



September-October 1997  
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Monthly newsletter of The Washington Group  
An Association of Ukrainian American Professionals

# Conference looks to community's future

*NSC's Courtney featured speaker;  
Shcherbak made honorary member*

More than 200 Ukrainian-American community activists from across the United States spent their Columbus Day weekend, October 10-12, at the Georgetown University Conference Center in Washington, analyzing their organizations' strengths and weaknesses and planning for their future.

The venue was the annual Washington Group Leadership Conference, which this year put aside the needs of Ukraine per se and focused on "Expanding Horizons for Ukrainian Americans: We Can Do Better," as the conference theme asserted.

The theme was explored in five panel discussions, deal-

## Kyiv Chamber Choir Concert

(see page 11)

ing with how the Ukrainian-American and other ethnic groups organize their efforts, the best ways of influencing the U.S. government and society, working and building connections with Ukraine, and winning and executing government grants.

They also heard two prominent speakers analyze developments in Ukraine, its relations with the United States, and the role of the Ukrainian-American community in these processes: Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States, Yuri Shcherbak, and Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia at the National Security Council, Ambassador William Courtney.

During a reception Friday evening at the Ukrainian Embassy, Ambassador Shcherbak read a statement from Ukraine's Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko. Mr. Shcherbak was honored by TWG and made its honorary member.

During the Awards Banquet Saturday evening, TWG (See *Conference*, page 8)



Ukrainian Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak displays the TWG honorary membership award he received for his work in representing Ukraine in Washington from TWG President George Masiuk (left) during the Friday evening reception at the Embassy of Ukraine.

### Conference photos by Natalie Sluzar

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## New Members



## New Members

- **Nicolas Andreadis**, Retired, Dunkirk, MD.
- **Ihor Babiak**, Marketing Consultant, Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada.
- **Wawa Baczynskij**, Social Worker, Glenside, PA.
- **Paul Bandriwsky**, Finance Manager, Buffalo, NY.
- **Steve Boychuk**, Insurance Auditor, Alexandria, VA.
- **Nina Brantley**, Student, Washington, DC.
- **John Dicky**, Electrical Engineer, Visteon/Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, MI.
- **Roma Hadzewycz**, Editor-In-Chief, The Ukrainian Weekly, Parsippany, NJ.
- **Zorianna Harabatch**, Teacher, Germantown, MD.
- **Taissa Horalewsky**, Student, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.
- **Diana Howansky**, Student, Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies, Washington, DC.
- **Cameron Huddleston**, Staff Writer, Associated Builders and Contractors, Washington, DC.
- **Bohdan Huzar**, Financial Investigator, New York, NY.
- **Maria Ivancin**, President, Market Research Bureau, Washington, DC.
- **Orysia Karkoc**, International Operations Specialist, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC.
- **Lidia Karmazyn**, Educator, Parma, OH.
- **George Kokhno**, Rev., Saint Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral, Washington, DC.
- **Zina Kondratiuk**, Banking, Bank of Boston, Boston, MA.
- **Oksana Koropeckyj**, Finance/Banking, Baltimore, MD.
- **Eugene Kotlarchuk**, Attorney, Somerville, NJ.

### TWG NEWS

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- **Roman Kuzyk**, Engineer, Trenton, NJ.
- **Alexander Lebedinsky**, PhD Student, Georgetown University, Washington, DC.
- **John Lechicky**, Program Officer, IREX, Arlington, VA.
- **Theresa Luckyj**, Artist/Educator, Elverson, PA.
- **Lyudmyla Michniak**, Legal Assistant, Office of Andre Michniak, Philadelphia, PA.
- **Natalka Mouchyn**, Retired, Suitland, MD.
- **Yuri Nizhnikovich**, Architecture, San Francisco, CA.
- **Motrja Paluch**, Student, Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies, Washington, DC.
- **Steven Pawlyshyn**, Chemist, Owosso, MI.
- **Adriana Pidwerbetsky**, Vice-President, Aldo Studio, New York, NY.
- **Larysa Pyk**, Law Student, Orland Park, IL.
- **Frederica Sedlock**, MIS, Sharp Electronics. Clifton, NJ.
- **Michael Sedoy**, Student, University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, CT.
- **Luba Shara**, Student, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD.
- **Yuri Shcherbak**, Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States, Washington, DC, Honorary Member.
- **Elehie Skoczylas**, Senior Research Analyst, International Foundation for Election Systems, Washington, DC.
- **Taras Sozanski**, Executive/Trader/Investor, Houston, TX.
- **Tanya Stasiuk**, Contract Negotiator, U.S. Dept. of Defense, Arlington, VA.
- **Martha Swidersky**, Publications Manager, National Center for Manufacturing Sciences, Ann Arbor, MI.
- **Wasył Szeremeta**, Physician, Philadelphia, PA.
- **Roman Voronka**, Professor, NJ Institute of Technology, Maplewood, NJ.
- **Larissa Vovk**, US-Ukraine Foundation, Washington, DC.
- **Bohdan Watral**, President/CEO, Selfreliance Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, Chicago, IL.
- **Bohdan Wenglowsky**, Attorney, Rochester, NY.
- **Luba Yurchyk**, Editor, Deutsch Morgan Grenfell, New York, NY.
- **Lydia Zaininger**, Deutsche Bank, New York, NY.

### TWG ON THE WEB

TWG has a home page on the World Wide Web:

<http://www.TRYZUB.com/TWG>

It contains information about TWG, the TWG News and reports, texts and color photos from the 1997 and previous leadership conferences.

## *Luncheon Address*

# Courtney calls on diaspora to stay engaged, “help Ukrainians stay the course for reform”

*Following is the text of the luncheon address delivered at the TWG Leadership Conference, October 11, 1997, by Ambassador William H. Courtney, Special Assistant to the President and National Security Council Senior Director for Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia.*

It is an honor and great pleasure to be with you today. When I participated in an earlier TWG Leadership Conference, the USSR was in its death rattle. Today, Americans rejoice in Ukraine’s peaceful and successful path to independence, and its integration into the international community. I believe all Americans are proud of what our country has done to assist this historic change. And, of course, Ukrainian-Americans have special reason to take pride in their exceptional role in promoting this great advance for world freedom.

A decade ago when I thought I was going to Kyiv to open a new U.S. Consulate General, you and others kindly took me in as one of your own. I visited with Ukrainian-American communities in Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Washington. I even had the honor of joining a commencement ceremony in Warren, Michigan, for a Ukrainian church’s Saturday school. The young graduates I saw were inspired by the language, history and customs of Ukraine. Few of them dreamed Ukraine would be free so soon. But this did not slacken their thirst to learn more about their ancestors’ homeland and language, its wonderful culture and people.

The inspiration of those young people is with all of us today. We know in our hearts that Ukraine will become a great nation of Europe, and that it will attain this goal by developing as a democracy and a market economy based on private property. Today, I would like to discuss with you what the American government is doing to help Ukraine realize this future, and why reform is the only path to get there.

### The Current Situation

Ukraine is enjoying its largest measure of stability since becoming independent in 1991. Ukraine’s leadership has largely defused the ethnic and regional tensions that earlier plagued the country. Progress, albeit uneven, has been made in implementing democratic and economic reforms. Nonetheless, political and economic obstacles have slowed and could stall the reform program. With parliamentary elections coming in March 1998 and presidential elections in October 1999, some political forces advocate going slow on tough reforms. But going slow on reform in the past has intensified and prolonged the pain ordinary Ukrainians feel.

Let me walk through several specific areas where accelerated reform makes sense.

### Democratic Change

Democracy has made great strides in Ukraine.

Generally free and fair elections helped consolidate public support for Ukraine’s independence and sovereignty. Ukraine’s leadership worked effectively to contain some key problems, especially in Crimea. More broadly, ethnic tensions were averted by wisely basing citizenship on residency rather than ethnicity.

But the threat of corruption has tarnished Ukraine’s image as a democratic nation. A conventional wisdom has emerged that it is difficult to do business in Ukraine without some form of “special arrangement.” Ukraine has seen some foreign investment, but it is a trickle compared to the potential. Onerous regulations and taxes force small entrepreneurs into the unofficial economy—which generates half of Ukraine’s income—making them all the more vulnerable to bribes and extortion. Corruption lessens public confidence in government and public support for reform. Corrup-

(See *Courtney*, page 12)



Ambassador William Courtney

## *Greetings*

# Udoenko sees growing world interest in Ukraine, its increased influence and prestige

*Following is the text of remarks by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Hennadiy Udoenko to the 1997 TWG Leadership Conference, read October 11 by Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak:*

Distinguished Participants,  
Dear Friends.

It gives me great pleasure to greet you on the occasion of the Annual Conference of the Association of Ukrainian-American Professionals. It is very heartwarming to know that there exists such an active community that follows developments in domestic and foreign policy of Ukraine so closely. I send you my best wishes and congratulations.

Today, we are witnessing an ever-growing interest of the international community in Ukraine. This fact illustrates the increased significance and prestige of our common homeland on the international arena.

From the very outset, sovereign Ukraine focused her foreign policy on achieving breakthroughs in two main directions: European and Trans-Atlantic. One of our prime objectives was to develop relations with other states that economically, politically, as well as culturally were close to her. It was crucial for Ukraine to become integrated into existing economic, political and security structures that had already proven their effectiveness. And we can be proud of our achievements.

In an important step, Ukraine signed the Agreement on partnership and cooperation with the European Union. A Plan of Actions for Ukraine, spelling out concrete mechanisms of cooperation, has been already approved by the European Union and

is being now implemented. This year, at the beginning of September, an EU-Ukraine Summit took place in Kyiv.

The signing of the Charter on Distinctive Partnership with NATO marked 1997 as a very special year for Ukraine. This fact stands out as a clear and very high recognition of our significant role in maintaining peace and security in Europe. The NATO-Ukraine cooperation will be further strengthened. As a salient example of this, successful military exercises Sea Breeze-97 were conducted in the territorial waters of Ukraine and on the Dnipro River banks.

During this year, Ukraine has also managed to put an end to a long-standing dispute over the Black Sea Fleet and signed a number of bilateral treaties with her

neighbors, especially with Russia and Romania, thus securing peaceful environment around her borders.

Ukraine looks ahead with confidence. Our standing in world affairs has grown remarkably during the past years. So have our responsibilities. After six years of energetic efforts, Ukraine has achieved the highest recognition of her place among the family of free nations when her representative was elected President of the world's parliament—the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Let me assure you that we will continue expanding and enriching our potential in every field of our international activity.

I wish your conference every success. I have no doubt that your forum will be marked by thought-provoking and fruitful discussion. □



UN Photo  
**Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udoenko**

## Keynote Address

# Shcherbak: Diaspora helped forge strategic partnership between U.S. and Ukraine

*Following is the text of the keynote address by Yuri Shcherbak, Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States, at The Washington Group Leadership Conference.*

First of all, let me express my deep appreciation for the opportunity to deliver my remarks at the Washington Group 1997 Leadership Conference.

I'd like once again to thank President Masiuk for the TWG award, which I received last night. I consider this award to be a confirmation of the important role our Embassy plays in strengthening ties between Ukraine and the United States, between Ukrainian-Ukrainians and Ukrainian-Americans.

The subject-matter of my statement is extremely interesting and important, as it has a bearing on Ukraine's success in the future.

At the same time it is quite complicated, as it requires from us to be political futurologists, prophets, forecasters—but political forecasting is a very ungrateful thing.

In this regard I would like to cite an anecdote from World War II:

Marshal Stalin was very dissatisfied with the inaccuracy of his meteorological service forecasts, which was accurate in only 40-50% of the cases. It is said that he put all the meteorologists in the Gulag, leaving only one, whose rate of accuracy was up to 70%.

After Stalin died, someone asked the meteorologist how he did it.

"It's very simple", he said. "I was always saying that tomorrow the weather will be the same as today".

Despite the assumption that the future is unpredictable, we—politicians, military and government officials—should, in spite of everything, think about the future, and be involved in strategic planning, as well as we must always keep in mind the common sense of Stalin's surviving meteorologist: "tomorrow's weather originates from the weather of today".

Indeed, we are now witnessing changes of great

historical significance.

I would like to draw your attention to several fundamental features of today's geopolitical situation which, to my mind, will play an important role in the 21st century.

First: The processes of both disintegration and integration are simultaneously taking place now on the territory of the former USSR. The process of disintegration is dominant.

At least six geostrategic regions have emerged as a result of disintegration, embracing countries or groups of countries with different political systems, dissimilar economic potential and divergent national goals. These geostrategic regions are:

- Ukraine
- Russia and Belarus
- Moldova
- Baltic states
- Trans-Caucasian countries
- the countries of Central



Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak

Asia.

Of course, every region has its own obstacles and problems, but my differentiation is generally based on traditional, historical, religious, ethnic and cultural values of separate countries, who completely abandoned the Leninist ideology of proletarian internationalism, on which the political system of the USSR was based.

Similar processes are also taking place within the Russian Federation.

On the other hand, Russia is trying to lead the process of reintegration by forging alliances within the NIS (new independent states), such as:

Russia-Belarus, Russia-Belarus-Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan, the Tashkent military bloc.

Speaking about the geostrategic position of Ukraine in the post-Soviet environment, I would like to draw your attention to important Ukrainian agreements,

(See *Shcherbak*, page 14)

## *TWG president's remarks*

# Community must embrace information age

*Following are excerpts of Leadership Conference introductory remarks by TWG President George Masiuk:*

There is a more global paradigm through which we can view this conference and a successful future for the Ukrainian-American community. The paradigm is that of a network. In each age in human history, the dominant thinking of that era with respect to science and technology played an important role in how the society organized itself and thought about the world. During the Industrial Revolution, with Newtonian physics at its intellectual core, society viewed the world as predictable, considered the hierarchical organization as natural, and considered that goods derived their value from their relative scarcity. During our present age, that of the Information Revolution, with quantum mechanics and chaos theory at its intellectual core, we consider those organizations as natural, that are flat, participatory, and that rely on rapid assimilation of feedback rather than on quasi-omniscient leadership, to maintain stability and set direction. And for an ever increasing number of goods we assess their value not in terms of scarcity but in terms of their connectivity to a large number of similar goods.

### **Information network**

Let me focus on this point. If you are the proud owner of wheat, coal, or iron ore, the value of your possessions depends on others not having a plentiful supply of these products. If, however, you are a proud owner of a computer, fax, or a phone, all connected to a network, the value of these assets increases as the number of other computers, faxes, and phones attached to your network increases. And one more point—the value of these assets depends on what you have to say, on what you are capable of understanding, and on what you can implement based on the exchange of information, knowledge and skills. Historically, Ukraine perceived itself and was perceived by others as the proud possessor of wheat—the Breadbasket of Europe—and its people as proud peasants. In today's world, we need to perceive ourselves—objectively—as highly educated, highly skilled, knowledge-based professionals. And we



**George Masiuk**

need to perceive our community as a node in the global information- and knowledge-based civilization.

There are two other concepts related to information and knowledge networks. These are—access and leverage. A simple story told by Steve Jobs, the founder of Apple computer, illustrates the power of these concepts. Before settling down to building computers the young Steve Jobs was fascinated by telephones and “Ma Bell,” the telephone company. Specifically, Steve was interested in getting world-wide telephone service for free. One day, he and Steve Wozniak were perusing AT&T manuals in an obscure section of a public library when they found information on the AT&T telephone network signaling scheme. This enabled them to build a little box, called the “blue box,” and surf the AT&T network for free, calling up weather information in Tokyo and even reaching the pope's office. Today we do that on the Internet. The lesson that they drew from this experience is that with access to the right information and with skill to make use of it—you can leverage the power of billions of dollars of network resources.

### **Construct our node**

As American citizens, we live in the greatest societal and economic network in the history of the world—that is present day America. As members of the Ukrainian-American community we can construct our node as a part of the American network and develop our own “blue boxes” to be able to surf that network. All of this we must do transparently and above board....

In summary, our Ukrainian-American community has intrinsic value and must be maintained, and it can be maintained better, but it also has, and will increasingly have, value, as a gateway to expanding horizons in a shrinking world.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizational co-sponsors of this conference; The Embassy of Ukraine, The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, and the Ukrainian American Medical Association of North America. I would also like to thank our corporate sponsors whose financial help is necessary for the success of this conference. They are: 1st Security Federal Savings Bank, Selfreliance Baltimore Federal Credit Union, Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, Selfreliance Chicago Federal Credit Union, Ukrainian Orthodox Federal Credit Union, Ukrainian Selfreliance Philadelphia Federal Credit Union, Rochester Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, and the Ukrainian National Credit Union Association. □

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## *Friends of Ukraine: Krushelnytska, Pryma-Bohachevska*

The Washington Group's "Friend of Ukraine" award for 1997 was presented jointly to theater director and actress Lidia Krushelnytsky and choreographer and ballerina Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky, both of New York, "in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the cause of Ukraine and the Ukrainian-American community."

Lidia Krushelnytsky directs the Ukrainian Stage Ensemble in New York, the only professionally trained Ukrainian theater group in the U.S. The ensemble's repertoire contains both world classics as well as allegorical fairy tales and includes the works of such leading Ukrainian writers as Taras Shevchenko, Ivan Franko, Lesia Ukrainka, Volodymyr Vynnychenko and Lina Kostenko.

When Ms. Krushelnytsky arrived in New York in 1949, following stage career in Ukraine, she joined Yosyp Hirniak's and Olimpia Dobrovolska's Drama Studio. In the 1960s, she took over the studio, which had become a theatrical-training studio for children, and later became the Ukrainian Stage Ensemble.

Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky, artistic director and choreographer of *Syzokryli* dance ensemble, also began her ballet career in Ukraine, and has performed in Europe, North America and Central America.

Founded in 1978, the *Syzokryli* dance ensemble has



**TWG Vice President Marta Zielyk (center) presents award to Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky (left) and Lidia Krushelnytsky.**

performed extensively over the years throughout the northeastern United States, including the Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall and Madison Square Garden in New York, the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, and Constitution Hall in Washington. In 1992, the ensemble concluded a critically acclaimed tour of Ukraine, appearing in the opera houses of Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv and Ivano-Frankivsk. □

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## *Ostroushko, Magraw entertain at conference brunch*



**Guitarist Dean Magraw and Peter Ostroushko**

This year's TWG Leadership Conference Sunday brunch program featured the musical duo Peter Ostroushko and Dean Magraw.

Peter Ostroushko, widely known for his appearances on National Public Radio's *A Prairie Home Companion*, is acclaimed as one of the country's finest mandolin and fiddle players. His tours have taken him to the stages of clubs, performing arts centers, music festivals and theaters across North America and Europe.

A master of instrumentation and composition, his 1995 recording "Heart of the Heartland" earned a N.A.I.R.D. Indie Award, the highest honor from the independent music recording industry. The lead and several other cuts from this CD were used as musical themes for the "Lewis and Clark" PBS series in November.

His most recent album, *Pilgrims on the Heart Road*, includes the song "My People," in which, with a touch of humor, he looks at his Ukrainian heritage.

Mr. Ostroushko also has played with the Minnesota Symphony Orchestra, appeared on The David Letterman Show and Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood, composed and performed scores for a number of theatrical productions, radio and television music shows.

Dean Magraw has been called an elegant, exciting and extraordinarily innovative guitarist, who thrives in any musical environment. In addition to solo tours throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe, for more than ten years he has frequently appeared with Peter Ostroushko, both on stage and in recordings.

Magraw was the lead guitarist on the *Heart of the Heartland* CD. And like Mr. Ostroushko's *Heart* album, Mr. Magraw's 1994 album *Broken Silence*, too, won the N.A.I.R.D. Indie Award for acoustic instrumental album of the year. □

## Conference...(continued from page 1)

presented its annual "Friend of Ukraine" award to two prominent New York Ukrainian-American cultural figures—theater director Lidia Krushelnytsky and choreographer Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky for "their outstanding contribution to the cause of Ukraine and the Ukrainian-American community." (See page 7.)

Following TWG President George Masiuk's opening remarks (page 6), which outlined what the conference planned to achieve, Ambassador Shcherbak gave the keynote address. (Full text begins on page 5.)

During the question-and-answer period that followed the keynote address, Ambassador Shcherbak was asked about the continued predominance of the Russian Orthodox Church in Ukraine. One must understand the "very hard heritage from three hundred years of Russian domination," he replied. The Moscow Patriarchate has 6,000 parishes in Ukraine, and the government cannot ignore potential political consequences of any action it might take in this area, he said.

The religious issue came up again following Ambassador Courtney's luncheon address a few hours later, when Mr. Courtney said Washington was not sure whether the recent seizure by Russian authorities of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Kyiv Patriarchate) in Noginsk was a result of the new law on religion passed in Russia. He suggested that the state may be eroding its moral authority "by passing laws that might send signals throughout society that religious discrimination can be practiced."



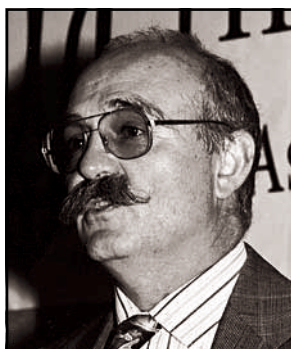
Ewa Matuszewski



Adrian Karmazyn



Fred Rotondaro



Daniel Blondy

(The full text of Amb. Courtney's luncheon address begins on page 3.)

### Panel 1: *Creating a Model of a successful community: Lessons from other communities.*

The first panel familiarized the participants with how some of the other ethnic groups work in the United States.

Ewa Matuszewski, a member of the board of directors of the Polish American Congress, said that Polish Americans think that the Ukrainian Americans are better organized than they are. The PAC's work now is centered on NATO expansion and getting the Senate to agree to it, and it is enlisting the cooperation of other central European ethnic groups in this effort.

To be effective in U.S. politics, however, she added, "Don't forget about the American agenda. You have to work from within to change" and to have influence in the state capitals as well as in Washington.

Unlike East European ethnic groups, Italian Americans have no major foreign policy problems to pursue, according to Fred Rotondaro, executive director of the Italian American Foundation. His organization was founded in 1975 primarily to counter the negative depiction of Italian Americans in the media. That problem is still there, but it's no longer a major theme, he said.

Since Italian Americans "have arrived" and are in the mainstream of American life and politics, Mr. Rotondaro said, his organization looks for themes that have a positive impact on the larger community and activities that will help preserve the Italian heritage for their children. While Italian Americans do not speak with one voice, he said, they unite when the greater good is at stake.

Fluency in the ethnic language, while important, should not be a prerequisite to working for the good of one's ethnic community or the country of one's origin, said Ms. Matuszewski. What one feels is much more important, she said. Mr. Rotondaro pointed out that while the majority of Italian Americans say they speak Italian and want their children to know it, too, most of the board of the Foundation do not.

As for their ethnic press, both the Polish and Italian American press is on the decline. But, as Mr. Rotondaro pointed out, it's an American problem in general—people simply do not read as much as they used to.

### Panel 2: *How are Ukrainian-American organizations doing?*

As Roma Hayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Laity Council pointed out, in order to preserve itself in the past, the Ukrainian-American community had taken the isolationist approach, which resulted in a siege mentality in the face of changing times. "Today we have to evaluate this approach and re-think our short-term and long-term objectives," she said.

"It is time to recognize that we are not an immigrant community any more...we have integrated into the sur-

(See *Conference*, next page)

## Conference...(continued from page 8)

rounding civic, economic and cultural environment. But we have not yet resolved the means and structures that will continue the link with our Ukrainian heritage. To make this possible, we have to understand that each institution...has



Panel 2: Roma M. Hayda, Bohdan Vitvitsky, Myron B. Kuropas, Bohdan Watraland Rev. Stefan Zencuch.

to function in accordance with its objectives.”

While optimistic about the Ukrainian Catholic Church's future, Ms. Hayda presented some sobering statistics, which show Church membership dropping from 320,000 members in 1960 to 123,000 in 1997.

The figures were compiled by Myron B. Kuropas, author and expert on the Ukrainian-American experience in the United States and long-time member of the Ukrainian National Association leadership, who moderated the second panel. His analysis of the UNA was sobering as well.

Of the four original Ukrainian fraternal organizations, only the UNA seems viable, he said. But it, too, is downsizing—it closed its Washington office, stopped the Svoboda index project, cut cultural courses, stopped dividend payments, sold its building, and its newspapers—Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly—are losing circulation.

“We have eaten our young,” Dr. Kuropas said, admitting that the UNA failed to engage in strategic planning, managed by denial and was unable to restructure in time. Hopefully, he added, the problem will bottom out within the next few years.

The most upbeat presentation was by Bohdan Watral, president and CEO of the Selfreliance Ukrainian Federal Credit Union in Chicago. The Ukrainian credit unions in the United States are in their “golden age,” he said. Their assets have grown to \$1.1 billion; membership increased to

61,000; and their net income is at \$15 million.

Many credit unions, like the one he heads in Chicago, have turned into 7-days-a-week, full-service financial institutions, with everything from savings accounts and VISA cards to ATM machines. But in order to remain successful, he stressed, they have to continuously “scan the horizon” and change.

Bohdan Vitvitsky, vice president of the Ukrainian-American Professionals and Businesspersons Association of New York and New Jersey, pointed out that while “our parents were involuntary ethnics—they couldn't be anything else—we have a choice: we can assimilate; we are voluntary ethnics.”

So why continue? he asked. “We as a community have not yet begun to address that.” The next leadership conference, he said, should have as its theme “Will there be a Ukrainian-American community by 2020, and does it matter.”

On the positive side, he added that the Ukrainian-American community probably will survive somehow even without a remedy. And both he and Dr. Kuropas thought that the church and fraternal organizations were critical to this survival.

### Panel 3: *Exercising influence within American society.*

Introducing the third panel, Orest Deychakiwsky, staff associate of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, noted that the situation has changed in recent years with respect to community's relations with the government.

“Generally speaking, U.S. Government policies toward Ukraine are now favorable. There's no question about it. There's been a tremendous evolution in the last three-four-five years,” he said. But support for Ukraine cannot be taken for granted, he added, especially now, when Ukraine is not completing its promised economic reforms. “And this is causing some frustration even among some traditional supporters of Ukraine.”

Laryssa Lapychak Chopivsky, director of the TWG Cultural Fund, which was established three years ago to promote Ukrainian culture in Washington, said that a good way to promote Ukrainian culture in a community is by getting the local arts organizations involved. One does that by becoming a member of these groups, supporting them

(See *Conference*, page 10)

## Conference...(continued from page 9)

financially, and helping them fill the seats when they sponsor Ukrainian artists, she said.

Andrew Fedynsky, a Cleveland-based government and business consultant, noted that over the past half-century, Ukrainian Americans have been “incredibly successful,” if



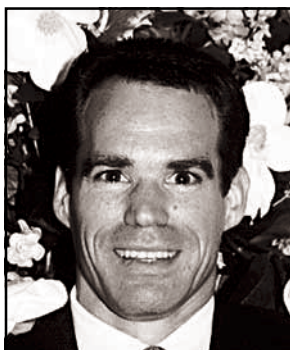
Laryssa Chopivsky



Robert McConnell



Orest Deychakiwsky



Michael Sawkiw

one measures success by achieving objectives. He said the most important among these objectives was the independence for Ukraine, in which the diaspora played its important role.

As the director of the Ukrainian Museum-Archives in Cleveland, Mr. Fedynsky described how through networking and cooperation with other local non-Ukrainian institutions, the Museum-Archives developed. “We’re using the assets of the state, the city, the foundations to promote Ukrainian culture, but we’re doing it as Americans,” he said.

Michael Sawkiw, director of the Ukrainian National Information Service in Washington, pointed out that the dissemination of information, which is what UNIS does, is one way of exercising influence on Congress or the government. Another, very important method is through e-mails, faxes, phone calls and letters—preferably personal and hand-written—from constituents. Members of Congress



Andrew Fedynsky

should be reminded that they have Ukrainian-American constituents who have positions on issues, Mr. Sawkiw said, and called on conference participants to get their congressmen to join the newly formed Congressional Ukrainian Caucus.

Robert McConnell, of the Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher law firm, cited the importance of grass-roots action by using the example of what many consider the almighty pro-Israel lobbying group AIPAC. When AIPAC lost the AWACS sale to Saudi Arabia vote in Congress in 1981, its own analysis found that much of the balance of power in the Congress had shifted to the South and West, where they traditionally had not exercised grass-roots influence, Mr. McConnell said. AIPAC concentrated on organizing the grass-roots in those districts and bounced back to defeat another Saudi arms sale four years later.

“My point—grass roots are critical to influence in today’s political process,” Mr. McConnell said. “And grass roots is more than mailing lists.”

“Democracy is not a spectator sport. It is a hands-on sport. And, if you intend to make a difference, you have to be committed to major effort and smart enough to evolve with the changes of Washington’s power structure,” Mr. McConnell said.

### Panel 4: *Building connections to Ukraine.*

Andrew Bihun, the senior commercial officer at the American Embassy in Kyiv, opened the fourth panel by calling on Ukrainian Americans and Ukrainian Canadians to play a more active role in what he called “private sector, corporate diplomacy” to increase investments in Ukraine. This will be very important in the next stage of Ukraine’s development, he said. Increased activity in Ukraine by large, medium and small U.S. and Canadian firms will not only increase the needed capital investment in Ukraine, according to Mr. Bihun, it will also help the government’s “clean hands” campaign by spreading Western ethical business behavior practices.

Peace Corps Ukraine Country Director Jaroslav Dutkewych noted that the Peace Corps presence of 190 volunteers in Ukraine is the largest in Europe and Asia and two short of being the largest in the world. The program started in 1992 with 60 business volunteers. Now it in-

(See *Conference*, next page)



Jaroslav Dutkewych



Andrij Masiuk

## Conference...(continued from page 10)



Andrew Bihun



Marta Zielyk

cludes programs in English-language teaching and ecology.

These volunteers work in all of Ukraine's large cities, in all oblasts. The volunteers come not only to teach, he said, but to get involved in the community, and as such are good sources of information on the business climate around the country.

Marta Zielyk, who interprets for President Clinton and other senior U.S. officials in their trips to or dealings with Ukraine, described how she and other Ukrainian Americans found themselves in a unique position when a whole new world of opportunities opened up on the eve of Ukraine's independence and related some personal stories and observations from her life as America's top Ukrainian-language interpreter.

Andrij Masiuk, who has been with the International Management Institute since 1989 and its director general from 1992 to 1997, said that one of the difficult things to pass on to the students there was the concept of "authority of law," as opposed to the "authority of position" or "affiliation" to which they were accustomed. And because of the prevalence of the authority of position, which leads to corruption, clans, mafia-type activities and a lack of trust outside of family and friends, 55% of Ukraine's economy is thought by officials to be "shadow" (unreported), 25% is barter and only 20% is above board and reported.

In such an environment, Mr. Masiuk said, "the useful-



Panel 5: The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation: Joyce Warner, Nadia K. McConnell and John A. Kun.

ness of laws is not fully understood."

**Panel 5: Local government project: A case study of how to win and execute grants involving aid to Ukraine.**

Organized by the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, the panel featured its president, Nadia Komarnycky McConnell, Financial and Grants Administrator John Kun and Deputy Project Director Joyce Warner.

The panel described how the Foundation won and is implementing a 3-year, \$6.9 million U.S. Agency for International Development grant for establishing 18 U.S.-Ukraine community partnerships for the purpose of training and education.

### *Ostroushko and Magraw*

Following Sunday brunch, conference participants heard a performance by America's leading mandolinist and fiddler Peter Ostroushko and guitarist Dean Magraw, playing songs from their award winning recordings, including Mr. Ostroushko's Heart of the Heartland CD featured recently in the PBS series "Lewis and Clark," as well as a few songs by Mr. Ostroushko with Ukrainian themes, among them, "My people," in which, with a touch of humor, he looks at his Ukrainian heritage. (See page 7.)

The Orchestra Tempo provided the music for the dance that followed the Awards Banquet Saturday Evening.

This year's conference was co-sponsored by the Embassy of Ukraine, the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, with generous financial support from the Heritage Foundation of the First Federal Savings Bank and seven Ukrainian credit union organizations: of New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Rochester, Chicago, the Ukrainian Orthodox Federal Credit Union of New York/S. Bound Brook, and the Ukrainian National Credit Union Association. □

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## ***Courtney...***(continued from page 3)

tion and poor treatment of American investors have caused a change in U.S. Congressional attitudes toward Ukraine. This problem goes beyond selective reporting or public perceptions. The House and Senate even looked at conditioning half of Ukraine's FY 98 aid on an improved business climate.

Competition is stiff in the global market place, and Ukraine must give investors good reason to take their capital to Kyiv, Lviv or Kharkiv, as opposed to Prague, Warsaw or Budapest. To attract more investors, Ukraine should send a clear signal that it fosters economic freedoms, clamps down on corruption, and makes investors welcome .

### **Economic Performance**

Through tight fiscal policy and monetary control, inflation has been reined in and the hryvnia, up until last month, became relatively stable. This is a momentous gain. At the same time, economic contraction continues. Officially-measured GDP declined by over 7 percent in the first half of 1997 in comparison with the first half of last year. The pace of privatization slowed to about half of what it was in 1996, when the government was privatizing about 400 mostly small-scale enterprises per month; fortunately, we are now seeing an upturn. Wage and pension arrears have increased to over two billion dollars. Only a fraction of economic reform legislation has been adopted.

More reform momentum is vital to address these challenges. Prospects for this seemed strong in late 1996, when Ukraine announced it would pursue a bold program to stem the economic decline and lay the foundations for economic growth. U.S. and IMF experts had helped Ukraine prepare the program. But Ukraine did not implement most of the program, causing it to forego much international financial support. In July, for example, Ukraine reneged on fresh promises to the World Bank on energy reform, leading the Bank to suspend over \$100 million in financing .

Despite these problems, we worked hard with Ukraine and the IMF to clear the path for a \$540 million agreement signed in late August. It provided the financial seal of approval that helped Ukraine sell \$450 million in Euro-bonds. But with the ink barely dry, the IMF program now stands a chance of unraveling unless Ukraine sharply changes course. We cannot overemphasize how precarious it would be for Ukraine to fall off of its reform program. Ukraine could lose \$1.2 billion from the IMF and World Bank over nine months. It could lose another \$300 million in Euro-bond sales. Interest rates on Treasury-bill sales are already shooting upwards. And last month, Ukraine spent \$200 million from reserves to protect the value of its currency.

We will not let this situation go untreated. The week after next a team of our most senior economic specialists will travel to Kyiv to meet with President Kuchma's economic team. They will describe a course that could sustain economic stability. But they will also work with their Ukrai-

nian counterparts to look beyond the immediate crisis and help them develop a strategy to build investor confidence and stimulate private investment.

Such reforms measures can also prove to be good politics. Creating private sector jobs and boosting small business could quickly lift public confidence and economic prospects. But to do this and improve the investment climate, reforms are urgently needed to simplify the tax structure, ease onerous regulatory and licensing requirements, speed enterprise privatization, and permit relatively unregulated buying and selling of land. Ukraine has one-third of the world's black earth and was once famed as the "breadbasket of Europe." Creation of an efficient land market could therefore bring enormous gains by boosting farm investment. Promoting transparency and predictability in government processes should also be a priority.

### **Foreign and Security Policy**

Ukraine's foreign and security policy rests on improving relations with neighbors and participating more actively in Western security structures, such as NATO's Partnership for Peace and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Recently Ukraine has scored landmark successes in foreign policy. The NATO-Ukraine Charter, concluded in May, provides further recognition of Ukraine's sovereignty. Conclusion of the Charter also enhanced Ukraine's confidence in resolving the Black Sea Fleet dispute, the historic agreement Ukraine reached with Russia which acknowledged Sevastopol as a Ukrainian city. Ukraine actively participates in PFP, seeing this as aiding its overall effort to integrate more closely with the West.

### **American Policy**

America's goal with Ukraine is to support its development as an independent, democratic, and prosperous state having good relations with its neighbors and increasing links to the West and to European institutions. Such a Ukraine can be a strong political and commercial partner for the United States, and positively influence its neighbors.

Support for reform is a defining feature of America's policy toward Ukraine. U.S. and Ukrainian experts worked together to craft a macroeconomic strategy that could help Ukraine address its most pressing economic liability—clearing most wage arrears. U.S. teams are working with Ukrainians in such key areas as defining steps to reduce the scope for corruption and helping Ukraine join the World Trade Organization. We currently provide Ukraine on the order of \$300 million annually in grants and another \$300 million in credits, and we have been instrumental in mobilizing billions of dollars in multilateral financial support.

This year the U.S. and Ukraine have had intense engagement at the highest levels. President Clinton met with President Kuchma in May, June, and September. The Gore-Kuchma Commission met in Washington in May, and the Vice President met again with President Kuchma in June. In November, the Vice President and President

(See *Courtney*, next page)

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***Courtney...***(continued from page 12)

Kuchma will likely co-host a pledging conference in New York to begin the process of raising \$300 million from the international community to stabilize the covering over the remains of unit 4 at Chernobyl. We are proud that under U.S. leadership, the G-7 have already pledged \$300 million to this project.

The Vice President's engagement with President Kuchma has introduced an important high-level dynamic that has facilitated fast action on important issues. It helped secure Ukraine's approval of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe flank accord, and accelerated progress on the NATO-Ukraine Charter. Their direct dialogue was key to working out language that addressed Ukraine's concerns over the basing of foreign troops on its territory. Further, it has set a framework for constructive interaction at the cabinet level. Secretary Albright met with President Kuchma last month in New York. The participation of Secretary of Defense Cohen in "Cooperative Neighbor," a PFP exercise in Western Ukraine, underscored U.S. support for Ukraine's sovereignty and independence. We will continue to work with Ukraine to ensure that its advanced weapons and technolo-

gies do not get into the wrong hands.

**Staying Engaged**

In closing, let me reiterate that the approach of elections in Ukraine, as in democracies everywhere, should be not an excuse to slow reform, but a unique opportunity for debate and consensus-building, for clarifying promising new ideas and discarding failed concepts. You and others in the Ukrainian-American community can help. Your moral support and experience in a democratic market economy can help Ukrainians define their own vision of a better future, with more freedom and more prosperity. Please stay engaged, and help Ukrainians stay the course for reform.

America and Ukraine are working together to achieve a common objective: an independent and sovereign Ukraine, secure within its borders and at peace with its neighbors. President Clinton often says that he sees Ukraine as a cornerstone in his European security strategy. This is reflected in our intensive engagement and our commitment to support the reforms Ukraine takes to foster democracy and prosperity for its own people. In the end this responsibility lies with Ukraine, and we are but partners who can and will help.

Thank you. □

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## *Shcherbak...* (continued from page 5)

apart from those with Russia and Belarus, they are:

- the consolidation of the strategic partnership with Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Uzbekistan via cooperation in providing the Trans-Caucasian corridor for the transportation of oil from the Caspian Region to Europe by transit through the territory of Ukraine;
- the participation of Ukraine in the peaceful settlement of the Trans-Dniester conflict, together with Russia and Moldova;
- the consolidation of ties with Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, along the axis Baltic Sea-Black Sea.

Second: The achievements of Ukraine on the international arena have been substantial. The president of Ukraine clearly underlined the main goal of our foreign policies: to integrate Ukraine into the Euro-Atlantic and Trans-Atlantic structures, and we have consistently moved along this course.

The events that took place recently in 1997 will attract the attention of historians and politicians for a lengthy period of time, and possibly, will be called "Ukrainian wonder", a real breakthrough in Ukrainian foreign policy.

Let me remind you about some of these events:

- May 7—NATO Secretary-General Solana opens the NATO Information Center in Kyiv and officially presents to President Kuchma the draft of "Charter on Distinctive Relations between NATO and Ukraine";
- May 8—the Presidents of Ukraine, Russia and Moldova approve in Moscow an agreement on peaceful settlement in Trans-Dniester;
- May 13—President Lukhashenko visits Kyiv and signs, together with President Kuchma, the Border-Line Agreement between Belarus and Ukraine;
- May 16—the first plenary meeting of the Ukraine-U.S. Binational Commission is held in Washington. President Kuchma, together with President Clinton and Vice-President Gore, review in detail the ways of strengthening the strategic partnership between Ukraine and the U.S. and the deepening of cooperation in various spheres—economic, in particular;
- May 21—President Kuchma and Polish President Kwasniewski sign in Kyiv a Statement on Accord and Unity, also referred to as a declaration on historic reconciliation;
- May 26-27—the meeting of the Presidents of Ukraine, Poland and the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, is held in Tallinn. A joint declaration is adopted;
- May 28—during the visit of Russia's Premier Chernomyrdin to Kyiv, 11 inter-state, inter-governmental and inter-agency agreements and protocols are signed between the two countries. The most important among them are:

– Agreement on the Status and Conditions of Stationing of the Black-Sea Fleet of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine;

– Agreement on the Parameters of Black Sea Fleet Division, and

– Agreement on Mutual Payments connected with the Division of the Black Sea Fleet of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine;

• May 29—Ukrainian Foreign Minister Udovenko and NATO Secretary-General Solana initial in the city of Sintra, Portugal, the "Charter on Distinctive Partnership between Ukraine and NATO".

May 30-31—during the state visit of Russia's President Yeltsin to Ukraine, the Presidents of two states sign a Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation;

• June 2—President Kuchma and President Constantinescu of Romania sign a basic bilateral Treaty in Constanta. The treaty stipulates that the countries' existing borders "are inviolable";

• very special in this list is the event not only of political, but also moral and of spiritual character: June 3—Pope John Paul II is joined by the presidents of Ukraine, Germany, the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and Lithuania at a mass in the Polish city of Gniezno.

• July 9—President Kuchma signed the "Charter on distinctive Partnership between Ukraine and NATO in Madrid. The leaders of 16 counties, members of NATO, including President Clinton, took part in the ceremony and

(See *Shcherbak*, next page)

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## ***Shcherbak...*** (continued from page 14)

delivered speeches. Immediately after the signing ceremony a meeting between President Kuchma and President Clinton was held.

- September 5—The first summit in the history of relations between Ukraine and the European Union took place in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine. Ukraine signed the Agreement of Partnership and Cooperation with the European Union. A plan of Action for Ukraine, spelling out concrete mechanisms of cooperation has been approved by the European Union and is being now implemented.

- September 15—Hennadiy Udovenko, Foreign Minister of Ukraine was elected as a President of the 52nd U.N. General Assembly, which testifies to the high prestige of Ukrainian foreign policy.

- September 24-26—the first state visit of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma to Mexico and the signing of six agreements and protocols took place, which will establish a reliable legal basis in the relations between Ukraine and Mexico. I am proud, that I have become the first Ukrainian ambassador to Mexico.

- November 19—now we are looking into the future—President Leonid Kuchma will be present at the launching of the Shuttle mission ST-87, with the first Ukrainian cosmonaut on board, and

- November 20—President Kuchma will co-chair with Vice-President Gore in New York the pledging Conference on the sarcophagus at Chornobyl nuclear power plant and will hold bilateral consultations with the U.S. Vice-Presi-

dent.

Regarding all these events, let me stress my deepest conviction, that there are three important and fundamental factors which will play a crucial role in of Ukraine's future in 21st century:

- relations with the U.S.A.;
- relations with Russia;
- relations with NATO.

Factor # 1: The stand of the U.S.A.

By establishing relations of the Strategic Partnership with Ukraine, the U.S. has demonstrated its profound understanding of Ukraine's key role in the system of European security. This role for Ukraine is clearly outlined in the U.S. National Security Strategy for a New Century, published in May 1997.

In the preface to the "Strategy" President Clinton says, I quote:

"We must help foster a peaceful, undivided, democratic Europe. When Europe is stable and at peace, America is more secure. When Europe prospers, so does America... We will strengthen the Partnership for Peace Program and create an enhanced NATO-Ukraine relationship".

Further development in this sensitive and extremely important region will depend to a great extent on the U.S. and its consistency in supporting Ukraine. We hope that the United States will not agree in the future to the creation of new spheres of influence in the region and will pursue a balanced policy of equal partnership, taking into consideration the national interests of all countries in this part of Europe.

Factor #2: the Russian factor.

We believe, that relations between Ukraine and Russia, after signing of their treaty, are legally based on the principle of, and I quote, "mutual respect, sovereign equality, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-use of force or threat by force".

To better understand the genuine nature of this event, I will add that, for the first time in 300 years, the president of a democratic Russia—not a tsar or governor—has come to a democratic Ukraine to conduct talks as an equal with an equal, in sharp contrast to the metropolis-province relations of the past. The Ukrainian leadership has assessed President Yeltsin's visit as the confirmation of Russia's willingness to build good-neighborly relations on an equal and mutually beneficial basis, even in the most complicated issues such as the division of the former Soviet Black Sea Fleet. Speaking of the future, I would say, that Russia in the 21st century will have to make a dramatic choice:

- either to become a democratic country of a European type, with a prosperous market economy and friendly relations with its neighbors on the basis of acknowledging their sovereignty and independence, and we hope this will be the way of Russia's development, which is the most desired by Ukraine, Europe and the world at large;

- or to try again to create a new empire, which is

(See *Shcherbak*, page 16)

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## *Shcherbak...* (continued from page 15)

impossible to do without incorporating Ukraine. The very pattern of the political and economic development of the Russian state in the nearest future is going to dictate the “rules of the game” for the neighboring countries, including Ukraine, of course. It can be predicted, that attempts to restore the empire or to forcefully reintegrate the post-Soviet countries under Russian control will accelerate Ukraine’s movement towards NATO.

The third fundamental factor, which determines the geopolitical position of Ukraine, is NATO enlargement.

After Poland and Hungary join NATO, Ukraine will have 531 kilometers of common borders with the Alliance.

And if Romania and Slovakia are also included in the Alliance, the length of our common border with NATO will stretch up to 907 kilometers.

NATO’s enlargement will not only substantially change the geostrategic situation in Europe after the World War II as a whole, but Ukraine’s position in particular as well.

It is in Ukraine’s vital interests that the border line with NATO remains a zone of peace and stability. Bitter historical experience reminds us of the fact that during the two World Wars Ukraine was turned into a battlefield, on which the empires used to fight, and during the Cold War it was twice used as a springboard for the Soviet empire’s aggression—against Hungary in 1956, and against Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Opposing turning Ukraine into buffer zone, the leadership of my state has clearly formulated Ukraine’s doctrine with respect to NATO’s enlargement:

Ukraine considers NATO as an alliance of democratic, peace-loving countries, which is one of the most effective structures to promote and ensure stability, security, democracy as well economic prosperity in the Euro-Atlantic region.

We believe that the enlargement of NATO to the territory of Ukraine will play only a positive stabilizing role, as we have strategic partnership relations with Poland, the treaty with Romania, signed recently, and best neighborly relations with Slovakia and Hungary.

Ukraine is a country of the Central and East European region, and this is not only a geographic fact. The whole history of Ukraine confirms this notion.

I would like to emphasize that the Ukraine-U.S. Joint Statement, signed in Washington, D.C., on May 16 this year by Ukrainian President Kuchma and the US Vice-President Gore, has the following provision:

“The sides underscored the importance of deepening cooperation to ensure the security interests of Ukraine and the United States, and to promote the integration of Ukraine as a central European state —I would like to underline ‘central European state’—into European and Euro-Atlantic institutions.”

Taking into consideration the extremely great importance of NATO’s coming up to the Western border of

Ukraine, the Ukrainian leadership, President Kuchma and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for the last two years have been persistently striving for Ukraine’s interests to be taken into account and for the establishment of a special partnership with NATO. Not always have we been well understood by our partners—and the path was not simple to the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership between NATO and Ukraine, which was signed, as I mentioned, July 9 in Madrid; I was happy to be at this ceremony, as member of the Ukrainian delegation—NATO considers its relationship with Ukraine as an evolving and dynamic process. The Ukraine-NATO Commission was established. Ukraine has received security assurances from all five nuclear-weapon possessing states to the NPT—it was confirmed by NATO countries.

Let me draw your attention to factor # 4, it may be the most crucial. It is Ukraine itself.

It implies our indefinite development, our successes and setbacks in conducting economic reform as well as recovery of our industrial and agricultural potential on the principles of the market economy, which will provide for the consistent growth of the GDP and the welfare of the people.

If Ukraine’s growing weakness and bankruptcy of its economic policy continue, our independence could face a hard trial, and our access to Europe could be blocked by the European Union and NATO.

Only by ensuring Ukraine’s prosperity through creating the middle class of about 7 to 10 million of private owners, will we be able to secure Ukraine’s independence and its affiliation to Europe.

We could speak about a lot of factors—well-known and unknown—which will play an important role in the next century, like the growing of China as a super power and its place in the world, problems of Islamic countries, local conflicts on ethnic-religious basis, the threat of terrorism, drug-trafficking, ecological disasters in future, and so on, but I limit my statement, focused on Ukraine and her fate on the world arena.

Let me touch upon some issues regarding the relationship between Ukraine and Ukrainian diaspora. Paying special attention to the relations with the Ukrainian community, the Embassy holds regular meetings with the leaders and the local representatives of Ukrainian organizations, continuously informs them on the prospects of political and economic situation in Ukraine, exchanges opinions on these issues and is committed to further close cooperation in the future. The doors of our Embassy are open for you.

We are aware that the community seeks to provide an overwhelming support to the state-building processes in the historic Motherland. This initiative is highly appraised in Kyiv.

There is no doubt that attaining Strategic Partnership in such a short period of time would have been impossible without the support of Ukrainian diaspora in the U.S. The

(See *Shcherbak*, next page)

## ***Shcherbak...*** (continued from page 16)

active stand during the meetings of the ethnic American Leaders with President Clinton and Vice-President Gore, the U.S. Governors' involvement in events on the occasion of Ukraine's Independence Day, prompted by ethnic Ukrainian citizens, as well as the creation of Ukrainian Caucus in the U.S. Congress testifies that the Ukrainian community is aware of the critical role the U.S. plays presently, when Ukraine endures transitional period and faces next election in 1998-1999.

One should also mention other projects sponsored by the local organizations lately. The Embassy highly appreciates diaspora's assistance in opening the memorial George Washington Room, granting stipends to internship students, organization of summer camp vacations for the Embassy's children, launching the English courses at the Embassy.

Dwelling on future joint initiatives, the Embassy would propose the professionals to consider the possibly of holding a series of seminars in Ukraine of the mechanism of launching business cooperation with American companies and receiving grants for internships. I would ask you to pay attention not only to the western regions of Ukraine and Kyiv, but to the central and eastern parts as well.

We also have information that many Ukrainians would like to take part in the ceremony of launching the Ukrainian cosmonaut in Florida. This will be a tremendously important event for all Ukrainians. We would be sincerely glad to see all those wishing to participate in Florida.

An ad-hoc committee has been set up at the Embassy which you can apply for participation in the ceremony.

Cooperation of Ukraine with the Ukrainian communities of the West will be determined by the state program "Ukrainian Diaspora by the year 2000" and by decisions of the Second World Forum of Ukrainians, which took place in Kyiv on August 21-24 of this year.

We have been informed at the Embassy about an ambiguous reaction to the Forum. But whatever the assessments should be, the Forum has played an extremely important role in defining the priorities of the Ukrainian state and Ukrainian communities abroad. We should also keep in mind that the next Forum will take place in the 21st century. Hopefully previous shortcomings in the organization of the Forum and the proposals of diaspora will be considered in the future. Let us have a common thought about consolidating political and economic independence of Ukraine as well as be aware of the difficulties endured by diaspora today. We must enter the 21st century with a clear-cut plan of action.

As a Ukrainian writer, I have written many plays and scenarios. As an official and diplomat, I am reluctant to participate in the creation of a gloomy scenario of Ukraine's defeat. I will do my utmost to bring into life the scenario of Ukraine's consolidated independence, prosperity and democracy in the 21st century. □

## **Osinchuk to play benefit for *Women for Women* project**

Concert pianist and TWG member Juliana Osinchuk will be performing in Washington again—this time with the NorthStar Chamber Ensemble of the Anchorage Festival of Music.

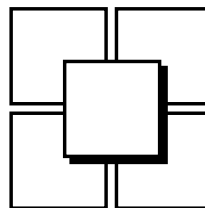
The concert, a benefit for the Rwanda Project of the *Women for Women* organization, will be on Saturday, December 6, 1997, at 8 p.m. at the Notre Dame Chapel of Trinity College, 125 Michigan Ave., N.E. (near Catholic University).

Also performing will be Barbara Eberhart, flute, and Christine Strohl, soprano.

A reception will follow the concert.

To get more information about the concert and order tickets (\$35 for adults, \$20 for seniors and students) call *Women for Women* at 202-822-1391.

*Women for Women* is an interfaith, nonprofit, humanitarian organization which aims to provide financial and emotional support to women survivors of war and genocide. It was founded in 1993 in response to the plight the women brutalized during the war in Bosnia.



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