kiev was upgraded to an embassy, Hungary became the first country to establish full diplomatic relations with Ukraine. It also recognized the Russian Federation, which made Ukrainian President Mikhail Gorbachev and Prime Minister Jozef Antall's scheduled trip to sign the Soviet-Hungarian Treaty in Moscow on December 12 impossible.

**POLAND** — Special envoy Jerzy Kozłowski formalized Poland's recognition of Ukraine on December 3. Poles were apprehensive about relations with President Lech Walesa, who was on his way to Russia for an official visit, turned back.

The Romanian press reported that the Romanian territories are considered "free" as a result of a number of uncertain variables, including the threat of war and being a catastrophe for the world. He made no direct reference to Ukraine, but did sound more urgent in his previous appeals. (RFE/RL Daily Report)

**ROMANIA** — Although the Foreign Ministry said that it is ready to establish diplomatic relations as soon as possible, the Romanian territories are still a "highly sensitive issue for public opinion in Romania." On December 3, the Romanian press reported that the Romanian government urged Ukraine to "automatically" separate from the formation of a union of sovereign states. As TASS reported on December 5, Mr. Gorbachev's press secretary, Andrei Grachev, had repeated Mr. Gorbachev's earlier statement that the dissolution of the USSR should not be taken as tantamount to the desire for independence of any country. Mr. Gorbachev made another appeal to the remaining republics not to have a union because this would bring the threat of war and be a catastrophe for the world. He made no direct reference to Ukraine, but did sound more urgent in his previous appeals. (RFE/RL Daily Report)

**KIEV** — There will be a summit in the framework of the European Community and Belarus on December 7. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko told journalists that participants will discuss international problems and future foreign policy. Mr. Zlenko said that Ukraine's first priority is relations with Russia. He added that President George Bush had been the first to call President Leonid Kravchuk and congratulate him on his election and the referendum vote. Mr. Kravchuk said that he will discuss economic union, with Russia, but based in Kiev or Minsk, not Moscow.

Mr. Yeltsin's trip was planned before the referendum and took on a more significant now that Mr. Kravchuk, president of a new country, will then, there said Russian parliamentary opposition leader Yazarov Parnyak, which comes out in Warsaw, said that there would be no problems if Ukraine remained within the union, but if it seceded, Russia would reclaim "numerous Russian provinces" that were "given" to Ukraine. (RFE/RL Daily Report)

**VATICAN CITY, N. J.** — According to Freedom House, the New York-based human rights organization, the resolution of the nuclear question, it continued that day. (RFE/RL Daily Report)

**MOSCOW** — In a telegram of congratulation, Anatoliy Sobchak decried "the threat of war and being a catastrophe for the world. He made no direct reference to Ukraine, but did sound more urgent in his previous appeals. (RFE/RL Daily Report)
No. 49 — THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY — SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1991

Yaroslav Trofimov
Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

NEW YORK — A wave of international recognition of the newly independent Ukrainian state is sweeping across the world.

Poland, Ukraine's crucial western neighbor, was the first country to grant diplomatic recognition. "Relations between Poland and Ukraine are very good and ambassadors will be exchanged soon," said Wladyslaw Klaczynsky, spokesman for the Polish Foreign Ministry, on Monday, December 2.

The Prime Minister noted that reports from Canadian observers indicate that Ukraine has conducted a free and democratic referendum. He said that the massive and overwhelming vote testifies to the strong desire of the people of Ukraine for an independent state.

Canada will shortly start formal relations with Ukraine, a large Ukrainian community and even the Canadian government general Ray Hushak. Following November 25 Ukrainian independence day celebration, the U.S. reaction signaled a complete reversal of the Bush administration's previous position, and to begin the process of normalization of relations with Ukraine.

As part of these negotiations, Canada recognizes Ukraine as an independent state. Ukraine has had separate member-attentions with Ukraine. Ukraine's destruction of nuclear weapons will not only sustain nuclear weapons, but also strengthen our cooperation in this regard.

The eastern part of Ukraine and the Crimea voted as high as 50 percent in favor of independence. This should say something about the people's will and respect for and adherence to all of CSCE documents.

We look forward to welcoming you in a free, independent Ukraine so that we can enjoy the peaceful and prosperous future in the United Nations since 1945, and its U.N. envoys were the only interlocutors from Canadian observers indicate that Ukraine has conducted a free and democratic referendum. He said that the massive and overwhelming vote testifies to the strong desire of the people of Ukraine for an independent country.

The Prime Minister confirmed that senior officials will be going to Kiev in the coming days to convey, Canada's commitment to democracy. "We congratulate Leonid Kravchuk on his victory, and the protection of minorities.

The Prime Minister also confirmed that official recognition of Ukraine's independence will set the stage for formal diplomatic relations. The special emissary will discuss with the newly-elected authorities in Kiev the transition to democratic societies which respect the rights of individuals. We hope and believe that the leadership in Moscow and Kiev will establish such a relationship.

The opposition member of Parliament for Winnipeg-South Center, Mr. Mulroney, praised Canada's stance and expressed confidence in the peaceful and prosperous future in Europe.

We are aware that independence raises some complex issues to be resolved. The eastern part of Ukraine and the Crimea voted as high as 50 percent in favor of independence. This should say something about the people's will and respect for and adherence to all of CSCE documents.

First, the special emissary will discuss ways in which the United States and the international community can support Ukrainian adherence to democratic values and practices, especially respect for human rights, including equal treatment of minorities. The special emissary will also discuss ways in which Ukraine can record its commitment to such fundamental obligations as respect for international obligations: respect for borders, with changes to be made only peacefully through negotiation; and respect for and adherence to all of the other norms of the Helsinki Final Act and other CSCE documents.

Second, the special emissary will discuss with Ukrainian leaders the steps to be taken to reaffirm Ukraine's non-nuclear status and to ensure responsible security policies. These include the steps to be taken to prevent proliferation of dangerous military-related technology; and to support implementation

Rukh greets diaspora with independence

To Our Fellow Countrymen in the Diaspora
Kiev, December 3, 1991

We extend our greetings to you — our brothers and sisters in the diaspora, on this occasion of the clearly manifested will of the Ukrainian people to attain full, sovereign independence as confirmed by the decisive results of the referendum.

We beak you in gratitude for the support, encouragement and cooperation that you have shown us.

We look forward to welcoming you in a free, independent Ukraine so that we may work together, in building a democratic state, one which shows a genuine concern for its citizens and is worthy of the world's respect.

Throughout this period you have not failed your homeland and your loved ones, and we are certain that we will continue to work closely together for the well-being of Ukraine.

Citizens' Referendum Council Rukh, the Popular Movement of Ukraine

Ivan Drach

Mykhailo Horyn

Petro Talanenchuk

Oles Lavrynovych

Viktor Burlakov

Canada recognizes Ukraine

OTTAWA — Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announced on Monday, December 2 that Canada has decided to recognize Ukraine as an independent country.

The Prime Minister noted that reports from Canadian observers indicate that Ukraine has conducted a free and democratic referendum. He said that the massive and overwhelming vote testifies to the strong desire of the people of Ukraine for an independent country.

Canada will shortly start formal negotiations on establishing diplomatic relations with Ukraine.

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Canada second to recognize Ukraine; establishing ties should go smoothly

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA — Canada has become the second country after the United States to officially recognize Ukraine's independence. In making the announcement, the Prime Minister said that Canada would continue to support the process to go quite smoothly, he said.

Canada sent three members of its Parliament and Alberta's chief electoral officer as monitors to observe the Ukrainian vote.

However, Andrei Hluchowecky, the Ukrainian Information Bureau in Ottawa, said that President Kravchuk should be trusted. "When we visited Canada a few months ago, he impressed the Ukrainian community here with his ideas about change. Unless he's lying through his teeth, that shouldn't change."

Dr. Dmytro Hluchowecky, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, explained that Mr. Kravchuk has to "take the initiative. We have no other way out. The people are not particularly worried about ethnic minorities."

"Members of Parliament were recently given assurances by the Russian Foreign Ministry that they were not particularly worried about Ukrainian sovereignty," he added.

The Rev. Andriy Chirovsky, director of the Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky Institute for Eastern Christian Studies at Ottawa's St. Paul Cathedral, isn't as concerned over Canada's apparent foot-dragging.

"Canada is not going to be bullied by George Bush on this. We are aware that independence raises some complex issues to be resolved. The eastern part of Ukraine and the Crimea voted as high as 50 percent in favor of independence. This should say something about the people's will and respect for and adherence to all of the other norms of the Helsinki Final Act and other CSCE documents.

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(Continued on page 16)
GREETINGS, CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES

WCFU issues appeal!

It was to be our fate to witness those great historic events for which the Ukraine nation has struggled for centuries. On December 1, 1991, the people of Ukraine, Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians alike, overwhelmingly approved in referendum the declaration of independence which had been proclaimed by the Ukrainian Parliament.

For the cause of long-sought independence, countless numbers of Ukrainian soldiers gave their lives; among the best of Ukrainian youth language barriers were put aside when defending their freedom. A generation of patriots were sacrificed to give the world a new Ukraine.

The suppressed dreams of generations of Ukrainians have come to reality at last in the Ukraine nation, the first to be given birth before the world its will to live free in a sovereign, independent Ukrainian state.

We commend the Ukrainian people for having attained statehood and we rejoice in their victory.

An arduous road, however, still lies ahead. The Ukrainian government and all its citizens are now faced with the difficult task of rebuilding an economy laid waste by a Communist regime which treated Ukraine as a colony.

Today, when there is finally a Ukrainian state, we, the Ukrainian diaspora should do our utmost to ensure that the process of revival proceed in all spheres - economic, cultural, religious and others.

Each one of us should come to the aid of Ukraine, according to one's abilities and resources - be it along lines of professional expertise, political influence or capital.

At this critical juncture, Ukraine counts on us; it needs a helping hand so that it can stand on its own.

A country rich in natural resources, with a hard-working people, Ukraine will become viable self-sufficient as it frees itself from the consequences of prolonged colonial exploitation.

For decades we sang our national anthem - "She Ne Vnerila Ukraina" (Ukraine Has Not Perished). And verily, Ukraine has not succumbed; it has been reborn.

We sang our readiness to give body and soul for our freedom ("Dushi y tito polozhym za nasu svobodu"). Circumstances no longer demand the sacrifice of life. Today Ukraine requires filial compassion, moral and material support.

Let us therefore respond to the demands of the times and help meet the needs of the Ukrainian nation.

Hereewith, the World Congress of Free Ukrainians calls upon the Ukrainian diaspora to join the effort of rebuilding the Ukrainian state.

May the people of Ukraine live and prosper in their newfound freedom!
Long live the free, sovereign, independent Ukrainian state!

Yuri Shymko
President

Vasyl Veryha
General Secretary

Patriarch Mstyslav congratulates Kravchuk

Below are wishes sent on Monday, December 2, to newly-elected Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk from Patriarch Mstyslav of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church.

Dear Mr. President:

I find myself in a state of boundless joy: God's Providence, which heals the infirm, has bestowed its gifts on the Ukrainian people. Ukraine's complete national independence is the greatest gift which can come to our people. It is a gift which will open to the world the priceless heritage of the Ukrainian nation.

The Ukrainian people have been the most deprived of a free life by the regime of the forced labor camps of the Soviet Union.

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May the people of Ukraine live and prosper in their newfound freedom!
Long live the free, sovereign, independent Ukrainian state!

Mstyslav
Patriarch of Kiev and all Ukraine

Congressman Bonior votes hate

WASHINGTON — Congressman David E. Bonior (D-Mich.), the highest-ranking U.S. representative of Ukrainians in Congress, has voted overwhelmingly for independence for Ukraine. However, the AFL-CIO President issued the Bush administration for failing to authorize U.S. diplomatic relations.

"This historic victory for democracy and the Ukrainian people is tempered only by the failure of our government to support the Bush administration," said Mr. Bonior. "The administration's failure to recognize Ukraine's independence is shortsighted and shows that misguided White House decisions are not confined to domestic issues.

Congressman Bonior is co-sponsor of a resolution (H.Con.Res. 212) urging President George Bush to recognize Ukraine's independence and establish full diplomatic relations. Rep. Bonior was a leading force in pressing the State Department to open a Consulate in Kiev. Under the Resolution 212, the consulate will be replaced with an embassy.

"The Ukrainian people have been demanded in their quest to assume their rightful place among the free nations of the world," said Rep. Bonior. "The time to recognize Ukraine as an independent nation is now.

Congressman Bonior's maternal grandparents, John Hawryluk and Effie Malanecz, were born in Ukraine. Today, Rep. Bonior's district of Macomb County is home to a vibrant community of Americans of Ukrainian descent.

Greetings from the UNA to Ukraine

WASHINGTON — The Ukrainian National Association has its 70,000 members would like to convey our joy to you, our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, on the occasion of the passage of the referendum for an independent Ukraine.

Preliminary results show that over 90 percent of the voters supported the declaration of Ukraine's independence.

We are certain that the people of Ukraine will now be able to live in freedom and attain economic well-being, as rightful masters on their own land.

Our publications, the Ukrainian-daily Svoboda and the English-language The Ukrainian Weekly have given broad coverage to the expressed willingness of President George Bush and the United States government to recognize an independent Ukrainian state.

As always the Ukrainians in the diaspora, with full commitment and with all the means at their disposal, are ready to help Ukraine become, in the full sense of the word, a free, independent and democratic state, ready to assume its place among the nations of the world.

Lithuanian Americans support independence

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Lithuanian American Community, Inc. called on President George Bush today to immediately recognize Ukraine as an independent country and to establish diplomatic relations with the government of Ukraine as soon as possible.

"World peace and stability can only be strengthened by welcoming an independent and democratic Ukraine to the family of nations," said Mr. Vasyl Macynas, president, National Executive Committee of LAC, Inc.

In its letter to President Bush, the National Executive Committee of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. reminded the President that "the people of Ukraine have demonstrated their commitment to change through nonviolent, participatory means. In this central European country, it is the struggle of the people for freedom, democracy and the rule of law that, in the light of yesterday's democratic expression of popular will, the AFL-CIO President urges the United States government to recognize an independent Ukraine.

Statement from Cardinal Lubachivsky

Cardinal Myroslav Ivan Lubachivsky issued the following statement in Rome after the citizens of Ukraine voted overwhelmingly for independence on December 1.

"People of Ukraine! I join with you today in celebrating the joy of our newly independent Ukraine and in the realization of the dreams of our forefathers. The Pontiff and this synod of European bishops which I am attending here in Rome is most applicable to the Ukrainian people today: we are witnesses of Christ who has freed us!"

After centuries of oppression, the Ukrainian people have again become fully independent. This desire was demonstrated in a resounding yes to the referendum on independence December 1.

The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church thanks God for his benevolence towards our people in giving us this bright day. As Christians, we want to live in peace with our neighbors and with all the people of the world.

Ukraine is an inseparable part of the common European home and we call upon all Ukrainians to work for the reconstruction of a democratic state based on social justice and for a better tomorrow. We ask all countries of the world to recognize the constitution of democratic Ukraine and to establish diplomatic relations with the United States government to recognize an independent Ukraine.

We are certain that the people of Ukraine will now be able to live in freedom and attain economic well-being, as rightful masters on their own land.

We urge the United States government to recognize an independent Ukraine and to establish diplomatic relations immediately."

AFL-CIO calls for U.S. recognition

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland, who visited Kiev last May, issued the following statement on Monday, December 2, on Ukraine's independence vote.

WASHINGTON — On behalf of the 14 million workers of the AFL-CIO, I salute the citizens of Ukraine, who have democratically declared their independence from the former Soviet Union. The AFL-CIO stands with the workers of Ukraine and the strike committees and free trade unions which unambiguously supported a "yes" vote in the independence referendum.

In the light of yesterday's democratic expression of popular will, the AFL-CIO calls upon the Bush Administration immediately to recognize Ukraine's independence and to establish diplomatic relations with Europe's fifth sovereign state. U.S. foreign policy toward the former USSR should now avoid the central Soviet state structures and be channeled toward the development of a new Ukrainian state. U.S. support should now be directed toward the workers, the strike committees and the free trade unions of Ukraine.

Affirming the will of the Ukrainian people for transition to a democratic state, the AFL-CIO calls upon the Bush Administration to immediately recognize Ukraine's independence and to establish diplomatic relations with the United States government to recognize an independent Ukraine.

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Theд unreasonable

Continued from page 1)

(centered in the existing
Ukrainian Supreme
Council, said Mr. Plisich.
Mr. Plisich was elected chairman
of the Ukrainian legislature
on December 2 to 100 following
the ceremonial part of the
session.

Tional reaction to the results of
the referendum and presidential race
dominated the days following
December 2.

Poland and Canada were the first
states to recognize Ukraine, on
December 2. The next day, Hungary
and Ukraine signed the first protocol
establishing full diplomatic relations
and transforming the Hungarian consulate
in Kiev to the first foreign embassy there.

In a significant move, Russian Presi
dent Boris Yeltsin issued a statement on
December 3 recognizing Ukraine's
independence and expressing the need for
forging new interstate relations between
the Russian federation and Ukraine.
After the celebrations of independence cease, after the euphoria subsides, the new, free democratic state of Ukraine will only begin the long and difficult road to true independence. Only now can the 52 million citizens of Ukraine show that they are indeed committed to the development of their nation-state. After centuries of failed attempts to attain lasting self-government, a goal which has eluded Ukraine throughout their historical experience, the people of Ukraine are faced with a bright future of their own design.

The overwhelming 90 percent vote for independence on Sunday, December 1, testifies to the fact that after centuries of oppression, centuries of Russification and decades of communism, the people are slowly waking up from a deep slumber that kept them complacent, passive, and at times even indifferent to their fate, to their future.

Over the last few months, events in what is now the former Soviet Union, have transpired at a dizzying pace. Just last year, the Ukrainian Parliament declared Ukraine sovereign. Yet, in March of this year, the people voted to join a "new and improved union," under the guidance of Mikhail Gorbachev, while expressing overwhelming support for Ukraine's Declaration on State Sovereignty. But the events of August 19 changed all that.

With the atmosphere being calm, peaceful, and at times even celebratory, the Ukrainian people were able to move toward statehood. And, the actions of Russian President Boris Yeltsin served as a catalyst for Ukraine's Act of Independence.

One journalist's nightmare was at least temporarily over, having survived a stampede of agressive Western photojournalists at the Kiev polling station where Leonid Kravchuk voted, successfully, civilized change.

As my colleague Susan Viets of The Associated Press correspondent, I felt a sense of profound significance: the culmination of a personal and political awakening, a new era for Ukraine. And, with the people of Ukraine, by those visiting the ruins that remain after decades of political and cultural repression, I observed that ghosts were present that day in all those places - ghosts of people who had lived long enough to vote... to have lived to witness the dawn of a new day... to have lived to dream that their grandchildren would see freedom. We are the generation fortunate to have lived to realize the promise of a free Ukraine.
A VIEW FROM WASHINGTON

A great job by the community

by Eugene M. Iwanciw
UNA Washington Office

WASHINGTON — Ukraine is independent and the United States has begun the process of establishing formal diplomatic relations with this country. This did not come about without recognition that the Soviet Union is no longer existent and the only body representing the Ukrainian American community on the United States government.

For the first time in many years, the Ukrainian American community played a major role in the shaping of U.S. foreign policy as a result of domestic and international pressure. In this case, the Ukrainian American community was heard.

The views of the community were expressed to President George Bush who did not join the unity. In an interview with Le Figaro, a French daily newspaper, Mr. Sirayev maintained that the Ukrainian independence is a political correctness. Let God and their imagination come into play, then perhaps it's time for the laity to take the initiative. Christ's message of love, compassion and forgiveness is too serious consequences unless the age-old traditions of self-help and hard work. They have a centuries-long tradition of self-help and hard work. They have a centuries-long tradition of self-help and hard work. They have a centuries-long tradition of self-help and hard work. They have a centuries-long tradition of self-help and hard work. They have a centuries-long tradition of self-help and hard work.

A View from Washington

The referendum produced some losers. The first is Mikhail Gorbachev. It is poetic justice that the day Ukraine was reborn was also the day the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (or whatever USSR is to be called) ceased to exist. To Ukraine we say Mnohyava Lita. To the USSR we say good riddance.

Another loser was George Bush. Oh, I know. He met with a Ukrainian American delegation and promised to recognize Ukraine in time, under certain circumstances, and with proper guarantees. Even Brent Scowcroft, sly devil that he is, saw the light. However dimly.

Why the sudden change of heart by the administration? A return to Ame­rican principles? A Gorbachev break. There were three reasons: polls, polls, polls.

Pre-referendum polls in Ukraine showed passage by a wide margin. Political polls in the U.S. showed Mr. Bush's popularity fading fast.

And the telephone and letter polls taken by Mr. Bush's friendly staff de­monstrated that perhaps for the first time in our history our community was really united in its anger and used its political muscle to send a message to the President.

There were other losers as well. Sovietology lost its status. For example, with the collapse of the Soviet Union we'll soon have as much need for their "expertise" as we have for wheelwrights.

Once our champagne corks stop popping, however, we need to take a sober look at what lies ahead. There's no guarantee a new government in Ukraine will have as much need for their "expertise" as we have for wheelwrights. No guarantee a new government in Ukraine will have as much need for their "expertise" as we have for wheelwrights. No guarantee a new government in Ukraine will have as much need for their "expertise" as we have for wheelwrights.

We can set an example for such healing by calling on our Catholic and Orthodox hierarchs in North America to proclaim a weekend of religious reconciliation in every Ukrainian community. Let God and their imagination come into play, then perhaps it's time for the laity to take the initiative. Christ's message of love, compassion and forgiveness is too serious consequences unless the age-old traditions of self-help and hard work. They have a centuries-long tradition of self-help and hard work. They have a centuries-long tradition of self-help and hard work. They have a centuries-long tradition of self-help and hard work. They have a centuries-long tradition of self-help and hard work.

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Signs of the times: Ukrainians experience first democratic vote

"Place the fate of Ukraine in able hands," states this Chornovil campaign billboard.

Signs such as the one pictured above line the streets of Kiev prior to the referendum on Sunday, December 1. This one calls the people to rid themselves of colonial shackles.

Presidential campaign posters cover the walls of Kiev’s metro passageways. The one pictured above promotes Levko Lukianenko; while the sign below, in Russian, condemns the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and calls the people of Ukraine not to believe in Leonid Kravchuk.

Potential voters pause in the metro station in Kiev on the eve of the referendum. The woman on the left demonstratively displays a Chornovil flyer.

Voters of all ages participate in the December 1 referendum and presidential election: from left, an elderly woman is all smiles as she shows off the two ballots; a young boy casts her father’s ballot; a couple votes on Ukraine’s future. Signs of Soviet Ukraine are still visible in Kiev; the Ukrainian national and Soviet Ukrainian flags decorate the ballot box in the middle picture. The hammer and sickle of Communist Party days still adorn ballot boxes in the photo on the right.
Citizens of Ukraine register in their electoral districts on Sunday morning, December 1 to vote on the national referendum and to elect their first president (left). A young voter (above) checks for his name to receive a ballot; voter turnout exceeded 84 percent on this historic occasion.

All photos on these pages by Chrystyna Lapychak and Lada Lysniak.

Canadians and Americans rejoice after the vote on the referendum.

Erast Huculak, chairman of Canadian Friends of Rukh (left), and Canadian Deputy Minister of External Affairs Patrick Boyer listen as Canadian Consul General Nestor Gayowsky addresses the jubilant Ukrainians.

Party organizer Ulana Mazurkevich, Helsinki Commission staffer Orest Deychakiwsky and an unidentified man flash the sign of the tryzub (trident).
Citizens of Ukraine cast their vote in New York City

NEW YORK — The building here on 67th Street, which houses the Belarusian, Ukrainian and Soviet missions to the United Nations, was bustling with activity on Sunday morning, December 1, as more than 175 eligible voters, thousands of miles away from their homeland, came to cast their ballots on Ukraine's future.

Ukrainian Ambassador to the United Nations, Gennadi Udovenko monitored the voting procedures, as the first floor of the mission was transformed into a polling place for residents of Ukraine who hold valid Soviet passports.

Volodymyr Yelchenko, the chairman of the electoral commission in New York, reported that of 176 registered voters — residents of Ukraine who are currently either visiting, working or studying in the United States — 162 voted "yes" on the referendum question.

Seven opposed leaving the union, while seven ballots were disqualified.

Also, 80 voters cast their ballots for Yvacheslav Chornovil, the former political prisoner, journalist and currently Lviv Oblast chairman, for president of Ukraine, while the Communist party ideologue-turned nationalist Leonid Kravchuk received 53 votes.

Although members of the electoral commission reported that many of the persons who voted in the Sunday, December 1 elections in New York were from oblasts in Galicia, the most voters came from Cherkasy, from the same street. "They were members of the Cherkasy Kozak Ensemble," explained a member of the commission.

All results from the referendum and presidential elections were faxed and telefaxed to the Central Electoral Commission in Kiev that evening. The ballots were delivered to Kiev via Air Ukraine, on Wednesday, December 4.

Citizens of Ukraine, currently visiting the United States, register to vote in the historic December 1 referendum at the Ukrainian Mission to the United Nations.

by Marta Kolomayets

Film on Ukrainian famine debuts on eve of referendum

KIEV — "This film is my personal contribution to the Ukrainian independence referendum," said Kiev filmmaker Oles Yanchuk, whose new film, titled "Holod 33," debuted on republic-wide television on Saturday evening, November 30, just hours prior to the opening of the polls for the December 1 historic referendum.

"I wanted people to see what life was like in a colony, the inhabitants of which were mercilessly exploited in the name of a utopian ideology," Mr. Yanchuk told The New York Times.

This, his first feature film, tells the story of Stalin's forced collectivization which led to the death of more than 7 million Ukrainian citizens in central and eastern Ukraine.

Only in the past two years has this tragic page in Ukraine's history been told to its citizens.

"Holod 33" was awarded first prize at the Kiev Film Festival held in mid-November; Mr. Yanchuk is scheduled to travel to North America in late December, where his film will make its North American debut.

During a recent telephone conversation, he reported that it was scheduled to premiere at movie theaters in Kiev on Wednesday, December 4.

"Working on the film was an emotionally wrenching experience for Mr. Yanchuk and his crew," The New York Times reported. "The film was shot in regions that had experienced the famine in the 1930s. Harrowing scenes from the film recreate the terror, fear and desperation of those years."
Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

To save the revolution from the pernicious impact of Russian nationalism, Mr. Khvylovy resolved to expose it. Couching his message in literary terms, he claimed that "passive-panstism, or Russian nationalism," had reached its limits and stopped at the crossroads. He advised Ukrainians to distance themselves from it. "If now," he said, "the consumer, the question before us is toward which of the world's literatures must it chart its course? In no case toward the Russian. This is absolute and unconditional. The essence of the matter is that Russian literature has weighed us down for centuries. Being the master of the situation, it accustomed our psyche to slavery. For our young art to flourish itself [in Russian literature] would mean stunting its growth. Our orientation toward the west of Europe, toward its style, toward its reception..."

Mr. Khvylovy's impassioned pleas for Ukrainians to strike out in their own given race to the famous slogan: "Away from Moscow!"

While Mr. Khvylovy directed his ideas primarily at young writers searching for literary models, his message clearly had political implications, it should be stressed, however, that his anti-Russianism was not so much a product of Ukrainian nationalism as of revolutionary internationalism. Mr. Khvylovy was convinced that the global revolution would never succeed if one nation, in this case the Russians, attempted to monopolize it.

He led the formation of Vaplite (Free Academy of Proletarian Literature), an elitist literary organization. Worried that the pedagogic- enlightenment mentality (prosvitita) and "massivism" of Pluh only encouraged Ukrainian provincialism, Mr. Khvylovy and his colleagues raised the demand for literary and artistic excellence in Ukrainian literature. They called for its orientation toward Europe and the traditional sources of world literature, and for a declaration of Ukrainian cultural independence from Moscow. Mr. Khvylovy's forceful statement of these views sparked an important and far-reaching debate that lasted from 1925 to 1927 and is usually referred to as the "Literary Discussion..."

Members of the Communist leadership in Ukraine joined in the criticism of Vaplite's "bourgeois-nationalist ideology." Even Stalin pointed out the dangerousness of Khvylovy's ideas. To combat the spread of nationalist ideas in the Ukraine, a pro-Soviet organization, VUSPP (the All-Ukrainian Association of Proletarian Writers), was formed in 1927 and the Communist party's surveillance of literary activity increased.

The Encyclopedia of Ukraine writes: "Henceforth Mr. Khvylovy was subjected to unrelenting persecution and was forced to move gradually from an offensive to a defensive tactic. To save Vaplite from forced dissolution, in December 1926 he was compelled to admit his "errors," and in January 1927 he agreed to expulsion from Vaplite. From December 1927 to March 1928 Mr. Khvylovy lived in Berlin and Vienna, and according to some accounts in Paris. In January 1928, before returning to Ukraine, he wrote an open letter to the newspaper Komunist renouncing his slogan 'Away from Moscow' and recanting his views. ..."

By the early 1930s Mr. Khvylovy's every opportunity to live, write, and fight for Ukrainian aspirations for independence was blocked."

Disillusioned by the Communist Party's practices and helpless to do anything about it, he committed suicide on May 13, 1933 in protest against the famine of 1933 and the Postyshev terror, which was done to "end Ukrainian panstism, purging the Ukrainian party, complete collectivization...and 'end the isolation of the Ukrainian workers from the positive influence of Russian culture."

"Immediately after his death, Mr. Khvylovy's works and even his name were banned from the public domain. Even after the post-Stalin thaw, when many other writers were 'rehabilitated' and selected works of some were published, the ban on his works and ideas has been blocked."
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WHITE HOUSE...

(Continued from page 3)

...tection of relevant international agreements, including START, the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, the Non-proliferation Treaty, and the Biological Weapons Convention.

Third, the special emissary will also discuss with the Ukrainian leadership its commitment to economic policies aimed at facilitating free markets and free and fair trade both with other republics and with the international community more generally.

Finally, the special emissary will discuss Ukraine's obligation and role with regard to the debts of the Soviet Union.

The transformation of the Soviet Union as we have known it is of vital significance not only to us but to our European and other allies and we, therefore, will continue to coordinate our approach with them.

In closing, we commend Ukrainians for pursuing the democratic path, both in the referendum on independence and in its popular vote for president. As both the Ukrainian and American people will understand, genuine and effective independence requires a never-ending commitment to democratic values and practices.

As the people of Ukraine, Russia and the other republics continue peacefully and democratically to pursue the hard work of freedom, the president supports them in their work and wishes them peace and prosperity.

Saturday, December 15, 1991

ST. NICHOLAS PROGRAM and HOLIDAY BAZAAR

sponsored by the Ukrainian Heritage Society of Rockland County at the Ukrainian Hall, 16 Twin Avenue, Spring Valley, N.Y. at 1:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact Irene Zawerczuk — (914) 357-5781

SHARE THE WEEKLY WITH A COLLEAGUE

The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America and The Ukrainian Engineers Society of America joyfully invite their members with their families and Ukrainian Community to share in the traditional Christmas celebration of "JALYNKA" on Saturday, December 21st, 1991 at six o'clock in the evening at The Ukrainian Institute of America 2 East 79th Street New York, New York

Buffet reception and open bar to follow program.

Adults $17.50 Information Children (under 16) free (201) 736-5916
Chamber Ensemble to perform at UIA

NEW YORK: The Nova Chamber Ensemble will present a concert at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York on Saturday, December 14 at 8 p.m. Founded in 1984 by Larysa Krupa and James Schlefer in order to present programs of chamber music with a special focus on works of Ukrainian composers, the Nova Chamber Ensemble in February of that year began a regular series of concerts at the Ukrainian Institute of America, which continued until 1989.

In the fall of 1987 the NCE began a parallel concert series in Morristown, N.J., held at the Church of the Assumption, which is in its fifth season today.

In the last two seasons the NCE has hosted the Lyzenco String Quartet from Kiev in its series in Morristown, N.J., and New York. The artistic collaboration of the two ensembles brought about joint tours of Ukraine and northeastern United States last spring.

The Nova Chamber Ensemble program at the Ukrainian Institute of America on December 14, part of the “Music at the Institute” series will feature: Oleh Kyva’s Sonata for Cello and Piano; Bohuslav Martinu’s Trio for flute, cello and piano; Mozart’s quartet for flute and strings, in D Major, Dmitri Shostakovich’s Piano Trio in E minor and Carlos Rausch’s variations on the Song of Ukrainian Hero Sava Hady. Performing in the concert will be special guests of the Lyzenco String Quartet, guest soprano Olena Heinzer and Nova member violinist Christopher Lee, flautist James Schlefer, cellist Maya Beiser, and pianist-director Larysa Krupa.

Tickets are $20, $10 for senior citizens and $5 for students. For more information please call Andriy Paschak at (212) 772-2884 or the UIA at (212) 288-8660.

UA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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Debutantes please register with

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No later than December 15, 1991
Odessa painter's works to be on exhibit at New York City gallery

NEW YORK — The brilliant colors of Odessa artist Oleh Nedoshytko will be exhibited here from December 15 through December 22 under the sponsorship of the Ukrainian Artists Association of the U.S.

Some 30 oils and acrylics are included in the show to be held at the association's gallery at 136 Second Ave. The artist will be present for the opening reception on Sunday, December 15, beginning at 1 p.m. The exhibition continues on Monday through Friday, December 16 to 20, from 6-8 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday, December 21 and 22, from 1-8 p.m.

Mr. Nedoshytko's paintings are full of the spectrum and splendor of the south of Ukraine. His work captivates the viewer with its bright coloring, dominated by shades of white, which differ markedly from works by artists from other regions of Ukraine. Mr. Nedoshytko's paintings do not depict concrete events or themes, rather hint at the seen, the felt and the subconscious.

He penetrates the essence of reality. He does not reproduce the visible, but renders it visible. He draws not only on the vivid colors of Ukraine's south, but on Ukrainian folklore and legend. Many of his works are deeply imbued with images and symbols from Holy Scripture.

Mr. Nedoshytko was born and raised in Odessa in the family of a seaman. In 1973, after completing compulsory military service, he entered Odessa's Ushinsky State Pedagogical Institute, Department of Graphic Arts and Painting. In 1977 he began teaching at this institute. Since 1985 he has been working independently.

Over the past seven years, he has had individual exhibitions in Odessa, Kiev, Genova, Italy and earlier this year in Toronto and in Washington, D.C. He has participated in group shows in Ukraine, Bulgaria, Finland, and Romania. Plans are being finalized for his solo and group exhibitions in Philadelphia, Detroit and Chicago. For further information, call (718) 373-3373.

"Chumak," a 24" x 36" oil painting, by Anatole Kolomayets.

by Daria Markus

CHICAGO — Presently, our attention is so absorbed by the political situation in Ukraine, that hardly any other activity can compete with it, including works of artists. Yet we tend to forget that it is the artist, with his or her intuitive emotional perception, that provides us with a special dimension of understanding both of ourselves and of our reality, a kind of understanding that neither scientific research nor systematic arguments in politics or philosophy can contribute.

The art exhibit of Anatole Kolomayets held in Chicago on November 13, can testify to that.

Mr. Kolomayets is well known to the Ukrainian community, not only in the United States, but also in Argentina, Austria, Belgium, England, France and Canada, where over 400 of his works are located in private collections and galleries. The November 22 issue of the magazine "Ukraina," published in Kiev, dedicated its color pull-out section to Mr. Kolomayets' works, and featured an article on Mr. Kolomayets, his brother Yuriy, and their late father, Ivan.

In the spring of 1990, Mr. Kolomayets participated in an International Poster Exhibition "Ethnos" that was held on the site of Pecherska Lavra in Kiev. There, the artists who organized this impressive exhibit voted Mr. Kolomayets' work the first prize. The only other artist from the diaspora to participate in that exhibit was Edward Kozak Eko. Mr. Kolomayets' work was included in the prestigious "Lytvi Renaissance" biennale. He held individual exhibits besides Chicago in Detroit, Cleveland, Washington, Philadelphia, Toronto, New York, Los Angeles and Denver. This was his 27th individual exhibit.

The most common underlying theme of the works of Mr. Kolomayets reaches to his national roots. It manifests itself in the primordial cultural traits in the cycle of his Scythian paintings. It leaves a mark of serfdom on the faces and figures in his paintings. Even his colors are not immune to the psychological impressions that symbolized oppression.

But today his paintings have become more radiant. Even when the forms or objects are not clearly and realistically defined, since life itself is not precisely defined, and the perspectives are somewhat blurred, the feeling for the fundamental reality is a part of the artist's vision.

Each of the 38 large oil paintings on the exhibit deserves a detailed exploration, but, for practical reasons, one has to limit this exercise to a randomly selected few. Most of the paintings were done in the past two years. All of them show an indelible signature of the painter's brush strokes and composition of colors, no matter if they are edging towards abstraction, realism, or naivete. His strong brushstrokes, decisive forms, resolve color blocks are as much a part of the "Apostle" that projects a visionary power, or the gypsy woman that can tell one's fortune, both good and bad, as the series devoted to the (Continued on page 15)
Chicago...

(Continued from page 14)

Chornobyl tragedy, where "The Mothers of Chornobyl" stand as witnesses to that which was, which is, and which will be forever.

Yet, from the fire of Chornobyl comes "The Renaissance," "The Declaration," and "The Green Birds" which, regardless if it was or was not the artist's intention, reminded the viewer of Lina Kostenko's "Green Wings" that in another time and place also heralded a spring and a rebirth.

Some paintings humorously depict current events. Shakespeare's "To be or not to be" refers to a communist dog dying communist dog with an American ambulance in the background. These are done in a naive-stylistically sophisticated manner, but others, also with a sense of humor, like "introvert-Extrovert," remind the viewer of the artist's observations of his own human beings.


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November 22-January 12

CHICAGO: An exhibition of the works of four artists, titled "4-tem in color" is up at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 220 West Chicago Ave. The paintings are by Kevin Couits, Eduardo X. Gomez, Tom Hiss and Raissa Markewycz. Exhibition hours are from Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. For further information, call (312) 227-5522.

December 8

NEW YORK: There will be an exhibition of Jacques Hensdorff's graphics at 2 p.m. at the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences, 206 West 100 St. (between Broadway and Amsterdam). Prof. George Shevelov will be speaking.

December 13

EAST HANOVER, N.J.: The Ukrainian Community Cultural Foundation, Inc. Executive Committee will meet to approve final site selection for the new northern Jersey Ukrainian Community Center. It is intended as a land mark occasion, which will be at 8 p.m. at the Ramada Inn on Route 10. For further information, call Bobosz Porytko or Mike Kozziupa at (201) 644-4860.

December 14

NEW YORK: There will be a lecture on Mykhailo Hrushevsky, historian and founder of a nation, by Prof. Roman Stupnicki of Harvard University. It will be held at 5 p.m. at the Shevchenko Scientific Society building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between 9th and 10th Sts.)

NEWARK, N.J.: The Friends of Rushk of northern New Jersey will host a talk by the Ukrainian ambassador to the U.N., Gennadi Edeworsow, who will speak on "Ukraine after the referendum" at the St. John Ukrainian School gymnasium, Sanford Ave. and Ivy St. at 7 p.m.

NEWARK, N.J.: UNA Branch 214, "Chornomorska Sitch" will hold its annual St. Nicholas party for its junior members and friends at 1 p.m. at the Ukrainian Sitch Hall, 680 Sanford Ave.

PHILADELPHIA: Join your friends in Philadelphia's trendy South Street area for the second annual Ulana's Ukrainian Christmas party at 205 Bainbridge St. from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Celebrate the holidays and events occurring in Ukraine. No cover charge, cash bar, music, dancing, food and more. For further information, call (215) 922-4152.

December 15

PHILADELPHIA: The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Centers, 700 Cedar Hill Road, will hold its annual Christmas bazaar. There will be crafts, holiday gifts and ornaments on sale. There will also be a choir recital, buffet, and a visit from St. Nicholas. To reserve craft tables, call (215) 920-1346. For further information, call (609) 663-1166.

December 15

YONKERS, N.Y.: The School of Ukrainian Studies will present a program honoring St. Nicholas during which students will perform songs, poems and a short play. It will be held at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 21 Shonard Place at 1 p.m.

YORK: Russia's greatest opera star,beautifl, singer Tatiana Troyanos,will give a benefit concert at the Ukrainian National Home, 961 Wethersfield Ave. Admission is $10 for adults, $5 for students and children under 12 admitted free.

December 19

NEW YORK: Baritone Andrzej Dobriansky will appear in the Metropolitan Opera's world premiere of "The Ghosts of Versailles," a new work by composer John Corigliano and librettist William M. Hoffman. Mr. Dobriansky will perform the role of The Other Man. This opera stars Teresa Stratas, Marilyn Horne, Graham Clark, Gino Quilico and Hakan Gergard and will be performed through January. It will also be broadcast on the Texaco-Metropolitan Opera radio program on January 4.

December 21

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, N.Y.-Metro Chapter and the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America are hosting the "Yasnyk" annual Christmas concert, with a holiday entertainment program. Tickets are $5 online at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St. Admission is $17.50 per person, children under 16 free. For further information, call Andrew Kusznir, (201) 894-7960.

Ukrainian Business Digest

November 20-December 3

The Ukrainian Business Digest is an excellent source for business people interested in doing business in Ukraine. Its purpose is to provide business-oriented companies with updated information about the country's regulations, customs and attitudes. We strive to provide a monthly report on business and economic developments affecting Ukraine, it is designed to help you deal with the aftereffects of the crisis in Ukraine. It is useful for companies that are exporting to, or importing goods from Ukraine.

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