

TWG conference focuses on Ukraine in the New World Order

WASHINGTON — The Washington Group's Fifth Annual Leadership Conference — with the theme "Ukraine in the New World Order," — was held here in October.

The opening address at the conference was delivered by Carl Gershman, president of the National Endowment for Democracy. Mr. Gershman assessed the threats to the future independent status of Ukraine, approaching the issue from the standpoint that it is imperative to grasp the different political situations in Ukraine and in Russia.

Mr. Gershman noted that the role of the Ukrainian community in the West was to help the West come to know and understand Ukrainian issues.

The first of two panel discussions was devoted to the topic of the factors that affect Ukraine's international role. The panel of experts included: Douglas Seay, an analyst at the Heritage Foundation; Orest Deychakiwsky, staff member of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe; and Victor Basiuk, a Washington-based foreign policy and national security analyst. Paula Dobriansky, associate director of the U.S. Information Agency, chaired the panel.

Mr. Seay viewed the dissolution of the Soviet Union as a positive development for Europe and for the United States, noting that he was troubled that very few officials either here or in Europe seemed to appreciate this development.

Mr. Deychakiwsky focused on the difficulties Ukraine faces in achieving independent recognition in international fora.

With regard to official membership status in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), he noted that obstacles to Ukraine's recognition stemmed from objections by the Soviet delegation as well as reluctance on the part of the most powerful members of CSCE to open the organization to the flood of new members, which would change the configuration of influence.

Mr. Deychakiwsky went on to say that Ukraine's chances would most likely improve over time, given the referendum results and Ukraine's track record on human rights and respect for international agreements.

With respect to U.S. recognition of Ukraine, Mr. Deychakiwsky referred to the introduction of congressional resolutions on the formal recognition of Ukraine.

In focusing on the international system, Mr. Basiuk noted that "Ukraine had to take the initiative and develop vested interests in the international system, thereby assuring its own independence regardless of 'old' or 'new' order."

Mr. Basiuk expressed the view that "as the largest regional power, Ukraine has to maintain good relations with its immediate neighbors and conduct a foreign policy which reflects a good understanding of its important position in Eastern Europe and on the European continent as a whole."

The second panel discussion — on political developments inside Ukraine, included the following panelists: Roman Fedoriv, editor-in-chief of *Dzvin*, the Lviv monthly magazine, and former Soviet People's deputy; Oles Doniy, president of the Kiev Ukrainian Student Union, who led the student hunger strike last October in Kiev, which resulted in the ouster of the premier of the then-Ukrainian SSR Vitaliy Masol; Marta Kolomayets, associate editor of *The Ukrainian Weekly* and recurring Kiev correspondent; and Richard Shriver, publisher of the *Ukrainian Business Digest*. Kateryna Chumachenko, vice-president of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, acted as moderator of the panel.

Mr. Doniy, among other issues, stated that "many young people in Ukraine look to emigration as an easy solution to all the difficulties they face, but that this option can only hurt Ukraine's future. He argued that Ukraine's youth should be presented with a new ideal — that of nation-building — which would allow them to contribute to the development of a vibrant and modern Ukrainian culture. He called on Ukrainians in the diaspora to come to Ukraine to share their valuable expertise."

Ms. Kolomayets, in discussing inter-confessional problems in Ukraine, said that the hostilities among different religious communities are a long way from being resolved, attributing the state of affairs to, what in her view, is the inability, on the part of church hierarchs, to provide leadership and a united front during the time of transition to democracy.

Ms. Kolomayets observed that "the church with the greatest appeal to young people seems to be the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, since they closely identify with 'the church of the Ukrainian kozaks.'" She also noted that "many



Ambassadors Gennadi Udovenko and William Courtney deliver keynote addresses at the TWG conference.

Protestant and non-denominational sects from abroad, who display little sensitivity to proselytizing in Ukrainian, are growing in popularity."

Mr. Fedoriv gave an overview of what he considered the sad state of Ukrainian culture.

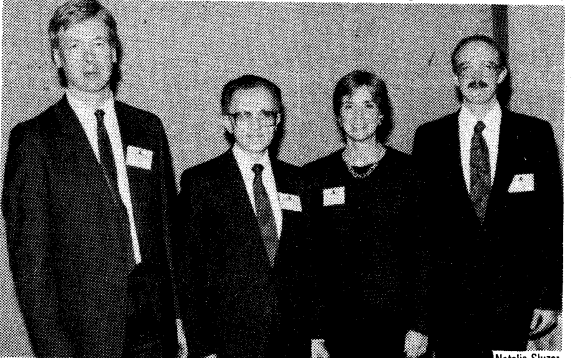
Mr. Shriver, while noting the risks and difficulties in bringing about the necessary economic and political reforms in Ukraine, emphasized that "the situation is not bleak, especially in light of new Ukrainian legislation that is conducive to foreign economic activity in Ukraine, particularly the laws guaranteeing foreign investment."

answered questions on the topic of nuclear weapons, among others.

Ambassador Courtney, the second-day keynote speaker, discussed Ukraine's future relations with the United States and the principles guiding American policy.

Dr. Bohdan Hawrylyshyn, chairman of the Council of Advisors to the Presidium of Ukraine's Parliament and founder of the International Management Institute in Kiev, shared his personal observations about developments in Ukraine.

Among the events highlighted, which contributed to the acceleration of the political processes in Ukraine,



Douglas Seay, Victor Basiuk, Paula Dobriansky and Orest Deychakiwsky are featured panelists exploring Ukraine's role on the international scene.

Mr. Shriver said that Ukrainian Americans can have an affect on attitudes and policies by informing the American business community of the issues at hand.

To the end of developing strong U.S.-Ukrainian relations and promoting stability in Eastern Europe, Mr. Shriver suggested the following slogan: "Democracies don't go to war with one another, and that's why it's in the U.S. interest to support democracy in Ukraine."

Among the diplomats addressing the conference were Ambassador Gennadi Udovenko, Ukraine's ambassador to the United Nations, and Ambassador William Courtney, U.S. representative to the U.S.-Soviet Nuclear Testing Commission.

Ambassador Udovenko, the first-day keynote speaker at the conference, read the text of the Act of Declaration of Independence of Ukraine and went on to describe what Ukrainian diplomacy had done in the ensuing time to promote and make the world aware of Ukraine's decision. He also outlined the goals of the Ukrainian government and

were: the March 1990 elections, the first session of the Ukrainian Parliament, the March 1991 referendum, the August Bush visit, the August coup attempt, and the Declaration of Independence.

Dr. Hawrylyshyn concluded his remarks by noting that independence was not the end purpose but rather "the absolutely necessary precondition to resuscitate ourselves culturally, to enter the world community, to satisfy material needs and create a just, democratic, tolerant society with social justice."

An unexpected but most welcome guest at the conference was Robert E. Nicholls, president of Associates International Corporation, who presented TWG president Lydia Chopivsky Benson with a Ukrainian flag he received from Ukrainians concerned about the consequences of Chernobyl.

Mr. Nicholl's firm specializes in improving the management of nuclear power stations and was instrumental in providing health care for victims of the Chernobyl disaster.

All the information in this article was compiled from the *TWG Newsletter*, October 1991.



Student leader Oles Doniy and Dr. Bohdan Hawrylyshyn, chairman of the Council of Advisors to the Presidium of Ukraine's Parliament, discuss current events in Ukraine.