

# THE Ukrainian Weekly

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## Commission on famine hears survivors' stories at D.C. hearing

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government's Commission on the Ukraine Famine held its second full meeting on October 8 on Capitol Hill. Participants in the meeting were Congressmen Dan Mica (D-Fla.), William Broomfield (R-Mich.), Dennis Hertel (D-Mich.), and Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), Education Undersecretary Gary Bauer, Ambassador H. Eugene Douglas of the State Department, and public members Myron Kuropas, Daniel Marchishin, Ulana Mazurkevich, Anastasia Volker and Oleh Weres. Sen. Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.) was represented by Bob Manes of his staff.

Foremost on the agenda of the hearing, which lasted well over two hours, was the verbal testimony of four eyewitnesses to the events of 1932-33: Varvara Dibert of Silver Springs, Md., Tatiana Pawlichka of Pennsylvania, Ivan Danilenko of New Jersey, and Sviatoslav Karavansky of Denton, Md. Also included on the agenda was the testimony of famed Sovietologist and author of "The Harvest of Sorrow" Dr. Robert Conquest and a progress report on the commission's scholarly activities given by staff director Dr. James E. Mace.

The October 8 meeting marked the first occasion in the six-month existence of the Ukraine Famine Commission of eyewitnesses of the famine coming forth in a congressional setting to present verbal testimony of their personal sufferings during the man-made famine. Susanna Webber, collector of oral histories for the commission, opened this major segment of the hearing with a brief statement of her findings to date.

Mrs. Dibert then presented a vivid account of life in Kiev during the height of the famine. A particularly moving entry in Mrs. Dibert's testimony touched on the fate of homeless children. "During the winter of 1932-33," observed Mrs. Dibert, "I often saw five or six times how in the early morning they (the authorities) took out of the building the bodies of half-marked children, covered them with filthy tarpaulins, and piled them onto trucks."

Mrs. Dibert's testimony was followed by equally moving accounts by Mrs. Pawlichka, Mr. Danilenko and Mr. Karavansky with simultaneous translations offered by Dr. Olga Samilenko-Tsvetkov when necessary.

Dr. Conquest's report at the hearing offered a more general overview of the events and consequences of the 1932-33 tragedy in Ukraine which Mr. Conquest called "one of the largest and most devastating events in human history."

(Continued on page 3)

## Helsinki monitors from Moscow and Ukraine are reunited



Yuri Orlov addresses press conference of five reunited Helsinki monitors now living in the United States. Also in the photo, in the foreground, are interpreter Cathy Cosman and Nadia Svitlychna (seated). Standing in the back are: (from left) Sen. Dennis DeConcini, Rep. Don Ritter, Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, Rep. Steny Hoyer, Rep. Dante Fascell, Sen. John Heinz and Rep. Jack Kemp.

WASHINGTON — Five members of the Moscow and Ukrainian Helsinki monitoring groups in the USSR now living in exile held a reunion luncheon and press conference here at the Capitol building on Wednesday, October 15. The reunion was sponsored by the U.S.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Joining recently released Soviet political prisoner Yuri Orlov, leader and founding member of the Moscow Helsinki Monitoring Group, were Moscow group members Ludmilla Alex-

eyeva and Alexander Ginzburg, and Ukrainian group members Nadia Svitlychna and Nina Strokata.

Mr. Orlov told the luncheon participants — members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Continued on page 10)

## D.C. conference focuses on need for leadership in Ukrainian diaspora

by Chrystyna N. Lapychak

WASHINGTON — "Too few Americans know that there is a Ukrainian nation. Too many Americans automatically say Russia when they think of Chornobyl or Kiev. Altogether too many Americans don't realize that you exist, that Ukraine exists, and that is your task."

Zbigniew Brzezinski, former national security advisor in the Carter administration, delivered the above statement in his luncheon address to participants of the first Ukrainian American leadership conference held here on October 18-19, which was arranged by The Washington Group, an association of over 200 Ukrainian American professionals.

Thus Dr. Brzezinski's words offered his definition of the mission of the Ukrainian American diaspora as well as his analysis of the future of Ukrainians in the Soviet Union within the context of American foreign policy — the weighty and crucial questions that induced some 170 active and concerned community members from the United States and Canada to gather at the

Capitol Hilton on this seasonable autumn weekend to ponder and discuss.

Preceded the evening before by a party at McLean Gardens celebrating TWG's second birthday, the collective pondering actually commenced on Saturday morning at 9 a.m. with a session of opening remarks and an introductory panel in the Hilton's Federal Room.

Daria Stec, the newly elected TWG president and an attorney at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, welcomed the participants and gave a brief overview of her organization's motives, goals and objectives in organizing a conference on leadership. "We have grown up" as a community, Ms. Stec said, and "we are ready to take a role in the leadership" in the form of political influence and institutions.

### Surprise guest speaker

Natalie Sluzar, two-term TWG president and founder, who served as moderator of the opening panel, introduced a surprise guest speaker, Linas Kojelis of the White House Office of

(Continued on page 11)

## Brzezinski: nationalism growing in Ukraine

by Chrystyna N. Lapychak

WASHINGTON — In a luncheon address to participants of the first-ever Ukrainian American Leadership Conference at the Capitol Hilton here on October 18, Zbigniew Brzezinski expressed great optimism in regard to what he termed a grow-

(Continued on page 6)



Zbigniew Brzezinski

## Myroslav Medvid: a first anniversary look at seaman's grab for freedom

by Maria Demtschuk

October 24 marks the first anniversary of Myroslav Medvid's ill-fated jump for freedom in the United States from a Soviet grain ship anchored in the Mississippi River near New Orleans.

To recall some of the events, Myroslav Medvid, a 24-year-old Ukrainian seaman — with his personal documents sealed in a jar that was tied around his neck — jumped into the murky waters of the Mississippi at about midnight on the night of October 24, 1985, and swam ashore in a desperate attempt for freedom in America. Several KGB agents seamen inquired on shore about Mr. Medvid, saying they were concerned about his safety when he accidentally fell overboard while doing maintenance work on the ship. Speaking to interpreter Dr. Irene Padoch, Mr. Medvid said he was seeking asylum in the United States.

The president, State Department, Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the Customs Division refused to heed the pleas of congressmen and senators to detain the ship until Mr. Medvid was given an opportunity to make a free choice about whether to stay in the United States or return to the Soviet Union.

Attorneys Julian Kulas and Mark Holzer represented the family of Myroslav Medvid residing in Ohio in a struggle for family reunification. They entered a plea in the federal district court in New Orleans for Mr. Medvid to be subpoenaed to appear in court and be given the opportunity to say whether he wished to seek asylum. Meanwhile, in a federal district court in Washington, Andrew Fylypovych of the Ukrainian American Bar Association requested an injunction to detain the ship from

*Maria Demtschuk is recording secretary of Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine.*

departing pending an investigation to determine the Ukrainian seaman's true intentions.

Congressmen Don Ritter (R-Pa.) and Fred Eckert (R-N.Y.) introduced an emergency resolution seeking to detain the Soviet ship until Mr. Medvid's release. Sen. Gordon Humphrey (R-N.H.) introduced Senate Resolution 267, supported by 64 senators, calling for an inquiry into the Medvid affair. The administration, acting through majority whip Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.), was adamant in its position to send Medvid back to the Soviet Union without further investigation in order not to make waves prior to the summit conference between President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

All of the agencies of the executive branch involved with the Medvid affair spoke in unison insisting that Mr. Medvid wanted to go back to the Soviet Union and that the matter was closed. Attempts in the form of testimonies by Arkady Shevchenko, Simas Kudirka, Dr. Irene Padoch and numerous senators and congressmen during congressional hearings on whether to reopen the inquiry and give Mr. Medvid another chance were blocked by the executive agencies. It was as though a stone wall had been erected around Mr. Medvid — a wall so thick that even the representatives of the people of the United States could not penetrate it. Mr. Medvid was forced back to the Marshal Koniev and was sent back to the Soviet Union.

It probably never occurred to Myroslav Medvid that his jumping into the Mississippi would send a ripple all the way to Washington. Sen. Humphrey tried legislative measures to keep the seaman in this country. He was instrumental in having hearings scheduled in the Senate Judiciary Committee chaired by Sen. Simpson. From the testimonies it became obvious that the INS had not

handled the matter properly.

However, Chairman Simpson blocked any further pursuit of the investigation. Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole (R-Kansas) was confident that he could put the issue to a vote to prevent Mr. Medvid from being returned to the Soviet Union. A handful of senators, headed by Sen. Simpson and Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), opposed S. Res. 267 and were able to block action for release of Seaman Medvid.

Sen. Jesse Helms' (R-N.C.) staff members served a subpoena (hidden in a carton of cigarettes) to the ship's captain in a last-ditch effort to get Mr. Medvid off the ship (the befuddled seaman was still in U.S. waters on the Marshal Koniev) and give him a chance to testify before his Senate Agricultural Committee. However, this subpoena was ignored by the Soviets and the State Department.

Concerned Ukrainian Americans from different parts of the country who were in Louisiana on November 9 stood crushed on the banks of the Mississippi as the Marshal Koniev faded into the horizon with Seaman Medvid on board. On the evening of the ship's departure, Sen. Humphrey debated Sen. Simpson on national TV about Mr. Medvid's destiny and denial of his human rights. Ironically, November 9 is the date remembered as the founding of the Ukrainian Helsinki Monitoring Group whose members suffered long prison terms for speaking up for the rights of man.

S. Res. 267, sponsored by Sen. Humphrey and Sen. Alan Dixon (D-Ill.), called for a special panel to be set up in the Senate to investigate the Medvid incident, since there were many unanswered questions regarding this bizarre case. The resolution had 64 co-sponsors, including the majority leader, Sen. Dole.

Ultimately, a special investigatory panel was set up in the Helsinki Com-



**Myroslav Medvid: where is he today?** mission to investigate the Medvid affair. This panel is budgeted for \$200,000 and employs three investigators.

Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine, and other organizations, aggressively lobbied the U.S. Senate for S. Res. 267 and the investigating panel — among the most active being the late AHRU president, Ihor Olshaniwsky, who made his final lobbying trip to Washington at the end of February before his untimely death.

Mr. Fylypovych, on behalf of the Ukrainian American Bar Association, filed suit against the United States government, the secretary of state, and the commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Specifically, he is charging that the Ukrainian American Bar Association was denied access to Mr. Medvid and secondly, that the sailor had a right to be represented by an attorney. He also stated

(Continued on page 13)

### Brzezinski...

(Continued from page 1)

ing national political consciousness among the population of Ukraine and defined what he felt was the task of Ukrainian Americans as a potential mouthpiece for them in American-Soviet relations.

Dr. Brzezinski, who served as national security advisory during the Carter administration, said that within the context of Soviet reality, that is a multi-national, politically and economically centralized empire, there had arisen a strong sense of national identity among many of the nations making up the USSR in response to centralization by one national group.

The Soviet Union is faced with a dilemma, Dr. Brzezinski said. "In order to deal with socio-economic problems, in order to move beyond the age of industrial development in the age of high science and technology," the Soviet Union would have to adopt economic decentralization and, along with that, political decentralization. "For the requirements of innovation and creativity these days do involve the unleashing of individual and collective initiative, enterprise, and that means political decentralization, as well as economic decentralization."

"And to decentralize an empire is to begin the process of dismantling the empire," he said.

"Thus the multinational reality of

the Soviet Union in a sense locks it into a condition of permanent regimentation and centralization that is counterproductive to its own interests," he said.

"Conversely, change in the Soviet union towards more pluralism would require accommodation with the non-Russian nations and that is something which clearly in my judgment is and should be the perceived interest of the United States," Dr. Brzezinski stated. "This is why I have felt all along that we should not permit the Ukrainian above all to be the forgotten people of the Soviet Union."

Dr. Brzezinski criticized, however, what he called a "gap of knowledge" among Americans, particularly on the political scene, about Ukrainians.

"If Ukraine were to ever become an independent state, it would be a major European entity. 50 million creative, intelligent people, possessing enormous natural resources, located in an advantageous climatic and geographic position, would become a major force on the European scene," stated Dr. Brzezinski.

Mr. Brzezinski, who was born in eastern Poland, where he spent the first three years of his life, said he has tried in his own way to stimulate awareness of that. He said that he had made it a point during negotiations with the Soviets on a spy-prisoner exchange that the Soviets include among the others, "a leading Ukrainian political activist, namely Valentyn Moroz."

"I did that very deliberately," he said, "and not for sentimental reasons, though I obviously sympathize with him and with others involved. I also knew that his release would not have too much resonance in the United States as compared to the release of others that are known or coming from communities that have greater influence in this country," Dr. Brzezinski said.

"But I knew that the release of a leading Ukrainian political activist would have resonance among Ukrainians in the Soviet Union and would send them a message that someone here cares, that the world at large knows about those in the camps, and those who fought even as late as the early '50s, and those who continue the struggle for linguistic, cultural and ultimately political awareness."

"It is possible to underscore our awareness of the reality of Ukrainian political consciousness and it is possible for us in a subtle and careful, but deliberate, way to stimulate greater political consciousness and those two things are interdependent and they ought to be part and parcel of our political objectives," added Dr. Brzezinski.

"I believe that within Ukraine itself there is not only a continued sense of political consciousness among some, but a latent political consciousness among many," he declared. "And events such as Chernobyl are bound to strengthen it."

"Increasingly," he said, "there's bound to be growing awareness of

the fact that in an age in which it is no longer possible to centralize scientific and technological development in the hands of a few people, decentralization based on national and political awareness is a necessity."

"The process of political emancipation of your people, that is to say those with whom you identify yourselves though you are Americans, for cultural, ethnic reasons, will be a slow process."

Thus it would be in the American interest if the Soviet Union were to develop or evolve into "a more pluralistic system," and this could be easily accomplished by emphasizing the non-Russian nations of the Soviet Union and attempting to stimulate their political consciousness.

"It is important to foster that awareness in America and here the Ukrainian community is still too weak, not visible enough, not impactive enough," he said.

"Too few Americans know that there is a Ukrainian nation. Too many Americans automatically say Russia when they think of Chernobyl or Kiev. Altogether too many Americans don't realize that you exist, that Ukraine exists, and that is your task."

"That is why I am so pleased to be associated with an effort such as this, which reflects your growing intellectual influence, your accomplishments in this country, your ability to participate in it's political process and thereby to impact on the future of those who are dear to you."

## Notes on people

### Receives grant for studies

EVANSTON, Ill. — The Kellogg Graduate School of Business and Management of Northwestern University here announced that Annetta M. Hewko, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lubomyr Hewko of Clarkston, Mich., was the winner of one of the school's most prestigious merit scholarships in business administration, funded by the Quaker Oats Company.

As a Quaker Oats scholar, Miss Hewko will receive a tuition grant for



Annetta M. Hewko

her two years of studies toward a master's degree in business administration, majoring in marketing and entrepreneurial business.

Miss Hewko completed her undergraduate studies in industrial engineering in 1983 at the Technological Institute of Northwestern University. During her undergraduate studies, she participated in the Engineering Cooperative Education Program and worked as a corporate manufacturing engineer for Western Publishing Company in Racine, Wis.

While at Northwestern University, Miss Hewko was a varsity athlete on the track and cross country teams, and one of the organizers of the Northwestern Special Olympics. She was also involved in student government, served as president and treasurer of the Ukrainian Student Club, and as an officer at the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

Since her undergraduate studies, Miss Hewko has been employed at Hewlett-Packard Company in Palo Alto, Calif., where she held several product management positions. Most recently, she was promoted to the position of product manager of the new VECTRA personal computer and was instrumental in its development and introduction into the marketplace.

### Awarded degree of medical doctor

LIVINGSTON, N.J. — Motria Orysia Ukrainkyj, daughter of Maria and Jurij Ukrainkyj of Livingston, N.J., was awarded the degree of doctor of medicine from New York Medical College in Valhalla, N.Y., during commencement exercises on June 2.

The valedictorian of Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit, N.J., she then went on to receive her



Dr. Motria Ukrainkyj

bachelor of science degree in 1982 from Yale University. During her four years of medical school, Miss Ukrainkyj found time to participate in various school activities, among which was being editor-in-chief of the school yearbook. She was also given the award "Cor et Manus" for service to her medical school class.

Dr. Ukrainkyj is now in the general surgery residency program at the Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center in New York.

Dr. Ukrainkyj has two brothers; Orest, who graduated from Loyola College with a degree in electronic engineering and is currently working for Allied Bendix Aerospace Flight Systems Division in Teterboro, N.J., and Mark, a third-year student at the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

All three are members of Plast and the Ukrainian National Association in Newark, N.J.

### Gives senior piano recital

CLIFTON, N.J. — Olyia Oleschuk-Klymenko gave her senior piano recital at the Shea Center for Performing Arts, William Patterson College of New Jersey (School of the Arts and Communication). She is completing her baccalaureate degree in music and will continue her studies, working toward a master's degree in communications.

Despite many obstacles and difficulties, serious illness in the past, three children to be taken care of, piano pupils to teach, and a sprained wrist about a month before the recital, the Clifton, N.J., resident came through with flying colors.

The program consisted of the first movement from Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, Preludes, Opus 28, Nos. 3, 20, 22, by Chopin, Children's Games by Ukrainian composers, Silansky, Stepanenko and Ischenko. This was followed by Ravel's Sonatine in F Sharp Major.

For an impressive and rousing finale, Ms. Klymenko played a movement from Khachatourian's Concerto in D Flat Major, allegro ma non troppo e maestoso, more than ably assisted by her teacher, Prof. Gary Kirkpatrick. The elated audience gave them a standing ovation.

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## D.C. conference...

(Continued from page 1)

Public Liaison.

After delivering an official greeting from President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan, Mr. Kojelis, who is a first-generation Lithuanian American, offered his own brief thesis on what he termed "the ethnic movement" in the United States.

Speaking from his own experience as an ethnic American, Mr. Kojelis said there were many parallels between the Baltic and Ukrainian communities, particularly in their current efforts to bring their institutions and organizations "into the 20th century." He said that the existing organizations and institutions that had developed spontaneously, such as the religious and cultural ones, which essentially gave the groups their collective identity, were in the process of modernization within and outside in seeking to computerize and gain more political influence in American society.

"What has not developed spontaneously are political organizations," which he said were essential in winning any collective political influence, particularly in Washington.

"The Ukrainian American community does not have influence in Washington," stated Mr. Kojelis. "You have to make sure that you, as Ukrainian Americans, are heard in Washington...in all issues," he said, not just in foreign policy, but domestic, educational and social policy decision-making.

"It's make-or-break time for the ethnic movement," Mr. Kojelis said. "It's a time for putting all those resources into a grand scheme of things."

Then Ms. Sluzar detailed some of the themes that ran through much of the later discussion and elaborated upon much of what Mr. Kojelis said on the status of the community.

Ms. Sluzar stated that the Ukrainian American diaspora was experiencing a drastic, though expected, change in that its membership is increasingly composed of those who are American-born, as membership born in Ukraine and other parts of Europe grows older. She said this change in demographics should result in increasing collective participation and influence in American activities in all spectrums, particularly social and political life.

Ms. Sluzar, who served in the White House Office of Ethnic Affairs during the Carter administration, said that existing Ukrainian institutions and organizations as they were, were unfulfilling in this capacity and needed "to generate some new life with new leadership."

Ms. Sluzar suggested some solutions in increasing the Ukrainian American community's chances for success within American political life.

"First of all," she said, "think big." Get out of that mentality that there are too many obstacles to your success, "challenge yourself."

Then focus on a collective goal, she added, and set your goals to reach outside the community. "Tell it to non-Ukrainians." But most importantly, Ms. Sluzar concluded, "don't be afraid to take charge."

An address by the scheduled guest speaker, Michael Novak, a theologian, author and diplomat who this year headed the U.S. delegation to the Bern Experts Meeting on Human Contacts, followed Ms. Sluzar's remarks.

### Views of Helsinki process

Mr. Novak, who also headed the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, discussed his views of the Helsinki

process and its relation to East European groups, such as Ukrainians, both in their native lands and their communities in the free world, who lobby on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves.

He said what makes the Helsinki process so unique is that it is characterized by both frustration and utility. "It is an institution that is simply a process, a set of scheduled meetings to discuss trade, arms and, above all, human rights."

"So little progress is made in human rights and human contacts," Mr. Novak said, especially in regard to the Soviet Union. But the utility of the Helsinki process, Mr. Novak said, has been that it "has allowed some participants to breathe freely." Those for whom the Helsinki process speaks, he added, "think of themselves as Westerners ... sharing the same sense of human dignity in the Western tradition."

The Helsinki process also forces the Soviets "to act in an atmosphere which to them is nonsense," and places "a different pressure on them."

Mr. Novak said the U.S. delegation to Bern refused to accept the final agreements at the Experts Meeting on Human Contacts because there were too many "loopholes" in the document that benefitted the Soviets, but added that those agreements they found satisfactory were still on the table as "a bottom line in Vienna."

"The virtues of the process," however, he added, are that the cumulative successes of Western pressure in winning releases of individuals increase the future chances for more success."

### Professional activism

Following a brief coffee-break, a panel on the theme of "Professional Community Activism," commenced in the Federal Room. The panel was divided into two sections; the first part involved the discussion of "The Canadian Experience," with representatives of three Canadian-based Ukrainian organizations, and "The U.S. Experience," with spokesmen from U.S. organizations.

Ms. Sluzar, who served as moderator, introduced Christina Isajiw, the executive director of the Human Rights Commission of the World Congress of Free Ukrainians (WCFU) based in Toronto, who spoke in detail about her organization, which serves as an umbrella group for Ukrainian organizations worldwide.

Ms. Isajiw said that the functioning of her organization was based on volunteers, as is the case for most Ukrainian groups, and obtained its funding mostly from dues and donations, which come mostly from Canada.

She said she believed the difficulties her group faces, such as a lack of money and professionalism, plague many Ukrainian organizations. She criticized organized Ukrainians for their "inward orientation" and their tendency to "undertake single-issue, short-term things."

The Human Rights Commission, Ms. Isajiw stated, was formed "as an answer to a crisis," a phenomenon she said was prevalent in Ukrainian organized life in the past two decades. The group started out as a lobbying organization working for the release of Ukrainian dissident Valentyn Moroz. After his release, it continued its work with the emergence of the Helsinki process. Ms. Isajiw said.

Ms. Isajiw said such groups are usually formed "through the vision of one or two people who are willing to give up their lives" for the work. "Then usually a support comes along and

(Continued on page 14)

## D.C. conference...

(Continued from page 11)

things get done," she said.

Despite many impediments, "there has been much success," Ms. Isajiw concluded. Many of the Helsinki watch committees in North America and Europe rely upon the Human Rights Commission's regular Helsinki updates and materials, she said. The U.S. State Department has often requested materials for position papers, she added. "We have achieved a certain amount of clout and trust...and have become a directing force."

### Professionals' perspective

The next speaker was Nick Turinski, who represented the Ukrainian Professional and Business Association of Ottawa, of which he is vice-president.

Mr. Turinski said the group, whose membership includes some 70 to 100 civil servants, academics, journalists and even some parliamentarians, was formed in 1962 "to foster and promote the Ukrainian language and culture within a multicultural framework," as well as "provide a forum for contacts, networks and to integrate youth out of college."

He said his group also suffered from a low cash flow, mostly because of the small size of the Ukrainian community in the Canadian capital.

Mr. Turinski was followed by Eugene Zalucky, president of the Ukrainian Professional and Business Club of Toronto, which boasts some 500 members of all backgrounds.

Mr. Zalucky said the group's membership in the national federation of 25 Ukrainian Canadian professional and business associations was beneficial and very effective in developing and working toward collective goals and objectives, and should be emulated in the United States.

He said his organization has served a symbolic role by satisfying the needs of its membership to feel as Ukrainian Canadians "in transition from lower to higher economic groups." The Toronto group, according to Mr. Zalucky, has also provided community service in the form of student aid, building projects, fund-raising, sponsorship of educational lectures, supporting and promoting the establishment of a chair of Ukrainian studies at the University of Toronto. Mr. Zalucky added that the group has also maintained contacts with politicians and journalists.

The success of his group, Mr. Zalucky said, was evident by its rate of growth in membership — an average of 10 new members are enrolled each month.

Dan Marchishin, vice-president of the Newark, N.J.-based Americans for

Human Rights in Ukraine (AHRU), began the discussion under the theme of "The U.S. Experience" with a description of the activities of his organization.

### Roots of AHRU

AHRU grew out of the Committee for the Defense of Valentyn Moroz, which was created by the late Ihor Olshaniwsky, said Mr. Marchishin. When the Ukrainian dissident was released, the group decided to continue to work on behalf of human rights.

The group has had numerous political successes, through its lobbying efforts among congressmen as well as a network of local branches that provides support, such as telegrams, letters and telephone calls to politicians, Mr. Marchishin stated. Such successes included helping the passage in Congress of the bill establishing the Helsinki Commission and particularly the bill creating a U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine.

Among its recent projects is UNCHAIN, which Mr. Marchishin called "AHRU's taskforce against defamation" of Ukrainians.

Bohdan Vitvitsky, former president and founding member of the Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons Association of New York/New Jersey, continued the discussion.

Dr. Vitvitsky gave a brief overview of his group's five-year history and described the organization's three purposes, as serving its own interests, culturally, socially, intellectually and in business, as well as serving internal community interests in the society's internal development and, finally, promoting the community's external interests.

The some 75 members of the group gather five times a year for general meetings and twice annually for social events, Dr. Vitvitsky said. They also sponsor special events and such things as an annual writing award for articles written by Ukrainian Americans that appear in general circulation periodicals in an effort to encourage such activity. Dr. Vitvitsky said the group also helped promote the television screening of "Harvest of Despair."

### Our Achilles' heel

Dr. Vitvitsky, who is an attorney, also spoke in general about what he described as the problems of the Ukrainian American diaspora. "We have no vision of the future," he said. "Our traditionalism is our asset, but it is also our Achilles' heel."

"We are painfully slow to adapt to new conditions," Dr. Vitvitsky stated. "It is time to start developing a vision of the future, a sense of purpose, a specific set of goals."

The final speaker in this introductory

session was George Martynuk, president and founding member of the Young Professionals of the Ukrainian Institute of America, a three-year-old group that serves as the "junior" management group of the UIA. He said his organization, which conducts fund-raising for the UIA and does its programming, has as its goal the complete integration of the institute "into the American mainstream."

The luncheon was served immediately after the opening session in the South American Room, and featured a lengthy address by Dr. Brzezinski. (See separate story.)

Afterwards, the first of two workshop sessions commenced. The four workshops, "Computerization of Ukrainian Organizations," "Applying Professional Management Skills to Ukrainian Organizations," "Perspectives on Making News," and "Successful Lobbying," went on for 75 minutes and were repeated a second time after a short break, which gave participants an opportunity to see any one of the workshops they missed in the first session.

### Media savvy

Four people with experience in working with the media took part in a workshop on "Perspectives on Making News," moderated by Myron Wasyluk of the Ukrainian National Information Service, describing what approaches they believed Ukrainian Americans should take in dealing with and using the media.

John Mularoni, a Washington media consultant, gave an outline on how any organization should publicize and win media coverage of an event: using press releases, making sure news of the upcoming events gets on one or both of the nationwide wire services as well as immediate follow-up after the event.

Mr. Mularoni also suggested that Ukrainian organizations develop a press list and attempt to develop a personal rapport with reporters, whom they could later count on to show interest in their events.

Bernie Yoh of Accuracy in Media spoke about using events like the Chernobyl nuclear disaster to publicize Ukraine and make the generally unknowledgeable American public aware of the very existence of the Ukrainian nation and use it to put public pressure on the Soviets to allow contact with the Chernobyl victims.

James Killpatrick, senior editor at the U.S. News & World Report, discussed the great difficulty Ukrainians face when dealing with the media and the American public. "Yours is an educational problem," he said. Only persistence and perseverance in educating the media will work to change the misperceptions and ignorance about Ukraine, he added, as it did in the case of his own publication. He said that after his news magazine published the Chernobyl issue with a cover saying the accident had occurred in Russia, "phones were ringing off the hook" from angry Ukrainians who wanted a correction. After a demonstration outside the magazine's offices and, finally, a meeting with representatives of local Ukrainian organizations, including TWG, "the message got through," and the editors concluded that their policy of mixing the terms Russia and the Soviet Union "was too vague."

### Lobbying with success

A workshop on "Successful Lobbying," moderated by Larissa Fontana, founding member of the Ukrainian Community Network, took part simultaneously and featured four guest

panelists.

Walter Bodnar, executive secretary of AHRU, described his group as "a citizens' lobby, a network of 19 branches that has so far experienced numerous successes in lobbying in Congress on issues pertaining to human rights either in Ukraine itself or for individuals in the West.

"Through years of letter writing and cooperation with other groups...we have built up a reputation," Mr. Bodnar said.

Victoria Dziuba-Malick, Virginia coordinator for the Ukrainian Community Network, described her group as "a grass-roots organization," which emerged from a single issue in October 1985, the ill-fated attempted defecation of Myroslav Medvid, and grew into one concerned about other issues, such as Chernobyl. Through its efforts late last year and early this year — telephone calls, telegrams, letters, petitions — the group helped pass the bill setting up a Congressional investigation into the Medvid affair.

Mari-Ann Rikken, vice-president and Washington office chief of the Coalition for Constitutional Justice and Security, discussed her group's efforts to achieve due process for those ethnic Americans, particularly Balts and Ukrainians, accused of Nazi war crimes. "Our groups," she said, "have to create a national presence...we have to have some courage, some initiative," she declared. "We're not going to be second-class citizens any more."

"We have to put pressure on our national organizations," Ms. Rikken said, to take some of the burden of such lobbying upon themselves.

Finally Tom Kleine, the legislative assistant on foreign affairs issues for Sen. Gordon Humphrey (R-N.H.), spoke about the Medvid affair during which he served as liaison from the senator's office with the Ukrainian community. He said that the grass-roots method of lobbying was very effective, particularly if it involves the senator's constituency. Mr. Kleine said keeping in constant contact with the congressman's aides and assistants, particularly those involved in specific issues, and providing them with up-to-date information about your own group, in the form of booklets and pamphlets, will increase a lobbying group's chances for success.

The two other workshops dealt with specific matters such as "Computerization of Ukrainian Organizations," which was moderated by George Maziuk, a communications engineer for ARINC Research in Washington, with panelist Roman Golash, head of Clinical Microbiology Consulting in Chicago, and "Applying Professional Management Skills" to Ukrainian Organizations," moderated by Marta Mostovych, a senior project manager for GE Information Services, and Marta Pereyma, program officer for education and cultural exchanges with China at the U.S. Information Agency. The two other panelists for the latter were Monica Polowy, a fund-raising and public relations consultant, and Wasyl Korynlo of the Xerox Corp.

After the two sessions of workshops, over 200 participants and guests gathered for cocktails and a banquet, featuring entertainment by vocalist Lydia Hawryluk, which was followed by a dance to the music of the Veselka orchestra of Rochester, N.Y., in a hotel ballroom.

The following day, October 19, about 100 participants gathered at the Ukrainian Catholic Shrine of the Holy Family for brunch and an informal summing-up of the topics and themes raised by this first-ever leadership conference in Washington.



Conference participants at the panel on "Successful Lobbying."