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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Tarasyuk sacked, then unsacked, as battle rages over foreign minister

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – A political war has erupted within Ukraine's bipolar government after the pro-Russian coalition forces led by Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich attempted to sack the Western-oriented minister of foreign affairs, Borys Tarasyuk.

The Verkhovna Rada voted for Mr. Tarasyuk's dismissal on December 1 after he submitted a letter to the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine canceling Mr. Yanukovich's U. S. visit because the prime minister had failed to submit a list of directives for his five-day trip.

"A minister who is in opposition to the government can't work in the government, first of all," Mr. Yanukovich said after Mr. Tarasyuk's dismissal. "A minister who doesn't coordinate his activities with the prime minister and Cabinet of Ministers, and creates problems in international relations can't work in the Cabinet."

The battle over the post of foreign affairs minister marked a new degree of aggression in the Party of the Regions' campaign of seizing power in Ukrainian government, crossing into territory that is the president's domain – namely, foreign and defense policy.

What was once deemed a "cold war" in the bipolar government, with the pro-Western Presidential Secretariat on one end and the pro-Russian coalition government led by Mr. Yanukovich on the other, is now a wide-open conflict that is likely to get worse, political experts said.

On December 5 a Kyiv district court reinstated Mr. Tarasyuk to his post, ruling that the Parliament's vote violated



Zenon Zawada

Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk addresses the press after he was locked out of a Cabinet meeting on December 5.

Ukraine's Constitution and parliamentary regimen.

President Viktor Yushchenko reaffirmed the ruling by issuing a presidential order reinstating Mr. Tarasyuk as foreign minister.

The next day, the Cabinet of Ministers led by First Vice Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, denied Mr. Tarasyuk entry to their morning meeting.

Instead, Mr. Tarasyuk paced the halls of the Cabinet of Ministers trying to reach the Secretariat with his cell phone, with little success. Mr. Tarasyuk said he would submit the matter for Ukraine's procurator general to review.

Mr. Tarasyuk's letter to U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Taylor was an attempt to pre-empt Mr. Yanukovich from once again subverting Ukraine's pro-Western foreign policy as established by the president and the foreign affairs minister.

During his September visit to Brussels, Prime Minister Yanukovich surprised Messrs. Yushchenko and Tarasyuk by announcing that his government had postponed plans to enter NATO, directly conflicting with the Presidential Secretariat's foreign policy goals.

Mr. Yushchenko had hoped Ukraine would sign a Membership Action Plan at NATO's November summit in Riga,

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Ukraine's prime minister completes two-day official visit to Washington

by Khristina Lew
Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON – Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich visited the nation's capital on December 3-5 amidst growing tensions at home and a markedly restrained reception from official Washington.

On December 4 he held meetings with

Vice-President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, which were closed to the press. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack denied that the United States was deliberately downplaying the meeting with the Ukrainian prime minister, despite the fact that no State

(Continued on page 12)



Khristina Lew

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich of Ukraine and Sen. Richard Lugar, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, address the news media.

Ukrainians mark national Day of Memory

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Tens of thousands of Ukrainians converged on St. Michael's Square on November 25 to place candles, in memory of the up to 15 million Ukrainians who perished during the nation's three disastrous 20th-century famines.

The Day of Memory for Victims of Famines and Political Repressions rose to a new level of stateliness and recognition this year, indicating that it has become a major national holiday for Ukrainian society, observed on the fourth Saturday in November.

For the first time, much of St. Michael's Square was cordoned off by scores of military cadets holding Ukrainian flags for the official ceremony led by President Viktor Yushchenko, Verkhovna Rada Chair Oleksander Moroz and other Ukrainian leaders.

"I don't know what Ukraine would have looked like had they lived," Mr. Yushchenko said of the millions of victims in his address. "I know what

Ukraine looks like today."

"And I know what she [Ukraine] could become if she forgets the innocent perished souls of her children because of her trifling, her pitifulness – the type of country that inevitably sells its soul, its language and its memory. She will become a faceless territory with a faceless people," the president continued.

The crowd's size was unprecedented for an event that was initiated by Viktor and Kateryna Yushchenko only three years ago, when they asked Ukrainians to light a candle on behalf of victims of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 and place it at the Holodomor Victims Monument on St. Michael's Square.

An estimated 2,000 Ukrainians came for what was largely a grassroots event that had few formalities.

The Holodomor of 1932-1933 is an event that deeply affected Mr. Yushchenko, his family and his native village of Khoruzhivka in the Sumy Oblast, which suffered nearly 1,000 deaths, more than twice the casualties

from all of World War II.

The president's grandfather, Ivan, starved to death. Mrs. Yushchenko's parents experienced the Holodomor and survived.

In 2003 Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and former Rada Chair Volodymyr Lytvyn arrived to place wreaths, but delivered no speeches and didn't stay for the requiem concert or moleben ceremony.

A national event

Mr. Yushchenko had said then that he hoped the commemoration would become an annual national event and, indeed, it has since spread to most major Ukrainian cities.

Now president, Mr. Yushchenko sent letters to Ukraine's oblast administration chairs and mayors ahead of this year's event, asking that they hold wreath-laying ceremonies at oblast Holodomor monuments, and plant guelder-rose (kalyna) bushes as well.

In Odesa more than 200 Ukrainians

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ANALYSIS

Constitutional reform adopted in 2004 now being questioned in Ukraine

by Pavel Korduban
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The constitutional reforms that Ukraine's Parliament passed during the Orange Revolution in December 2004 and that came into effect after the March 2006 parliamentary election may now be revised. President Viktor Yushchenko and the parties that are in opposition to Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich believe that the reform has destabilized the balance of powers in the country.

The reform beefed up Parliament at the expense of the president; consequently, Mr. Yushchenko lost control over the executive when a coalition hostile to him established the majority in Parliament and formed a Cabinet this past summer. Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc and the bloc of his key Orange Revolution ally, Yulia Tymoshenko, want the Constitutional Court to invalidate the reform. President Yushchenko has come up with a less radical plan: to draft amendments to the reform and approve them by referendum.

Our Ukraine (OU) and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) argue that the reform was adopted in haste, as the result of a compromise with the parties that drafted it (most of them were from former President Leonid Kuchma's camp) in exchange for holding a repeat presidential election in December 2004, which Mr. Yushchenko won. OU and YTB believe the reform should be cancelled and Ukraine should return to the pre-revolution system, where the president dominated Ukrainian politics. Ms. Tymoshenko, who does not conceal her presidential ambitions, may benefit from this if she wins the next presidential poll. Mr. Yanukovich's Party of the Regions (PRU) and its allies, however, believe that the reform should be developed, further weakening the presidency.

The reform's weakest point became evident when the parliamentary majority proposed Mr. Yanukovich for prime minister in July and afterwards, when Messrs. Yushchenko and Yanukovich locked horns over their respective powers. The

reform failed to clearly outline the president's remit. The PRU believed that the Constitution obliged President Yushchenko to automatically submit Mr. Yanukovich's candidacy for prime minister, PRU National Deputy Taras Chornovil recalled, speaking to the weekly Korrespondent. But many Yushchenko allies thought he was not obliged to do so.

When Mr. Yushchenko eventually did so, he found that his hands were tied regarding important personnel decisions. "The president appoints the Security Service chief with consent from Parliament, but the president cannot dismiss him," National Deputy Anatolii Matvienko of OU told Korrespondent. "The same applies to the procurator general, the head of the State TV and Radio Committee and so on."

The congress of the Our Ukraine-People's Union – the core of OU – on November 11 voted 1,172 to one with seven abstentions to instruct OU national deputies to file an inquiry with the Constitutional Court to prove that the constitutional reform was passed with procedural violations. Ms. Tymoshenko readily backed OU's initiative. Speaking in Brussels on November 21, she said that "the democratic forces" should ask the court to establish whether the reform was adopted in line with the law. Meeting with German journalists in Berlin on November 23, Ms. Tymoshenko said that her bloc had drafted a petition to the Constitutional Court and that it would appeal against the reform at the court jointly with OU.

President Yushchenko also does not conceal his dissatisfaction with the constitutional reform. "A number of mistakes were made when the Constitution was amended," he told journalists in Ivano-Frankivsk on November 3. Mr. Yushchenko, however, has not backed the OU-BYT initiative to ask the court to cancel the reform. On November 2 he set up a special commission tasked with drafting amendments to the reform. When the draft is ready, it should be offered for a referendum, according to Mr. Yushchenko's plan. Mr. Yushchenko and his allies share the same ultimate goal: to once again make the office of the president stronger vis-à-vis parliament. "It should be enough to ask the people one simple question: Are you in favor of the presidential or the parliamentary form of government?" Ukrayinska Pravda quoted presidential secretary Viktor Baloha as saying on November 24.

Mr. Yanukovich's justice minister, Oleksander Lavrynovich, warned on the same day that a referendum on constitutional reform would not be binding. Prime Minister Yanukovich told a press conference in Kyiv on November 8 that the attempts to cancel the reform would have no legal consequences. "Together with Parliament, we shall defend the current Constitution," he said. He added that the government would continue to further develop the reform regarding the local bodies of power. The PRU and its allies want to deprive the president of the right to appoint regional governors, thereby snatching from him the only lever he has to control the situation in the regions.

Commenting on President Yushchenko's referendum plan on November 28, Prime Minister Yanukovich warned that it would destabilize the situation in Ukraine. He also threatened that his party may come up with referendum initiatives of its own. Earlier,

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NEWSBRIEFS

Rada fires two ministers...

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on December 1 dismissed Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk, Ukrainian media reported. A motion to sack Mr. Tarasyuk was supported by 247 deputies. Shortly afterward, 248 deputies endorsed the dismissal of Internal Affairs Minister Yuri Lutsenko. The Verkhovna Rada tried to fire Mr. Lutsenko on November 30 but fell three votes short of the 226 required to do so. Mr. Tarasyuk was appointed to his Cabinet post directly by President Viktor Yushchenko, as stipulated by the Constitution of Ukraine. Mr. Lutsenko too was proposed to his Cabinet post by President Yushchenko, following an agreement with Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. Mr. Yushchenko said in an interview with the BBC on November 30 that the Verkhovna Rada's attempts to dismiss Messrs. Tarasyuk and Lutsenko destabilize the situation in the country. (RFE/RL Newswire)

... and appoints two new ministers

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on December 1 appointed Vasyl Tsushko, head of the Socialist Party parliamentary caucus, as internal affairs minister to replace Yuri Lutsenko, Ukrainian media reported. Earlier the same day the legislature appointed Viktor Korzh as family, youth and sports minister to replace Yuri Pavlenko, who resigned in October. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Ukrainian PM visits Moscow

MOSCOW – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich made a working visit on November 30 to Moscow, where he met with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov, UNIAN reported. Mr. Yanukovich reportedly discussed "current issues" in bilateral relations and an upcoming visit by Mr. Putin to Kyiv. Mr. Putin told the Ukrainian prime minister that he will come to Kyiv on December 22. (RFE/RL Newswire)

President directs Tarasyuk to stay on ...

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on December 5 issued a decree directing

Borys Tarasyuk to continue fulfilling his duties as foreign affairs minister. The decision was made in accordance with Article 106 (Item 3, Part 1) of the Constitution of Ukraine, which stipulates that the president represents the state in international relations, leads the state's foreign policy, and negotiates and concludes international treaties of Ukraine. On December 1 the Verkhovna Rada dismissed Minister Tarasyuk. "It is irresponsible to try to cancel such decisions," Reuters quoted Mr. Yanukovich as saying in Washington about the president's decree regarding Mr. Tarasyuk. (Ukrinform, RFE/RL Newswire)

... but this may prove problematic

KYIV – Borys Tarasyuk told an RFE/RL Ukrainian Service correspondent in Kyiv on December 5 that he was not allowed to attend a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers earlier the same day. Mr. Tarasyuk said Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers Anatolii Tolstoukhov prevented him from entering the meeting room. "I was told [by Tolstoukhov that] I wasn't on the list and [I was barred from meetings] until further clarification, even though I showed them the court decision and the presidential decree. This is outrageous. I will press for my rights as a Cabinet member to be respected," Mr. Tarasyuk said. Also on December 5, Mr. Tarasyuk told journalists that a district court in Kyiv ruled to suspend the Verkhovna Rada's resolution on his dismissal. Mr. Tarasyuk, who was appointed as foreign affairs minister directly by the president, argues that only the president has the right to submit a motion for his dismissal, which was not the case in his dismissal vote. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Tarasyuk says dismissal was illegal

KYIV – Borys Tarasyuk, who was dismissed from the post of foreign affairs minister by the Verkhovna Rada on December 1, told journalists in Poltava on December 2 that his dismissal was illegitimate and unconstitutional, UNIAN reported. "The voting in the [Verkhovna] Rada took place with violations, since the foreign minister is

(Continued on page 14)

Constitutional Court has final say on issue of Tarasyuk's dismissal

Ukrinform

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko is entitled to repeatedly propose the candidacy of Borys Tarasyuk for foreign affairs minister of Ukraine, said Presidential Secretariat Chief of Staff Viktor Baloha on December 1.

He said the procedure of dismissal of ministers from the presidential quota is not clearly enough set in the Constitution of Ukraine and needs to be officially interpreted by the Constitutional Court.

"We will act in the legal field. There are many commentaries on the matter, but if the Verkhovna Rada resolves to dismiss Borys Tarasyuk, the president will stick to this decision. Still, the Constitutional Court of Ukraine should give its conclusion on the validity of the decision," Mr. Baloha said.

Mr. Tarasyuk commented on December 1 that "Only the Constitutional Court of Ukraine can resolve this issue." He added that the Parliament's decision will negatively influence Ukraine's image in the world.

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Editor-in-chief: Roma Hadzewycz
Editors:
Zenon Zawada (Kyiv)
Matthew Dubas

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ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

Walter Honcharyk, administrator

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3041

Maria Osciawski, advertising manager

e-mail: ukradmin@att.net

Mariyka Pendzola, subscriptions

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3040

e-mail: adsukrpubl@att.net

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3042

e-mail: ukrsubscr@att.net

Millennium Challenge Corp. lists eligible countries, including Ukraine

WASHINGTON – The board of directors of the Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC) on November 8 selected three new countries to join the 22 states now eligible for development assistance from the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA).

Moldova, Ukraine and Jordan were chosen to begin the process of applying for compact assistance. Since its establishment in 2004, MCC has approved compacts totaling nearly \$3 billion with 11 countries: Armenia, Benin, Cape Verde, El Salvador, Georgia, Ghana, Honduras, Madagascar, Mali, Nicaragua and Vanuatu. MCC is also actively engaging with other eligible countries to assist them in compact development.

Each November, MCC's board of directors meets to select countries eligible to develop a proposal for assistance under the MCA. The assistance program is designed to reward good performance and to create incentives for countries to adopt policies that create a foundation for poverty reduction and economic growth.

"Because of their ongoing commitment to good governance, as well as sound economic and social policies, our newly eligible countries demonstrate that they are, in fact, taking necessary steps to create, reinforce and maintain a policy environment in which MCC's aid can help them reach specific goals of poverty reduction," said Ambassador John Davilovich, MCC's chief executive officer. "Compact-eligibility is the reward for pursuing good policies. These countries are now invited to begin the process of creating their compacts to reduce poverty," he added.

MCC measures policies in all candidate countries using 16 independently measured and transparent benchmarks that have a demonstrated link to poverty reduction and economic growth. These indicators measure countries' demonstrated commitment to policies that promote, among other things, political and economic freedom, investments in education and health care, control of corruption, and respect for civil liberties and the rule of law. MCC is using two supplemental indicators this year to evaluate performance on countries' commitment to promoting sustainable natural resources management policies.

Once selected as eligible, countries begin a consultation process that includes citizens, non-governmental organizations, and representatives of the private sector and government to identify the barriers to poverty reduction and economic growth. MCC teams then work in partnership to engage with countries on their compact proposals to ensure that projects meet economic growth and poverty reduction targets.

A compact also describes how the country plans to manage and implement its MCA program, including how it will ensure financial accountability, transparency, fair and open procurement, and measurable results. Selection as an eligible country does not guarantee funding.

Many countries have identified land tenure and agriculture projects, micro-lending programs and improvements to irrigation systems, as well as water and sanitation services as priorities in efforts to reduce rural poverty. Other countries have proposed building industrial parks and trade school health clinics, and rehabilitating roads, ports and railroads as keys to improving access to markets, jobs, schools, health clinics and other essential services.

Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC), a U.S. government corporation designed to work with some of the poorest countries in the world, is based on the principle that aid is most effective when it reinforces good governance, economic freedom and investments in people that promote economic growth and the elimination of extreme poverty.

Will Ukraine's Orange Revolution be undone by energy deals?

RFE/RL

WASHINGTON – During a recent briefing at RFE/RL, Adrian Karatnycky, president of the non-partisan international initiative The Orange Circle, and RFE/RL regional analyst Roman Kupchinsky expressed very different views of events in Ukraine since a split among the former parliamentary allies, known as the Orange coalition, three months ago returned former presidential candidate and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich to power.

Mr. Karatnycky said the changes to the political leadership in Ukraine were not necessarily destabilizing; rather, Mr. Yanukovich's return to the prime minister's seat represents a "new [political] architecture in Ukraine" that has come into being in the aftermath of the collapse of the Orange coalition.

He said that competing political groups are now struggling over policy within "a reconfigured Ukrainian Constitution," where "the Ukrainian courts will play a significant and powerful role." According to Mr. Karatnycky, economic and political reforms can continue if there is cooperation between President Viktor Yushchenko

and Prime Minister Yanukovich. "If there are endless challenges," Mr. Karatnycky said, it will "paralyze forward movement."

Ukraine's current balance of political power, Mr. Karatnycky said, remains "the same as in the 2004 presidential election," judging from the results of the March 2006 parliamentary elections. Mr. Karatnycky noted that Ukraine's voters continue to support the same power blocs, voting 52 to 43 percent in favor of parties identified with reform. The collapse of the Orange coalition came about when the leaders of the Socialist bloc defected to Mr. Yanukovich after the March election, but "Yanukovich's party [Party of the Regions] does not control the majority" or dictate policy, Mr. Karatnycky said.

Mr. Karatnycky said that there are "pragmatically oriented blocs" within all of the parliamentary parties in Ukraine today that are prepared for a "comfortable cohabitation," if not with the reform party Our Ukraine, then at least with President Yushchenko. Mr. Karatnycky described the balance of power between the president and prime minister as "a Greco-Roman wrestling match with two evenly

matched heavyweights," because the presidency retains significant powers "to bend all legislation more in his direction."

Although there may be attempts to change Ukraine's Constitution to a fully parliamentary democracy, Mr. Karatnycky said there will be "at best a deadlock" on the issue. He maintained that there are "many vectors in Ukraine and, therefore, one needs [the support of] lots of players to move policy. This is institutional pluralism; this is democracy ... While Orange coalitions and Orange politicians failed, the Orange Revolution succeeded," Mr. Karatnycky said.

Focusing on only one aspect of the Ukrainian government's decision-making, i.e., energy policy, Mr. Kupchinsky said little progress was being made by the Yanukovich-Yushchenko partnership in setting Ukraine on the road to a reformed and modernized economy. Mr. Kupchinsky said that Ukraine, the sixth largest consumer of natural gas in the world, has an "energy-intensive economy" that is consuming energy badly – in Mr. Kupchinsky's terms, "wasting it."

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ANALYSIS: The battle with winter in Ukraine

by Roman Kupchinsky

In what has now become an annual autumn event, the Ukrainian government is frantically trying to calm the population by telling the people the country will have enough oil, gas and coal to keep their homes warm and industry working during the cold winter months.

"The underground gas storage facilities are filled to the brim," Yuri Boiko, the minister for fuel and energy, assured his countrymen a few weeks ago, while failing to mention that most of the gas in these facilities does not belong to any Ukrainian entity, but to RosUkrEnergo, a joint venture between Gazprom and two private Ukrainian businessmen, Dmytro Firtash and Ivan Fursyn.

This would not be terrible if the owners of the gas were transparent and respected businessmen. But they are not, and, as a result, the population has cause to be concerned.

To make matters worse, only Mr. Boiko seems to understand the latest gas deal signed with Moscow in October. Nobody has seen the contract or any amendments it might have – and this is truly disturbing.

Apparently, the idea is to convince the public that Mr. Boiko is indispensable and can be trusted to look after Ukraine's needs when it comes to oil and gas. Mr. Boiko seems to go along with this view and his press office keeps churning out press releases praising his business acumen and patriotism.

Unfortunately, Mr. Boiko was one of the key backstage players in setting up RosUkrEnergo in 2004. In 2005 he was about to be arrested for his activities until Viktor Yushchenko came to his rescue.

In any other country he would never be permitted to work in the public sector. In Ukraine, however, he was Viktor Yanukovich's logical choice to head up the corruption-ridden energy ministry. When the president of the country did not protest this appointment for whatever reasons he might have had, Mr. Boiko became the energy hetman of Ukraine.

Part of the hype about the approaching winter is to allow Mr. Boiko to look good

Roman Kupchinsky is the former director of the Ukrainian service of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. He can be contacted at Kupchinsky@gmail.com.

next spring. By April he will be declared a national hero for not allowing schoolrooms to freeze over and all his past activities will be forgiven by a "grateful nation."

Meanwhile the pressing issue of reforming the energy sector in Ukraine has not been placed on the back burner, it has been hidden in the closet – not to be mentioned or shown to curious visitors.

After all, with Mr. Boiko in charge, who needs reforms? Everything will work just fine. Gazprom, according to Mr. Boiko, should be allowed to take a stake in Ukraine's domestic gas distribution network, as well as have a say over the main gas pipeline to Europe.

RosUkrEnergo should be given the right to import not only gas, but oil to Ukraine and foreign companies (meaning Western) should be prevented from entering the sector.

As to energy efficiency, it is best to forget the term altogether. While some industries did indeed make bold attempts to lower their use of fuels, by and large the country is still living in the mid-1980s in terms of its huge appetite for gas.

Demand for gas has not decreased in the last few years while Mr. Boiko's calls to increase drilling for oil and gas in Ukraine will only hasten the day when Ukraine will become 100 percent

dependent on Turkmen and Russian gas.

The saddest part of the energy sector in Ukraine is that nobody has any vision on how it must change. The Boiko view is "ganz klar" as the Germans say – give it to Gazprom and to Mr. Firtash.

President Yushchenko has no views on this matter and, even if he did, they would probably be inane and be dismissed out of hand.

The Donetsk boys are not fools and do not trust Messrs. Yanukovich and Boiko to take care of their needs. In November a delegation from the Industrial Union of the Donbas went to Uzbekistan to arrange a barter deal for gas. The idea was that the IUD would construct pipelines in Uzbekistan in return for 3 billion cubic meters of gas. But even there, RosUkrEnergo and Gazprom were watching and waiting for their cut – reminding the IUD that it was they who controlled all gas coming out of Central Asia.

Ukraine it seems, will remain a hostage to the shady schemes devised by Leonid Kuchma, Vladimir Putin, Mr. Boiko, Mr. Firtash and others for years to come. The "winter wars" will be fought over and over, and the descendants of the above-mentioned men and their gangs will continue to thrive for the foreseeable future.

From the UNA regarding its publications

As readers of our publications know, for many years now the Ukrainian National Association has been reporting increasing deficits in our operations of our publications. A number of months ago, the UNA began an internal restructuring initiative that sought to streamline operations, reduce costs and maximize efficiencies. This restructuring accompanies a realignment of internal operations with a greater emphasis on sales and revenue-generation. These strategies should allow the UNA to meet the changing needs of our members and readership, and to bring about sustained profitability.

As part of the consolidation initiative, the two positions of editors-in-chief of the UNA's publications, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, were combined into one position. The two papers, however, will continue to be published separately.

As a result of this consolidation, as of December 1, 2006, Irene Jarosewich will no longer serve as editor-in-chief of Svoboda, a position she held for the past six years. The UNA remains deeply appreciative of her efforts to make Svoboda an interesting and valuable resource for our readers. The Executive Committee of the UNA, further, would like to express our gratitude to Ms. Jarosewich for her years of dedicated service to Svoboda, the UNA and to our community at large. We wish only the best for her in the future. In upcoming issues of our newspapers, the Executive Committee will announce restructuring plans for our publications.

– Stefan Kaczaraj, president, on behalf of the UNA Executive Committee

Presentations at United Nations library mark anniversary of Holodomor

by Anna Chelak

UNITED NATIONS – In commemoration of the 73rd anniversary of the Holodomor, the man-made Famine-Genocide in Ukraine between 1932 and 1933, the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations held a special memorial event at the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium of

humankind, it unfortunately remains largely unknown to the world. ... We need as many people as possible to learn about this tragedy and believe that this knowledge will strengthen the effectiveness of the rule of law and enhance the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms..."

He praised a number of foreign Parliaments, including the U.S. House of

as a special guest speaker. A screening of the award-winning documentary "Harvest of Despair," a powerful and revealing film on the Holodomor, followed the presentations.

First to speak was Under-Secretary Tharoor, who stressed the necessity of understanding the concept of genocide as a whole, as well as educating those who are not aware of the immensity of the barbaric tragedy that struck Ukraine more than two years ago.

"If we wish to consign genocide to history," said Mr. Tharoor, "we need to acknowledge and realize evil, but more importantly understand what it is in humanity that allows inhumanity to prosper."

Mr. Tharoor emphasized that the world must ensure a better future through education. In order to avoid new geno-

cides, as in present-day Africa, one must understand the structure of the past. He stressed the duty to focus on informing the present in order to guarantee that barbaric disregard of human rights is never repeated.

Prof. Hunczak began his presentation by noting: "Europe experienced so much knowledge and glory during the age of enlightenment and the era of romanticism, but it is shocking to come to the 20th century and see nothing but tremendous tragedy."

Prof. Hunczak described Stalin's policy of collective agriculture, a system that forced millions of Ukrainians to surrender their food to collective farms, thus proving that a drought did not cause the Famine of 1932-1933 as it had in 1921-

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Prof. Taras Hunczak (center) with Prof. Mark von Hagen (right) and Ukraine's Chargé d'Affaires at the United Nations, Viktor Kryzhanivskyi, at Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium.

the United Nations Secretariat on Tuesday, November 21.

The commemoration, hosted by Viktor Kryzhanivsky, chargé d'affaires (ad interim) of Ukraine to the United Nations, was designed to facilitate a better knowledge of the tragedy that claimed 7 million to 10 million Ukrainian lives, as well as to ensure wider international recognition of this genocide that so many have chosen to ignore and deny.

Mr. Kryzhanivsky opened the program by explaining to the audience, which included diplomatic representatives of the U.N. member-states, that "while the Holodomor is ranked among the greatest tragedies in the history of

Representatives, for adopting decisions to honor the victims of the tragedy and to condemn the actions of the Stalin regime. He vowed that Ukraine would seize every opportunity to draw attention to this tragic page in its history. He asked all present to observe a moment of silence in honor of the memory of those who died in the Holodomor.

The commemoration featured presentations by Dr. Taras Hunczak, professor emeritus of history at Rutgers University, and Dr. Mark von Hagen, professor and chair of the history department at Columbia University.

The under-secretary-general for communication and public information, Shashi Tharoor, participated in the event

Washington area Ukrainians recall Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON – The Ukrainian American community of the capital area and the Ukrainian Embassy marked the anniversary of the 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide in Ukraine with a memorial religious service, a discussion of the tragic event and the showing of the documentary film "Harvest of Despair."

The memorial service for the estimated 10 million Ukrainians who died in the Holodomor was concelebrated on November 26 at the St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, with the pastors of the two Ukrainian Catholic churches in the Washington area – the National Shrine of the Holy Family and Holy Trinity – participating.

Afterwards, in the hall adjoining the cathedral, Ukraine's ambassador to the United States and leaders of Ukrainian American organizations discussed the Famine and stressed the need to have it recognized as a genocide.

Ambassador Oleh Shamshur said that the Holodomor must be recognized as an "act of genocide against the Ukrainian nation." He also noted that the suffering of the Ukrainian people at the hands of the "brutal totalitarian regime" was not limited to the Famine. There were other periods of heightened repression in the early 1920s and just after World War II, which also brought about great losses.

The ambassador noted the efforts of the Ukrainian diaspora to bring the tragedy of the Famine to the world's attention and singled out the work done by the late James Mace, who was the director of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, and British historian Robert Conquest, the author of the seminal work on the subject, "The Harvest of Sorrow." He also thanked the Congress and President George W. Bush for making it possible to have a Holodomor monument erected in Washington.

Michael Sawkiw Jr., president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, noted that while millions of Ukrainians were dying in the Holodomor and as a result of other acts of repression, the Soviet propaganda machine was convincing its citizens and – with the help of such Western journalists as Walter Duranty of *The New York Times* – the West that it was not happening. Many Western nations were establishing diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union during what he characterized as the "worst act of genocide in the history of mankind."

Mr. Sawkiw called on the U.S. government and the United Nations to recognize the Holodomor as an act of geno-



Yaro Bihun

Ihor Gawdiak, president of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, speaks at the community event held in Washington in memory of the Holodomor.

cide. "The world community should be aware of what happened in Ukraine in those years, so as not to allow the repetition of a similar tragedy," he said.

Ihor Gawdiak, president of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council (UACC), picked up on the "never again" theme in his remarks, adding that Ukrainian Americans must protest any and every attempt at genocide in the world today.

"Recently, almost 200 American citizens' and academic organizations signed an appeal to the U.S. government to react more forcefully to the genocide now in Darfur," he said. "The appeal was signed by leading Jewish organizations, including the Holocaust Museum; Armenian organizations signed it as well."

"So far only one Ukrainian organization signed it," he added (not mentioning that it was the UACC).

Also addressing the gathering were Nadia K. McConnell, president of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation; Adrian Pidlusky, president of The Washington Group; Petro Matula, a Holodomor survivor who read excerpts from an article by Alen Bezanson on Soviet totalitarianism in Ukraine; Valentyn Zabijaka, head of the St. Andrew Parish Council; and Slavko Nowytski, who introduced the documentary film he produced for the 50th anniversary of the Famine, "Harvest of Despair: The Unknown Holocaust." The program was directed by Anya Dydok-Petrenko.

FOR THE RECORD: Statement on the Holodomor by the UCC

Following is the full text of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress statement on the occasion of the commemoration of the Great Famine-Holodomor in Ukraine. The statement was released on November 24.

For several years already, the last Saturday of November has been a day of remembrance for the millions of Ukrainians killed by the artificially created 1932-33 Great Famine-Holodomor in Ukraine. On this day, Ukrainians, together with all mankind, honor the memory of our brothers and sisters who became innocent victims of the Stalinist authoritarian regime.

Seventy-four years ago, from April 1932 to November 1933, in approximately 500 days, some 7 million to 10 million people, a third of whom were children, died of famine. For the first time in human history, a government used the confiscation of a harvest as a weapon for the destruction of the people. In 1932-1933, Ukraine lost every fourth or fifth person.

The horrific truth is that mass murder for ethnic reasons can only be called a genocide, the consequence of which was the destruction of the

national spirit of the Ukrainian people for ensuing decades.

In spite of attempts to bring the horrible truth of the Holodomor to public attention, the world still knows little about this catastrophe for Ukraine. Therefore, it is during these days that we, Ukrainian Canadians, once again open the horrible pages of history and relate this to our children, friends and neighbors and to all those who are not indifferent to the suffering of others. In the name of present and future generations, we will do everything possible so that memory about the victims of the Famine will remain alive, and that these horrific events never occur again.

With heavy hearts, the entire Ukrainian Canadian community remembers those who suffered and died during the Great Famine-Holodomor by holding memorial services and joint prayers or by honoring their memory with a moment of silence or in some other appropriate manner.

May the memory of these innocents unite us, the living, and give us strength to move forward to a better future.

Orysia Sushko, president
Ukrainian Canadian Congress

Ukrainians mark...

(Continued from page 1)

took part in a panakhyda (requiem) service for Holodomor victims at the former Oblast Committee headquarters of the Communist Party. They advocated establishing a Holodomor victims monument at the same place where a Lenin statue once stood.

In the town of Zhovkva, outside of Lviv, Ukrainians reburied the remains of an estimated 270 civilians murdered by the NKVD after the second world war. Human bones had been discovered in the basement of the Basilian Monastery in 2002. Bullet holes were lodged in most of the victims' skulls.

In a religious ceremony, 56 coffins were carried to a grave where a Christian burial was held and a cross will bear the words, "Victims of the Communist Terror."

Similar ceremonies were held in Lviv for the remains of those tortured by Communists in prison.

In the Russian Federation, Ukrainians held the first panakhydy for Holodomor victims in cities such as Tiumen, Krasnodar and Voronezh. In Moscow a memorial service took place at Epiphany Cathedral.

Events in Kyiv this year were of an unprecedented scale, with tens of thousands in attendance – the daily newspaper *Ukrayina Moloda* even estimated up to 100,000 participants.

In the morning, Mr. Yushchenko, his family, Mr. Moroz, Vice Prime Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Dmytro Tabachnyk and other government officials attended a moleben service led by Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate at St. Sophia Cathedral.

Leaders of all of Ukraine's major Churches were present, with the exception of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate, which doesn't partake in religious ceremonies with clergy of the Kyiv Patriarchate.

Mr. Yanukovych was noticeably absent as well.

The entourage then traveled to the Park of Eternal Glory to bless a small monument marking the general area where the future Holodomor Historical Memorial Complex and Institute of National Memory will stand.

Ukrainian society is not looking for guilty people to blame in its unfolding social dialogue on the Holodomor, Mr. Yushchenko said. Responsible for the 1932-1933 Holodomor was the totalitarian, Communist, Stalinist regime of the Soviet Union, he said.

"I am convinced that knowing history – true history and not rewritten history – is one of the virtues of the generation that lives," Mr. Yushchenko said.

"We are supposed to know the truth," he said. "Why we buried 10 million of our citizens when 5.5 million tons of grain went through Ukraine to the ports of Odesa, Kerch and Feodosiya. Why did this happen, and what is this called?"

In his address, Mr. Yushchenko cited the example of a single Ukrainian village, Serhiyivka in the Chernihiv Oblast, to exemplify the Holodomor's tragedy.

During the six years of World War II, 488 residents died, compared to more than 1,000 casualties during the two years of the Holodomor. About 650 villagers live there currently.

A symbolic monument

The symbolic monument erected in Kyiv is made of "black boards," or lists that signified the total destruction of a district. During the Holodomor the Soviet government marked 84 districts with black boards.

After Patriarch Filaret led a moleben for the future museum and memorial complex site, the entourage of Ukrainian

leaders went to the Dnipro slopes of the Pecherskyi Landscape Park to plant a second row of kalyna bushes, the national symbol of Ukraine which is used also to commemorate Holodomor victims.

Later in the afternoon, political and religious leaders, including the president's family, Mr. Moroz, Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetskyi, Patriarch Filaret and Patriarch Lubomyr Husar of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church led a memorial procession amidst a thick fog from St. Sophia Cathedral to St. Michael Cathedral.

Tens of thousands of Ukrainians joined, filling the short boulevard with blue-and-yellow flags.

Organizers created a wide, cordoned central section on St. Michael's Square, which was lined with scores of candles in glass jars placed on black platforms and guarded by military cadets holding large Ukrainian flags.

Each Ukrainian leader held a candle nestled in a pot filled with grain and wrapped by a wreath, which was then placed at the monument, followed by representatives of each Ukrainian oblast.

Although not part of the official entourage, among those attending the ceremony were Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk, Lviv Oblast Administration Chair Petro Oliinyk, Soviet dissident Mykhailo Horyn and rock star Sviatoslav Vakarchuk.

In his address, President Yushchenko demanded that Ukraine's Parliament recognize the Holodomor, and called on the Russian Federation "to stand by us, and through government recognition of the Holodomor, demonstrate a high example of human empathy deserving of the Russian people."

"Those who deny the Holodomor deeply and convincingly hate Ukraine," Mr. Yushchenko said. "They hate us, our spirit and our future. They don't deny history. They deny Ukrainian nationhood. In the name of the Ukrainian people, I confirm that Holodomor victims should be honored as martyrs of one of the biggest catastrophes of humanity."

Mr. Yushchenko devoted much of his address citing documents, historical facts and statistics proving the Holodomor was genocide.

During the 1932-1933 Holodomor, 17 Ukrainians died every minute, 1,000 died every hour and 25,000 every day, resulting in between 7 million and 10 million deaths, Mr. Yushchenko said.

The average lifespan for a Ukrainian man in 1933 was seven years, and 10 years for Ukrainian women.

The president cited Communist Party documents that confirmed the party forbade trade on Ukrainian territory in August 1932, and then forbade Ukrainians to travel to Russia to try to find food.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine designated 84 Ukrainian districts as "black board" lists, which entailed isolation, total collectivization of food and wheat supplies, and starvation to death.

"It's hard for me to continue this list of crimes, but there is a single essence today: Ukraine is, and Ukraine lives," Mr. Yushchenko said.

A minute of silence was observed at 4 p.m. following the president's speech.

After the official ceremony, St. Michael's Square opened to allow the thousands of Ukrainians who had arrived to place their glass-enclosed candles at the Holodomor Victims Memorial, and through the square. Some formed shapes of crosses and circles out of the scores of candles placed on the square and placed symbolic wheat sheaves in the middle.

For the first time, organizers put up large plasma screens with speakers that



Cutty Sark Co.

President Viktor Yushchenko and his family plant a guelder-rose bush on November 25, the Day of Memory for Victims of Famines and Political Repressions, in commemoration of Holodomor victims at the Guelder-Rose Grove in Kyiv.

displayed Holodomor survivors giving their testimonies.

Among those attending the ceremony was a Poltava village native, Vera Kolomiyets, 55, who said her parents survived the Holodomor only because her grandmother was able to trade the Kozak family gold for five kilograms of grain to feed her family.

Her grandmother, Efrosynia Vasko, told her about her Holodomor experience when Ms. Kolomiyets was nine years old.

She sold the family gold to buy back the very same grain the local Communists had collected – only for a higher price, she said.

Most of these Communists, including the collective farm chair, his deputy and supervisors, were ethnic Jews and survived the Holodomor, Ms. Kolomiyets said.

She is convinced the Holodomor was a genocide against ethnic Ukrainians, particularly the middle-class intelligentsia to which her family belonged. They owned 62 acres of land.

"It was the extermination of the Ukrainian nation," Ms. Kolomiyets said. "Not of the Ukrainian people, because a lot of nations belong to the Ukrainian people, but the Ukrainian nation."

As a result, a disturbing number of Ukrainians citizens deny the Holodomor was genocide because many aren't ethnic Ukrainians themselves, particularly in eastern Ukraine, said Oksana, her daughter.

"God forbid any nation live through such a horror," Ms. Kolomiyets said. "Because this genocide was the biggest in the world and that's why I think people have to unite against this evil."

The president's entourage and family attended an evening concert of Verdi's "Requiem" at the Shevchenko National Opera and Ballet Theater.

Patriarch Filaret said the Holodomor's goal was to destroy the Ukrainian people, and succeeded in eradicating the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church because it was Ukrainian.

Ukraine's population declined by 7.5 million between 1929 and 1939, while the other Soviet republics experienced population growth during that time.

"The Bolshevik regime not only destroyed the Ukrainian nation, but the Ukrainian spirit," the patriarch said. "Having obtained nationhood from God, Ukraine wants spiritual rebirth and wants to tell the truth about its history."

Other memorial events

Throughout late November, numerous Holodomor-related events took place in Kyiv and throughout Ukraine.

An American businessman and advocate for recognition of the Holodomor, Morgan Williams, organized a November 29 ceremony at which the National Academy of Arts presented awards to students for their submissions to the Holodomor Poster Art Program.

Since 1988 Mr. Williams has amassed the world's largest collection of Holodomor-related artwork – about 300 pieces – a significant part of which are posters created in the last two decades because virtually no original artwork from the 1930s has remained to this day.

The Alex and Helen Woskob Foundation based in State College, Pa., provided the financial awards to the contest winners, which included \$300 for first place, three \$200 second-place awards and four \$100 third-place awards, as well as \$50 to remaining participants.

National Academy of Arts fifth-year student Yulia Kunshykova, 21, won first place for her poster, "Speechless Misery in the Yard."

In blood red and black colors, the poster depicts a fence made of horizontally arranged branches, the prototypical symbol of the Ukrainian village, leaning against a wood pillar. Higher up, a row of branches bears a slightly lighter tone than its neighbors, forming the image of a cross and symbolizing the deaths that occurred behind fences.

Mr. Williams was in Kyiv for the

(Continued on page 22)

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The Tarasyuk tussle

Within the span of less than a week, Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk was sacked (by the Verkhovna Rada) and then unsacked (by a Kyiv district court) and reconfirmed in his position by President Viktor Yushchenko. This strange situation is, in fact, a dangerous war over who controls the foreign policy of Ukraine.

The first shot was fired in September by Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich when he traveled to Brussels and said that Ukraine "will have to take a pause" in its bid for NATO membership. That statement directly conflicted with the foreign policy goals of Mr. Yushchenko, who had hoped to have Ukraine sign a Membership Action Plan at the NATO summit in November.

To be sure, observers were not surprised by Mr. Yanukovich's stance; after all, he had made his feelings known way before this. However, he had signed the Universal of National Unity in which all signatories agreed that membership in the alliance is to be pursued. Furthermore, Mr. Yanukovich's statement violated Ukraine's law on national security, which lists NATO membership as a goal.

The prime minister's move in Brussels was strongly criticized by Foreign Affairs Minister Tarasyuk and Defense Minister Anatolii Hrytsenko, as well as Mr. Yushchenko, who called it "mistaken." Mr. Yanukovich, in turn, rebuked both ministers and the Verkhovna Rada adopted a resolution supporting Mr. Yanukovich's stance on NATO.

Lawmakers of the ruling coalition of the Party of the Regions, Socialist Party and Communist Party, insisted that Ministers Tarasyuk and Hrytsenko be called to account before the Rada, leveling broad accusations of unsatisfactory work and negligence.

A few days before Mr. Yanukovich's official visit to the U.S., Minister Tarasyuk attempted to cancel the trip since the prime minister had not sought presidential approval for his agenda. Ultimately, the prime minister's directives for the trip were approved by the president and the trip went ahead. However, Mr. Yanukovich made it clear that he would seek Mr. Tarasyuk's dismissal.

It must be noted that, while the Constitution of Ukraine spells out who appoints the minister of foreign affairs, it does not say who can dismiss him. As the matter now stands, Ukraine must await a ruling of the Constitutional Court to revolve the issue of who has the authority to oust ministers appointed by the president.

In the meantime, the war over control of foreign policy within what our Kyiv correspondent has so aptly characterized as Ukraine's "bipolar government" continues. And Ukraine's most experienced foreign policy expert – whose track record includes such successes as free market economy status conferred by the European Union and the lifting of Jackson-Vanik restrictions on trade with the U.S. – has fallen victim to the machinations of the Party of the Regions and its cronies.

It is a dangerous situation as these forces refuse to abide by agreements freely entered into, ignore the separation of powers written into the Constitution, and simply seize power however they can, threatening Ukraine's stability and subverting its democratic foundations – in short, acting against the national interests of Ukraine.

Dec.
12
1976

Turning the pages back...

A statue of Taras Shevchenko was unveiled 30 years ago in Encarnacion, Paraguay, as reported by The Ukrainian Weekly. At the time, this statue brought the total number of monuments to the poet-laureate of Ukraine to a total of six –

three of them located in South America. The monument, a bust of Shevchenko by Leonard Rodriguez, professor of art at the University of Buenos Aires, measures 75 centimeters high and sits atop a meter-and-a-half pedestal.

Over 700 Ukrainian families organized the Taras Shevchenko Monument Committee, with Roman Pylinsky as chairman, and raised the funds for the statue. On November 19, 1976, Paraguay's President Alfredo Stroessner and Mr. Pylinsky together unveiled the monument before a crowd of approximately 1,500 people.

Metropolitan Mstyslav of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the U.S.A. was assisted by Bishop Yladimiro of the UOC in Brazil, Bishop Efraim Krevey of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Brazil, and other clergy in blessing the monument.

One speaker called Shevchenko a "torch of freedom" that was brought to this country "to fill his countrymen with optimism and pride in the proper path of life, to which he educated himself."

The unveiling was the culmination of a weeklong series of Ukrainian events, kicked off by an official proclamation of "Ukrainian Week" on November 15, 1976, by Mayor Jose Caballero. The events were co-sponsored by the Paraguayan Prosvita Society and the Ukrainian Central Representation in Argentina. Throughout the week, a Ukrainian art exhibit, organized by the Ukrainian National Women's League of Argentina, was held in the Regional Hall.

Dr. Jarema Taurydzky and Ivan Regey of the Smoloskyp Ukrainian Information Service, with Tomas Miko of Encarnacion's public relations office, held a press conference on November 17, 1976, where questions were answered about the monument's unveiling, Ukrainians in Paraguay and repressions in Ukraine, with Smoloskyp distributing brochures about the plight of Ukrainian political prisoners.

The festivities continued with two concerts held on November 18 and 20, 1976, in the Domingo Robledd Stadium. The first concert, attended by an estimated 1,300 people, featured the Prosvita Society's female chorus and the Prosvita ballet from Buenos Aires. The second concert, with approximately 3,000 people in attendance, featured the Kalyna dancers and chorus from the Ukrainian National Youth Federation branch in Toronto.

Special dedication services brought the week to a close at St. Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church and St. George Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Source: "Ukrainians unveil Shevchenko Monument in Paraguay," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, December 12, 1976.

FOR THE RECORD

Ukraine's law on the Famine-Genocide

Following is the text of the law of Ukraine about the Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, as published at <http://maidan.org.ua/static/news/2006/164726292.html> and translated by Svitlana Kobzar for The Ukraine List (No. 406, November 30). The bill was passed on November 28 and signed into law on November 29.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine,

Honoring the memory of the millions of compatriots who became victims of the 1932-1933 Famine and its consequences in Ukraine;

Respecting all citizens who lived through this terrible tragedy in the history of the Ukrainian people (Ukrainskoho narodu);

Realizing our moral obligation to the past and future generations of Ukrainians and recognizing the necessity for the rebirth of historical justice and our affirmation of intolerance towards any signs of violence;

Recalling that the Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine was officially repudiated by the USSR government for many decades;

Condemning the criminal acts of the totalitarian regime of the USSR, directed towards the organization of the Famine, the consequences of which became the extermination of millions of people, the destruction of the social basis of the Ukrainian people, its ancient traditions, spiritual culture and ethnic traditions;

Expressing condolences to other peoples of the former USSR which fell victim to the Famine;

Highly appreciating the solidarity and support of the international community in condemning the Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, which is illustrated in the legislation of the parliaments of Australia, the Argentine Republic, Georgia, the Republic of Estonia, the Italian Republic, Canada, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Poland, the United States of America, the Republic of Hungary, as well as the dissemination of an official document of the 58th Session of the United Nations General Assembly to remember the 70th anniversary of the Famine – the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, signed by the Argentine Republic, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Benin, the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Guatemala, Georgia, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, Canada, the State of Qatar, the Kyrgyz Republic, the State of Kuwait, the Republic of Macedonia, Mongolia, the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Nepal, the United Arab Emirates, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Peru, the South African Republic, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United States of America, the Republic of Sudan, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, the Republic of Uzbekistan, Ukraine and Jamaica, as well being supported by Australia, the State of Israel, the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro and 25 governments – members of the European Union.

Following the recommendation of the parliamentary hearings regarding commemorating the victims of the 1932-1933 Famine, adopted by an Act of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine as of March, 2003, No. 607-IV, and the address to the Ukrainian people by the members of the extraordinary hearing of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine as of May 14, 2003, regarding perpetuating the memory of the victims of the Famine of 1932-1933, adopted by an Act of the

Verkhovna Rada as of May 15, 2003, No. 789-IV, in which the Famine is recognized as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people, the result of deliberate actions by the totalitarian regime aimed at the mass extermination of parts of the Ukrainian and other peoples of the former USSR;

Recognizing the Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, in accordance with the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide as of December 9, 1948, as a deliberate act of mass extermination of peoples;

Adopt this law.

Article 1. The Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine is a genocide of the Ukrainian people.

Article 2. The denial in public of the Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine is recognized as a sacrilege against the memory of the millions of victims of the Famine, and also disrespect of the Ukrainian people and is considered illegal (protypravnyi).

Article 3. Government bodies and local government, according to their roles, are responsible for:

- partaking in the process of creating and implementing government policy supporting the national memory of the Ukrainian people (narod);

- influencing the consolidation and development of the Ukrainian nation (natsiya), its historical and cultural sense, dissemination of information about the Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine among its citizens as well as worldwide, ensuring teaching about the tragedy of the Famine as part of the educational curriculum of Ukraine;

- taking actions to ensure the commemoration of the victims of the Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, including constructing memorials in honor of those who suffered and memorial markers for the victims of the Famine;

- ensuring, in accordance with government regulation, that researchers and citizens who investigate the issues of the Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine and its consequences have access to academic and public materials, including the archives and other institutions that contain information regarding the Famine.

Article 4. The government provides conditions for conducting research and activities to commemorate victims of the Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine in accordance with the relevant government program, the funding of which is allocated yearly from the government budget of Ukraine.

Article 5. Final Provisions:

- 1. This law is enacted from the day of its publication.

- For the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine:

- 1) determine the status and functions of the Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance, as a special representative body of the executive branch for the renewal and protection of the memory of the Ukrainian people, and ensure the sustenance of the institute using funds from the Ukrainian National Budget,

- 2) three months from the inception of this law: provide proposals to the Verkhovna Rada for the harmonization of Ukrainian legislation in accordance with this law; align its normative-legal regulations in accordance with this law; ensure the annulment of any existing legislation which contradicts this law;

- 3) address relevant issues, according to the plans developed with the participation of the Kyiv City Government Council, regarding the construction of the Ukrainian memorial before the 75th anniversary of the Famine of 1932-1933 in remembrance of its victims.

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



The community and belonging

It's nice to belong to a community – indeed, it's essential, as far as I'm concerned. Engaging its members in an annual calendar, the community taps into the same cycle that gives us the seasons and in the process, provides an anchor and a sense of identity. There are many communities where you can belong – mine happens to be Ukrainian American and, if you're reading this, there's a good chance you belong to that group as well, through birth, marriage, adoption or choice.

I became a full, active member of the community when our family moved to Cleveland on Labor Day weekend in 1954 – my seventh birthday. A week later, I was going to Ukrainian School on Saturday mornings, Plast scout meetings in the afternoon and church in the shadows of the industrial valley the next day. In the years and decades that followed, I attended many an Independence Day commemoration in January, Shevchenko concerts in March, Captive Nations Weeks in July, sporting events and debutante balls. In the spring, there's Easter and in December St. Nicholas' eagerly awaited visit. There's borsch, kutia and Holy Christmas Eve a couple weeks later, until the cycle begins all over again with a cross carved from ice on Epiphany (“Jordan”) in mid-January. I also remember one-of-a-kind celebrations like the Millennium of Ukrainian Christianity in 1988 and the exuberant gathering at St. Josaphat's Church Hall in December 1991 when Ukrainians in Ukraine overwhelmingly ratified their country's independence.

Over the course of a lifetime, I've accumulated many friends with whom I've shared these and other experiences. Years later, at liturgies, concerts, dances, parties, weddings, christenings and funerals, I see the men and women I grew up with, looking eerily like their fathers and mothers of 40 years ago; and young people at Kashtan Dance School and Ridna Shkola are very much like the boys and girls I knew growing up.

At home, many of us choose to celebrate holidays like our ancestors did. I measure our children's growth and my own inexorable aging in the pictures we take each year in front of a Christmas tree or at the blessing of Easter baskets.

The community is diverse and mobile; not all my friends are parents, married or living in Cleveland – many have scattered to different cities, some to Europe; several are in Ukraine. And that's a source of joy, as well; on more than one occasion, someone I haven't seen for a decade or more has greeted me as if we'd shared a drink and a joke yesterday.

The community that runs on an annual calendar also moves relentlessly through time. Sadly, nearly everyone who taught me at Ukrainian School, counseled me in Plast or coached me in sports is now gone. So too is the little boy I knew, who reaped their generosity. Now I drive my own children to events on the rare occasions my wife isn't able to.

It's nearly 20 years now that I met Chrystia at a zabava and, like others in the community, we're repeating the routine of church, youth and culture groups, three weeks of summer camp and Soyuzivka in August. Some of those my wife once tucked into sleeping bags when she was a camp counselor have counseled our own children. At Ridna Shkola a new immigration replenishes the ranks of teachers.

These reflections come to mind as I flip

through the pages of “Ukrainians of Chicagoland” by Dr. Myron Kuropas, who shares the space on page 7 of The Ukrainian Weekly. The 128-page book is jam-packed with photographs spanning a century in America's Second City. The book starts with “God and Country” – immigrants building their churches in a new land and sacrificing in the country's wars – and ends with “Bridges to Ukraine,” describing how the community is reaching out to the home county in this era of jet travel and instant communication.

In between, Myron chronicles the academic, cultural, economic and political life of the community. Perforce, he includes the Kuropas clan – his late father, Stephan, wife, Lesia, and sons, Stefko and Michael – who all provided tireless service to the community, particularly the Ukrainian National Association. Myron also served on the staff of Sen. Bob Dole and President Gerald Ford. Leafing through the book, I recognize others from political life: Democratic activist and philanthropist Julian Kulas; his brother and State Rep. Myron; State Rep. Boris Antonovych; Kateryna Chumachenko-Yushchenko, first lady of Ukraine.

Of course, the book features generous offerings of choirs, orchestras, dance ensembles, artists, galleries, museums, schools and a brass band from 1917. Scanning the faces, I see a good many I've met and recognize restaurants, shops where I've bought books and the Ukrainian National Museum. Mostly, though, the photos are of people long gone, who worked anonymously to enrich the community and support the homeland: women marching in 1930 to protest Polish policies in western Ukraine; a column of citizens in 1963 commemorating the Famine-Genocide; a float rolling at a downtown Chicago parade in 1976 supporting political prisoners in Soviet Ukraine; and, yes, a group making pyrohy to help raise funds for the parish church – with no year, names or location, it could have been yesterday or a hundred years ago, in Chicago, Cleveland or St. Louis.

As we go through life, we seldom see changes from day to day, yet over the course of five or 100 years, everything seems astonishingly different. “Ukrainians in Chicagoland” chronicles that process, documenting the community within the context of its annual calendar over the course of four generations. What's striking is how much endures.

Consisting almost entirely of photographs, the book is easy to read and fun to browse. There are hundreds and hundreds of people I never met or heard of, yet I feel as if I know them because in a way I do – they're so much like those who helped educate me and those I've taught; those who mentored me and helped me get jobs or asked me to help with their own employment; people who've invited me to graduations, weddings, christenings; people whose articles I've read, whose concerts I've enjoyed, whose funerals I've attended.

Ukrainians have a longer Christmas season and more extensive gift list than most. If you're looking for gift ideas, may I suggest gift subscriptions to The Ukrainian Weekly and a copy of “Ukrainians in Chicagoland” by Dr. Kuropas (www.arcadiapublishing.com; 1-888-313-2665)? Give “Sviaty Mykolai” a hand.

Andrew Fedynsky's e-mail address is fedynsky@stratos.net.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



The comeback of Christmas

Good news! Christmas is making a comeback. The signs are everywhere. Even Hollywood seems to be coming around with “The Nativity,” a great new film for the season.

But the struggle is not over. Although Wal-Mart has finally allowed its employees to say “Merry Christmas,” secular humanists are still out there, ready to transform the season into their own image at your and my expense, all in the name of political correctness and phony legalities.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Americans United for Separation of Church and State and others of like mind continue to scare Americans into relinquishing their civil rights of free speech and religious expression. Fortunately, conservative organizations are pushing back.

The Rutherford Institute recently published “The Twelve Rules of Christmas,” providing much-needed legal clarification regarding what we can and cannot do. Each rule is documented by references to court decisions. I list three of the rules below.

“Government entities may erect and maintain celebrations of the Christmas holiday such as Christmas trees and Christmas light displays, and may include a crèche in their displays, so long as the purpose for including the crèche is not to promote its religious content and is placed in the context with other symbols of the season as part of an effort to celebrate the public Christmas holiday through its traditional symbols.”

“Public schools may include Christmas music, including music with religious themes, in their choral programs if the songs are included for a secular purpose, such as their musical quality or cultural value, or if the songs are part of an overall performance including other holiday songs relating to Chanukah, Kwanzaa or other similar holidays.”

“Public schools may teach students about the Christmas holiday, including its religious significance, so long as it is taught objectively for secular purposes such as its historical or cultural importance, and not for the purpose of promoting Christianity.”

If you encounter any difficulties, the folks at the Rutherford Institute suggest contacting their legal hotline (1-800-224-1791) or e-mailing them at legal@rutherford.org.

Why is this important? According to the Alliance Defense Fund, cited in a November 27 column by Don Kroah (“The Assault on Christmas”), “90 percent of Americans recognized Christmas as the birthday of Jesus Christ; 88 percent say it's okay for people to wish others ‘Merry Christmas’ rather than ‘Happy Holidays,’ and 87 percent of Americans believe nativity scenes should be allowed on public property.” In short, most Americans want to continue traditional Christmas activities.

And yet, the ADF contends, “due to political correctness, disinformation and even the threat of lawsuits from the ACLU and its allies, religious expression at Christmastime is increasingly absent from the public square.”

The richly funded and privileged ACLU leadership has tried to convince Americans the problem lies with Christian intolerance. They also would have us believe that the Christmas practices of generations of Americans have been

unconstitutional! Balderdash. In reality, it is the bigoted ACLU that practices intolerance and intellectual terrorism.

Mr. Kroah offers four suggestions for continuing the resistance movement: 1) “Become informed about the relentless assault on religious symbols and expressions that have, historically, been integral to who we are as a nation.” 2) “Refuse to cave in to the pressure of political correctness, whether in your daily speech or in conversations with others. For example, when confronted with the usual ‘Happy Holidays’ at this time of year, why not respond politely but directly with ‘Merry Christmas’ ” 3) “Refuse to shop at retailers who are openly hostile to religious beliefs, symbols or expressions – and let them know of your decision! Do it politely, but do it firmly.” 4) “Express your concerns with letters, phone calls, e-mail and/or faxes to the appropriate corporate leaders, city officials, and others who have the power to make decisions affecting the constant efforts to ‘secularize’ our culture. Wal-Mart's recent reversal is an example of what can be done, as boycotts by the American Family Association (AFA) and the Catholic League are credited for Wal-Mart's decision to come to its senses regarding the issue.”

The bottom line, dear reader, is this. Don't stand on the sidelines in shock as our Judeo-Christian culture is chipped away by those who posture as progressives while pushing a wholly retrogressive agenda.

It's not easy to openly profess religious views or attitudes in America today. It wasn't easy being Christian in Soviet Ukraine either, and yet some people did honor their faith. They paid a price, often a dear price (the gulag or worse), but they wouldn't compromise their values when most people around them sold out. Remember those who were willing to die or suffer for their faith, people like Ukrainian Orthodox Metropolitan Vasyl Lypkivsky or Ukrainian Catholic Patriarch Josyf Slipyj. They knew what fate awaited them for resisting Bolshevik atheism. Recall these Ukrainian martyrs and countless others the next time you hesitate saying “Merry Christmas” for fear of offending. How serious is offending someone compared to the gulag? Get real.

Never forget that the founders of our great nation were believers; most were overwhelmingly Christian in their religious faith. The motto “In God we trust” was not proclaimed by American atheists.

People whose goal in life is never to offend rarely accomplish much that is valued by others. Non-offenders also make few mistakes because they rarely risk. It is those who hazard indignation, disdain, even vilification for great ideas that ultimately triumph.

An idea is out there that I wish I had thought of. Someone suggested sending a Christmas card to the ACLU. I plan to do just that, a Ukrainian Christmas card as a matter of fact. Send yours to: ACLU, 125 Broad St., 18th Floor, New York, NY 10004. Believe me, you'll feel all warm and fuzzy doing it.

In keeping with the season, I wish my readers and all people of good will a Blessed and Merry Christmas. Khrystos Rodyvsia!

Myron Kuropas's e-mail address is kuropas@comcast.net.

Saskatchewan Ukrainians honor "nation builders," community leaders

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan – Guests from across Saskatchewan and Canada, among them Dr. Gordon Barnhart, lieutenant-governor of Saskatchewan, and his wife, Naomi, attended a sold-out awards luncheon in Saskatoon on November 5 to pay tribute to 10 very special people.

Recognition events, now known as the Nation Builders and Community Recognition Awards Luncheon, have been held in various centers around Saskatchewan every year since 1995 under the auspices of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Saskatchewan Provincial Council (UCC-SPC) to celebrate the contributions of individuals with ties to the province.

This year, four individuals were recognized as nation builders for providing outstanding service without reward or gain and having made a lasting impact regionally, nationally and/or internationally:

- Dr. Lorne A. Babiuk (Canora-Saskatoon), international authority in veterinary virology and immunology, distinguished researcher, mentor, university professor;

- the late Anne Mary Buchko (Goodeve-Ituna), educator, church and community leader, champion of the Ukrainian community, volunteer, mentor, coach, organizer, artisan;

- Sister Theodosia, née Theresa Papirnik (Edmonton-Saskatoon), spiritual advisor, leader, humanitarian, visionary, administrator, writer, advocate, volunteer, champion of human rights; and

- Brig. Gen. Joseph Romanow (Saskatoon-Ottawa), leader, decorated serviceman, author, lecturer, role model, humanitarian, community volunteer and activist.

Community Recognition Awards were presented to six individuals for meritorious contributions in the following areas:

- Cultural preservation and development: Anita Drebot (Sudbury-Regina), tireless volunteer, teacher, organizer, respected community resource in areas of Ukrainian culture, language and traditions; and Cecilia Kachkowski (Melfort-Saskatoon), educator, generous volunteer, respected community resource in areas of Ukrainian language and folk-arts, church activist, master gardener.

- Leadership: Evelyn Darlene Hull (Willowbrook), church and community activist, teacher, volunteer, leader, role model, active in preserving and developing Ukrainian culture through dance.

- Volunteerism: John Panio (Montmartre), church and community activist, leader, language teacher, dedicated volunteer, musician, promoter of Ukrainian language, culture and traditions

- Youth Achievement: Sophia Nahachewsky (Prince Albert), role model, humanitarian, overseas volunteer, altar server, Sunday school teacher, recognized Air Cadet, Ukrainian dancer, musician, high academic achiever; and Taisa Trischuk (Yorkton), accomplished dancer and instructor, high academic achiever, school and community leader, organizer, humanitarian, volunteer, musician, youth activist.

"The Ukrainian community has made astounding contributions to Canada since the first immigrants arrived over a century ago," said Lt. Gov. Barnhart in his greetings to the 250 assembled.

"The positive impact of Ukrainian Canadians has been especially significant in Saskatchewan, where we have been served by lieutenant governors (Dr.



Bob Puderak

Seen at the 2006 Nation Builders and Community Recognition Awards Luncheon are: (standing, from left) John Panio, Sister Theodosia, Fred Buchko (accepting for his late wife, Anne Mary), UCC-SPC President Eugene Krenosky, Cecilia Kachkowski, Anita Drebot, Evelyn Hull, Sophia Nahachewsky, Taisa Trischuk, (seated) Dr. Gordon Barnhart and Naomi Barnhart.

Stephen Worobetz and Dr. Sylvia Fedoruk, a premier (Roy Romanow) and a chief Justice (Edward Bayda) who are of Ukrainian heritage."

Former Saskatchewan Premier Romanow, who was recognized as a nation builder in 1999, was present at the awards dinner as a guest of his cousin, Brig. Gen. Romanow, who was honored this year.

Formal greetings were brought from the City of Saskatoon by Mayor Don Atchison; from the Province by Pat

Atkinson, member of the Legislative Assembly for Saskatoon Nutana and minister for immigration, advanced education and the Public Service Commission, and UCC-SPC President Eugene Krenosky, who presided over the event.

The UCC-SPC is an inclusive, vibrant, self-sustaining provincial cultural organization that serves the Saskatchewan Ukrainian community to maintain, develop and share its Ukrainian Canadian identity, culture and aspirations.



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BOOK NOTES

“A tribute to Ukrainian Chicagoland”

“Ukrainians of Chicagoland,” by Myron B. Kuropas, Ph.D. Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2006. 128 pp., softcover, \$19.99. ISBN: 0-7385-4099-4.

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – “A tribute to Ukrainian Chicagoland” is how Dr. Myron B. Kuropas’ latest book is described by Arcadia Publishing, which specializes in books on local and regional history.

And, indeed it is.

“Ukrainians of Chicagoland” is a 128-page book filled with more than 200 photographs of the Ukrainian community from the Chicago area that has been active there since the late 1880s, arriving, as the author notes, during four separate periods: 1885-1914, 1923-1939, 1948-1960 and since 1991. Many of the high-quality photographs – of groups, individuals, events and institutions – are vintage photos of historic significance. Accompanying the photos are captions that tell the story of the community’s endeavors in myriad fields.

The book is divided into seven chapters:

- “God and Country,” focusing on Ukrainian Churches and Ukrainian Americans’ service in the U.S. armed forces;
- “Fraternal Institutions,” including the Ukrainian National Association, the Ukrainian Fraternal Association, the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics and the Ukrainian National Aid Association (which merged with Providence in 2000);
- “For an Independent Ukraine,” focusing on Ukrainian Americans’ efforts to secure the independence of their ancestral homeland;
- “Education, Youth and Sports,” which covers the diverse organizations active in preserving Ukrainian identity, among them youth groups, choirs, dance troupes, sports teams;
- “Drama, Music, Art,” focusing on the Ukrainian cultural heritage and the individuals and artistic groups that work in this field;
- “Ukrainian Village,” a special section devoted to the Ukrainian neighborhood of Chicago and how it has developed through the years; and
- “Bridges to Ukraine,” spotlighting programs that connect Chicago’s Ukrainians and all of its residents to Ukraine.

Each chapter is richly illustrated by photos and accompanied by informative text that provides a capsule history of the specific topic. In addition, outstanding Ukrainian Americans who have made contributions in the political, economic and artistic realms are highlighted. Among them is Volodymyr Simenovych, a physician and multi-talented community leader whom the author describes as “the first ethno-nationally aware Ukrainian immigrant in Chicago.” Thus, the book lives up to its billing as “a historical snapshot of one of the most dynamic ethnic communities in the United States.”

“Ukrainians of Chicagoland” is clearly a labor of love, as the author is not only an immigration historian, but also a native son of Chicago. The author’s inspiration for the book, he says, “was my immigrant parents, who spent their entire adult life working on behalf of the Ukrainian American community.” Furthermore, he says his latest book is a gift to Ukrainians in the Chicago area.

Dr. Kuropas says he hopes his book introduces readers to “the rich, multi-faceted culture which continues to attract talented and committed people willing to preserve and develop it.” He also says, “I hope that my book will clarify many of the misconceptions readers may have about Ukrainians.”

Dr. Kuropas noted that if this book sells well, there is an opportunity to publish books about the Ukrainian communities of other areas, for example, Detroit, New York, Cleveland, Philadelphia and New Jersey. “I really hope other communities will take advantage of this opportunity and publish similar books through Arcadia,” he added.

Arcadia Publishing is the largest publisher of regional history books in North America. It has published more than 3,000 titles, telling the stories of towns and cities, as well as focusing on regional topics such as industry, architecture, ethnic groups, transportation and other areas.

Dr. Kuropas holds a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and is the author of three books on Ukrainian



immigration history. Currently he is an adjunct professor at Northern Illinois University.

“Ukrainians of Chicagoland” was officially launched on November 17 with an event at the Ukrainian National Museum in Chicago and in conjunction with Chicago Ukrainians’ celebration of the centennial of their formal presence in the area, which was marked by the establishment of St. Nicholas Parish.

The book is available at area bookstores, independent retailers and online book sellers, as well as such bookstore chains as Borders and Barnes & Noble, and directly from Arcadia Publishing at www.arcadiapublishing.com or by calling 888-313-2665.

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FOR THE RECORD: Open letter to Viktor Yanukovich from the UCCA

Following is the text of an open letter sent on December 4 by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America to Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich of Ukraine. The translation from the original Ukrainian was provided by the UCCA.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

The Ukrainian American community is deeply disturbed by recent events in Ukraine. We believe that the continued confrontation between the branches of power and illegal decisions by the Parliament prove that Ukraine is returning to anarchy, based not on democratic principles, but on personal interests of its politicians. From the time of your appointment as prime minister, our community, which also includes numerous citizens of Ukraine who now reside in the United States, has been disturbed by several issues, which in our opinion require careful consideration by your Cabinet.

As in any young state, which is resurrecting its heritage after a lengthy occupation and persecution of its national culture, the development of the Ukrainian language and culture is critical to the reconstitution of its national identity. We strongly believe that all Ukrainian government officials, as well as members of Parliament, while performing their official duties, should use only the state language of Ukraine. The Constitution of Ukraine states: "The state language in

Ukraine is the Ukrainian language. The state guarantees the comprehensive development and use of the Ukrainian language in all spheres of society across the entire territory of Ukraine" (Article 10). As Ivan Dzyuba stated, "without the [Ukrainian] language, without its Ukrainian culture, Ukraine simply will not be – no matter how great the state of the economy is."

Mr. Prime Minister, you yourself stated, "the state language is the Ukrainian language" (October 30, 2006, Ukrayinska Pravda). It is shameful that in your official capacity as the head of the Ukrainian government, you spoke Russian when reacting to the firing of Minister Tarasyuk during your interview in Mariupol. Furthermore, in a recent interview with Oles Buzyna, Dmytro Tabachnyk, the vice prime minister for humanitarian affairs, stated that the cultural policy of Ukraine aimed at resurrecting national awareness and self-respect is "in the interests of a narrow stratum of the Ukrainian-speaking intelligentsia, who is simply afraid of competition in all areas." This statement is deplorable from a representative of the Ukrainian government, and in our opinion such Ukrainophobes have no place in the government of Ukraine. We believe that the government should continue the process of Ukrainianization in Ukraine, and we urge you to begin this forthright.

The issue of the 1932-1933 Genocide in Ukraine is extremely important to the Ukrainian nation. We were pleased to hear that legislation was passed on November 28 in the Ukrainian Parliament, which recognized the forced Famine as a genocide, although we were disappointed that the language of the bill was softened. We were also disheartened by the fact that only two members of your faction voted for this bill. We hope that your government will continue to work for recognition of this crime as genocide on the international level and we will assist in this endeavor by working with the government of other countries and international organizations. We also believe it necessary to conduct a nationwide educational campaign regarding the history, causes and repercussions of the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine's educational facilities, as well as among the general public.

Another sensitive issue for Ukraine is that of recognizing and affording the appropriate privileges to the veterans of OUN/UPA [Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists/Ukrainian Insurgent Army], who fought for freedom and the restoration of Ukraine's statehood. It is time to change their negative image created by the Soviet state and recognize those who fought against the two cruelest regimes of the 20th century. In the interests of restoring the truthful history of Ukraine, which is an important element in establishing a civic society in a democratic, sovereign state, the government of Ukraine should recognize the OUN/UPA fighters and afford them the same privileges as other World War II veterans.

Mr. Prime Minister, you defined the main prerogative of the Ukrainian govern-

ment's activities during an interview on October 27, 2006, by saying that "The main principle of our policies is to act based on the national interests of Ukraine." The time has come to earnestly implement those principles into action. Unfortunately, prior to now, the work of your government has been contrary to your declared principles, and not in the interest of the Ukrainian people/nation. Moreover, the actions [of firing the Minister of Foreign Affairs Borys Tarasyuk] by representatives of your party in Parliament on the anniversary of the nationwide referendum of December 1, 1991, for the independence of Ukraine, are tragically symbolic. On the anniversary of the day when the Ukrainian people expressed their desire to be independent, the Parliament made some illegal decisions that endanger this independence.

Prior to your appointment as prime minister, you signed the Universal of National Unity. However, you continue to violate the universal's principles by interfering in the political spheres that are not within your jurisdiction. We hope that in the future you will fulfill all the achieved agreements and will act solely in the interests of the Ukrainian people.

We request you to seriously consider our thoughts and aim your initiatives to benefit the people of Ukraine. The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) and the Ukrainian American community have always actively cooperated with the government of Ukraine and we hope to continue this cooperation to ensure a better future for Ukraine and its people.

New York/Washington
December 4, 2006

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The National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy needs your support. Ukraine will be built and sustained by a new generation of leaders. One of the greatest challenges of our day is to provide the highest level of education to this new generation. Together we can accomplish this goal.

The Kyiv Mohyla Academy has been the preeminent academic institution of Ukraine for much of its tortured history. Established in 1615 as the first institution of higher learning in Ukraine, it produced many of the country's most respected scholars and intellectuals. During the Russian Empire, the Academy was closed by the tsars and it was used for military purposes until the end of the 70-year Soviet regime. In 1991, the Kyiv Mohyla Academy was opened again under the leadership of Dr. Viacheslav Briukhovetsky.

In the years since, the Academy regained its traditional position of Ukraine's most prominent academic center, with its emphasis on excellence in education, respect for human rights and ethical norms and democratic ideals of national and individual freedom.

Two years after the Orange Revolution when the university played a significant role, it faces a different reality in the country's struggles. It is a reality which brings forth challenges and difficulties for its academic autonomy.

Your participation and support in the events planned during the month of February will be a highly valued contribution to the financial and moral support of the work of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy.

We invite everyone to participate in the planned events. Further detailed information on each event will be forthcoming in the Ukrainian-American media and in correspondence. Thank you for your support.

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FEBRUARY 11, 2007

SUNDAY 1 p.m.

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St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral - Silver Spring

FEBRUARY 17, 2007

SATURDAY 5:30 p.m.

NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY

Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey - Whippany

FEBRUARY 18, 2007

SUNDAY 1 p.m.

CHICAGO

Ukrainian Cultural Center - Chicago

FEBRUARY 24, 2007

SATURDAY 5:30 p.m.

DETROIT

Ukrainian Cultural Center - Warren

FEBRUARY 25, 2007

SUNDAY 2 p.m.

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FOR THE RECORD: Memorandum to prime minister from Coalition for a Secure and Democratic Ukraine

Following is the text of a memorandum on the occasion of the U.S. visit by Prime Minister Yanukovich of Ukraine that was sent by the Coalition for a Secure and Democratic Ukraine on December 4.

The CDSU: The Coalition for a Secure and Democratic Ukraine seeks to promote strong relations between the United States and Ukraine, a close institutional relationship between Congress and the Verkhovna Rada, and the integration of a democratic, market-oriented Ukraine into the Euro-Atlantic community. Americans want to see Ukraine succeed as a modern

European state, which offers the brightest future for the Ukrainian people.

The CDSU is the successor to the Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition, which united the efforts of more than 250 businesses and Ukrainian American, Jewish American and other non-governmental organizations to promote Ukraine's graduation from the provisions of the Jackson-Vanik amendment. That goal was accomplished in March 2006, when President Bush signed legislation removing Ukraine from the purview of Jackson-Vanik and granting permanent normal trade relations status to Ukraine.

The CDSU welcomes Prime Minister

Yanukovich's visit to the United States and hopes it will strengthen U.S.-Ukraine relations and Ukraine's ability to realize its full potential. The CDSU believes the following are important for Ukraine's ability to move forward.

Democratic consolidation: Ukraine has recorded significant democratic gains over the past two years. It is important that the government safeguard these gains; promote further steps to protect the independent media and non-governmental organizations; and institute measures to make government at all levels more accountable to its citizens.

A common vision: Prime Minister Yanukovich and President Yushchenko should have a common vision for Ukraine's democratic future in Europe. This vision should be pro-Ukraine, practical and understandable to Ukraine's partners. It should respect the constitutional roles of the president and prime minister. The appearance of two competing foreign policies in Kyiv, as has been the case in the past few months, causes confusion among Ukraine's partners and seriously undermines Ukraine's international authority.

WTO: Accession to the World Trade Organization will integrate Ukraine into the global economy, open the way for negotiation of a free trade agreement with the European Union, and help protect Ukrainian exporters in key markets. The prime minister and president both say they support WTO accession. They should together work with the Rada for immediate passage of legislation to bring Ukraine's trade regime into conformity with WTO requirements, so that Ukraine can complete its accession and begin enjoying the trade and broader economic benefits of WTO membership.

Information on NATO: The CDSU sup-

ports Ukraine's rapid integration into and membership in NATO, but understands this is a subject of debate within Ukraine. Obviously, how far to go with NATO is a question for the Ukrainian government and people to decide. But this should be decided based on a correct understanding of NATO today and the benefits, obligations, advantages and disadvantages of membership. Both the prime minister and president have called for a public information effort on NATO. The government should live up to its announced intention to stimulate a comprehensive public information campaign with appropriate funding but without exclusionary limits on access to and use of such funds.

Energy security: No issue is more critical for Ukraine than energy security. Kyiv needs an energy strategy that supports economic growth and minimizes the prospect that another country could politically exploit its dependence on energy imports. Key elements of such a strategy should include allowing prices to rise to cost-recovery levels, energy efficiency measures, creating conditions for Ukrainian and international investors to expand domestic production, developing renewable energy sources and diversifying imports.

Anti-corruption measures: Major corruption at all levels continues to plague Ukraine, imposing great costs on its citizens and discouraging investment. For example, in recent months rebates of value-added taxes have been distributed in a discriminatory manner, and reports suggest that some businesses with political connections to the government are not paying their full taxes. Transparency is important: the government should regularly publish value-added tax rebates returned to oblast govern-

(Continued on page 22)

Yanukovich petitioned on appointment of human rights ombudsman for Ukraine

BOSTON – Acting in conjunction with human rights activists and organizations in Ukraine, the Boston-based Ukrainian Americans for Democracy in Ukraine, Prof. George G. Grabowicz, Dmytro Cyzevsky Professor of Ukrainian Literature at Harvard University, and Dr. Lubomyr Hajda, associate director of Harvard University's Ukrainian Research Institute, on December 5 forwarded a petition to Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich calling for the appointment of noted Kharkiv human rights activist Evhen Zakharov to the currently vacant position of human rights ombudsman for Ukraine.

At the same time the group also forwarded letters to major U.S. administration and congressional leaders calling on them to urge the prime minister and other Ukrainian officials to begin fulfilling the pledges that they made regarding democratization, liberalization, human rights, a move toward transparency and the continuation of Ukraine's integration into the European Union and NATO, since they took office in August.

"Prime Minister Yanukovich said all the right things in his October op-ed piece in the Washington Post and in his various speeches in Washington," noted Alex Gamota, vice-president of Ukrainian Americans for Democracy in Ukraine, "but the time has now come to put his words into actions."

"He is either going to have to make some positive changes along the lines that he has indicated or he will show the

American government and people that he has been insincere," Mr. Gamota continued. "We are calling on the prime minister to show his position on human rights, and we are also calling on our leaders in Washington to closely monitor his actions and to take appropriate action."

Prof. Grabowicz added, "Ukraine is at a critical juncture now. The conflict between the two branches of government, the Parliament and the Cabinet of Ministers on the one hand, and the president on the other, is coming to a head and threatens gridlock, and perhaps even anarchy. It is in everyone's interest that mechanisms of 'peaceful co-existence' be found and that Ukraine's progress to democracy and Western values continue. In this connection, the appointment of Evhen Zakharov as ombudsman for human rights would not only serve the basic purpose of strengthening the rule of law in Ukraine, but would also serve as a signal that political wisdom can prevail. We strongly urge Prime Minister Yanukovich to do the right thing here."

Ukrainian Americans for Democracy in Ukraine – Boston was founded in November 2004 in response to the fraudulent results of the first and second rounds of the Ukrainian presidential elections and undertook a massive letter writing campaign and petition drive aimed at major U.S. government officials asking for their intervention. Since then it has been involved in the Yushchenko visit to the United States and commemorations of the Chernobyl disaster.



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and former daughter-in-law - Maria
with Anna Jakowiw



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Prime minister...

(Continued from page 1)

Department photographer was dispatched to photograph Dr. Rice with Mr. Yanukovych.

"We said that when Mr. Yanukovych was elected that we were ready to work with him and his government on a variety of different issues, that he won the election the old-fashioned way. He went out there and campaigned for the votes of individual Ukrainians, and they chose him in terms of giving him a certain percentage of votes and he was able to form a government. So there's no slight that's intended and we're absolutely ready to work with him as well as his government," Mr. McCormack said.

A U.S.-Ukraine Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement was signed by Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans, Environment and Science Claudia McMurray and Minister of Economy Volodymyr Makukha, and the Millennium Challenge Corp. Threshold agreement aimed at reducing corruption was signed by USAID Acting Assistant Administrator Drew Luten and Minister Makukha, with Prime Minister Yanukovych present, on December 4.

The nearly \$45 million, two-year Threshold agreement is designed to strengthen civil society's monitoring and exposure of public sector corruption in Ukraine, finance judicial reform efforts, improve government monitoring and enforcement of ethical and administrative standards, streamline enforcement of regulations and combat corruption in higher education.

Despite the muted reception from the U.S. government, Washington's curiosity was piqued by Mr. Yanukovych, who lost the 2004 presidential elections in Ukraine that sparked the Orange Revolution and was named prime minister by President Viktor Yushchenko this past August. Hundreds attended his standing-room-

only address at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) on December 4, as well as a reception in his honor at Ukraine's Embassy to the United States that evening.

In his speech at CSIS he outlined how his government would tackle issues of energy security, accession to the World Trade Organization, corruption, relations with NATO, the European Union and Russia, and the struggle for power among Ukraine's president, legislative branch and government.

He repeated these points throughout the course of his Washington meetings with U.S. officials, including Vice-President Cheney, Secretary Rice, National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley, Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman, U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab, World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) and Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. Mr. Yanukovych also met with Sara Bloomfield, director of the U.S. Memorial Holocaust Museum, and toured the facility.

The prime minister emphasized in his remarks that, "We have but one truth for internal use, as well as for exports ... In Kyiv, whether in Moscow, in Washington or in Brussels, we speak the language of national Ukrainian interests," and often repeated that the Ukrainian government works transparently.

He assured the audience that Ukraine's gas storage facilities are full and that European consumers will have natural gas this winter. Ukraine is exploring alternative energy sources, including increased coal production, nuclear power and new energy resources from the Caspian basin in order to break its dependency on natural gas and encourage economic development, he said.

Mr. Yanukovych defended his government's timeline for resolving issues tied



Ukraine's Minister of the Economy Volodymyr Makukha and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans, Environment and Science Claudia McMurray sign a cooperation agreement as Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych and John Danilovich, CEO of the Millennium Challenge Corp. observe.

to WTO accession and noted that out of 20 required bills only two remain to be adopted by Parliament.

He said that his government would encourage the growth of small- and medium-sized businesses in Ukraine, as well as a thriving middle class, and said that under his watch there would be no reprivatization of state property. "We have excluded the word 'reprivatization' from our political vocabulary for good," he said.

Mr. Yanukovych said that all necessary conditions for democratic development – freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, free access to information, freedom to express one's opinions – are present in Ukraine today and that, as a member of the opposition "not long ago, I know from my own experience how important it is to adhere to those fundamental rights and freedoms."

With respect to NATO, the prime minister pointed out that "... The stereotypes of the Cold War live too long. A great number of our people still fear that our accession to NATO would be directed toward Russia, would harm our friendly relations. As a result, only one in five Ukrainians is ready to support filing a membership application today to the alliance, and one cannot fail to take the situation into account."

He confirmed that his position on NATO had not changed and said, "That is the reason why I proposed a pragmatic approach at the September meeting of NATO-Ukraine in Brussels. And I suggested the following: continuation of the intensified dialogue with the alliance; expansion of our cooperation, first and foremost in peacekeeping; depoliticizing the subject of NATO-Ukraine relations; carrying out, or rather, launching a wide-scale information campaign that will allow the society to calmly examine the situation without excessive stress, and make a responsible decision."

Mr. Yanukovych pointed out that President George W. Bush had said at the NATO summit in Riga that Ukraine can join NATO when and if it is ready, and added, "I want to leave no doubt: Ukraine remains a reliable and essential partner for the alliance."

The prime minister acknowledged that his position on Ukrainian-Russian relations has attracted great attention and said, "Let me say that I view Russia in a much broader way than just a market for our products and a supplier of energy sources. And I'm doing this because of a whole number of factors – historic factors, cultural, family-related and geopo-

litical ones. We have to develop our relations in all the areas, but we have to behave as equal partners and base our policies upon our own national interests and priorities – primarily economic ones – and this is very important for Ukraine."

He also admitted that the transition from a presidential to a parliamentary presidential system has generated tension in the area of foreign policy, noting, "We have yet to learn to speak with one voice. The Ukrainian leaders should be working hand in hand in the international arena to improve the country's image, especially considering the fact that we do not have anything to argue about."

The Tarasyuk factor

But it appears that they do argue. Prime Minister Yanukovych arrived in the United States after a week of escalating tensions with President Yushchenko over the issue of foreign affairs.

Several days before the prime minister was to depart for the United States, Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk met with U.S. Ambassador William Taylor in Kyiv to request that the United States not meet with Mr. Yanukovych because he had failed to seek presidential approval on guidelines for U.S. talks. (Under Ukraine's constitutional reform, the Ukrainian president appoints the minister of foreign affairs.)

On December 1 Ukraine's Parliament voted to dismiss the foreign minister. The Office of the President took the matter of Mr. Tarasyuk's dismissal to the raion court, and on December 5, the second day of Prime Minister Yanukovych's visit to the United States, the court suspended Parliament's resolution on the Tarasyuk dismissal. That same day President Yushchenko issued a decree directing Mr. Tarasyuk to stay on in his post.

When asked by reporters on December 5 for his response to the presidential decree defying Parliament, Prime Minister Yanukovych said, "When the Ukrainian Parliament makes a decision, its decisions are to be respected and honored. It underscores that this person is irresponsible." Mr. Yanukovych's spokesman Denys Ivanenko later clarified that the prime minister was referring to Mr. Tarasyuk, and not the Ukrainian president.

The community reacts

Some in the Ukrainian community in the United States also felt that Prime Minister Yanukovych deserved a cold

(Continued on page 13)

Embassy of Ukraine hosts reception for prime minister



WASHINGTON – The future and the outgoing chairs of the U.S. Congressional Ukrainian Caucus – respectively, Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) and Rep. Kurt Weldon (R-Pa.) – had a brief discussion with Ukraine's visiting prime minister, Viktor Yanukovych, during a reception in his honor at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington on December 4. At their request, Mr. Yanukovych added his signature to a 1999 agreement launching a parliamentary exchange program between the U.S. Congress and the Verkhovna Rada. Rep. Weldon lost his seat in Congress during the recent mid-term elections which will bring in a Democratic majority in January, when Rep. Kaptur, now the minority co-chair, will take over his majority chair position in the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus. After the meeting, Rep. Kaptur told The Ukrainian Weekly that American lawmakers will continue their regular dialogue with their Ukrainian counterparts and "really look forward to working with the new Parliament."

– Yaro Bihun

Prime minister...

(Continued from page 12)

shoulder and opted not to attend a planned meeting of community leaders with the prime minister, as well as a reception in his honor at the Ukrainian Embassy on December 4. The meeting was cancelled on December 3.

Michael Sawkiw Jr., president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, explained why he delivered by courier an open letter to the prime minister and did not meet with him:

"Due to the many seemingly anti-Ukrainian decisions of the prime minister of Ukraine, especially the latest attempt in Parliament by the prime minister's party [Party of the Regions] to fire the foreign affairs minister of Ukraine on

of the Ukrainian Famine as genocide; recognize and afford the appropriate privileges to the veterans of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists/Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA); and work for the national interests of Ukraine. (For full text see page 10).

The Coalition for a Secure and Democratic Ukraine, the successor organization to the Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition of 250 businesses and Ukrainian American, Jewish American and other non-governmental organizations, issued a memorandum on the occasion of the prime minister's visit that was hand-delivered by Vera Andrushkiw of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation on December 4.

The CSDU memorandum "welcomes



Mark Stewart, official photographer, U.S. State Department

A Millennium Challenge Corp. Threshold Agreement is signed by Ukrainian Minister of the Economy Volodymyr Makukha and USAID Acting Assistant Administrator Drew Luten.

Friday, December 1, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America decided not to participate in a community meeting with the prime minister while he is in Washington for an official working visit.

"Our decision is a symbolic gesture to the Ukrainian people who are witnessing the increasing usurpation of power by the prime minister and his party. Having signed the Statement [Universal] of National Unity, the prime minister has not upheld those basic principles of working in unison with others. Lately, it has been an attempt to gradually and consciously control Ukrainian politics."

The UCCA's open letter to the prime minister calls on Mr. Yanukovich to develop the Ukrainian language and culture; work for international recognition

Prime Minister Yanukovich's visit to the United States and hopes it will strengthen U.S.-Ukrainian relations and Ukraine's ability to realize its full potential." The CSDU noted that democratic consolidation, a common vision, accession to the WTO, a public information campaign on NATO, energy security, anti-corruption measures, a modern economy, and the use of the Ukrainian language are important for Ukraine's ability to move forward. (See full text on page 11.)

On December 6 Mr. Yanukovich spent the day in New York, where he had a series of meetings with representatives of business circles. He was scheduled to leave the U.S. on December 7.



Khristina Lew

Sara Bloomfield, director of the U.S. Memorial Holocaust Museum, leads the Ukrainian prime minister and his entourage on a tour of the facility.



Khristina Lew

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich speaks at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. On the right is Ambassador Steven Pifer.

Tarasyuk sacked...

(Continued from page 1)

Latvia.

Leading up to the U.S. visit, Mr. Tarasyuk wanted Mr. Yanukovich to submit a list of directives to prevent a repeat of Brussels and to ensure the prime minister wouldn't stray from the president's established foreign policy goals.

The Cabinet of Ministers received the directives request from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs only days before the visit was to begin, Vice Prime Minister for Fuel and Energy Andrii Kliuiev said in defense of his boss.

By the next day, Mr. Tarasyuk had already fired off his cancellation memo to the U.S. Embassy, he said.

The decision to deal directly with the U.S. Embassy, rather than consulting with Mr. Yanukovich first, was the straw that broke the camel's back, Mr. Kliuiev said.

"I don't know why there was such a hurry," Mr. Kliuiev told the Parliament on December 1. "In the opinion of all, literally all, the Cabinet ministers, this was specifically done to ruin the prime minister's visit."

It was only a matter of time before the Party of the Regions began targeting Mr. Tarasyuk, said Ivan Lozowy, president of the Kyiv-based Institute of Statehood and Democracy, which is exclusively financed by Ukrainian business donations.

The letter to the U.S. Embassy was an ideal pretext to try and sack Mr. Tarasyuk because he had been interfering with the Party of the Regions' attempts to sway Ukrainian foreign policy in the Russian Federation's direction, he said.

Mr. Yanukovich and the Party of the Regions are particularly interested in forging profitable business deals with Russia – even those that involve selling Ukraine's assets to Russian businessmen and thereby betraying national interests, Mr. Lozowy said.

"In return, the Party of the Regions gets money and concessions for business in Russia," he said. "That's what the Donetsk clan is interested in. And the last thing the Yanukovich government needs is to have a foreign minister keeping Russia at bay and criticizing them when they go too far."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is one of Mr. Yushchenko's last strongholds in the Ukrainian government, after three of four Our Ukraine ministers resigned from the Cabinet in October.

Minister of Health Yurii Poliachenko chose to remain in the coalition government, indicating he was abandoning the Our Ukraine bloc.

Our Ukraine national deputies accused the Party of the Regions of engaging in a campaign of usurping the Ukrainian government.

The accusation didn't irk Mr.

Yanukovich all that much. In fact, he agreed.

"We are going to instill order in the nation, no matter what they call that process," Mr. Yanukovich said. "If it's 'usurpation,' then let it be 'usurpation.' You can hold us back, but to what benefit? I wouldn't advise that, neither to politicians nor the president."

The conflict over the minister of foreign affairs is also a result of the new presidential-parliamentary structure of the Ukrainian government that went into effect on January 1.

During the tense negotiations during the Orange Revolution, Mr. Yushchenko and the Orange forces agreed to cede many presidential powers and appointments to the prime minister.

The Ukrainian president was able to retain the appointment of the foreign affairs minister, the defense minister, the chief of the Security Service of Ukraine, the chair of the National Security and Defense Council and the country's oblast administration chairs, commonly referred to as oblast governors.

By infringing on the president's authority, the coalition government demonstrated it doesn't understand how democracy works, and only understands governing on authoritarian terms, said Yurii Kostenko, leader of the Ukrainian People's Party.

He joined the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc in calling on the president to dismiss the government and hold pre-term elections.

"(Coalition government forces) can't understand that they are supposed to act only within its own purview and that democracy is the division of authority and responsibility between branches of government authority," Mr. Kostenko said.

The bipolar government is likely to continue battling over the foreign ministry post until the Constitutional Court finally makes a ruling, Mr. Lozowy said.

However, it will get worse for the Yushchenko camp, he said. The Party of the Regions will attempt to push as many pro-Western leaders out of government as possible, including President Yushchenko himself, he said.

When asked by The Weekly whether he thought the Universal of National Unity with the Party of the Regions was a mistake, Mr. Tarasyuk responded, "no."

"When the Supreme Council was almost four months in crisis, and the activity of the legislative branch was paralyzed, the president made the only right choice," he explained.

"He invited all political forces represented in the Verkhovna Rada to a roundtable with the goal of overcoming the crisis. Unfortunately, this logical and correct attempt of the president was used like a throw by his opponents. It was used to satisfy their interests, and then they began ignoring the Universal of National Unity Declaration."

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

appointed after being designated by the president and, accordingly, his dismissal must take place under such a procedure as well," Mr. Tarasyuk said. The previous day, Mr. Tarasyuk commented that his sacking rekindled "a war against the president [and] for his authority." He added, "This whole situation following the [March parliamentary] elections calls for the rethinking and regrouping of all patriotic and democratic forces, in order to unite and together prevent a rollback of democracy." (RFE/RL Newline)

Yanukovich says he'll settle the matter

WASHINGTON - Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich said on December 6 that he is confident that when he is back in Kyiv he will settle the situation surrounding Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk, who was dismissed by the Verkhovna Rada on December 1. "When I'm back to Kyiv I will meet with the president, the speaker (Verkhovna Rada chairman) and Mr. Tarasyuk, and we'll settle the situation," the prime minister told journalists, while on his visit to the United States. He stated his strong conviction that Mr. Tarasyuk must step down. "I think in such conditions the foreign minister should realize his political responsibility to the state," he stressed. He described recent moves by Mr. Tarasyuk as "irresponsible." (Ukrinform)

Hrytsenko may be dismissed

KYIV - A draft resolution on dismissal of Defense Minister Anatolii Hrytsenko was filed with the Verkhovna Rada on December 5. The draft resolution was submitted by national deputies of the Anti-Crisis Coalition: Oleh Kalashnikov (Party of the Regions), Ihor Alekseyev (Communist Party) and Vasyi Volga (Socialist Party). The draft resolution notes Mr. Hrytsenko's lack of the budgetary discipline to the tune of over 6.6 billion hrv and low level of leadership and control over the ministry's affairs. The draft resolution authors also accuse the minister of "abrupt growth of incidents of servicemen's loss in peaceful time and violence in the army." (Ukrinform)

Deputy asks Knesset to recognize Famine

KYIV - National Deputy Oleksander Feldman, leader of the Ukraine-Israel caucus in the Verkhovna Rada, urged the Israeli Knesset to recognize the 1932-1933 Famine in Ukraine as a genocide against the Ukrainian nation. The recognition may serve as a friendly gesture in view of the tragic histories of both nations and Ukrainian Famine survivors who reside in Israel, Mr. Feldman said. He added that he believes the Knesset will pass such a bill in the very near future. (Ukrinform)

UOC-KP leader completes U.S. visit

KYIV - On October 26 to November 7, Patriarch Filaret (Denysenko), head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Kyiv Patriarchate, visited UOC-KP parishes in the United States. He also met with representatives of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) and hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. (UOC-U.S.A.). In the Chicago area, Patriarch Filaret visited local UOC-KP parishes and also two UGCC parishes. The patriarch said he is glad that there are such very good brotherly relations between Orthodox and Greek-Catholic Ukrainians in the U.S. On October 28 some of the clergy and heads of the UOC-KP in the U.S. gathered at St.

(Continued on page 15)

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

Sophia Church in Chicago and discussed parish life and problems. The patriarch greeted the creation of the Movement for a Single Orthodox Church of the Kyiv Patriarchate, whose goal is to hasten the process of uniting all Orthodox Ukrainians in the diaspora into one Church guided by the Kyiv Patriarchate. On November 1 Patriarch Filaret arrived in Cleveland, where one of the parishes he visited, St. Nicholas Church, is a Belarusian community that came under the jurisdiction of the UOC-KP. Patriarch Filaret also met with UGCC Bishop Robert Moskal in Parma, Ohio, and the patriarch awarded the bishop the Order of St. Volodymyr the Great (third degree) on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his episcopal ordination. On November 6 the patriarch visited Pittsburgh, Pa., where he met with Metropolitan Constantine and Archbishop Antony of the UOC-U.S.A. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Husar thanks Roman Catholic bishop

KYIV – Patriarch Lubomyr Husar, head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC), has sent a letter to the Roman Catholic bishops of Ukraine, Lithuania and Latvia, to thank them for their support when the UGCC was forced underground by the Soviets from 1946 to 1989, reported ugcc.org.ua on November 22. Patriarch Lubomyr recalled in his letter that in 2006 the UGCC commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Lviv Pseudo-Sobor (Assembly) of March 8-10, 1946, at which the UGCC in the USSR was forcibly joined to the Russian Orthodox Church. Consequently, many clergy, religious, and faithful were persecuted. "Against the general background of negative memories about the persecutions suffered, it is very pleasant for us to recall that our brother Christians who, though they themselves in those evil times knew certain limitations in their official existence and activities, were ready to help our clergy and faithful," wrote Patriarch Lubomyr. "This help manifested itself in various ways, but always brought with it the threat of possible repressions." (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Compensation for Famine survivors?

KYIV – Survivors of the 1932-1933 Famine may demand compensation from Russia, well-known Ukrainian jurist Ihor Horodetskyi said on November 30. "Theoretically, those citizens who suffered from the Soviet regime can demand compensation. And Russia, as the successor of the USSR, will have to pay it. But it is possible only if the fact of genocide against the Ukrainian people is recognized internationally," the jurist said. The chairman of the Ukrainian Union of Victims of Nazism, Markian Demidov, said the Verkhovna Rada's recognition of the Famine as genocide will be surely followed by the appearance of public organizations protecting the rights of the Famine victims. "I believe it would be fair if living victims of the genocide were paid compensations. Since 2000, Ukrainians who suffered as a result of Nazism were paid some 80 million euros in compensation," he said. (Ukrinform)

Symonenko on religion committee

KYIV – Commenting on the recent decision of Ukraine's government to create a State Committee on Matters of Nationalities and Religions, National Deputy Petro Symonenko, leader of the Communist Party of Ukraine, said that this committee should protect the faith-

ful, reported pravoslavie.org.ua on November 16. "The work of the future state structure will depend upon who will be the executor and what functions he/she will carry out. If he/she defends interdenominational peace in society and helps improve legislation so that the Church can be returned the status of a legal person and its property, as well as solve its land and other problems, then its establishment is justified. It should defend the faithful from violence to our historical monuments, [from violence to] the traditional denominations of a multi-ethnic country. If it is going to conduct a policy of the violent Americanization and Catholicization of religious life or, like [Ukrainian President Viktor] Yushchenko, lobby and support the interests of just one denomination, then the faithful will not support it. The State Committee on Matters of Nationalities and Religions should protect the faithful. This should be its main function," Mr. Symonenko said. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Orthodox criticize committee's creation

KYIV – Both the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP) and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP) have criticized the November 8 decision of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers to create a State Committee on Matters of Nationalities and Religions, reported kommersant.ua on November 14. The UOC-MP said it is afraid the creation of the new committee will lead to the return of government control over the Church. The UOC-KP's statement emphasizes that the committee will "continue the practice of interfering in the affairs of the Church and encourage the spread of sects, in which previously the State Department on Religious Matters was involved." The UOC-KP stated that "Such frequent changes in the system of Church-state relations bring little advantage. ... Now it is not possible accurately to assess the sincere intentions of the government, but if the goal of reorganization is a desire to influence the denominations, to impose some idea, then neither our Church nor other Churches will allow this." Larysa Zhuravska, assistant to the head of the formally re-structured State Department on Religious Matters, said that the new committee will have more delegated authority than the present department, but its joining with the State Committee on Matters of Nationalities and Migration "will bring certain benefits to the denominations that represent national minorities." Other religious groups, in particular Muslims, refused to comment on the government reforms. Decree 1575 of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers announced the creation of a new structure of the executive branch, the State Committee on Matters of Nationalities and Religions, on the basis of the State Committee on Matters of Nationalities and Migration, and the State Department on Religious Matters. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Rada rejects bill on religious schools

KYIV – Ukraine's Parliament on November 1 rejected Bill No. 2020 "On the introduction of changes and additions to certain legal acts of Ukraine," regarding the right of religious organizations to establish schools, which was authored by National Deputy Volosymye Stretovych. According to the Institute of Religious Freedom, 239 national deputies from the parliamentary factions of the Party of the Regions, the Socialist Party of Ukraine and the Communist Party of Ukraine (members of the Anti-Crisis Coalition) voted against the bill. The Yulia

Tymoshenko Bloc and Our Ukraine argued for passage of the bill. On October 9 the heads of the main Ukrainian Churches and religious organizations (Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate, Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, Protestant churches and others) appealed to Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz, the leaders of the parliamentary factions and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich to support changes in law which would give religious organizations the right to set up schools. According to the Institute of Religious

Freedom, the deputies of the Anti-Crisis Coalition neglected the interests of the faithful and the denominations of Ukraine again, as a similar situation was observed on October 17 when Parliament reviewed a bill on the restoration of the right of religious organizations to permanent land use. According to the Institute of Religious Freedom, these results prove to society the low level of understanding of religious freedom and demonstrate unwillingness to satisfy the legal wish of parents to give their children proper education. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)



Artist-Sculptor

Petro Kapschutschenko, (September 27, 1915 - November 17, 2006)

Petro Kapschutschenko was born in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine. He graduated with a degree in sculpture from the Dnipropetrovsk Academy of Art. From 1945 to 1949, as a refugee at the displaced persons camp in Regensburg, Germany, he exhibited his sculptures illustrated literary works, and worked as a stage designer/decorator for the Ukrainian theatre. From 1949 to 1963, he resided in Argentina with his wife Zoja and daughter Ludmila. Widely known as "Pedro Enko" in the artistic world, he was appointed Honorary Member of the *Universidad Libre de Humanidades de Buenos Aires* in recognition of his extraordinary artistry and contributions to the Argentine culture.

In 1963, Kapschutschenko and his family came to the United States. For several years, he taught at the Ukrainian Art Studio in Philadelphia. His sculptures in terra cotta, porcelain, bronze and wood have been shown in at least 50 exhibits in the USA and Canada, and they enrich many private collections. Monuments of Metropolitan Vasyl Lypkivski and St. Olha-Kievan Princess stand on the grounds of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church in South Bound Brook, NJ.

From 1995 through 2001, the artist had four one-man invited exhibits in Kyiv and Dnipropetrovsk. Nine major museums in his native country hold his sculptures in their permanent collections. In 2004, Dr. Olexandr Fedoruk of Kyiv, published a book about him, *Пластика Петра Кашчущенка*, detailing his life and career. In 2006, Kapschutschenko had the distinct honor of receiving the *Presidential Order of Merit* from the President of Ukraine for his contributions to Ukrainian art and culture around the world.

Kapschutschenko was predeceased by his wife Zoja in 1996. He is greatly missed by his daughter Dr. Ludmila Kapschutschenko and her husband, John Bruce Schmitt of Lawrenceville, NJ as well as relatives in Ukraine.

Funeral services were held on November 25, 2006 at the St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church and Cemetery in South Bound Brook, NJ.

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Constitutional reform...

(Continued from page 2)

the PRU and its allies had suggested a referendum on NATO membership. It was rejected by the Yushchenko camp, which fears that a “no” vote would postpone Ukraine’s NATO entry indefinitely.

Sources: *Interfax-Ukraine*, November 8, 11; *UNIAN*, November 3, 21, 28; *Ukrayinska Pravda*, November 24; *Korrespondent*, November 25.

The article above is reprinted from *Eurasia Daily Monitor* with permission from its publisher, the *Jamestown Foundation*, www.jamestown.org.

Will Ukraine’s...

(Continued from page 3)

Mr. Kupchinsky questioned the decision by Prime Minister Yanukovych to appoint Yurii Boiko, the former head of Naftohaz Ukrainy as head of the Ministry of Fuel and Energy, as well as the failure of Ukraine’s top political leaders to protest that appointment. “Boiko has always been part of the problem,” said Mr. Kupchinsky, because he is responsible for the creation of UralTransGas in 1991, “which eventually turned into a company called RosUkEnerg in July 2004.” Mr. Kupchinsky said he sees both companies as unnecessary middlemen in Ukraine’s energy sector which add costs to the purchase and distribution of natural gas in Ukraine.

Mr. Kupchinsky noted that it has been announced that RosUkEnerg will be the “operator for Central Asian and Russian gas to Ukraine” and “be paid 13 billion cubic meters of gas per year.” According to Mr. Kupchinsky, “This is more gas than Austria uses; this is billions of dollars as a commission for signing customs declarations.” Another part of the current arrangement dictates that “Ukraine doesn’t have the right to buy gas directly from Turkmenistan,” Mr. Kupchinsky said.

Since natural gas prices are “up for review every six months” under existing contracts with Russia’s natural gas monopoly, Gazprom, Mr. Kupchinsky noted that Ukraine’s current price of \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters of gas may not last long. In June, Mr. Kupchinsky said, Turkmenistan raised its price from \$65 to \$100 per 1,000 cubic meters, as did Kazakhstan.

Ukraine will import 55 billion cubic meters of natural gas starting in January 2007, all of which is being purchased from Central Asian producers through Gazprom and RosUkEnerg. Mr. Kupchinsky said he sees both Turkmenistan and Russia as unreliable suppliers of natural gas to Ukraine – Turkmenistan “will not reveal how much natural gas the country has,” while Russia is itself experiencing “severe domestic shortages of natural gas.”

Ukraine produces 20 billion meters of its natural gas domestically, said Mr. Kupchinsky, but Minister Boiko “has said the Ukrainian government doesn’t want Western foreign investment in its energy sector.” Off-shore drilling in the Black Sea, Mr. Kupchinsky said, can cost \$700,000 per day and Ukraine doesn’t have the experience or the equipment to explore and develop those gas fields on its own.

The Ukrainian gas pipeline that supplies Western Europe, Mr. Kupchinsky said, is old and needs major repairs, but rather than bringing in Western investment, Mr. Yanukovych “has revived the idea of an International Gas Transport Consortium.”

“Yanukovych energy policies are absolutely a return to the past. There’s nothing progressive,” according to Mr. Kupchinsky, who added, “The critical mistake was bringing Boiko back; this will endanger Ukrainian and European energy security.”

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Lemko Ukrainian organization celebrates its 70th anniversary

by Diana Howansky

YONKERS, N.Y. – Heading the 27th National Conference of the Organization for the Defense of Lemko Western Ukraine (OOL) held here on September 23, Marie Duplak noted in her opening remarks that the organization is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year. In October 1933, a committee to help individuals in the Lemko region was first established in the U.S. and, in June 1936, this committee officially became the first official branch of the OOL and the organization held its first national conference in Philadelphia, Mrs. Duplak said.

Mrs. Duplak then directed the attention of the national conference delegates to a copy of Lemkivshchyna magazine, of which she is editor-in-chief, to a published picture she found in the archives showing OOL's third national conference, held in 1960 in Passaic, N.J. She asked that any delegates present who also attended this conference in 1960 please stand up. Out of the 55 delegates in the room, three men stood up: Peter Rusynko, Julian Kotlar and Stefan Duplak.

In this way, the delegates of OOL's 27th national conference acknowledged the organization's past at the same time as they met for the purpose of discussing the direction of the organization's work in the future.

"Everyone's elated, because this is the most delegates we've had at a national conference. It shows that there's a little life in the organization," said Zenon Halkowycz, president of OOL.

The increase in delegates shows that OOL's branches across the country are more active and interested in seeing what they can do to save the organization, as, paradoxically, the number of members in



Peter Rusynko, one of the founding members of the Organization for the Defense of Lemko Western Ukraine.

the organization is decreasing, Mr. Halkowycz added. The organization has 3,215 active national members, who support the organization through donations and other means, while approximately 10,000 "associate" members, who are on the fringe of the organization, exist throughout the U.S., he noted.

"It's a significant drop in membership, because the original membership is dying off and new members are not joining, because they feel this is their 'father's organization' and not their own," Mr. Halkowycz said.

Mr. Rusynko, one of the founding members of OOL's branch in Yonkers, recollected how the organization used to function, stating that the members met

more often and were more active when they were younger.

Born in 1921 in the Lemko village of Petna, located today in southeastern Poland, Mr. Rusynko explained that he was forced to leave his home and go to Germany to work during World War II. Soon afterwards, his father was detained in the Jaworzno concentration camp, where the Polish government imprisoned citizens suspected of supporting the Ukrainian nationalist movement, and his mother and two siblings were forcibly relocated through the settlement campaign named Akcja Wisla in 1947.

After the war, Mr. Rusynko eventually made his way to the United States, to Yonkers, where his brother had immigrated earlier, and helped organize OOL.

"Our goal was to help churches," Mr. Rusynko said in Ukrainian about OOL's work, explaining that the organization was not originally founded on purely political principles, but to help churches in the Lemko region that had been destroyed and repressed by the Polish government during and after World War II. OOL, for example, helped the church in his native village replace its old roof with a copper one, Mr. Rusynko noted.

With time, OOL's activities expanded, from sending packages and small amounts of money to individuals in need in the Lemko region, to assisting Lemkos in western Poland and Ukraine who could not return to their native land for various reasons, to using political pressure from the U.S. to push the Polish government for recognition of atrocities committed against Lemkos. (In resolutions which the delegates of the 27th OOL National Conference developed during the daylong meeting, they vowed to continue to push for com-

penation of and the protection of the civic rights of Lemko-Ukrainians in Poland.)

Mr. Rusynko's dream, he said, is for the organization to survive and for a new generation to take over the work started 70 years ago.

During OOL's 27th national conference, representatives of the organization's branches across the country described their work and activities during the last four years, since the last national conference in November 2002. They described the picnics and dances organized to raise money for projects in the Lemko region, ongoing cooperation with other Lemko organizations in Canada, Poland and Ukraine, and the building of a chapel in Ellenville, N.Y., to remember the victims of Akcja Wisla.

The OOL delegates also held elections to the organization's board. Elected for another term to the position of president was Mr. Halkowycz, who promised to pursue new projects, such as the creation of the organization's website. Mr. Halkowycz also noted that on April 28, 2007, OOL plans to participate in a conference remembering the 60th anniversary of Akcja Wisla. The conference, which will feature a choir performance, keynote speaker and the draping of symbolic black sashes on Ukrainian flags, will be organized with the cooperation of other Ukrainian organizations, such as the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), and is scheduled to take place in New York City, Mr. Halkowycz said.

For more information about the Organization for the Defense of Lemko Western Ukraine Inc. and its activities, readers may contact Diana Howansky, press secretary, at dhh2@columbia.edu or 212-854-4697.

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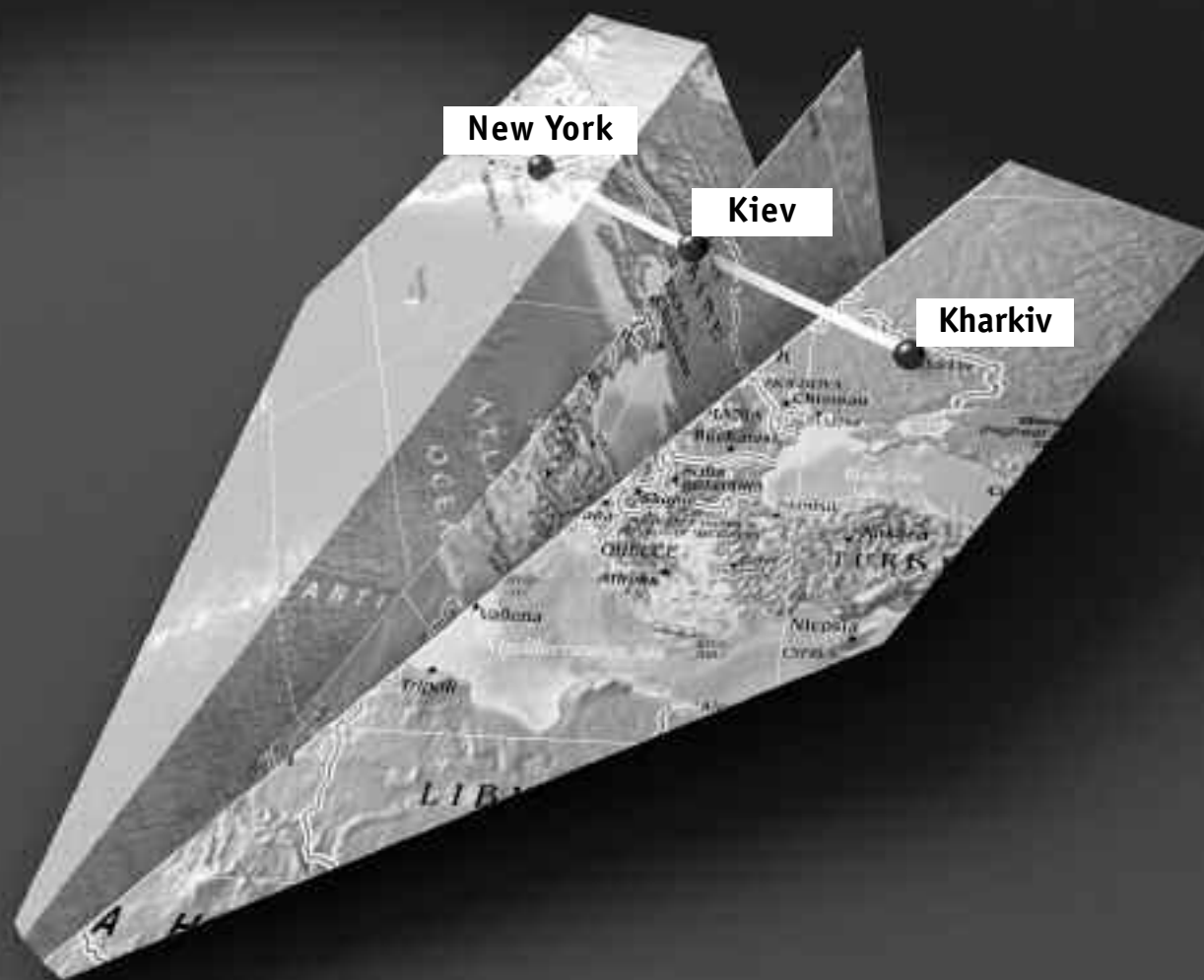
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MUSIC NOTES: Bandurna Rozmova offers diversity, virtuosity in concert

by Roma Dockhorn

PHILADELPHIA – Bandurna Rozmova, a duo featuring Taras Lazurkevych and Oleh Sozansky, played two programs in the Philadelphia area recently. On Friday, November 10, they presented a program at Swarthmore College to an audience of mostly students. The next evening they played a slightly longer program for a Ukrainian audience at the Ukrainian League of Philadelphia.

I have heard their recordings, and I have heard them play a few numbers at festivals; but to hear their program is a very different level of experience. The whole program shows the diversity of all the different sounds a virtuoso can bring out from a bandura.

Sandwiched between their usual opening number, "Banduryste, Orle Syzyi," and their customary ending of "Zirvalasia Khurtovyna," they presented a broad variety of vocal and instrumental numbers. There were the traditional folk songs; there were numbers played on the Kharkiv bandura and compositions by Hnat Khotkevych.

In addition to singing and playing bandura, Mr. Lazurkevch plays various

folk flutes. His haunting composition "Small Motif of Heavy Sorrow," in which he combines a folk flute sopilka with the bandura, shows contemporary expression of the deepest feelings on the bandura. Hearing the close harmonies of two baritones blending is truly a unique and very satisfying experience.

Mr. Lazurkevych treated the audience to the "Duma about Kozak Holota," a rare duma with a strong dose of ironic humor where not only the text but also the musical accompaniment (attributed to Khotkevych) expresses the heroism and humor of Kozak Holota.

Mr. Sozansky played the rarely performed "Slave Market in Caffa," also by Khotkevych.

Both of these numbers were performed on a Kharkiv bandura.

One listener at the performance in Swarthmore, who had never knowingly heard the bandura, said that the very first number "Banduryste, Orle Syzyi" brought out goosebumps – that's how moving it was. This listener, of Italian background, grew up cleaning house to the accompaniment of Rigoletto.

I overheard an audience member at the performance at the Ukrainian League say that she felt that she had seen two angels on stage.

It was a most unusual performance. If you have an opportunity to experience a concert by Bandurna Rozmova, by all means seek it out.

Messrs. Lazurkevych and Sozansky are in the U.S. until the middle of January. They may be contacted at 440-12-8103 or oleh.sozansky@hotmail.com.

Roma Dockhorn of Southampton, Pa., has played the bandura for over two decades. She has studied with such masters as Julian Kytasty and Victor Mishalow at bandura camps in the U.S. and Canada. She has facilitated bandura workshops at Manor College and has performed at art openings and coffee-houses in the Philadelphia area.

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Petro Jacyk Bibliographer for Ukrainian Collections appointed at Harvard

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute's (HURI) director and Oleksandr Potebnja Professor of Ukrainian Philology, Michael S. Flier, announced the appointment of Olha Aleksic as the new Petro Jacyk Bibliographer for Ukrainian Collections.

In making the announcement Prof. Flier said, "Our library holdings in Ucrainica are extraordinarily rich and varied, attracting scholars from all over the world to work on Ukrainian topics. Currently, the institute's library has 110 serial titles in Ukrainian and Slavic studies, and a reference collection of about 3,300 volumes that help support Ukrainian studies courses offered by the departments of History and Slavic languages and literatures, as well as the Harvard Summer School."

"In addition to the print collections, the library also houses archival and manuscript collections, microfilm and microfiche editions of rare publications, audio and visual material, and ephemera that bear witness to the Ukrainian experience at home and in emigration throughout the 20th century," Prof. Flier continued. "The Ukrainian Collection housed in the Harvard College Libraries consists of 80,000 individual book and serial titles in the humanities and social sciences. Most of the collection is housed in Widener Library, Harvard's main research library."

"Olha Aleksic is a bibliographer of proven talent with more than four years' experience working with acquisitions and collections in Widener Library's Slavic Division and in Technical Services," Prof. Flier said. She will divide her time between the institute's reference library and archival materials, and the ever-expanding Ukrainian collec-



Olha Aleksic

tion in Widener Library.

Ms. Aleksic noted the valuable work of her predecessors. "The institute's first librarian, Edward Kasinec, worked untiringly to begin our collection and was able to gather an amazing amount of archival material." "Our second librarian and my immediate predecessor, Ksenya Kiebuszinski, spent more than 15 years reviewing the material as well as adding to it, recording, cataloguing and cross-referencing it within the Harvard system. My job will be to continue the work already undertaken, and, more importantly, to help popularize the collections and make them available both to scholars and the general public."

Ms. Kiebuszinski explained that, "Currently the institute has arranged, described and catalogued all of its archival and manuscript collections

including documentary and photographic sources for the study of 20th century Ukrainian history from World War I and the revolutionary years 1917 to 1921, to Ukrainian refugee and émigré life in Europe and the United States following the second world war."

"There is material in the library's archival holdings for the study of the Ukrainian National Republic, the Makhnovite and Hetmanite movements, the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, the 1932-1933 Famine, Ukrainian displaced persons, Ukrainian American local history, and all aspects of Ukrainian culture," she noted.

Ms. Aleksic is a Lviv native. She graduated from the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv with a degree in English language and literature. Following graduation she worked as an instructor and translator at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. After coming to the United States, she earned a Master of Theological Studies degree from the Harvard Divinity School and a Certificate in Eastern Christian Studies from St. Paul University in Ottawa. She is currently completing an M.S. at the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science in Boston.

"One of the early major projects that I will be tackling and that I am very excited about," Ms. Aleksic said, "is the research, preparation and mounting of a special exhibit in Widener Library in 2009 commemorating the 300th anniversary of the Battle of Poltava and Hetman [Ivan] Mazepa. Harvard's collections are unique on the American continent in that they hold several original documents signed by Hetman Mazepa, which will form the centerpiece of the exhibit."

The Petro Jacyk Bibliographer for Ukrainian Collections position at HURI was funded by a gift from Petro Jacyk in 1979, which he increased in 1998. Currently the holder of the position works half-time on the collections at HURI and half-time at the Slavic Division at Widener Library. Ms. Aleksic's responsibilities include collection development, acquisitions, preservation, reference services, bibliographic instruction and management of special collections, as well as the technical processing of materials, including cataloguing.

Ms. Aleksic is also responsible for acquiring materials in all formats in Ukrainian and other languages published in Ukraine; imprints of the Ukrainian émigré communities and the Ukrainian diaspora. Finally, she advises on Ukraine-related material published outside Ukraine and the diaspora communities; and fills in lacunae of older and out-of-print materials.

All of HURI's collections, as well as those housed in Widener, are accessible either online or via the Internet through the Harvard OnLine Library Information System (HOLLIS) and by the end of this fiscal year will be fully searchable in the Online Archival Search Information System (OASIS). Researchers may also learn about the history and scope of the collections by visiting the library's web pages on the institute's homepage at <http://www.huri.harvard.edu/library.html>. A Guide to Ukrainian Special Collections at Harvard University will be published in the pages of the Harvard Library Bulletin within the next few months.

Ms. Aleksic will be available at the institute's library on Mondays at 1 to 5 p.m. and on Thursdays and Fridays at 9 a.m.-5 p.m. She can be reached at 617-496-5891 and at oleksic@fas.harvard.edu.

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Presentations at U.N. ...

(Continued from page 4)

1923. In fact, the harvests in 1932-1933 yielded enough grain to feed the entire population of the Soviet Union. When peasants began to migrate for food, Stalin issued a directive in 1933 which ordered the OGPU (secret police) to restrain these peasants from "spreading propaganda against the kolkhoz system." This order prevented any peasants - dubbed "enemy agents" - from fleeing the country.

Yet, Stalin continued to increase grain quotas which individual peasants could not meet. Despite his knowledge of the catastrophic situation in Ukraine, Prof. Hunczak said, Stalin's response was always the same: there is grain in Ukraine, saboteurs are hiding it, the grain must be found and the saboteurs must be punished.

Prof. Hunczak described a visit to

Ukraine and his conversations with those who remembered the tragedy. He told of how they remembered the children "dying in the gutter, begging with glazed eyes." He also shared the story of a woman who remembered how one mother ate her daughter and then committed suicide.

"The famine was an instrument of genocide by other means," stated Prof. Hunczak.

Moving the focus from the background of the famine, Prof. von Hagen analyzed why so many deny the occurrence of this tragedy. "Some fail to understand the Famine as genocide and still view Ukraine as a province," stated Prof. von Hagen. "Denial of the Famine is part of the denial of Ukraine's independence."

Many are familiar with the controversy over the revocation of Walter Duranty's Pulitzer Prize. During the

Famine, Prof. von Hagen explained, Duranty served as the biggest asset in covering up the devastation occurring in Ukraine. He was fully aware of the death toll as was recorded in private conversations, yet his articles for The New York Times presented a different picture.

Duranty reported on the prosperity in Ukraine and praised Stalin's leadership. He challenged the credibility of writers such as Gareth Jones, the Welshman who slipped into Ukraine and kept a scrupulous diary documenting the Holodomor. Jones was later murdered while in Mongolia.

Prof. von Hagen explained that international acknowledgment of the Famine as genocide is difficult because of a universal cover-up. He explained that in 1937 Stalin went so far as to have the census suppressed in order to cover up any evidence of mass murder.

Not only have archival reports been air-brushed, but those who survived the Famine are no longer with us today, he added. It has only been within the past two decades that archives depicting the truth about the Famine have been uncovered.

Prof. von Hagen said the reason so

much testimony could have been previously denied and ignored is that powerful and destructive people were in charge. He expressed hope that those who deny this event will cease rejecting the actuality of this grave tragedy and teach the truth to future generations. He also cautioned that this hope is not assured given that communists in Ukraine are once again in charge of the archives.

Roman Lubkivskyi, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Ukraine, head of the Committee for Taras Shevchenko National Prize of Ukraine, and an esteemed writer and poet, concluded the presentations. He spoke of the serious psychological trauma that the Holodomor placed on the collective Ukrainian consciousness but stressed that the truth cannot be abandoned.

He said that the key is to educate and eliminate this kind of destruction, not to avenge the lives that were lost. "Acknowledgment ensures that these events will never repeat themselves," said Mr. Lubkivskyi. Vitaliy Pohribnyi, second secretary (political and media affairs) translated Mr. Lubkivskyi's speech into English.

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Memorandum...

(Continued from page 11)

ments and make public the tax payments made by Ukraine's largest businesses. Transparency is also vitally important in the energy sector; too many questions remain, for example, about the operations and ownership of RosUkrEnergO.

A modern economy: Investment by domestic and international investors will spur economic growth, create new jobs, and generate greater tax revenues. But investors will not invest in Ukraine if they fear arbitrary actions and interference in the market by the government. In this regard, the decision to impose grain export quotas has hurt Ukrainian farmers, badly affected Ukraine's investment image, and set back Ukraine's ability to become a major exporter of agricultural products. The quotas should be ended immediately.

Ukrainians mark...

(Continued from page 5)

November 25 commemoration and subsequent parliamentary vote, which he said deeply impressed him, particularly the unexpected support from Mr. Moroz and the Socialist Party of Ukraine.

Mr. Williams' latest advocacy is the immediate construction of the Holodomor Memorial Historical Complex so that it's ready in time for the 75th anniversary commemoration of the Famine-Genocide in 2008.

Construction of the complex endured

years of delay in selecting a site and architectural design, as well as a lack of government financing.

The complex's leaders told The Weekly that progress has been made in recent weeks to obtain financing from a coalition government that is largely hostile to the Holodomor's memory, particularly on the part of Vice Prime Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Tabachnyk, who holds Russophile views.

The 2007 budget will contain about \$20 million in financing for the complex, said Roman Krutskyk, an Our Ukraine national deputy who is a leader in the complex project.

Originally, the coalition government had excluded any 2007 funding for the complex, but Mr. Yushchenko and the Presidential Secretariat successfully lobbied for its financing.

Meanwhile, the Institute of National Memory will receive \$400,000 in funding from the 2007 budget, said Director Ihor Yukhnovskiy, compared to the \$3 million he said is needed.

Mr. Tabachnyk has been hostile to financing the Institute of National Memory, Mr. Krutskyk said.

Until two weeks ago, the institute has been merely an idea, existing without an office or any salaried employees.

Recent amendments to the 2006 budget provided \$183,000 in financing for the Institute, which must be spent by the year's end, forcing Mr. Krutskyk and Mr. Yukhnovskiy to work long hours in order not to lose the money, Mr. Krutskyk said.

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December 15 New York Concert, "Koliada on Fifth Avenue," featuring the Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia, Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660

December 15 San Francisco Holiday concert, Kitka women's vocal ensemble, Noe Valley Music Series, 415-454-5238 or kitka.org

December 15-21 New York Film screening, "Resilience" by Paul Bojack, Anthology Film Theater, 212-505-5181

December 16 New York "Winter Song Workshop," Alexis Kochan, Julian Kytasty and the Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia, Yara Arts Group, 212-475-6474

December 16 Belvedere, CA Holiday concert, Kitka women's vocal ensemble, St. Stephen's Church, 510-444-0323

December 16 New York Annual "Yalynka," Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America - New York Branch, Ukrainian Institute of America, nyc@uesa.net

December 16 Calgary, AB 15th anniversary of Volya Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, performing "The Legend Unfolds," Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, 403-777-0000 or Ticketmaster outlets

December 17 Silver Spring, MD Christmas Bazaar, St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 301-593-5316 or 301-584-9192

December 17 New York 80th birthday tribute to Oleksa-Myron Bilaniuk, Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences, 212-222-1866

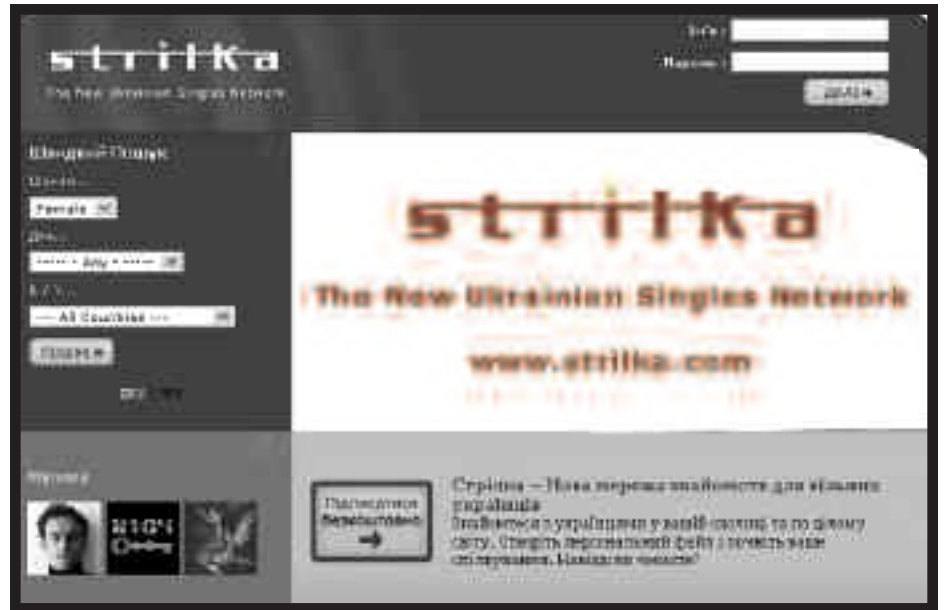
December 17 Oakland, CA Holiday concert, Kitka women's vocal ensemble, First Unitarian Church, 510-444-0323 or kitka.org

December 17-January 5 Saratoga Springs, NY Photo exhibit, "Koliada: Winter Solstice Rituals from the Carpathian Mountains," by Alexander Khantaev, Spring Street Gallery, 212-475-6474

Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in The Ukrainian Weekly. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers; please send e-mail to staff@ukrweekly.com. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows; photos will be considered. Please note: items will be printed a maximum of two times each.

Notice to UKELODEON readers

Look for our monthly UKELODEON section "for the next generation" in next week's issue.



New Year's Eve Extravaganza December 31, 2006!



New Year's Eve Dinner Menu:
 Beggars Purse Appetizer,
 Butternut Squash Soup,
 Tossed Spring Salad,
 Choice of Entrée—
 Filet Mignon Stuffed w/Blue Cheese,
 Pistachio Encrusted Salmon or
 Duck Breast w/Raisin Sauce



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Soyuzivka's Datebook

December 10, 2006
KOZAK Hockey Team Christmas Party

December 11, 2006
Kerhonkson-Accord Senior Citizen Association Christmas Party

December 15, 2006
UNWLA Branch 95 Christmas Party

December 21, 2006
Jeremiah Flaherty Esq. Christmas Party

December 24, 2006
Traditional Ukrainian Christmas Eve Supper

December 31, 2006
New Year's Eve Extravaganza

January 27, 2007
Soyuzivka's 2nd Annual Malanka sponsored by the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America

March 3-4, 2007
Plast Fraternity "Khmelnynchenky" Annual Winter Rada

March 23-25, 2007
Plast Sorority "Chornomorski Khvyli" Rada



To book a room or event call: (845) 626-5641, ext. 140
216 Foordmore Road P.O. Box 529
Kerhonkson, NY 12446
E-mail: Soyuzivka@aol.com
Website: www.Soyuzivka.com

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 10

YONKERS, N.Y.: From 9 a.m. until noon, visit the Art Exhibit and Bazaar sponsored by Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 30 at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church hall, 21 Shonnard Place. Featured artists, to name just a few, are Bohdan Borzemsky, OIia Kolodij, Slava Gerulak, Tracey Kuzemczak, Anna Evans and Oksana Lotocky. This is a great opportunity to purchase gifts such as paintings, ceramics, embroidery, jewelry, leather gloves made in Ukraine, silk scarves, floral arrangements, Christmas cards, poppyseed and wheat, homemade baked goods, etc. For more information call 914-762-6514.

Friday-Thursday, December 15-21

NEW YORK: "Resilience," a feature film by Paul Bojack (a.k.a. Roman Paul Boychuk) will be screened at the Anthology Film Theater in the East Village for a one-week run. Mr. Bojack's previous work includes "Glass Necktie," which was praised in La Weekly, the Los Angeles Times and Film Threat, and is available on DVD throughout the United States and Canada. The Anthology Film Theater is located at 32 Second Ave. (corner of Second Street); shows are nightly at 8 p.m. The film is rated R. Tickets are available at the box office for \$8 (\$5 for seniors and students). For more information e-mail info@filmslb.com, visit www.filmslb.com or call 212-505-5181.

Saturday, December 16

NEW YORK: St. Nicholas will visit boys and girls at New York's Plast branch at 2:15

p.m. The Nebesna Kantselaria (Heavenly Office) will be open at 9 a.m. Venue: Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, 144 Second Ave. For information call 212-982-4530. All children are welcome!

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a Literary Bazaar featuring Kateryna Demchuk (Kyiv), playwright; Viktor Poteraylo (New York), writer; Oles Berezhnyi (Washington), writer; Tamara Hanenko (New Jersey), poet. The program will be emceed by Vasyl Makhno. Musical accompaniment will be by Andriy Legkyy of New York. The bazaar will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

Sunday, December 31

HORSHAM, Pa.: The Ukrainian American Sport Center Tryzub, located at County Line and Lower State roads, invites all to a New Year's Eve 2007 Extravaganza: "Romance the Gypsy in Your Heart." The New Year's Eve festivities will commence at 7:30 p.m. with a two-hour open specialty wine, beer and martini bar and dinner. Feast on a delectable array of hors d'oeuvres, carving stations, seafood, a taste of Tuscany, Viennese sweets, flambé table, coffee and tea; and enjoy a champagne toast at midnight. Welcome "Stesha," the mysterious Gypsy fortuneteller and dance the night away to the music of the Fata Morgana orchestra. Price: \$120 per person. For reservations, due by December 19, call: Natalia Luciw, 215-362-5331; or Kristine Rizanow, 610-272-0678. Advance ticket sales only.

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