

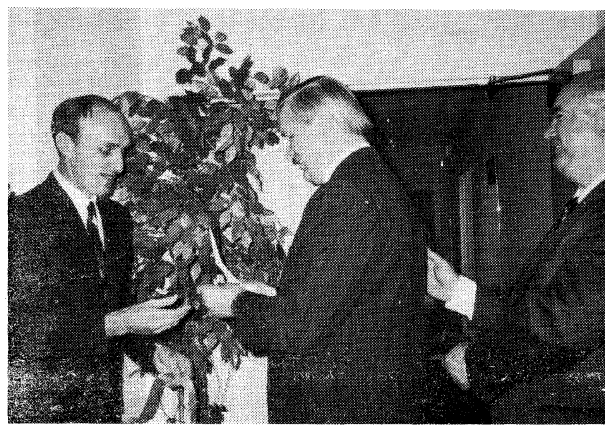
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Ukraine's first Consulate in U.S. opens in Chicago cultural center



Foreign Affairs Minister Anatoliy Zlenko presents a piece of the blue-and-yellow ribbon that he cut opening the entrance to the consular offices to Consul-designate Anatoliy Oliynyk, while Ambassador Oleh Bilorus looks on.

by Daria Markus
Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

CHICAGO — The first Consulate General of Ukraine in the United States was opened in Chicago by Minister of Foreign Affairs Anatoliy M. Zlenko with the assistance of Ambassador Oleh Bilorus and Consul-designate Anatoliy Oliynyk on October 2, during a reception for the consular corps of Chicago, and on October 3 with the participation of the Ukrainian community.

For the time being, the consulate will have its offices at the Ukrainian Cultural Center (2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622).

Not since the opening of the Ukrainian Pavilion at the International Fair in Chicago in 1933, did the Ukrainian community here host such an important event, — this one even more historically significant.

The preparations for this event took place in record time. Once the U.S. Department of State gave its consent for the opening of Ukrainian consulates in New York and Chicago, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine decided that Chicago was a more promising terrain as far as the availability of premises and financial support of the community was concerned, things started to roll.

On Friday, September 11, Serhiy Kulyk from the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington telephoned to communicate the news. On Wednesday, September 16, he was in Chicago on the invitation of Friends of Rukh to give a public speech on the importance of Ukraine's foreign missions and, afterwards, he met with a small circle of

enthusiastic supporters of the Ukrainian consulate in the Midwest.

On Monday, September 21, he telephoned that minister of foreign affairs of Ukraine, who was visiting New York in connection with the opening of the plenary session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Mr.

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Armaments factory director elected as Ukraine's new prime minister

Leonid Kuchma described as 'serious businessman'

KIEV — Leonid Kuchma, director of the world's largest rocket factory, the Pivdenmash plant in Dnipropetrovske, was confirmed as Ukraine's new prime minister by a 316-23 vote of the Supreme Council on October 13.

Mr. Kuchma, 54, was nominated by President Leonid Kravchuk who described him as "a serious businessman, not only in words, but in deeds," reported the Los Angeles Times. "His factory has never asked for government help. They make proposals and they work," said Mr. Kravchuk.

A brief debate among members of Parliament followed President Kravchuk's nomination address.

Afterwards, Mr. Kuchma, himself a people's deputy, told his colleagues he is ready to "take responsibility for the unpopular steps" to come. "Ukraine does not have an economic crisis. It has a catastrophe," he warned, according to the Los Angeles Times. The new prime minister said, however, that he would not have a definite economic plan until a new Cabinet is named.

As mandated by a previous vote of the Parliament, the Cabinet is to be named within 10 days of the selection of the new prime minister by President

Kravchuk and the newly appointed PM.

As director of Pivdenmash, or the Southern Machine Building Factory, Mr. Kuchma succeeded in converting at least part of the facility's production to civilian needs, such as trolley buses and microwave ovens. Previously, the huge complex produced tactical nuclear missiles, space launchers, satellites and airplane engines.

Reporting for the Los Angeles Times, Mary Mycio noted: "His stewardship at Pivdenmash, one of the few factories in Ukraine to show an increase in production this year despite slashed military budgets, even won the approval of his main competitor for the premier's post, Ihor Yukhnovsky, a reformer proposed by opposition forces, told members of Parliament: 'Leonid Kuchma has what Ukraine needs, I support him.'"

Radio Liberty reported that Mr. Kuchma holds the degree of candidate of technical sciences and is said to be a technocrat favoring a gradual transition to a market economy. RL also noted that observers have likened the new prime minister to Arkadiy Volsky, one of the leaders of the Civic Union in Russia and a leading member of the Russian industrial lobby who is seeking to slow down economic reform in that country.

Financial Times correspondent Chrystia Freeland reported that, in a brief policy statement, Mr. Kuchma said his goal is to "transform the post- (Continued on page 15)

New era of U.S.-Ukraine relations examined by Washington conference

by Marta Kolomayets

WASHINGTON — Ukrainian Americans had the opportunity to enhance their political savvy and examine their future role in the development of U.S.-Ukraine relations during the sixth annual Leadership Conference of The Washington Group, held in the nation's capital from Friday through Sunday, October 9-11.

Just three weeks shy of the presidential election, the conference, titled "Developing a New Democracy: The Role of U.S.-Ukraine Relations," also provided a forum for supporters of both the Clinton and Bush campaigns to voice their parties' platforms and garner votes of their candidates.

The leadership conference, funded in part by a corporate grant from the 3M Company, focused not only on the changing face of the Ukrainian diaspora, but also on the evolving role of the community and the influence it can possess in developing a

democratic Ukraine.

Chaired by Dr. Roman Goy, this year's conclave called on the Ukrainian diaspora to respond to the new challenges offered by Ukraine as it slowly establishes itself as a democratic state.

"Our task has now become more complex and delicate. More complex, because Ukraine needs help and support in all aspects of society. More delicate because we need, more than ever before, to learn how to listen to our Ukrainian countrymen, and to understand the society which is Ukraine today. Without this, our desire to help will most probably do more harm than good," noted the program booklet.

Two days of thought-provoking presentations and intense discussions focused on the current political situation, on national security and the economic aspects of life in Ukraine. There were also parleys on trade, investment and technical

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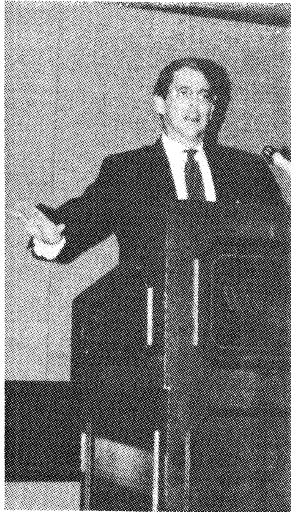
Students continue protests in Kiev

KIEV — Student protests against the Parliament escalated in the Ukrainian capital on October 13. With still more activists arriving from all points in the country (Luhanske, Dnipropetrovske, Uman, Lviv, and other cities), the tent city in Independence Square grew to include 55 tents housing 300 protesters, eight of whom have declared a hunger strike.

The Respublika agency asserted that on October 13, the students began picketing the universities and technical colleges of the city. The students were also said to have attempted to set up tents in the plaza outside the Parliament, only to be restrained by security personnel. Some broke through the police cordon to try to lie down on the steps leading to the main entrance.

According to a report by Chrystia Freeland of the Financial Times, this brought on an outburst of violence, as

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Penn Kemble



Ambassador Oleh Bilorus

(Continued from page 1)

assistance, as well as workshops on the Ukrainian infrastructure, legal issues, health and technology.

Another highlight of the conference was the presentation of two awards to a "Friend of Ukraine" and "Outstanding Journalist." The ceremony, which took place during the Saturday evening gala banquet, was hosted by TWG President Lydia Chopivsky Benson, who awarded U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney the first honor and columnist Cord Meyer the second.

Although Mr. Cheney could not attend the presentation, he did send a message of thanks to the group. Ms. Chopivsky-Benson recalled that in September 1990, when many others in Washington were listening to and following the advice of Mikhail Gorbachev and Eduard Shevardnadze to avoid the "radical nationalists" of Ukraine, and while he was supervising the extraordinary Desert Storm mobilization, Secretary Cheney was open to receiving all forms of information regarding the development of the democratic movement in Ukraine.

She also noted that with "Ukrainian independence and United States recognition came new Defense Department initiatives. Secretary Cheney invited Minister Morozov to visit the United States, to establish formal relations with the Pentagon. This was important not only for the United States and Ukraine, but for the world perception of how the United States intended to treat Ukraine."



Adrian Karatnycky



Robert McConnell



Dr. Roman Goy

New era of U.S.-Ukraine relations

The first time the blue-and-yellow flag of an independent Ukraine flew on U.S. government property was at the Pentagon as 19 cannons fired their salute and Secretary Cheney welcomed Ukraine's minister of defense.

Syndicated columnist Cord Meyer was on hand to accept his award for his opinion pieces, which often appear in The Washington Times. They have dealt with the current political tensions between the party bosses and the democrats, Ukraine's struggle for complete independence, as well as problems in the Crimea.

Mr. Meyer, who was instrumental in the development of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, was cited for his exemplary perceptiveness and objectivity while reporting on Ukraine.

But, perhaps the topic that provoked the most interest and debate was that which concerns all Americans these days: who will be the next president of the United States?

As the featured speaker at the Saturday afternoon luncheon, Penn Kemble, foreign policy advisor to the Clinton/Gore campaign, told the participants: "Today the United States faces two great challenges, challenges that lay clouded for a long time in the lingering mists of the Cold War. America's ethnic communities can be a great resource for helping our nation meet these challenges."

"The first is domestic: our economy has developed deep structural weaknesses that must be overcome if we are to provide decently for our people and meet the challenges of an increasingly competitive international marketplace," he said.

"But there is something different about this economic challenge from times past. It seems that we all sense that this economic challenge is not going to be one we can meet unless our country can rediscover something of a spirit of unity and purpose that has been missing for a long time. The challenges of economic reconstruction today require a kind of cultural and civic reconstruction as well. I believe we are beginning that in the Clinton/Gore campaign. But the values and experience of groups like yours will have a key role in helping this cultural renewal to succeed," noted Mr. Kemble.

"Second, the structure of American foreign policy that grew up over the past half-century no longer makes sense — neither the idea nor the machinery for implementation. One of the most important reasons for electing Bill Clinton and Al Gore is that the Bush administration has become so disoriented about what is happening in the world

that they put us in great danger of missing a truly miraculous opportunity. We have a chance today to make democratic government and economic freedom the norm in the world. But we have a president and a State Department who are still wandering through the empty rooms of abandoned mansions, calling out to figures and practicing traditions that have disappeared."

According to conference organizers, The Washington Group had made attempts to attract a Bush administration official to address the two-day affair. Only at the last-minute was there a response that Ed Derwinski, deputy director of the Bush/Quayle campaign and liaison to the ethnic population, would attend.

Stating that the group did not need a "sales pitch," Mr. Derwinski said, "let me briefly be political." He continued: "In foreign affairs, a proven commodity is always better, than an unproven one; and that's where we stand. President Bush is an acknowledged master and leader in foreign policy. He has been especially interested in the developments pulling Europe together; the old Europe of NATO that we've shared defense relations with and now bringing in the newly freed nations of Eastern Europe.

"Sixty years ago, the Republican Party was the party of isolationism and the Democrats were internationalists; today the roles are reversed and this would have a direct bearing on the way they would be able to conduct or not conduct foreign policy," he said.

Mr. Derwinski emphasized, "...we are interested in working with the countries of Eastern Europe; our best relations with them will come in trade, in economic relations. And you have to have an outward-looking internationalist attitude and policy to do so."

Mr. Derwinski also noted that during President Bush's recent trip to Poland, he observed that "if the American election were held in Eastern Europe, the vote there would be 10 to one for George Bush; partly because he is a proven commodity, partly because his leadership has been understood and partly because the leaders and people there understand that American participation has to come from an America that is interested in them, not an America that would enter a new phase of isolationism," he concluded.

Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States Oleh Bilorus offered introductory remarks on Saturday morning, noting that during this transitional period, relations between the United States and Ukraine are of great importance.



Pictured from left: Dr. Oleksander Chernyk, Dr. Oleh Wolowyna, Eugene Iwanciw.

...mined by Washington conference

Ambassador Bilorus protested against the definition of Ukraine as a developing country. "This is a big mistake, both conceptual and actual. Ukraine is not a developing country from the economic point of view, from the industrial point of view, from the point of scientific and technical potential. Ukraine is a developed country, a very large and developed European country. But, I fully agreed that Ukraine is in the process of development, from the point of view of democracy, of democratization. And I believe that here we should invest all our efforts — to change the nature of our people, to change them from ordinary, so-called 'Soviet people,' to the citizens of a new society."

Dr. Bilorus added that Ukraine has a very limited time for self-development, and self-democratization, giving it eight to 10 years to enter the 21st century as a new, democratic society. "Otherwise, world history will drive us off the main road of development," he said.

Carl Gershman, president of the National Endowment for Democracy, based in Washington, delivered a thoughtful keynote address at the conference's gala banquet on Saturday night.

Mr. Gershman made a few remarks on the state of affairs in Ukraine. The December 1 referendum represented a great victory; one of extraordinary historic importance, he noted, cautioning that December 1 was only the beginning of an era, but should be viewed as a tremendous triumph and a step in the right direction for the permanent independence and unity of Ukraine.

"Democratic transitions are difficult, and nowhere are they more difficult than in the transition from communism, because communism is not just any kind of repressive system from which people then build democracy after the system collapses," he said.

"Communism is a kind of a graveyard, particularly in the case of Ukraine where so many suffered so bitterly under communism, and communism as a system sought to destroy every independent aspect of society.

"Communism left very little to build on," he continued. And, a country like Ukraine experiences a further problem "in trying to make the transition to democracy: it is the problem of what amounts to a former colony, where the threat seems to be largely external, mainly Russian or Communist imperialism. And this could leave the illusion that if that imperialism is overthrown then somehow, the problem is solved and independence is achieved. But, of course, communism is not just a form of external imposition. It penetrated all levels of society and the weeding out of communism is a task of generations."

He said: "The internal issue, the issue of change should not be seen simply as the overthrow of an imperialism system, but also the change from what had been a totalitarian system to a democratic system. If it is not seen that way, the issue of democratic change in Ukraine would be de-emphasized.

"And, indeed, it is in certain places today in Ukraine, where there is the feeling that Ukraine needs a strong state in order to assure its independence, that it needs a strong government to resist potential Russian imperialism, that the interests of the nation are higher than those of the individual, and that statehood has to come before democracy.

"But the building of statehood, the building of a nation cannot take place without democracy; it will be artificial

without democracy. I don't believe it will work without democracy," he concluded.

Robert McConnell, vice-president of the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine, spoke of the difficult task of outlining the development of a U.S. political power base. He pointed out the need to act based on the reality of the situation and work with the U.S. government to achieve desired results.

"I do not believe that we should lie to ourselves about Ukraine, and I do not believe that the proper way to try to build effective long-term U.S.-Ukraine relations is to lie to the United States about Ukraine.

"Therefore, we need to recognize that the U.S. government will try to determine its relationship with Ukraine based on realities within Ukraine; recognize Ukraine and the people of Ukraine will make their decisions about their future, those are not our decisions to make.

"Ukrainian American organizations and other American organizations should try to confront and deal with the realities within Ukraine. And each of us as individuals should assess these evolving realities — we should think about whether our individual acts will contribute toward the goal or goals we have."

Mr. McConnell said the most fundamental element of a political campaign and organization is unity and coordination, but was highly skeptical about this diaspora community arriving at a consensus on how to accomplish objectives. He promoted the work of several organizations, including the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine and the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation.

Mr. McConnell also pointed out the need for public-opinion formulators — spokesmen for the community, and singled out one such individual, Adrian Karatnycky, who has written for numerous national publications and appeared on various television programs. He, as well as Messrs. Kemble and Gershman praised Mr. Karatnycky's commitment to democracy and Ukraine's development. (Mr. Gershman also cited Nadia Diuk, his staffer at the NED, as a "stalwart figure who has been able to land a commitment to democracy through a rather profound understanding of history, culture and politics.")

The conference's various panels were organized by Bohdan Radejko, chairperson, and his committee, which consisted of Andrew Bihun, Yaroslav Bihun, Orest Deychakivsky and George Masiuk.

Of great interest was a Sunday afternoon panel that focused on the Ukrainian American community, what it is doing and what needs to be done. Moderated by Eugene Iwanciw, the Ukrainian National Association's

Washington Office chief, it provided interesting information on Ukrainian American demographics (see Dr. Oleh Wolowyna's article in this issue.) Mr. Iwanciw's also offered suggestions to change the infrastructure of the Ukrainian community in the U.S. Also featured at this panel was Dr. Oleksander Chernyk of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Philadelphia.

Throughout the weekend, such speakers as Mr. Karatnycky, Col. Stephen Olynyk and Dr. Oleh Semenets of Kiev presented lectures on political developments, national security and economic reform in Ukraine today.

A "town meeting" discussed international trade, investment and technical assistance and featured Jack Brougher from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Serhiy Koulyk, economics secretary of the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, and Michael Oxman of the Overseas Private Investment Corp. (OPIC).

Dr. Semenets of the National Center for the Implementation of International Technical Assistance for Ukraine, Greg Huger from the U.S. Agency for International Development and Dr. Tamara Woroby, a lecturer from the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at the John Hopkins University, also spoke.

Workshops focused on "Ukraine's Infrastructure and U.S. Opportunities, as well as "Science and Technology: Base for Modern Infrastructure," both of which were sponsored by the Ukrainian Engineers Society. The speakers included Dr. Theodore Kostiuk of NASA, Dr. Zenon Stakhiv of the U.S. Army Institute for Water Resources, Dr. John Boland of the Johns Hopkins University and Michael Curley of Hall & Curley. The second workshop included moderator Dr. Marta Chelisky and speakers Dr. George Gamota of MITRE Institute, Dr. Roman Pyrih of GEOCHEM, Inc., and Mark Rice of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

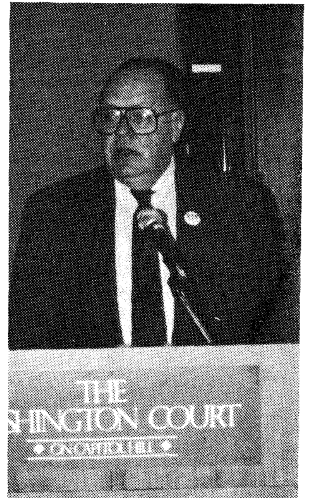
Legal aspects of Ukrainian-American cooperation were covered by a panel comprising Myroslaw Smorodsky, moderator, Judge Bohdan Futey and attorneys Maureen O'Brien and Bohdan Shandor. This panel was sponsored by the Ukrainian American Bar Association.

A workshop sponsored by the Ukrainian American Medical Association of Greater Washington focused on health and environment in Ukraine. Moderated by Dr. Askold D. Mosijczuk, it included an audio-visual presentation by Jaroslav Dutkewych, director of the U.S. Peace Corps in Ukraine, and Dr. Peter M. Yu, director of special projects with the American Health Association.

The weekend's highlights also included a Friday night reception at the Hungarian Embassy and a Saturday night dinner-dance featuring the talents of singer Lydia Hawryluk and the music of the Oles Kuzyszyn Trio.



Carl Gershman



Edward Derwinski



Bohdan Radejko



Pictured from left: Michael Oxman, Dr. Tamara Woroby, Serhiy Koulyk.