

UABA holds annual meeting; elects officers

WASHINGTON — The annual meeting of the Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) was held here on Columbus Day Weekend, October 5-7. This year's parley was again held in conjunction with The Washington Group's annual leadership conference.

In addition to its regular business, a new slate of officers of the association was elected. The new officers for the 1990-1992 term are Myroslaw Smorodsky of Rutherford, N.J., president; Walter M. Lupan, Boston, vice president; Donna T. Pochoday Bojko, King of Prussia, Penn., treasurer; and Deanna E. Hazen, Detroit, secretary.

The morning session of the annual meeting featured a status report of the most recent developments in the John Demjanjuk case by Andrew Fylypovych, the UABA past president. The session included a screening of a documentary produced by an independent British public television company concerning Mr. Demjanjuk.

Yaroslav Dobrowolskyj of Detroit reported on his recent trip to Ukraine, on behalf of the Demjanjuk Defense Committee, to obtain new exculpatory evidence for Mr. Demjanjuk.

The association's afternoon session focused on the latest political and economic developments in Ukraine. Maureen O'Brien of Miami and Volodymyr Bazarko of Cleveland discussed the maiden caucus of the independent association of lawyers of Ukraine, which both had attended. A joint meeting between this newly formed independent bar association of Ukraine and the UABA was discussed. In addition

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Joint congressional resolution designates famine week

WASHINGTON — Senate Joint Resolution 329, commonly known as the Ukrainian Famine Resolution, was passed by voice votes in the U.S. Senate on Friday, October 19, and in the U.S. House of Representatives on Saturday, October 27.

The resolution, introduced into the Senate by Sens. Robert W. Kasten, Jr. (R-Wisc.) and Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.) and co-sponsored by another 43 senators, now awaits President George Bush's signature for enactment.

The UNA Washington Office played an important role in promoting the joint resolution to members of Congress. The UNA Office was aided by UNA members from various states who brought the Ukrainian Famine Resolution to the attention of their respective senators and congressmen.

The resolution designates the week of November 3 through November 10 as a "National Week to Commemorate the Victims of the Famine in the Ukraine, 1932-1933." The resolution cites that "more than seven million Ukrainians ... died of starvation during the years 1932-1933" and that the famine was "the consequence of deliberate policies of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics aiming to destroy the political, cultural, and human rights of the Ukrainian people" (see box for the text of the entire resolution).

During the Senate proceedings of Friday, October 19, which lasted into the early morning hours of the following day, the resolution was brought to the floor through a unanimous consent request, discharging the Foreign Relations Committee from further consideration, by Senator Wendell Ford (D-Ky.). Sen. Kasten offered an agreed-upon amendment which established the commemorative week as November 3-10, 1990. Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-

N.J.) rose in support of the resolution and offered a statement substantiating that "[r]ecent events demonstrate ... the people of Ukraine, despite centuries of conquest and oppression, have not lost their yearning for freedoms."

Following Senate passage, Sen. Kasten stated, "The resolution condemns the systematic disregard for human life, human rights, and liberties that characterized the policies of the government of the USSR during the famine. It also expresses sympathy for the millions of victims and families." He added that the resolution is important because, "only through memory can we hope to prevent the repetition of this horrible

crime."

In the House of Representatives, Rep. Dante B. Fascell (D-Fla.) similarly requested that the resolution be brought to the House floor through a unanimous consent agreement which discharged two House committees from further consideration. His support along with Rep. William S. Broomfield's (D-Mich.) on the floor aided its passage.

House passage of S.J. Res. 329 was in lieu of House Joint Resolution 567, a similarly worded resolution, which had been sponsored by Reps. Broomfield, Dennis M. Hertel (D-Mich.), Benjamin A. Gilman (R-N.Y.) and Byron L. Dorgan (D-N.D.).

Senate Joint Resolution 329

Following is the text of the Senate Joint Resolution 329, designating the week of November 3 through November 10 as a "National Week to Commemorate the Victims of the Famine in Ukraine, 1932-1933."

Whereas more than 7 million Ukrainians in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, one of the member republics of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, died of starvation during the years 1932-1933;

Whereas the famine of 1932-1933 was the consequence of deliberate policies of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics aiming to destroy the political, cultural, and human rights of the Ukrainian people;

Whereas the economic, social, and political consequences of the famine of 1932-1933 are still manifest among the Ukrainian population;

Whereas the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, although aware of the famine in Ukraine and having complete control of the entire food supplies within the borders of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, nevertheless failed to take relief measures to check the famine of 1932-1933 or to alleviate the catastrophic conditions resulting from it;

Whereas the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ignored the appeals of international organizations and other nations;

Whereas the United States Commission on the Ukraine Famine, legislated to study and expand world knowledge of the famine, has substantiated, through hearings, eyewitness testimony, and documentation, that the Ukrainian famine of 1932-1933 was the result of a deliberate policy by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and has published those findings;

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Dramatic changes in Ukraine provide new opportunities for contacts

by Irene Jarosewich

WASHINGTON — The Washington Group held its fourth TWG Leadership Conference, "Ukraine: Building the Future Together" in Washington, D.C., October 5-7, 1990. The dynamic line-up of panelists, speaking to an audience of about 150 participants, examined and evaluated the dramatic changes in Ukraine, as well as spoke of the ways in which institutions in the West and the Ukrainian diaspora are and can be involved in Ukraine's transformation.

Ukraine has undergone dramatic changes in the past 12 months and these changes have provided new and exciting opportunities for the establishment of a framework of permanent political, economic, professional and personal contacts between Ukraine and the West. The panelists at the opening session on Saturday, "Laying the Foundation," examined the status of existing and potential mechanisms for creating ties between Ukraine and the West. Panelists included Dr. Roman Popadiuk, deputy assistant to President George Bush and deputy press secretary for foreign affairs; Larysa Skoryk, people's deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR and a co-founder of Rukh; Curtis Struble, deputy director for bilateral relations, Bureau of European and Canadian Affairs, U.S. Department of State; and Karen LaFollette, research assistant at the Institute for Political Economy. The panel moderator was the Honorable Bohdan A. Futey, Judge, U.S. Court of Claims and Chairman, Ukraine 2000: The Washington Committee in Support of Ukraine, who introduced the speakers

and then moderated the lively question/answer period that followed the morning presentations.

After introductory remarks by conference chairperson Oksana Dackiw and TWG president Yaro Bihun, who both noted the remarkable pace of events and the resulting challenge to harness this energy and build for the future, Dr. Popadiuk began the morning's panel with an assessment of the Bush Administration's position regarding recent events in the Soviet Union. He stated that the Administration strongly supports the rapid changes and encourages democratization, but emphasized that the process of change must be peaceful, and come from within the Soviet Union. Rather than advocating any particular end result, such as either the continuance or break up of the Soviet Union, the Administration supports the process of peaceful reform which President Mikhail Gorbachev initiated and is promoting. During the question/answer period, Mr. Struble later elaborated on Dr. Popadiuk's comments, adding that the Administration gives credit to Mr. Gorbachev for reducing world tensions, for recognizing the criminality of Soviet history and that Mr. Gorbachev's goal, to avoid bloodshed, coincides with the U.S. policy goal.

Speaking after Dr. Popadiuk, Ms. Skoryk presented a different interpretation of Mr. Gorbachev's intentions. After thanking the audience for not forgetting about Ukraine, Ms. Skoryk stated that fundamentally, the imperial intent of the Soviet Union has not changed. Mr. Gorbachev has no intention of reforming the Soviet Union into



Natalie Sluzar

Ukrainian people's deputy and Rukh activist Larysa Skoryk (center) was a featured speaker at the annual TWG conference. Pictured with her are: Volodymyr Dibrova, a Rukh correspondent based in Washington, Adrian Karmazyn of the Voice of America, Oles Tymoshenko and Yaryna Tymoshenko, both of Kiev.

anything other than a centralized, authoritarian one-party state. His limited attempts at "perestroika" "glasnost" and "democratization" are short term strategies to try and revive a stagnant empire, not end goals in themselves. He has recognized that repression causes stagnation, but only wants to get rid of bits and pieces of repression, not alter the entire repressive structure. However, according to Ms. Skoryk, an empire that was acquired by force and maintained by terror cannot survive. The Soviet Union is inherently unstable; the democratic forces are not causing instability, the Soviet Union's policy of forced unity is the cause.

Ms. Skoryk agreed with Yelena Bonner's assessment that until the Communist Party is dissolved, demo-

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Dramatic changes...

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cracy in the Soviet Union will not exist. The West must rid itself of the illusion that the authoritarian Communist Party will help create democratic institutions. Ms. Skoryk stated that though she can appreciate the hesitancy of the U.S. to get involved in the affairs of other countries, for years it has spoken in defense of movements that want to be rid of authoritarian tyranny; such a message is needed once again.

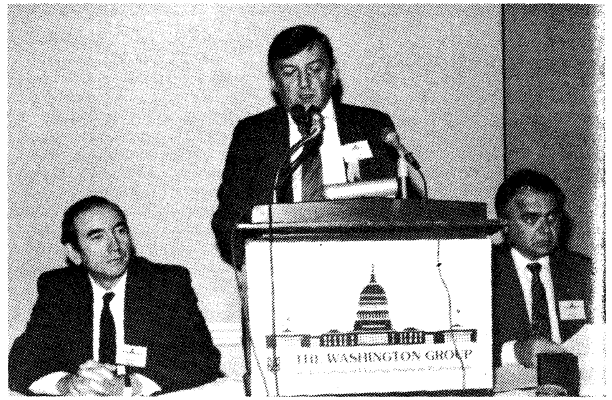
Mr. Gorbachev's efforts, as well as suggestions such as Solzhenitsyn's Pan-Slavism (in which all the republics except Ukraine, Byelorussia and Russia are "let go") are not progressive reforms in the Western understanding; they are last-ditch efforts of an empire trying to save itself. Rather than evolving, the Soviet Union is disintegrating. However, entrenched Communist Party bureaucrats, unwilling to give up power and in an attempt to save themselves, refuse to let new structures and new orders evolve. There is continued obstruction of all efforts of democratic forces. Ms. Skoryk cited numerous examples.

One of the most insidious examples of Party-controlled obstruction is the recent situation of the harvest. Ms. Skoryk said, Ukraine had a bountiful harvest, however less than 20 percent was collected. This was not because, as was reported in the West, that suddenly everybody refused to work. Every year the Communist Party has organized collection efforts, providing transportation and equipment. This year they failed to do so. Ms. Skoryk called this an act of calculated sabotage. There is a serious possibility of extreme food shortages this spring.

for the consulate has been named: John Stepanchyk, who is currently with the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. When the consulate opens, it will work out of three apartments in Kiev already under lease to the U.S. government. One of the top priorities is to locate suitable permanent quarters for the consulate general. Initially, the consulate will only be able to provide emergency services to American travelers. Visa processing services for Soviet citizens wishing to come to America will not be provided until a permanent facility is occupied.

The final panelist Saturday morning was Ms. LaFollette, who addressed the economic crisis in the Soviet Union and the role that popular front movements can play in reshaping the political and economic infrastructure. She cautioned against a simple platform of independence without a corresponding economic system. She spoke in support of a free market economy, but against the idea of the immediate sale of state property. Since only the Communist Party, black marketeers and foreign investors have the potential to "buy up" this state property, individuals would once again be excluded from property ownership.

Ms. LaFollette advocated immediate conversion of Soviet firms into joint stock companies whereby workers and managers would be given shares, a certain percentage would be assigned to a mutual or social fund that would in turn be given to individuals outside the company and a certain percentage would remain for sale on the open market, in particular to foreign investors who would bring in outside capital and expertise. This method would automatically establish the "worth" of companies and de facto create a market. Ruble convertibility



TWG president Yaro Bihun addresses conference participants. Seated to the left is Roman Popadiuk from the White House. Also pictured is Judge Bohdan Futera.

The crisis in the Soviet Union can be summarized by looking at the name: "We're not sure about the Union, it sure isn't Socialist, and maybe not Soviet or Republics either," he said. Mr. Korotich continued: "There is a lot of anger about the results of centralization, and market reform is the only way out. However, there exists a big, unproductive bureaucracy which is making it impossible to introduce a new system. Nobody knows what to do with it or how."

He appealed to the West for help in managing the change, in particular, weakening the massive Soviet military-industrial infrastructure and converting it into a system for producing consumer goods. He cautioned that a strong military will eventually want to make use of its tanks and that a military that "does not find an enemy outside its borders will find one within."

He suggested that a simple basis for ruble convertibility would be the current black market value and that English should be accepted as the international language of trade.

He proposed a two-tier military: a professional, all-Union army and national army in each republic. However, strategy must be centralized, and furthermore, it isn't necessary for an independent Ukraine to possess missiles nuclear weapons and other strategic offensive weapons.

Saturday's afternoon session "The Changing Image" explored perceptions of and information about Ukraine among opinion makers, the media and within the government. Moderated by Myron Wasyluk, special assistant for legislation and public diplomacy, U.S. Department of State, the panel included Volodymyr Dibrova, U.S. correspondent of Narodna Hazeta, the Rukh newspaper published in Kiev; Mark E. Dillen, director, office of press relations, U.S. Department of State; Kevin Klöse, former Moscow correspondent and currently deputy national editor for The Washington Post; and Robert McConnell, attorney, director, legislative office, Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher and chairman of the government relations committee of Ukraine 2000.

Mr. Dibrova, who will be in Washington for a year, explained the development of the independent press since the introduction of "glasnost." He began his presentation with the idea that the best summary of the current situation in the USSR is that it is exciting, but filled with contradictions and that "every power sector is getting ready for a showdown."

He continued that "glasnost" was unexpected. There was no independent press in place, just various "Pravdas," no journalists, "just soldiers for an ideological cause." As such, there really isn't no independent press, he said.

Furthermore, there still exists the popular perception that "newspapers, any newspapers, cannot be vehicles for objective information." He has found that even among Rukh officials the concept of an independent press, in the Western sense, is not fully understood. The establishment of new, and the redefinition of existing, publications can be better understood as not necessarily independent, but as alternatives to the established Party press. Though numerous of these publications have been established, they nonetheless all suffer from limited resources that result in limited circulation and cannot compete with established mass media.

Mr. Dibrova explained that Rukh announced the establishment of Narodna Hazeta a year ago. It was hoped that it would evolve into a major opposition paper. However, practical considerations such as lack of paper and the fact that it had to be surreptitiously published in Zhytomyr prevented this development.

Mr. Dibrova summarized the evolution of the press in the past few years as having undergone four stages. The first was the "Slogan" stage — one word or one sentence proclamations; the second stage was "Glasnost" — writing about topics previously forbidden; the third stage was the "Rename" phenomenon — where existing publications took a new name and often adopted a new editorial style and content; and the current stage, the "Apolitical" phase in which publications are trying to write without rhetoric.

Mr. Klöse, a former Moscow correspondent for The Washington Post, considered the current availability of information within and about the Soviet Union to be beyond imagination. Correspondents cannot keep up, no less ahead of a story, he said. The Post has two full-time correspondents in Moscow.

The possibility of access to news sources is still quite new. Until recently people were hesitant for contacts with Western press; information came from official sources. Correspondents were not allowed out of Moscow. Information about activities beyond Moscow was hard to obtain and almost impossible to confirm.

He considered Ukraine to be an extraordinary story" and quoted correspondent David Remnick from a January 1989 article: "in (the) Ukraine, resentment is slowly evolving into a movement." "And this observation will come true."

When asked about the Post's persistent use of "line" when referring to Ukraine, Mr. Klöse admitted that the usage is inconsistent, the policy needs to be reviewed and that he's sure the Ukrainian community won't let him down.

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Conference speakers included from left: Yuli Wexler, Dr. Vasyl Truchly, Dr. Haiyna Breslawec, Tamara Horodysky, Dr. David McClave and Dr. Lubomir Yurczak.

Following Ms. Skoryk's presentation Mr. Struble spoke on a topic which has long been important to Ukrainians, the opening of a U.S. consulate in Kiev. Mr. Struble gave a brief overview of the history of the consulate: July 30, 1974, Presidents Nixon and Brezhnev agreed to establish a consulate in Kiev; 1976, U.S. advance team arrived; February, 1980, as a protest to the invasion of Afghanistan, U.S. expelled Soviet consulars from U.S. and withdrew U.S. consulars from the USSR; 1985, process reinstated; 1986, process was suspended until results of Chernobyl explosion are evaluated; January 1987, U.S. determined that no significant health risk exists, but process is again derailed because of security scandal at U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

Mr. Struble hopes "to have an official announcement very soon." One officer

could proceed from this basis, rather than from an arbitrarily assigned value. Since the Soviet Union is already talking about privatization, the key issue for democratic groups is to advocate for an equitable plan of privatization, one guaranteed by law, which would ensure individual private ownership.

Vitaliy Korotich, editor for the past four years of the popular Soviet weekly magazine "Ogonyok" and currently a senior fellow at the Gannett Center for Media Studies at the Columbia University in New York, was the keynote speaker at the Saturday luncheon.

Mr. Korotich was upbeat in his presentation and addressed a variety of topics. Nonetheless, he delivered one bottomline serious message: the Soviet Union is in crisis; at best it is one to one and a half years from catastrophe.

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Post forget about it.

As the director of press relations at the State Department, Mr. Dillen spoke from the perspective of both the media and of government. Basically, neither the press nor government officials feel up to date. Both have been caught off guard by the nature and pace of change. Between the tremendous increase in the amount of information, and the need to change perceptions, everyone is reeling.

With regard to Ukraine, U.S. policy does recognize the right to self-determination, but Mr. Dillen reiterated earlier statements that the emphasis is on a peaceful process of change, the use of negotiations, and that the U.S. also recognizes the right of civil authorities to quell disturbances.

Though Ukraine's image in the West has benefited from the changes, Ukraine, like any other story, needs to compete for attention and space. Now, more than ever, Ukrainians need to keep coming to government briefings and press conferences, ask questions and keep issues before journalists and the public, he added.

Mr. McConnell, long an advocate of Ukrainian issues, spoke about the perceptions of Ukraine and Ukrainians by government officials. It wasn't that long ago that the vast majority of government officials couldn't distinguish between Russia and the Soviet Union and Ukraine wasn't even on the map, he said.

Government focused on Moscow, and treated the Soviet Union as what it in fact was, a monolithic empire. Add to the mix overworked and uninformed staff and a persistent, though inaccurate and unfair, media portrayal of Ukraine, and the result was that Russification worked better in the U.S. than in the Soviet Union.

Though Ukrainians were persistent, Mr. McConnell cited Captive Nations, the Famine resolution, Medvid, Chernobyl, human rights and the Millennium as government relations activities where the community united, it wasn't until Ukrainians in Ukraine started coming to Washington and telling their story, that old stereotypes began to fall.

Mr. McConnell said that it began with Volodymyr Yavorivsky (who first spoke at the TWG Conference exactly a year ago), a genuine Ukrainian politician. His story was compelling and could not be ignored. The watershed was this past September, with the visit of Mykhailo Horyn. Mr. Horyn had 33 meetings in four days, three of them Cabinet level. People want to know what is going on, and people are listening. Mr. Horyn told them: "We are building a nation for all the people of Ukraine."

According to Mr. McConnell "Ukrainians in America must continue to spread this message among government officials, but just as important, Rukh members must be brought here, because they tell their story best.

Mr. McConnell claims that he has always been baffled by the utter inconsistency surrounding the image of Ukraine. At any given moment, Ukraine either doesn't exist, or exists, but is really Russia, or sort of exists, but only as a part of Russia, or doesn't really exist, except to do bad things.

"But," states Mr. McConnell, "we won't give up."

The final panel on Sunday afternoon, "Using Our Resources" focused on the environmental and health crisis in Ukraine, as well as the potential of developing human resources. The moderator was Dr. Halyna Breslawec, director, division of gastroenterology, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the speakers included Dr. David McClave, Soviet specialist with the Federal Research Service at the Library of Congress; Yuli Wexler, Manager, Corporate Development, MCI Communications; Tamara Horodysky, co-founder of the Nestor Institute and Visits International for Soviets and Americans (VISA); Dr. Lubomir Jurczak, director, Computex in Warsaw; and Dr. Vasyl Truchly, senior attending physician and assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Rush Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago. Dr. Truchly was the program director for the Third World Congress of Ukrainian Medical Associations which met in Kiev in August.

Dr. McClave noted that the two environmental disasters of historically unprecedented magnitude have both occurred in the Soviet Union within the past few years and continue to run their course: the Chernobyl nuclear plant explosion and the Aral Sea disaster, the destruction of one of the world's major water resources. Both affect millions of lives, have caused incalculable environmental damage and will compete for funds and solutions for years to come.

Outside of these two mega-disasters, the particular situation in Ukraine is acute. Of all the 20 economic regions in the Soviet Union, the Donetsk-Dni-propetrovsk region registered the worst on indices of overall environmental degradation. The 12 cities with the worst air quality in the Soviet Union, the "dirty dozen," are all in Ukraine. Ukraine has a disproportionate number of nuclear power plants and reactors. The list continues: children in Chernivtsi suffering from thallium poisoning; the Black Sea filled to the rim, with toxic chemicals; the contamination of the Dnister River by a rupture in a fertilizer storage pond; the increase in the salinity of the Sea of Azov, which has killed almost all aquatic life. With only 2.7 percent of the USSR's territory, over 18 percent of the Soviet Union's toxic emissions were emitted over Ukraine.

Dr. McClave then offered some hope, stating that more than any other single event, the explosion of Chernobyl served as a catalyst for making the environment a national priority in Ukraine. Major development projects, such as river reversals and construction of nuclear power plants have been halted. Moreover, with careful planning, and funds, environmental degradation can be reversed. Furthermore, the Soviet Union has finally recognized the need for an environmental policy and for the first time is mandating safeguards and conservation, including the closure of environmentally unsafe factories. With over 50 percent of arable land, Ukraine still has the potential to be a net exporter of agricultural goods.

Dr. McClave then offered a unique insight. The Soviet's proposed law on liberalized emigration may create a new category of refugee. One in four Soviet

citizens lives in one of the 123 cities of acute ecological condition. We may soon witness a new surge of emigres, this time not political, but environmental refugees, he said.

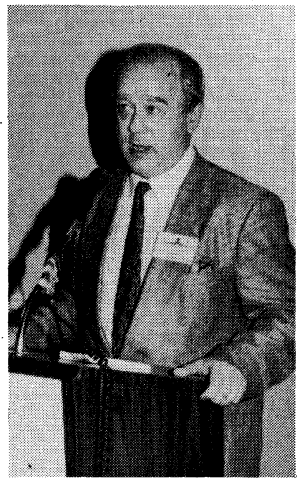
Whereas Dr. McClave's topic offered an overwhelming amount of information, Mr. Wexler explained that his topic, telecommunications in the Soviet Union "was relatively easy. There is virtually none." As a result the Soviet Union remains isolated from the global economy, because there is no possibility of participation in the global market without it. He offered some statistics: 10-15 percent of homes in the USSR have phone vs. 95 percent of U.S. homes. As a result, information obtained by "phone surveys" in the Soviet Union is skewed; there are about 1,500 international trunk lines between the USSR and the rest of the world, there are 1,500 between the U.S. and Iceland; there are only 39 (this is not a typo!) direct international circuits (i.e. individual phone lines) between the USSR and the United States, all of which go through Moscow; in 1988, Soviet citizens made 100 million minutes worth of long distance calls, the Japanese, 529 million minutes, the British, 850 million minutes, and the Americans, 5.4 billion. Existing plans call for adding five million phones per year for the next five years, doubling capital investment in telecommunications in the next five years, and increasing the number of trunk lines to 3,000 by the end of 1990.

Telecommunications is necessary to jump start economic development. It is necessary to service hard currency users and to enter the global market. The Soviet Union has several large projects in the planning stages, which include a trans-Soviet fiber line and the launch of additional satellite platforms, he said.

The republic level ministries are easier to deal with than the Soviet ministry responsible for telecommunications, but presently negotiating at the republic level is frustrating, Mr. Wexler said. It's difficult to know who is in charge. Another pitfall in negotiations is that all Western firms have profit as their goal, while the Soviets want hard currency and technology — fast. Ultimately, the Soviet Union will have to establish telecommunications as its priority, otherwise they will not be able to integrate their economy internationally.

Mrs. Horodysky spoke about the Nestor Institute's computer training program in Lviv this summer. Explaining it as a "mini-Peace Corps that will teach Ukrainians to fish again" the project hoped to overcome years of isolation and introduce young people to the age of computers. Though the project is now permanently housed in a vocational-technical school in Lviv, the organizers faced almost insurmountable difficulties at first. This included transport of computers, computer security, inappropriate facility, differing levels of aptitude, lack of computer vocabulary, instructor burn-out and more applicants than they could handle. Besides requests for computer training, they were overwhelmed with requests for instruction in agronomy, English language, medicine, free-market economics. The organizers vacillated between exasperation and exhilaration the entire time, she said.

Dr. Jurczak confirmed Mrs. Horody-



Vitaliy Korotich was the featured Lviv speaker.

sky's assessment that many Ukrainians are eager to learn and pursue change. They are hampered however by an infrastructure that is "waiting for orders from above," as well as their own lack of experience, a "crisis of confidence." Rather than large projects, education/information and middle-level initiative and creativity needs to be promoted. It is the best possible way to engage a large number of people in an accessible manner. It is also the strategy that can best engage Western investment and involvement, which is otherwise hesitant to take big risks.

Dr. Jurczak, who has established a computer joint-venture company between Warsaw and Lviv, advocates the establishment of a "business center" in Lviv designed specifically to service Western businessmen, as well as provide training for Ukrainians. It is an appropriate project for this stage of Ukraine's development, and this mid-level stage is necessary for Ukraine's transformation to a large, independent state. Projects of this type should be pursued immediately and it is at this level that Ukrainians in the diaspora, with their contacts in and understanding of Ukraine, as well as the West, can be most helpful, he concluded.

The conference's final speaker, Dr. Truchly, spoke about the third Congress of the World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Societies which met in Kiev this past August and the experience of the doctors with the health care system in Ukraine.

Though the doctors traveled from around the world to participate in a full program of the medical conference, over 500 patients were seen in hospitals, clinics and hotel rooms by the visiting doctors in their spare time. Word had gotten out about the conference and people had come from all over Ukraine to be seen by a "doctor from the West." Though often a diagnosis could be provided and a treatment prescribed, given the pervasive lack of medicine, medical supplies and equipment, the end result often could not be attained. Dr. Truchly has no doubt that many people benefitted by the "doctors from the West," but in turn, the doctors benefited from uncensored first hand

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Субота, 26-го січня 1991 р.

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exposure to health problems in Ukraine.

Dr. Truchly gave a brief overview of the development of the medical profession in the Soviet Union. At the time of the Revolution, medical practice was not much different than in the West. After the Revolution the Hippocratic Oath was abolished as "bourgeois." In 1971, a new law was instituted, one in which the doctor pledges responsibility to the patient and to the state.

Today, doctors are not trusted, he said, and with good reason. During six years of medical school, over 50 percent of the instruction is in Marxist/Leninist theory. Students bribe their way into medical schools, regardless of academic competency. In spite of "free" health care, most doctors demand cash or gifts to supplement their state-mandated salaries. Though there are numerous examples of high-quality treatment, the very arbitrariness of the system, with no protection or recourse for the patient makes it untrustworthy in general.

It is difficult to separate the health

care crisis from the environmental and economic crisis. Only 25 percent of homes in the Soviet Union have hot running water; 27 percent have no sewage, 17 percent have no running water at all.

The three top health care problems in Ukraine are infant mortality, AIDS and the health consequences of Chernobyl. In the United States, ten out of 1,000 infants die within the first year; in the Soviet Union, 23 out of 1,000 die. Even this isn't an accurate comparison. In the United States, all live births are counted, regardless of how many months premature. In the Soviet Union, all infant deaths seven months and under, even if it was a live birth, are classified as abortions. The main form of AIDS transmission is in hospitals and clinics through the repeated use of improperly sterilized needles.

Currently four million people live in zones contaminated by radioactivity. In Kiev, the radiation level is four times higher than in Washington. Though this is still considered to be an acceptable level, prolonged low level exposure is worse than one high dose. It is difficult to tell how many of the complaints of

illness are psychosomatic and how many are real.

On a more positive note, Dr. Truchly stated that the entire conference was conducted in Ukrainian, a first, and that plans exist to begin publication of medical papers and a journal in Ukrainian, none of which exist at present.

Throughout the conference, Washington was blessed with perfect autumn weather. The top floor of the Hotel Washington, site of the conference, offered the participants a beautiful panorama of the Mall, a sunset over the Potomac River and a bird's-eye view of the White House. Participants relaxed at the rooftop cafe, absorbing the mass of new information and joined ongoing litanies of "can you believe it?"

"Can you believe it, but this time last year, the Berlin Wall hadn't fallen, there were no Ukrainian flags on public displays, Rukh had just been formed, German unification was a pipe dream, one of the biggest Soviet stories was the lack of soap." "There had been no human chain, elections, declaration of sovereignty." "The big issue was whether or not Ukrainian should be the official language." "Yeltsin was being portrayed as a provincial buffoon, on a drinking binge in Italy." "Cesucecu was still in power, our Churches were still underground, Scherbytsky was still alive." The list went on and on.

League of Ukrainian Voters
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of New Jersey

and

Congressman
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of Ohio, District # 17

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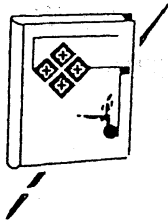
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The Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre



The Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) at Grant MacEwan Community College is pleased to announce five financial awards which will be presented annually beginning this coming spring. Interested applicants are invited to forward their project outlines to URDC by November 30. Award recipients will be announced in the spring of 1991.

The William and Mary Kostash Award for Film and Video Arts (\$500).

The Anna Pidruchney Award for New Writers (\$500).

The Royal Canadian Legion: Norwood Branch #178 awards for:

- (1) Museum Programs (\$500).
- (2) Ukrainian Performing Arts (\$500).
- (3) Educational Exchanges (\$500).

For more information write:

Ukrainian Resource & Development Centre,
Grant MacEwan Community College,
P.O. Box 1796,

Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2P2

or phone (403) 483-4474.



THE SUPREME EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

announces the schedule of

UNA DISTRICT SEMINARS 1990

for UNA BRANCH SECRETARIES — ORGANIZERS and all interested UNA ACTIVISTS

The agenda of the seminars will deal with the introduction of the new UNA RETIREMENT ANNUITY CERTIFICATE, review of all UNA insurance certificates and for distribution of promotional materials.

Sunday, November 11, 1:30 P.M.

District — PITTSBURGH, PA.
UNA ST. NICHOLAS, BRANCH 120
838 Broadhead Road, Aliquippa, Penna.
(412) 375-9946

District Chairman:

Andrew Jula (412) 266-2686

Sunday, November 11, 2:00 P.M.

Districts: ROCHESTER — SYRACUSE/UTICA
UKRAINIAN NATIONAL HOME
1317 West Fayette Street, Syracuse, N.Y.

District Chairmen:

Rochester — Peter Dziuba (716) 621-5230
Syracuse/Utica — Dr. Ivan Hvozda (315) 488-3616

LUNCH will be served to all, compliments of the UNA. You MUST IMMEDIATELY advise your District Chairman of your attendance, since a correct count of persons is necessary for meal preparation.